**ABCPOA Candidate Questionnaire 2020**

**Brunswick County Commissioner Candidate**

**District 3**

**William C. Flythe**

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it not later than September 25, 2020

**Please limit responses to 200 words**

Question 1.

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| Please define the one clear change that you wish to accomplish and how you intend to build support for this change during your tenure in office if elected”? |

Response 1.

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| A key issue in my campaign is to change the actions of the Board in failing to protect the coastal environment. I will propose a resolution opposing such destructive practices as seismic testing and offshore drilling. Local legislators in the NC General Assembly will be encouraged to support policies that will increase monitoring and testing for GenX, coal ash chemicals, and other pollutants in the source of our drinking water (Cape Fear River). Although I support the Board’s decision to purchase an expensive ($122 million) purification system to remove GenX and other chemicals from our drinking water, the industrial polluter should be sued to share the cost of the system. The Board will be asked to address weather-related problems (flooding, beach erosion, etc.) in the County by updating the local land use plan (UDO). |

Question 2.

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| What is your opinion of the actions that are being taken by DEQ to stop PFAS releases into the Cape Fear River? What additional steps do you think should be pursued to ensure downstream residents can be confident of their drinking water quality? |

Response 2.

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| The water quality plan that the Chemours Plant in Fayetteville submitted to the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was initially approved in April. Fortunately, two local organizations, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) and Cape Fear River Watch, opposed the plan because it did not clean groundwater. An amended agreement was reached last month for Chemours to install additional equipment to filter and test groundwater and surface water. DEQ made a mistake when it did not consult CFPUA—responsible for drinking water in the Wilmington area. I agree with the Authority that the new Chemours plan should have a standard that improves water quality in the Cape Fear River to the same level as that for private wells near the Fayetteville plant. Of course, pressure should be applied on the NC General Assembly to increase funding for DEQ so that it can perform its job at a satisfactory level. |

Question3

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| Brunswick County has a number of industrially zoned sites (adjacent to US 74/46, Cape Fear Regional Airport, Port Authority property north of Southport). What do you propose as a means of marketing these sites for development? |

Response 3.

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| Potential developers should be reminded of the natural resources (Cape Fear River and large tracts of undeveloped land in Brunswick County) and man-made resources (State Ports and I-40/I-140 Hwy) that provides for unlimited development. Brunswick Community College and Cape Fear Community College can provide the necessary training for skilled jobs. The necessary infrastructure (roads, water, and sewer) are already available and/or can be easily upgraded. The plan(s) for a fourth bridge across The Cape Fear River should be reactivated. It would provide direct access to the State Ports.  |

Question 4.

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|  The extension of the Carolina Bays Parkway can be either a boon or a blight to Brunswick County depending on how it is routed. Please share your thoughts on the route(s) which you believe will be the least intrusive and the most advantageous to future economic development. |

Response 4

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| Based upon my experience and the decision of political leaders in the town of Calabash (impacted area), I would select the Hickman Road route (Concept #6). It is an established road and “shortcut” that takes me to the SC-31 bypass when traveling to Florida and Georgia. It was noted in a local newspaper that Calabash Commissioners considered Concept 6 to be the “most practical and straightest shot” of the routes. Since a Sunset Beach Councilman noted that the nine options “basically converge on NC-904 and US 17, he proposed an option 10. This option is also attractive because it goes an additional six miles past Shallotte before connecting with US-17 and eventually I-140. This route will be the most advantageous to future economic developments. |

Question 5

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|  Over the years neighborhoods and communities have been developed with no provision for roads to be maintained nor dedication to local, county, or state authority leading to situations where public health and safety are jeopardized. What do you propose as a way to remediate this situation? |

Response 5.

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| I served on the Brunswick County Planning Board for a few years—approximately ten years ago. During that period of time, developers had to pay for a traffic analysis report on roads that surrounded the subdivision. Funds had to be set aside by the developer to pay for any upgrades. Although the developer or eventually the POA is responsible for roads inside the subdivision, an emergency plan could be set up with the County inspecting the roads and, if necessary, a “road maintenance” fee is collected with property taxes. |

Question 6.

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| Revenue shortfalls will likely need to be addressed in the current fiscal year. Where do you see opportunities to reduce expenses? To increase revenues? |

Response 6.

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| There should be a decrease in funding for two County departments during this COVID19 period—Parks and Recreation and Economic Development. Additional funds can be obtained through an increase in the occupancy (room) tax.  |

Please save as a pdf file and return to: genevasile708@gmail.com

Thank you for participating in the ABCPOA candidate questionnaire.