REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 12.

DATE OF MEETING: October 6, 2014

REQUESTED BY: Kyle M. Breuer, Director, Planning & Community Development

SHORT TITLE: Resolution of Support For The Mountains-to-Sea Trail Route Through Pender County and Requesting This Area as a Permanent Section of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail
a)

BACKGROUND: The Mountains-to-Sea Trail, an effort to link Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the outer banks, is the flagship project of the North Carolina State Trails Program. Today, over 450 miles of the 1,000 mile route are open for use. Partners across North Carolina are helping to plan and build the trail to link communities together and to serve as the backbone of a growing system of land and water trails.

Originally, the Mountains-to-Sea Trail was planned to utilize the Neuse River as a paddle trail to accommodate the Coastal Plains portion of the trail. There have been some issues as far as designation and advancement of the trail within these areas and the current push is to have the alignment rerouted toward the Cape Fear area to include surrounding counties, Pender County, and it's municipalities.

Kate Dixon, Executive Director, Friends of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail will provide the Board an update as to its progress in designating the Mountains-To-Sea Trail route through the Coastal Plains of North Carolina and to seek Board support through the accompanying resolution titled: *RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH PENDER COUNTY AND REQUESTING THIS AREA AS A PERMANENT SECTION OF THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL.* The Town of Burgaw as well as the Town of Surf City have adopted similar Resolutions.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution supporting designating portions of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through Pender County as permanent sections.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

RM
Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby supports the Resolution titled: Resolution of Support for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Route Through Pender County and Requesting This Area as a Permanent Section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED_____ SECONDED_____

APPROVED_____ DENIED_____UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Williams ___ McCoy ___ Brown ___ Tate ___ Ward ___

_____ 10/6/2014
J. David Williams, Chairman Date

_____ 10/6/2014
ATTEST Date

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH PENDER COUNTY AND REQUESTING THIS AREA AS A PERMANENT SECTION OF THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL

WHEREAS, Pender County has extraordinary natural, cultural, and historic features including Moores Creek National Battlefield, Penderlea Homesteads Historic District, Holly Shelter Game Lands, the beaches of Topsail Island, churches, stores, restaurants, and homes; and

WHEREAS, Pender County would like to highlight these natural, cultural, and historic features for the enjoyment, health, and economic benefit of its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Mountains-to-Sea Trail runs 1,000 miles from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks to showcase North Carolina's natural, rural, cultural, and historic features; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Parks designates official sections of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail but has not yet designated many miles of trail to the Coastal Plain region; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST) provides "current" route of back roads and trails between the State Park-designated sections of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail so that people can hike across the state; and

WHEREAS, FMST is developing a new "current" route for the trail through Sampson, Bladen, Pender, and Onslow counties that will use existing trails and back roads to help people explore this unique part of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the "current" route being developed by FMST will take hikers throughout Pender County; and

WHEREAS, Pender County is interested in having this section permanently dedicated as the Mountains-to-Sea Trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pender County Board of Commissioners, encourages the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation to adopt the new "current" route of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

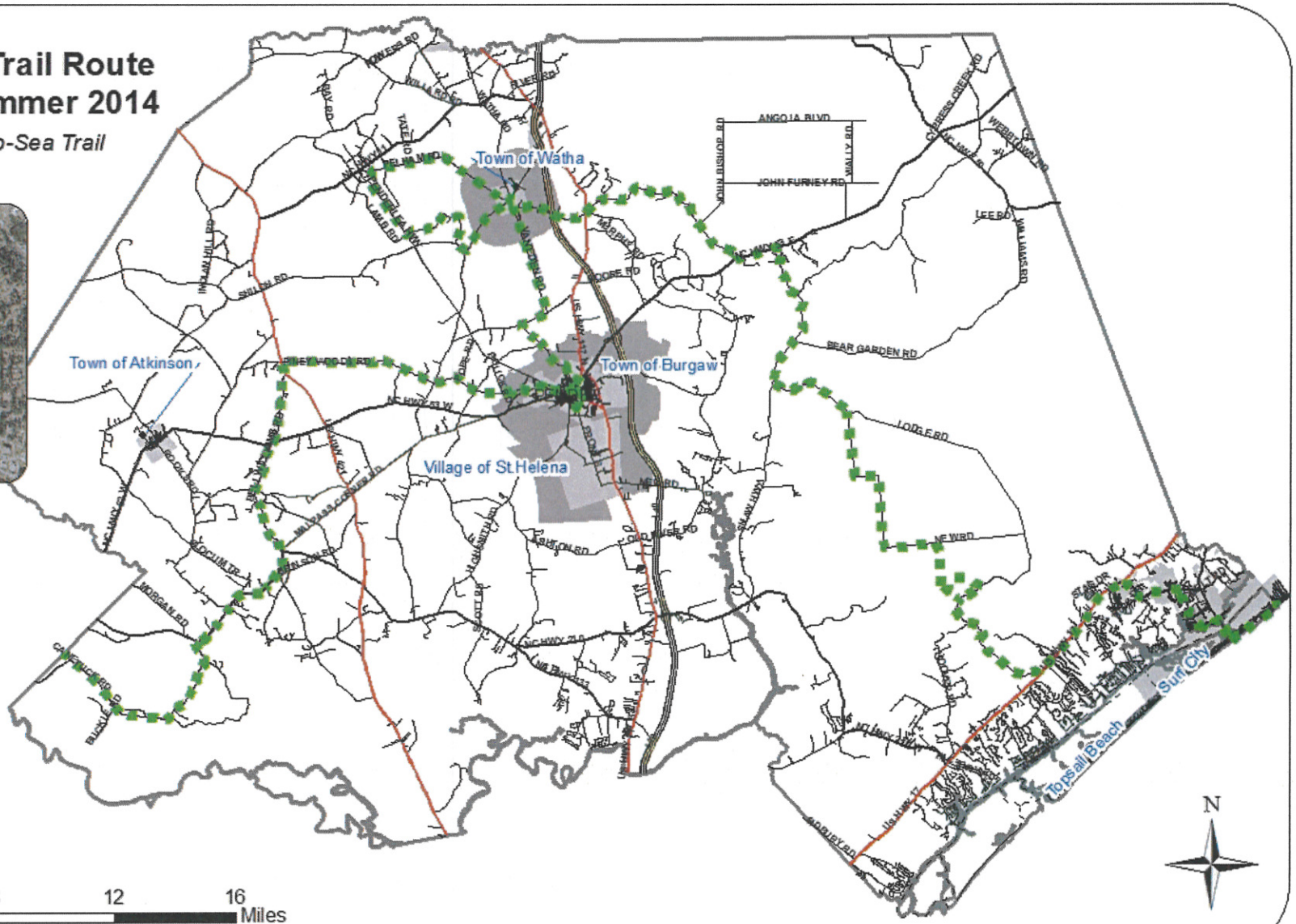
This 6th day of October, 2014.

_____
J. David Williams, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Robert M. Murphy, Clerk to the Board

Mountains-to-Sea Trail Route
Pender County- Summer 2014

Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Inset Map:
Town of Burgaw - Osgood Canal