

## MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Those present were: Vice-Chairman Charlie Messer, Commissioner Grady Hawkins, Commissioner William Lapsley, County Manager Steve Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, Attorney Russ Burrell and Clerk to the Board Teresa Wilson. Commissioner Mike Edney arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Also present were: Management Assistant Megan Powell, Director of Business and County Development John Mitchell, Finance Director Carey McLelland, Senior Planner Autumn Radcliff, Engineer Marcus Jones, Interim DSS Director Jerrie McFalls, Fire Marshal Rocky Hyder, Captain Bengy Bryant, Central Services and Construction Manager David Berry, Library Director Trina Rushing, Environmental Programs Coordinator Rachel Kipar, Assistant Engineer Natalie Berry and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping, and Deputy Brent Cantrell as security.

Absent was: Chairman Tommy Thompson

### CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice-Chairman Messer called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance.

### INVOCATION

The invocation was provided by County Manager Steve Wyatt.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Ex-Marine Ray Bryson.

### INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Jerry Pace – Mr. Pace lives on Orchard Hill in Henderson County. Approximately 16-18 residents of Orchard Hill are paying extremely higher rates to the Saluda Water Department for their water with little or no maintenance on the system. Mr. Pace requested any assistance the Board could offer to these residents of Henderson County.
2. Ken Fitch – Mr. Fitch spoke in regard to the future of the Hendersonville High School Stillwell Building. He feels the building is historic and should be saved.

*It was the consensus of the Board to have staff look into the water situation at Orchard Hill.*

### DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF CONSENT AGENDA

*Commissioner Hawkins made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

#### **Minutes**

Draft minutes were presented for board review and approval of the following meeting(s):  
February 1, 2016 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

#### **Tax Collector's Report**

Collections Specialist Luke Small had presented the Tax Collector's Report to the Commissioners dated February 8, 2016 for information only. No action was required.

DATE APPROVED: March 7, 2016

**Smoky Mountain Center – Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report (FMR) for the quarter ended December 31, 2016**

N.C.G.S. 122C-117(c) requires the staff of the local area mental health authority to provide the County Finance Officer with the quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report (FMR) within 30 days of the end of the quarter. The County Finance Officer is then required to provide the FMR to the Board of Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The FMR for the Smoky Mountain Center was received by the County Finance Officer on February 1, 2016.

Motion:

*I move that the Board of Commissioners approves the Smoky Mountain Center Fiscal Monitoring Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2015.*

**Proclamation – John L. Boyd Day**

The Board of Commissioners had been requested to proclaim Tuesday, March 15, 2016 as John L. Boyd Day in Henderson County. John Boyd has been the leader of the Vision Henderson County program since its inception in 1996. This proclamation honors John Boyd for his 20 years of leadership in the Vision Henderson County program, which has resulted in hundreds of alumni who have made countless contributions to this community and our quality of life.

Motion:

*I move that the Board adopts the Proclamation as presented.*

**Proclamation – Women in Construction Week**

The Board of Commissioners has been requested by the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Chapter 154, to proclaim March 6-12, 2016 as Women in Construction Week in Henderson County. This Proclamation coincides with the NAWIC Week celebration. The focus of the week is to highlight women as a visible component of the construction industry, and to allow local chapters to give back to their communities.

Motion:

*I move that the Board adopts the Proclamation as presented.*

**DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

*Commissioner Edney made the motion to approve the discussion agenda with the addition of a closed session for consultation with the attorney. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

**Nominations**

Vice-Chairman Messer noted the vacancies and opened the floor for nominations.

Notification of Vacancies

1. Environmental Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
2. Equalization and Review, Henderson County Board of – 5 vac.
3. Hendersonville Business Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
4. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac.
5. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 2 vac.

Nominations

1. Animal Services Committee – 2 vac.

Vice-Chairman Messer nominated Dr. Beverly Hargus for position #2 and Donna Young for position #5.

*Vice-Chairman Messer made the motion to accept the reappointments of Dr. Beverly Hargus to position #2 and Donna Young to position #5 by acclamation. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

2. EMS Peer Review Committee – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

3. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

4. Historic Resources Commission – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

5. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 4 vac.  
Commissioner Lapsley nominated Nicholas Fowler for position #20.

*Vice-Chairman Messer made the motion to accept the appointment of Nicholas Fowler to position #20 by acclamation. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

6. Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Program – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

7. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 4 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

8. Recreation Advisory Committee – 3 vac.  
Vice-Chairman Messer nominated Ralph King for position #1, Jeffrey Donaldson for position #6, and Corum Smith for position #7.

*Vice-Chairman Messer made the motion to accept the reappointments of Ralph King to position #1, Jeffrey Donaldson to position #6, and Corum Smith to position #7 by acclamation. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

9. Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council – 4 vac.  
There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

### **INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL**

John Mitchell stated at the November mid-month meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board approved a contract with the County's Architect of Record, Clark Nexsen, to build a Career Academy named the Innovative High School on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College.

Clark Nexsen has completed programming for the space and drafted a schematic design. Programming meetings have been held with members of the Superintendent's team, Blue Ridge Community College and County staff. The size and cost of the proposal are within the approved budget. Clark Nexsen is seeking approval of the schematic design and direction to begin design development.

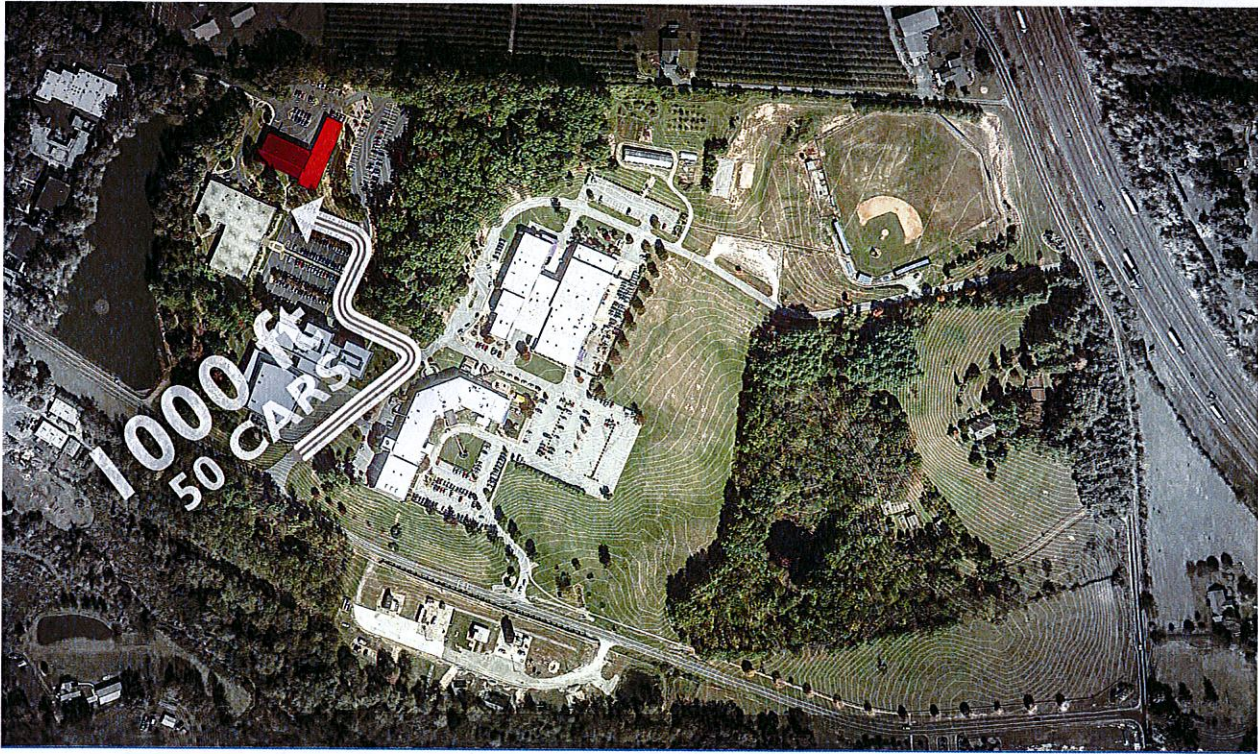
The design was approved by the Henderson County School Board at its February meeting. The Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees will review it at their March 14, 2016 meeting.

Chad Roberson, Architect for Clark Nexsen stated this project is much different than a regular school project with enhanced partnership.











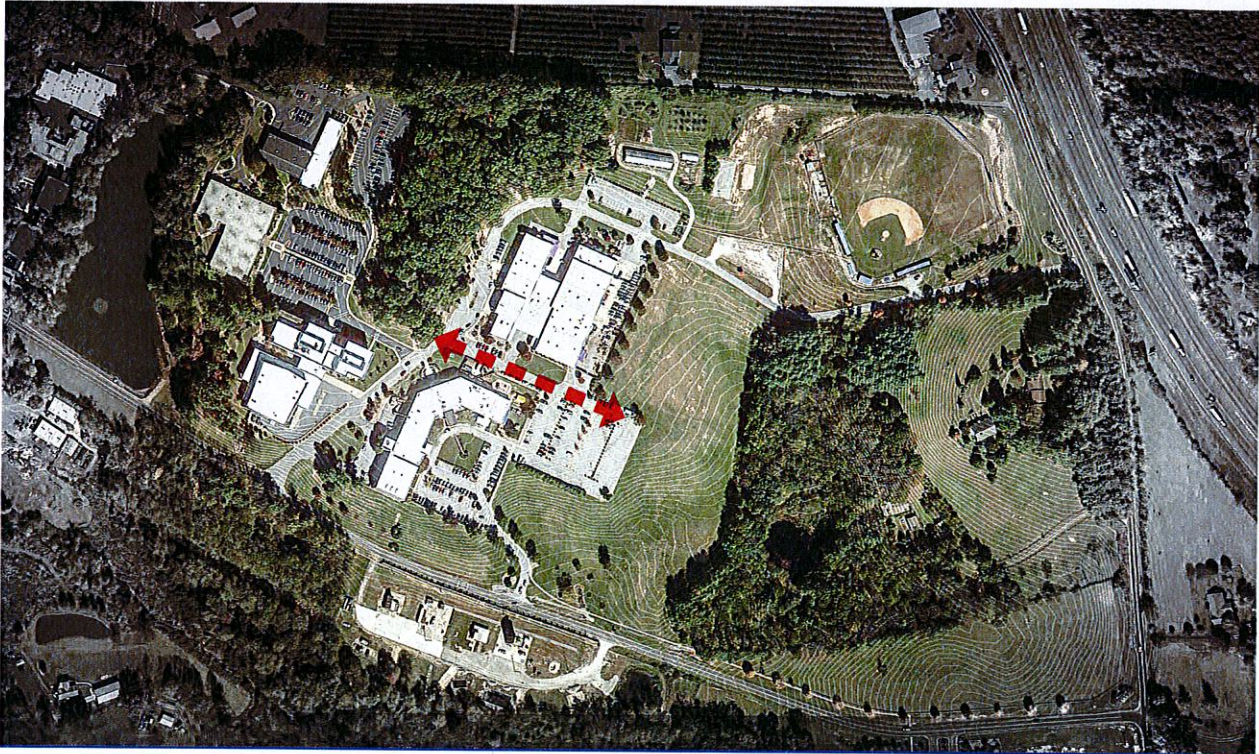


The new building is designed to house 500 students, 250 from each group. The Career Academy will also use other buildings and programs within the Blue Ridge Community College campus.

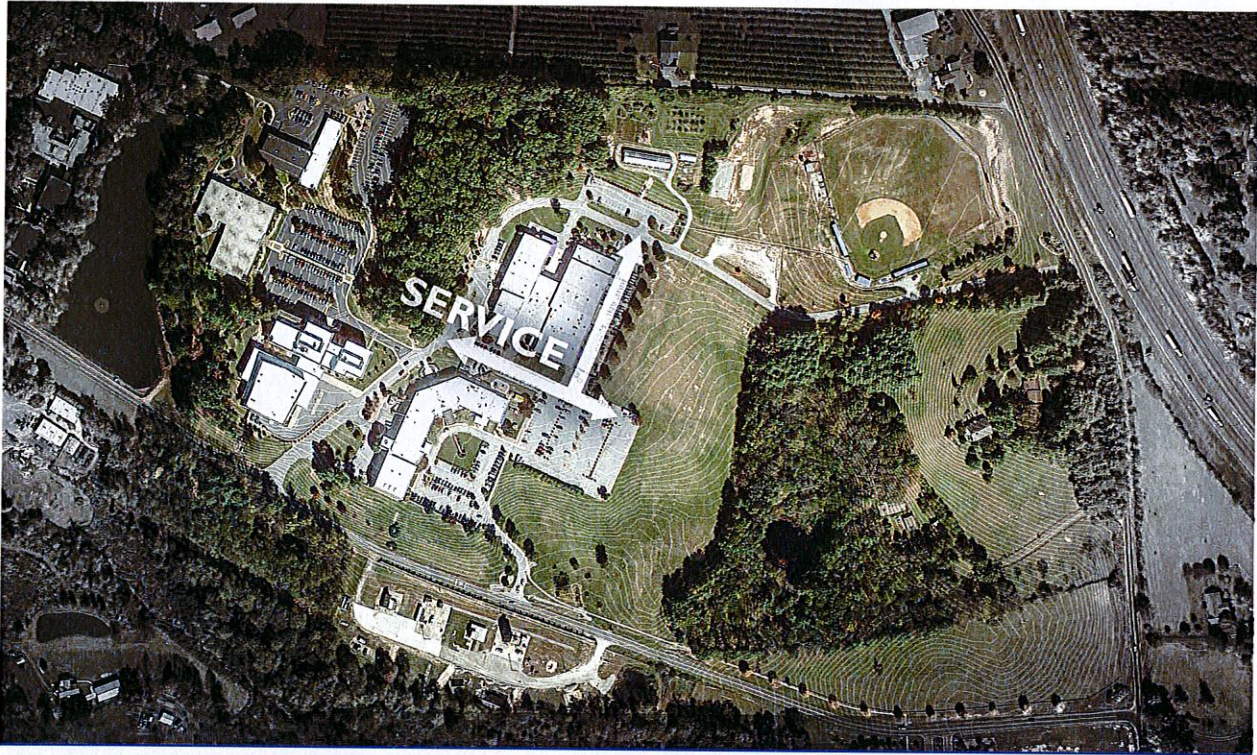
Students can park anywhere, it is not dedicated parking.







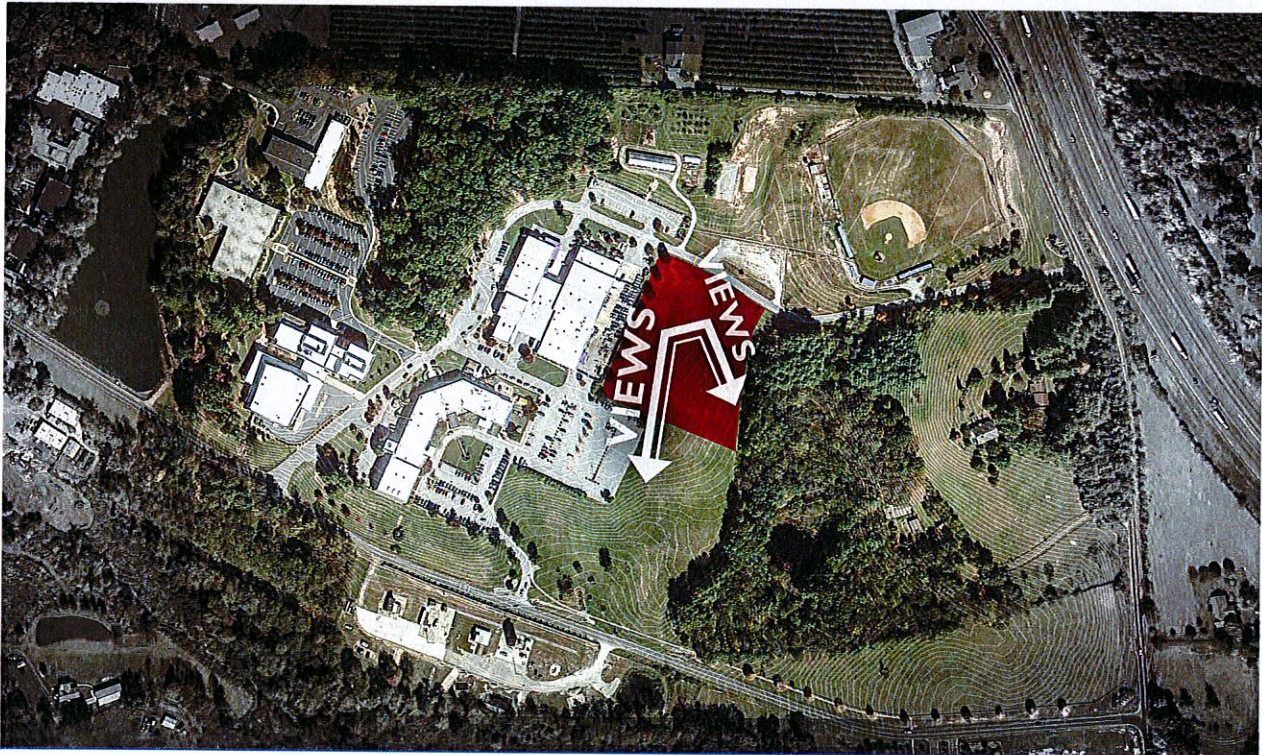
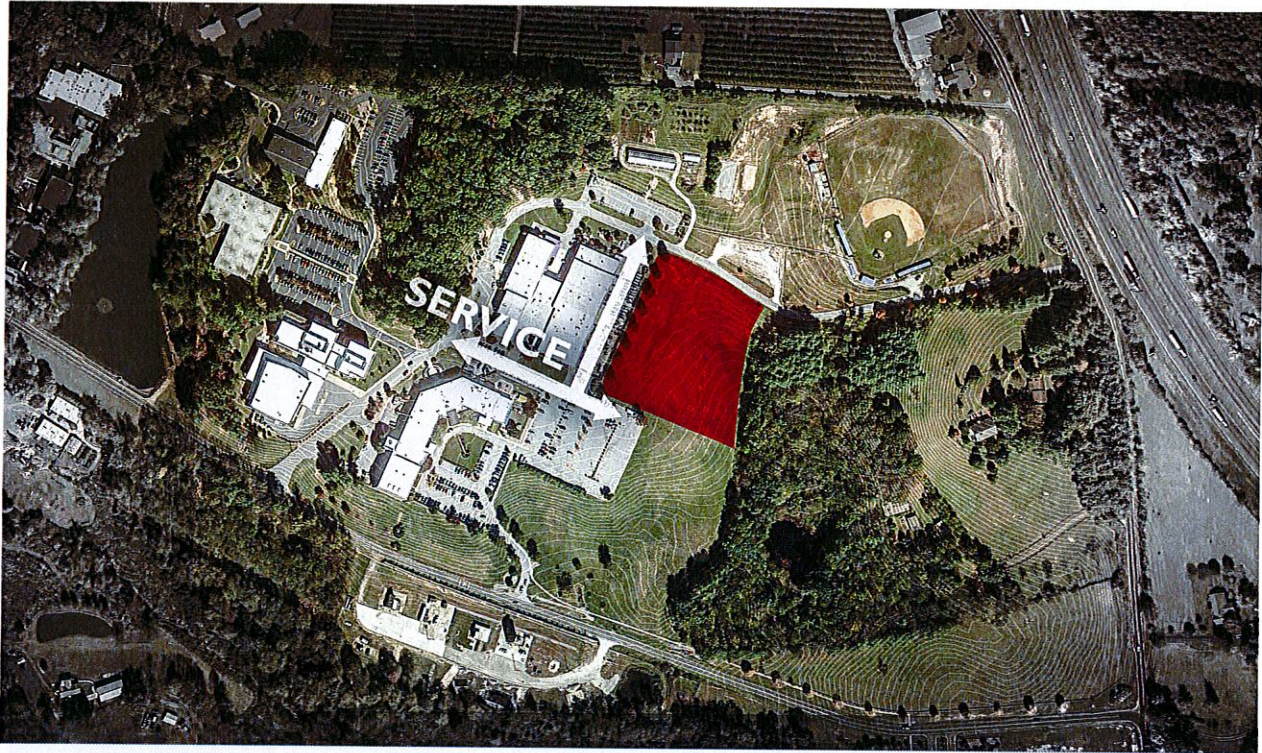




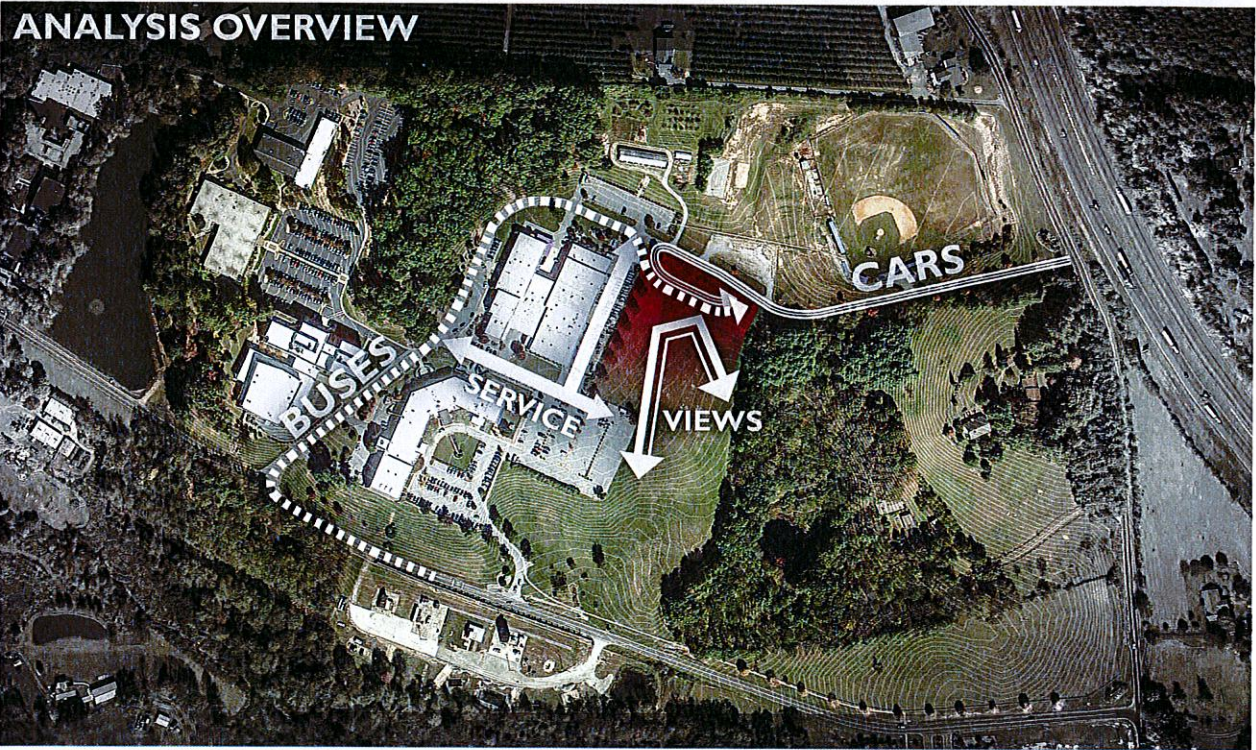




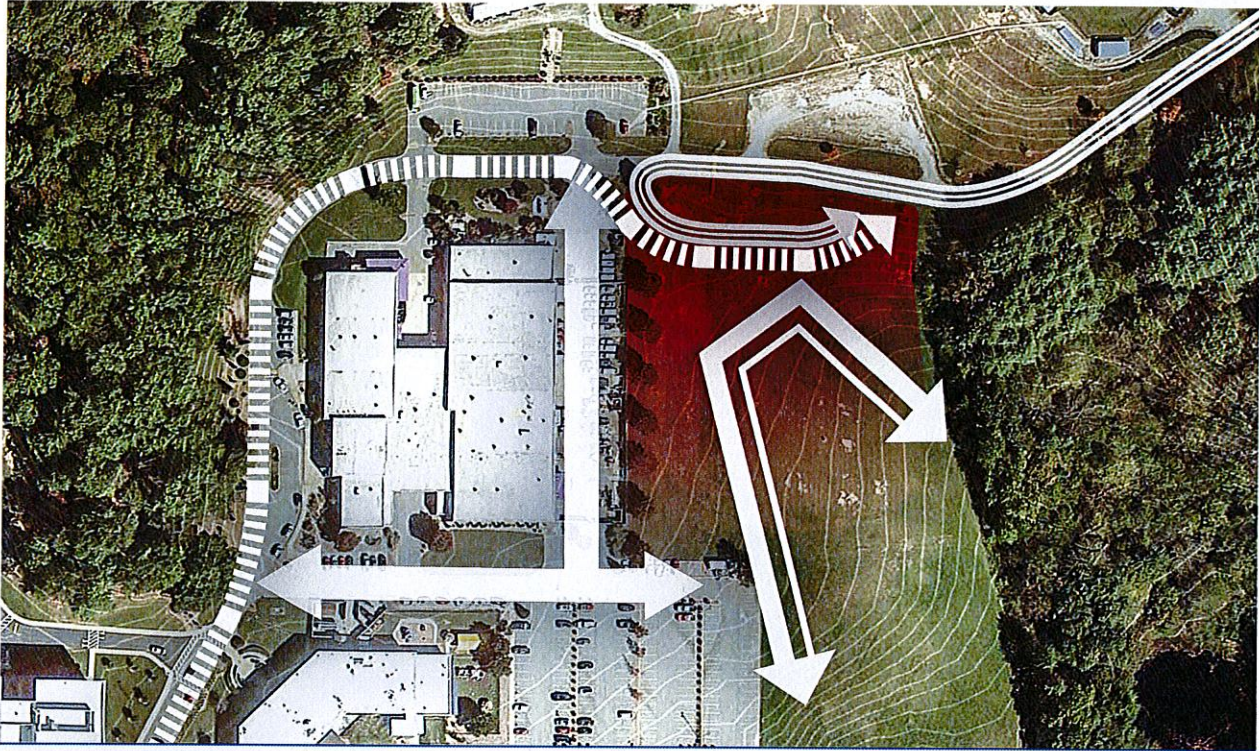




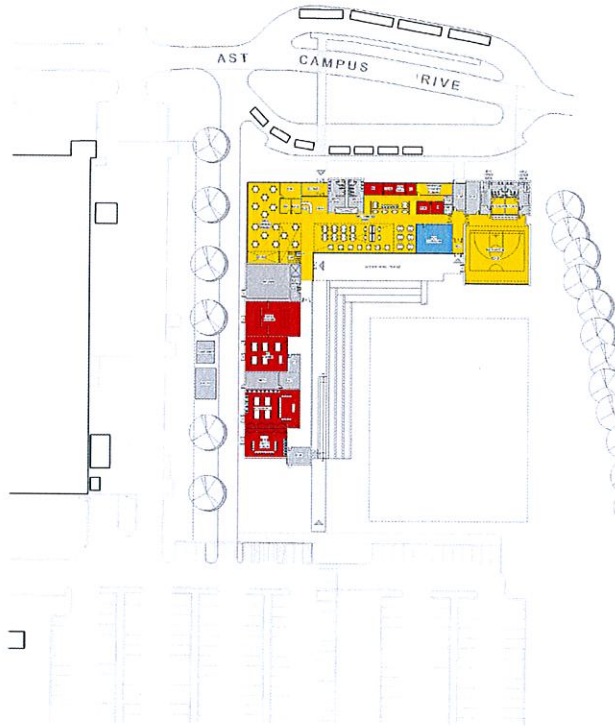




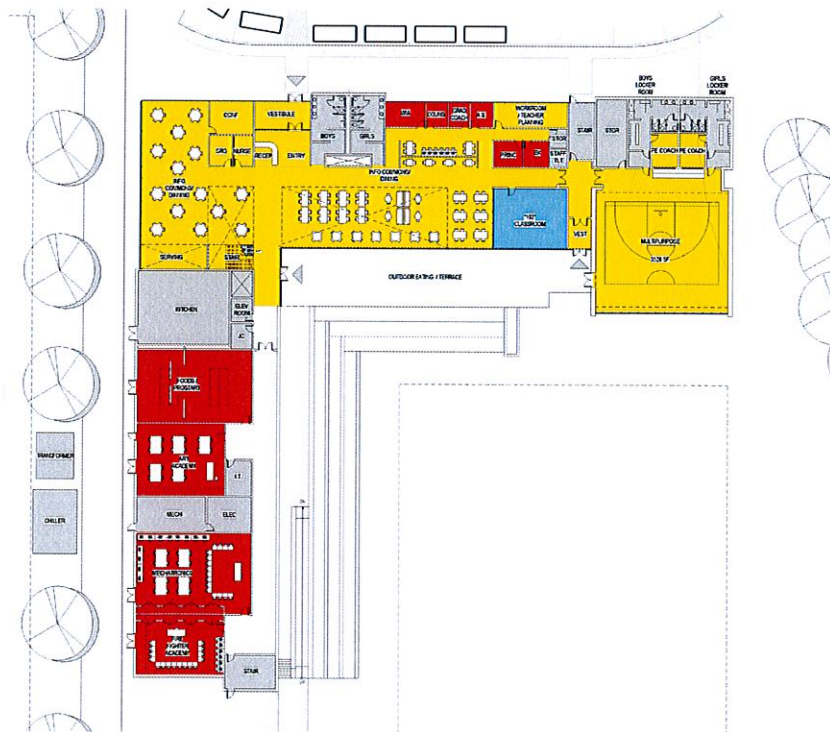






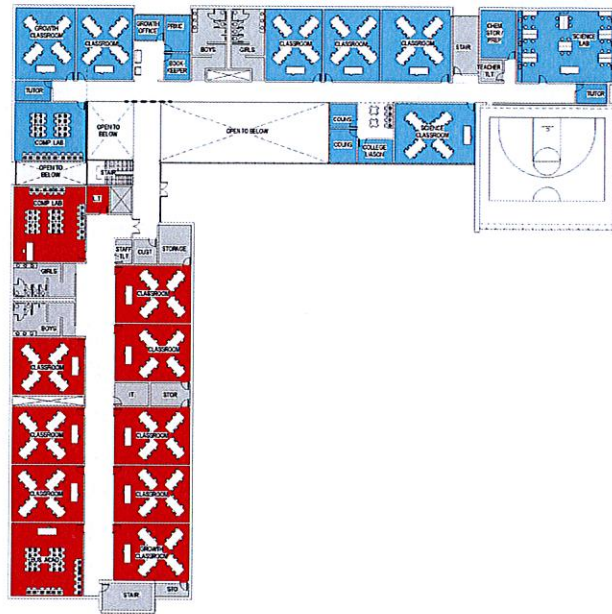


SITE PLAN

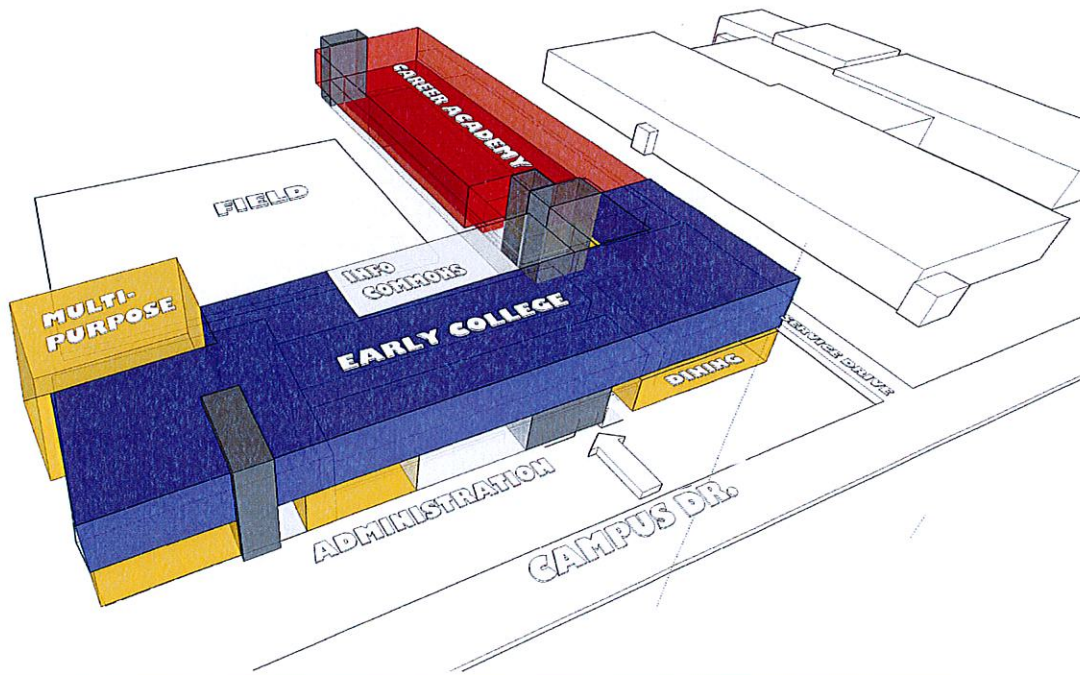


1ST FLOOR PLAN





2ND FLOOR PLAN



The multi-purpose area can be used for many purposes (i.e. weights, exercise equipment, half court basketball).









Blue Ridge Community College will be operating and maintaining the building. This should show a reduction in expense for the school system.

All students will have security badges for entry, just as the other college students.

Steve Wyatt noted the return on investment is maximized with all BRCC resources being available to students.

*Commissioner Edney made the motion to modify the design to include a full-size gymnasium and full-size athletic field.*

Commissioner Lapsley noted the School Board had not asked for a full-size gym or field.

Commissioner Edney felt it should be treated as any other school.

*The motion failed 1-3 with Commissioners Messer, Lapsley, and Hawkins voting nay.*

*Commissioner Lapsley made the motion that the Board accepts the schematic design of the Innovative High School and directs staff to continue the project. He further moved that the Board requests the architect to provide the cost of modifying the design to include a full-size gymnasium and full-size athletic field at the next meeting. The motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Edney voting nay.*

### **DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOREST AREAS**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners is requested to discuss the potential plans for the U.S. Forest to change the designation of land within the Pisgah National Forest from forest land to a wilderness designation. The Forest Service is in the middle of a years-long process to revise its land management plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Part of the revision process involves inventorying land within forest boundaries to be evaluated to see if it meets criteria to be designated as wilderness - the highest level of protection that can be given to land managed by the federal government. Basically, the designation means the land is left in its natural condition with restrictions to human traffic.

Commonly understood policies of wilderness management:

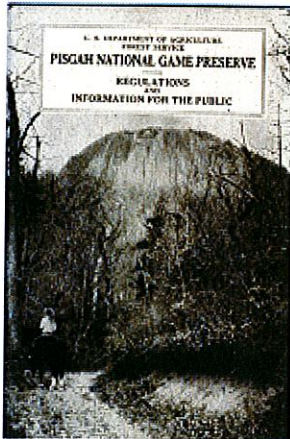
- No roads or timber harvest (with rare exceptions).
- No motorized use except for emergencies or when necessary for purposes of administering wilderness.
- No mechanized transport, such as mountain bikes, game carts, etc.



- Area is managed for primitive and unconfined recreation with outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- Area is managed for the free play of natural processes.
- Naturally occurring fire is allowed, as much as possible, to play its natural role.
- Complex congressional guidelines provide for existing levels of grazing and necessary range improvements. However, grazing cannot be increased following wilderness designation.

Seth Grant provided the following information via a power-point presentation.

## History of Pisgah National Forest



- Established 1916
- 86,700 acres from Edith Vanderbilt at less than fair market value: "I wish earnestly to make such disposition of Pisgah Forest as will maintain in the fullest and most permanent way its national value as an object lesson in forestry."
- Through the study of forestry (Biltmore School of Forestry) the land was conserved and held in trust for the public.

## Conservation v. Preservation

Conservation = wise use of natural resources or "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run"

National Forests = Conservation, multiple-use management

**National Parks = Preservation, little human use**

National Forests = hunting, forest management, mountain biking, traditional uses of the land

**National Parks = no hunting, no forest management, other uses limited**

## Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

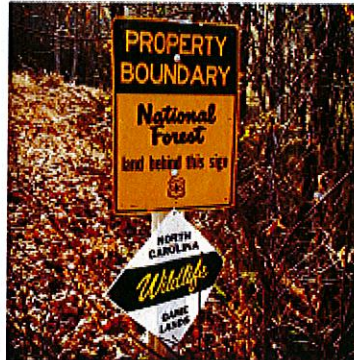
- 1.1 million acres in western North Carolina
- National Forest land is **CONSERVED**:
  - **Not going to** be developed into a subdivision
  - No fracking, no mining, no clearcutting
  - Strict environmental regulations protect the forest and water
  - Old Growth is protected
  - Important ecological areas protected
- No threat to forest that warrants more restrictions





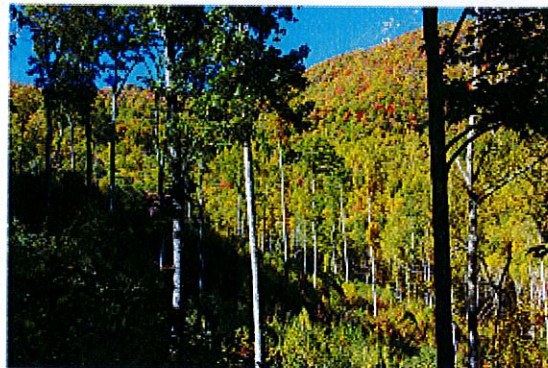
## Why is Multiple-Use Management Good?

- Accommodates everyone: hikers, hunters, bikers, horses, campers
- Hunters cannot hunt in Great Smoky Mtn National Park or state parks
- Nantahala-Pisgah NFs are Half the public hunting land in NC

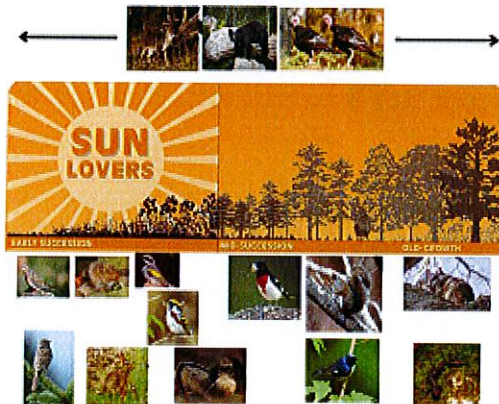


## Forest Management Flexibility is Critical

- Forest Health
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wildfire Management
- County revenue
- Money pays for trail work, parking lots, bathrooms
- Local jobs
- Opens scenic views
- Mountain Traditions



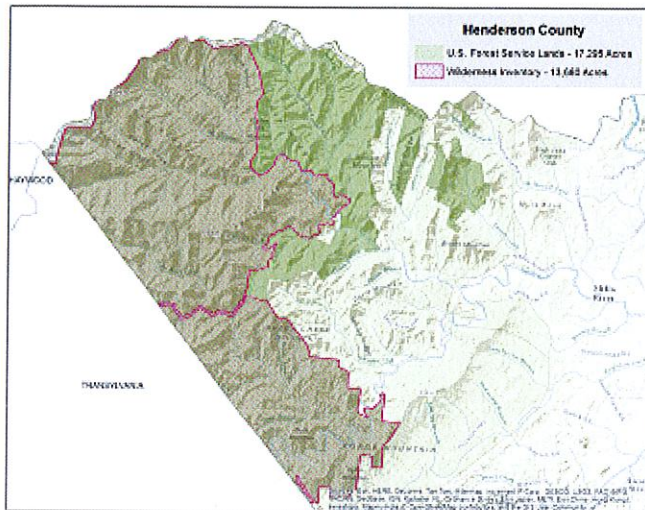
## Young, Middle and Mature Forests











## National Recreation Area - Why?

- NO guarantee of extra funding from Forest Service
- Will lead to overuse and degradation of the public resource
- Many roads and trails already in poor shape
- Can Mills River or Turkey Pen handle more people?
- County foots the bill for law enforcement and search and rescue
  
- NRA is not compromise with Wilderness advocates:
  - It will limit wildlife habitat projects
  - Stepping stone to Wilderness designation in the future.

## Remember Conservation v. Preservation?

- Conservation = Multiple Uses
- Preservation = Little Human Use
  
- **Wilderness** is federal designation that converts National Forests to **Preservation**
  - Roads decommissioned
  - No wildlife habitat improvement projects
  - No mountain biking
  - Traditional uses of the land curtailed

Access, Access, Access...keep to open to variety of users.

Ray Bryson noted that his family has been very involved with Pisgah National Forest for many generations. He feels that most management plans have not been followed through.

Romana Bryson stated she and her husband are very active in wildlife preservation. She feels the designation is unnecessary and our resources need to be protected. She asked the Board to adopt the resolution.

Commissioner Lapsley was surprised the Board was hearing of the proposed designation for the first time. He feels the Forestry Service should have notified the Board.

Commissioner Edney asked what could be done in addition to the resolution.



County Manager Steve Wyatt explained that the Board is in a unique position with a Senator and Congressman housed in Henderson County buildings. We have access to staff with short notice. He recommended facilitating a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

David Whitmire, who serves on the Transylvania Natural Resources Council, and is the Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Council stated he is concerned about water and wildlife. He asked the Board to sign the resolution in opposition, but to support forest managers.

Commissioner Hawkins is not surprised that the bureaucrats have kept this a secret. He will support the resolution in opposition.

*Commissioner Hawkins made motion that the Board adopts the Resolution opposing the Proposed National Recreation Area and Proposed Wilderness Area, and asked staff to forward the Resolution to our Representatives (Meadows & Tillis). He further moved that staff coordinate a meeting with the Staff to our Representatives for further discussion.*

Commissioner Lapsley requested that Senator Burr also receive the resolution, and asked staff to investigate the possible deliberate attempt to keep local government in the dark.

*Commissioner Lapsley called to question. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board is requested to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a), for the following reason(s):

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board to preserve attorney-client privilege.

*Commissioner Edney made the motion that the Board go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board to preserve attorney-client privilege. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

#### **ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Hawkins made the motion to go out of closed session and adjourn at 11:35 a.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Attest:

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Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

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Charlie Messer, Vice-Chairman



**Office of the Henderson County Tax Collector**  
**200 North Grove Street, Suite 66 • Hendersonville, NC 28792-5027**  
**Phone: (828)697-5595 | Fax: (828)698-6153 | www.hendersoncountync.org/ca**

Henderson County Board of Commissioners  
 1 Historic Courthouse Square  
 Hendersonville, NC 28792

08 February 2016

RE: Tax Collector's Report to Commissioners: 17 February 2016 Meeting

Please find outlined below collections information through 07 February 2016 for the 2015 real and personal property bills mailed out on 31 July 2015. As a point of reference, we also have included collections information as of the same date last year. Registered Motor Vehicles reported as billed and collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles through 07 February 2016.

**Henderson County Annual Bills G01 Only:**

**2015 Beginning Charge:** \$62,793,546.73  
**Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:** \$210,670.65  
**Releases & Refunds:** (\$357,658.29)  
**Net Charge:** \$62,646,559.09  
**Unpaid Taxes:** \$2,990,990.69  
**Amount Collected:** \$59,655,568.40  
**Percentage Collected:** 95.23%  
 Through: 7-Feb-2016

**2014 Beginning Charge:** \$59,733,153.63  
**Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:** \$167,558.01  
**Releases & Refunds:** (\$339,548.84)  
**Net Charge:** \$59,561,162.80  
**Unpaid Taxes:** \$2,794,718.88  
**Amount Collected:** \$56,766,443.92  
**Percentage Collected:** 95.31%  
 Through: 7-Feb-2015

**Henderson County Only Registered Motor Vehicles**

Regstr. Month	# Veh. Regstrd.	Gross Value Upon Reg.	Regstr. Month	# Veh. Regstrd.	Gross Value	Gross Levy	Net Levy Collection	Percent Collected
July '15	9888	\$ 86,255,648	July '15	10352	\$ 88,701,901	\$ 457,199.72	\$ 455,383.93	99.60%
Aug '15	9784	\$ 82,397,348	Aug '15	10139	\$ 91,229,089	\$ 469,609.15	\$ 468,629.50	99.79%
Sept '15	9559	\$ 81,357,984	Sept '15	9404	\$ 79,908,385	\$ 412,338.61	\$ 410,717.92	99.61%
Oct '15	9312	\$ 77,527,270	Oct '15	10478	\$ 91,780,730	\$ 472,752.69	\$ 469,823.23	99.38%
Nov '15	7855	\$ 68,074,597	Nov '15	6934	\$ 61,121,188	\$ 315,688.16	\$ 314,019.44	99.47%
Dec '15	8169	\$ 71,274,565	Dec '15	7867	\$ 71,484,148	\$ 368,323.28	\$ 365,624.34	99.27%
Jan '16	7843	\$ 71,771,241	Jan '16	7163	\$ 68,241,484	\$ 351,434.02	\$ 350,378.02	99.70%
Feb '16	7118	\$ 61,857,243	Feb '16	1605	\$ 14,905,451	\$ 76,586.30	\$ 76,541.52	99.94%
Mar '16	10852	\$ 89,862,021	Mar '16					
Apr '16	10182	\$ 84,564,218	Apr '16					
May '16	10377	\$ 85,526,118	May '16					
June '16	9599	\$ 81,998,908	June '16					
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>110538</b>	<b>\$ 942,467,161</b>	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>63942</b>	<b>\$ 567,372,376</b>	<b>\$ 2,923,931.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,911,117.90</b>	<b>99.56%</b>

Note: Final results for the 2015-16FY will not be confirmed until mid-July 2016.

Note: Projections rendered for budgetary purposes prior to adoption of the 2015-16FY Budget.

**Fire Districts' Annual Bills Only:**

**2015 Beginning Charge:** \$8,048,182.01  
**Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:** \$17,764.78  
**Releases & Refunds:** (\$66,951.61)  
**Net Charge:** \$7,998,995.18  
**Unpaid Taxes:** \$441,479.81  
**Amount Collected:** \$7,557,515.37  
**Percentage Collected:** 94.48%  
 Through: 7-Feb-2016

**2014 Beginning Charge:** \$6,647,630.08  
**Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:** \$15,420.85  
**Releases & Refunds:** (\$45,969.11)  
**Net Charge:** \$6,617,081.82  
**Unpaid Taxes:** \$363,075.15  
**Amount Collected:** \$6,254,006.67  
**Percentage Collected:** 94.51%  
 Through: 7-Feb-2015

Respectfully Submitted,



Luke Small  
 Collections Specialist

Darlene Burgess  
 Interim Tax Collector



# HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1  
Hendersonville, NC 28792  
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855  
[www.hendersoncountync.org](http://www.hendersoncountync.org)

THOMAS THOMPSON  
Chairman  
CHARLIE MESSER  
Vice-Chairman

J. MICHAEL EDNEY  
GRADY HAWKINS  
WILLIAM LAPSLEY

## PROCLAMATION JOHN L. BOYD DAY

- WHEREAS,** Vision Henderson County is a comprehensive leadership development program initiated by Blue Ridge Community College and co-sponsored by the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce; and
- WHEREAS,** the Vision program was established in 1996 and Vision Henderson County is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year with the 2015-2016 class; and
- WHEREAS,** since the inception of the program in 1996, John L. Boyd has been the leader of the program promoting informed and committed civic volunteerism; and
- WHEREAS,** throughout this 20 year history, John L. Boyd has promoted inclusiveness, trusteeship, vision and operation as a change agent for the betterment of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, John L. Boyd, has worked with a select group of leaders to understand the issues and opportunities affecting our community (business/economic, environmental, education, civic, healthcare, agriculture, etc.); challenging them to understand how they can make a difference; and
- WHEREAS,** John L. Boyd's 20 years of leadership of this program have resulted in hundreds of alumni who have made countless contributions to the community and its quality of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby designate Tuesday, March 15, 2016 as John L. Boyd Day in Henderson County and urge all citizens to celebrate the continued legacy of John Boyd's great leadership and participation in and support of Vision Henderson County.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 17th day of February, 2016.



CHARLES MESSER, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD



# HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855

[www.hendersoncountync.org](http://www.hendersoncountync.org)

THOMAS THOMPSON  
Chairman  
CHARLIE MESSER  
Vice-Chairman

J. MICHAEL EDNEY  
GRADY HAWKINS  
WILLIAM LAPSLEY

## PROCLAMATION 2016 WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

**WHEREAS,** The National Association of Women in Construction Asheville Chapter #154 has distinguished itself for 48 years as the voice of women in construction in Western North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** the work done by Chapter 154 has benefited Western North Carolina through community development and educational programs; and

**WHEREAS,** Chapter 154 has unceasingly promoted the employment and advance of women in the construction industry; and

**WHEREAS,** the construction community has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects; promotion of skilled trade careers; and a positive vision of the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby designate the week of March 6-12, 2016 as "Women in Construction Week", and thank the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) for their contribution to the construction industry.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 17th day of February, 2016.



CHARLES MESSER, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD



# HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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THOMAS THOMPSON  
Chairman  
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Vice-Chairman

J. MICHAEL EDNEY  
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WILLIAM LAPSLEY

## RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE NANTAHALA AND PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

- WHEREAS,** the United States Forest Service is revising its 1987 Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest, and is currently accepting public comment on the proposed revision; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County Board of Commissioners is pleased with and commends the National Forest Staff and supports their important contributions to our community; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 7.2% (17,295 acres) of Henderson County is National Forest System Land and approximately 13,680 acres in Henderson County were inventoried Wilderness; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests contain important and significant natural resources that relate to the commerce and people of Henderson County in ecological, scenic, recreational, social, and community values; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Forest lands within Henderson County contribute significantly to Henderson County's economy, infrastructure and school funding; and
- WHEREAS,** these National Forests have substantial value including habitat for native wildlife and fish, as a publicly administered natural area of free and open public access to all visitors, as a sustainable supply of forest products for local and regional businesses, and as a natural, ecological and scientific resource; and
- WHEREAS,** the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests make up a significant element of Henderson County's history and cultural heritage, and maintain a diversity of natural habitats of Western North Carolina worthy of conversation, including areas of national environmental treasures that should be carefully managed to ensure sustainability for future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** a wilderness designation means that the forest cannot be managed sustainably, mountain biking is prohibited, traditional uses like digging ramps are prohibited, wildlife habitat improvements cannot be made, the cost of search and rescue increases, roads are decommissioned, and access for forest users is restricted; and
- WHEREAS,** the citizens of Western North Carolina and visitors to this area use the National Forest for hiking, hunting, mountain biking, fishing, horseback riding and sustainably harvested natural resources, and these uses are an intrinsic and important part of the history and culture of our community; and



**WHEREAS,** upon consideration of the positive impacts of science-based, active natural resources management on forest health, water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, forest products, and other values held important by our residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS,** we believe that active natural resources management enhances social and economic values through the development and maintenance of a diverse, resilient and healthy forested landscape, thus providing a sustainable National Forest ecology for future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** a Congressionally designated National Recreation Area does not guarantee any additional funding for management and will give support for the same area being designated a Wilderness area in the future; and

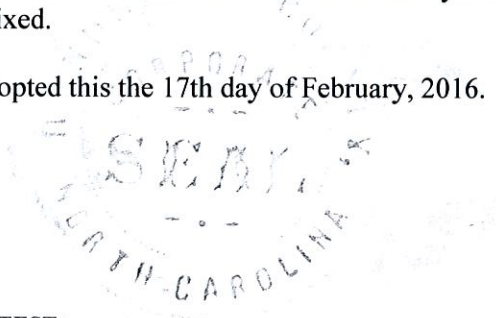
**WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners has concern over the potentially net negative consequences of additional Wilderness Area designations in areas of these National Forests located within the County; and


**WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners believes a National Recreation Area designation is unlikely to provide additional benefit to our citizens and visitors beyond that which already exists in the current National Forest structure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby strongly oppose the designation of any Wilderness, National Recreation Area, or other congressional designations on the National Forest System lands in Henderson County.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 17th day of February, 2016.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES MESSER, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD