

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LAND USE PLANNING GUIDELINES

The coastal Area Management Act was designed to protect the water quality of our coast. One way this was to be accomplished was through Land Use Planning (LUPing) by the coastal counties. If you have been following Crossroads' newsletters and public statements, you know that for some years we have been arguing that the LUP process was not working and should be revised. As evidence, our water quality continues to deteriorate. The Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) agreed with us, placed a moratorium on new LUPs and ordered a major rewrite of the LUP guidelines which determine what local government must consider in the LUPs.

A task force was appointed and has labored for months to write the new guidelines. They were then scrutinized by the CRC line-by-line and have been enthusiastically accepted. They now go to public hearings. Crossroads applauds the CRC, the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) and the Task Force for the work they have done and we fully support the new guidelines.

Public Hearings will be held:

**Wednesday, August 29 at 7 pm at
Beaufort County Courthouse, 112 West 2nd St., Washington**

**Wednesday, September 5 at 7 pm at
Craven County Courthouse, 406 Craven St. New Bern**

**Wednesday, September 12 at 7 pm at
New Hanover County Courthouse, 314 Princess St. Wilmington.**

**Please attend one of these hearings or send an e-mail message of support to:
Kathy Vinson at DCM: kathy.vinson@ncmail.net**

The new guidelines include Land Suitability Analysis and a set of Management Objectives dealing with public access, land use compatibility, infrastructure carrying capacity, natural hazard areas, water quality and local areas of concern. They also require improved public participation in the planning process. We believe that if the rules are adopted and properly interpreted by local governments they will help preserve and protect water quality.

Please give the proposed guidelines your support.