



A Message from Our Chair

As expected, Fiscal Year 2016–2017 was a year of continued growth and change in the Triangle J region. In one aspect, this refers to our local communities such as my own, the Town of Rolesville, and 40 others that span across the Triangle J Council of Government's seven county region. New residents arrive by the day, businesses settle into communities, and governments' staff continue to find new ways to revitalize services and operations to reach these newcomers.

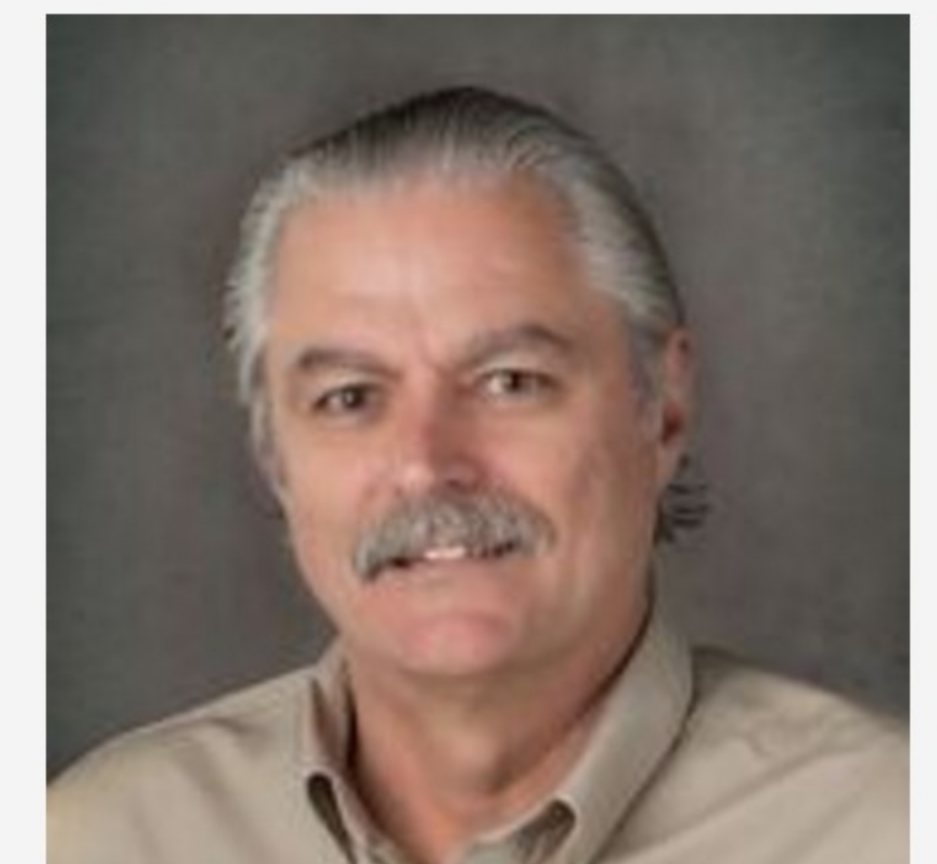
In another aspect, this change refers to Triangle J itself, which has experienced considerable change over the past few years. At Triangle J, we continue to reposition ourselves to ensure that we provide services and programs that benefit our members and focuses on the top challenges for our growing region. During the past fiscal year, those areas of opportunity should not surprise us: transportation, affordable housing, economic development, natural resources allocation and a growing aging population.

These large, complex issues do not follow jurisdictional boundaries. More importantly, our citizens do not follow jurisdictional boundaries – living in one community, working in another, playing in another. As we look ahead to the coming years, I stress the need for us as elected officials and stakeholders of Triangle J to challenge ourselves; we also need to ignore jurisdictional boundaries. As a region, we can much more easily overcome our challenges and build upon our success. While reading this report, take note of the collaborative scale of the COG's work this year and the unique perspective provided. It is now up to us to leverage Triangle J for our collective benefit.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Currin

FY18 Board of Delegates Chair, Triangle J Council of Governments
Mayor Pro Tempore, Town of Rolesville



Who We Are

Triangle J Council of Governments is a member organization serving local governments and addressing tough challenges that transcend political boundaries including transportation, rapid growth, affordable housing, natural resource allocation and an aging adult population. Our 41 member governments span across Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, and Wake counties.

Members



Aberdeen*	Fuquay-Varina	Princeton
Apex	Garner	Raleigh
Archer Lodge	Goldston	Robbins
Benson	Hillsborough	Rolesville
Broadway	Holly Springs	Sanford
Cameron	Johnston County	Selma
Carrboro	Kenly	Siler City
Carthage	Knightdale	Smithfield
Cary	Lee County	Southern Pines*
Chapel Hill	Micro*	Wake County
Chatham County	Morrisville	Wake Forest
Clayton	Orange County	Wendell
Durham	Pinehurst*	Zebulon
Durham County	Pittsboro	

** Members as of July 2017

Leadership



2016-2017

Ed Harrison- Chair, Town of Chapel Hill
Ronnie Currin-1st Vice-Chair, Town of Rolesville
Rebecca Wyhof- 2nd Vice-Chair, City of Sanford
Jim Crawford- Treasurer/Secretary, Chatham County

2017-2018

Ronnie Currin- Chair, Town of Rolesville
Rebecca Wyhof-1st Vice-Chair, City of Sanford
Jim Crawford- 2nd Vice-Chair, Chatham County
Bethany Chaney- Treasurer/Secretary, Town of Carrboro

Lee Worsley, Executive Director, lworsley@tjcog.org
Andrea Eilers, Energy & Environment, aeilers@tjcog.org
John Hodges-Copple, Regional Planning, johnhc@tjcog.org
Judy Weller, Finance, jweller@tjcog.org
Mary Warren, Area Agency on Aging, mwarren@tjcog.org
Renee Boyette, Administration & Member Services, rboyette@tjcog.org



"TY Board Member Jason Thompson @TownofClayton for your 3 years of service as Chairperson of our Aging Advisory Council #aginginplace"

Area Agency on Aging

Promoting the highest level of well-being of older adults through partnerships that provide a comprehensive system of opportunities, services and protective supports.

Project Highlights

Held an educational conference with Dr. Al Power as part of the Dementia Inclusive Durham initiative to improve quality of life and well-being for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Dementia Beyond Disease Seminar Part II

Increased capacity of the CRCs to continue providing a "No Wrong Door" system of access to long-term services and supports available to older adults. Encouraged CRC members and counties to update 211 listings.

Community Resource Connections (CRCs)

Facilitated the completion of the assessment for the Town of Smithfield and helped interpret and inform the best next steps and strategies to improve the community's livability score.

TJCOG Livability Self-Assessment and Toolkit for Local Governments

Empowering Older Adults and Their Families to Make Informed Decisions



Targeted education and outreach to community groups on "person-centered planning" and community based services and supports.



Provided training and educational resources to Community Resource Connections partners in Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties.



Supported local service partners' outreach to ensure eligible Medicare beneficiaries were informed about benefits such as Low Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Program.



Participated in and determined ways the **Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)** can positively affect aging adults and their primary care experience.

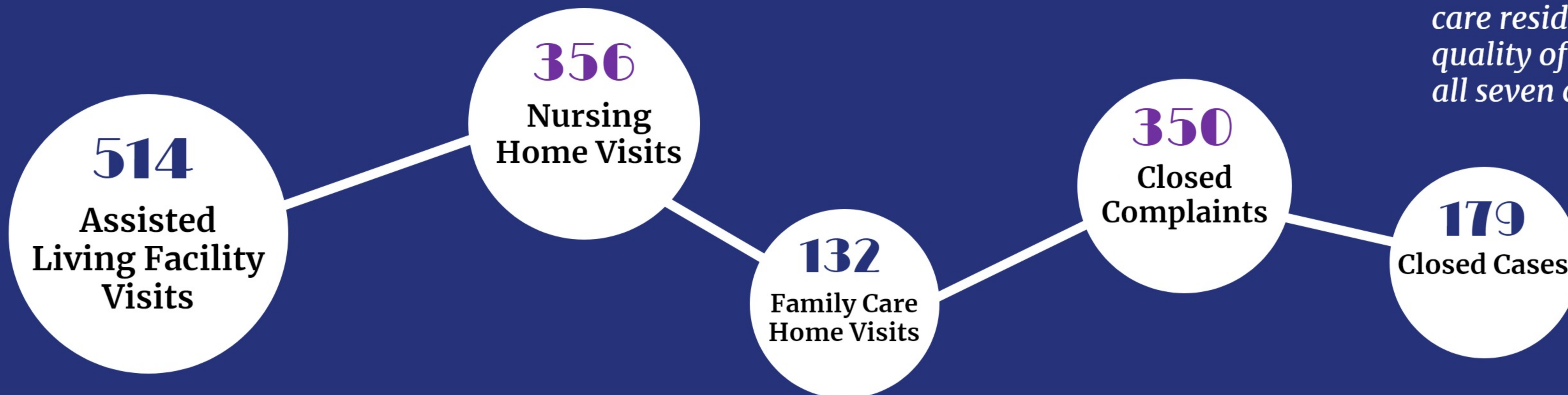


Co-presented a webinar with GWEP and Duke Connected Care about nursing home transitions and the Local Contact Agency Options Counselor role.



Began revamp of Durham Network of Care listings to create continuity across local databases and databases in Wake County as a part of GWEP initiatives.

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program



Advocating on behalf of long-term care residents and addressing quality of life and care issues across all seven counties.

Supported residents making decisions about future long-term care inside or outside of the facility. Options Counselors provided information on community-living options and helped identify and apply for programs and services to ease transitions when applicable.

Local Contact Agency (LCA)/Options Counseling Program



Planned and hosted an Elder Abuse Awareness conference for Long-Term Care staff, county social services staff, and local service providers. Provided information about elder abuse awareness in all TJCOG communications.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Facilitated regular meetings between emergency management personnel and Long-Term Care facility staff in each county to ensure facilities are well-connected to the appropriate entities in the event of an emergency.



Regional Long-Term Care Disaster Preparedness Committee

Empowering Older Adults to Enjoy Optimal Health and a Healthy Lifestyle

- Represented the interests of aging adults in the Wake County Health Assessment and Durham County's Healthy Durham 2020.
- Promoted engagement in health initiatives including facility and senior center gardens, fresh foods in menu planning, annual vaccinations and community wellness events.
- Celebrated Older Americans Month in May 2017, which encouraged older adults to "Age Out Loud" as healthy, independent, self-advocates. (see right)
- Provided, expanded and monitored evidence-based health promotion programs in all counties.



"Check out some of the ways our Aging Advisory Council is supporting aging out loud in our region!" #OAM3017



Development & Infrastructure

Strengthening partnerships across the region and assisting local governments with integrated land use, transportation, housing and infrastructure strategies.

Project Highlights

Convened a committee of stakeholders from Goldston, Pittsboro, Siler City and Chatham County to develop community-specific priorities and strategies that will increase and preserve quality affordable rental housing.

Chatham County Affordable Rental Housing Report & Strategy Toolbox

The regional bicycle and pedestrian plan for TARPO communities was presented with the 2017 National Association of Development Organizations' Excellence in Transportation Award. Matt Day, the primary TARPO staff member, accepted the award.

TARPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan



This grant-supported project matches land use strategies with Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit decisions. Staff created an inventory of affordable housing and a housing policy and practice summary document.

Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit

Providing a Regional Perspective to the Affordable Housing Challenge

- Moderated the **Regional Affordable Housing Challenges** panel, hosted by Leadership Triangle
- Served on the **Orange County Housing Coalition** and assisted in the creation of a naturally-occurring affordable housing (NOAH) inventory
- Presented on **Housing for Older Adults** to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee
- Produced **Community-Specific Infographics** on housing needs and supply for the towns of Rolesville and Apex.
- Developed **resources to encourage effective communication** about affordable housing and its impact on the region.

Triangle Regional Housing Summit: Investing for Impact

120 attendees

16 expert speakers/panelists

7 unique affordable housing solutions presented

Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO)

Providing transportation planning and serving as a liaison between local governments and NCDOT for Lee and Moore counties, and the non-urban portions of Chatham and Orange counties.

- Completed and adopted the Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Chatham County, which identifies transportation needs and solutions for the next 25-30 years and emphasizes integrated strategies based on development, growth and traffic trends.
- Provided support for the ongoing Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- Began preparations for Lee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan update.
- Served on North Carolina Rural Planning Organization Executive Committee

NCDOT Project Prioritization 4.0 Process

18 selected projects

\$152 million dollars of NCDOT funding for TARPO communities

Brought together community stakeholders for quarterly meetings that focused on development, growth, scenario planning, the RTP's Park Center, and housing in the region's central jurisdictions.

Center of the Region
Enterprise (CORE)

The Town engaged TJCOG to update their Land Development Plan, created in 2003. With growth on the horizon, the update aims to enact policies that encourage business and employment growth in an environmentally-sustainable manner, and in coordination with a Town steering committee.

Siler City Land Development
Plan

Facilitated work between MPO staffs on the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and an updated Triangle CommunityViz Growth Allocation Model, and developed growth scenarios for the plan.

Triangle Land Use/Mobility/Air
Quality Coordination

Helping the Region Align Transit, Land Use and Development

 Served on the **technical advisory committee** of RDU's Vision2040 planning effort.



Provided **technical assistance** for DCHC MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan and CAMPO's Southeast Area Study and LAPP program, and Complete540.




Provided data and GIS mapping services to members and partner organizations to make **informed decisions** about investments and planning.



Hosted the **Transit Ready Breakfast** (see right) with GoTriangle, to offer the development community an overview of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project's development potential.



 "Great panel to discuss best practices of transit-ready development. #TOD #DOLRT @GoTriangle @GatewayPlanning"



Energy & Environment

Leading regional sustainability initiatives to promote alternative fuel and transit, improve air quality, and ensure resiliency in the face of natural disasters.

"Last night's #bestworkplaces recipients w/TJCOG Board Chair Ed Harrison. No better way to support employees than commuter benefits."

Triangle J COG @TJCOGnc May 25

Project Highlights

Completed Phase 1 of the regional resiliency mapping effort, which included a complete assessment of climate-related threats, including drought, heavy precipitation, heat waves, and others.

Triangle Regional Resiliency Assessment

Worked with Johnston County government to provide on-site assistance for mapping, grant writing and planning. Convened affected communities and partners to begin redevelopment process.

Hurricane Matthew Resiliency Project



Compiled best practices on company telework programs and useful tips for employers interested in beginning the process of implementation. Final product will be available to NC employers.

Telework Toolkit

Bi-Annual Commuter Survey

Completed in the spring as a part of the Transportation Demand Management program, this survey assessed regional commuter habits and preferences and included some exciting highlights:

24% tried, started or increased alternative transportation use

63% of drivers are interested in trying alternative transportation, given the right circumstance

Transportation Demand Management Program (TDM) Yearly Impact



5 million vehicle trips avoided



2.2 million gallons of gas saved



54 million commute miles reduced

Facilitated Regional Discourse on Alternative Fuels and Fleet Options

Hospital Transportation Summit, Dec. 7 2016

Engaged hospital staff for an innovative afternoon of best practices, solutions and partnerships to combat parking constraints and improve the experience. Presentations by Transloc and Nunes-Ueno Consulting.

Advancing Transit Technologies, March 29 2017

A panel of experts and industry leaders from Proterra, PSNC, Wave Transit and the City of Greensboro discussed alternative fuel options for regional fleets.

Clean Cities Stakeholder Odyssey Day, April 20 2017

A discussion on the latest trends in Autonomous Vehicle advances followed by an Odyssey Day celebration and an opportunity for attendees to test drive a range of alternative fuel vehicles.

Renewable Natural Gas Workshop, June 15 2017

Presented a variety of opportunities in North Carolina to utilize animal and food by-products for energy conversion.

Worked with transit technology partners to offer local fleets an opportunity to demonstrate a range of alternative fuel vehicles. Completed **244** demonstrations with **76** fleets interested in new fuel options.

**Southeast Alternative Fuel
Vehicle Demonstration Initiative**



Engaged a newly revitalized group and brought together local sustainability managers to work on and coordinate future initiatives across the region.

**Council for a Sustainable
Triangle**

Triangle Clean Cities Coalition Annual Member Survey

7.5 million gallons of petroleum displaced

47 thousand tons of greenhouse gas reduced

17 million dollars saved replacing conventional fuel

Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) Program



Kimley-Horn becomes the newest program member



3 BWC member employers recognized nationally for their commuter benefits



30 participating regional employers



102,000 regional employees represented through program





"Our regional CIO Chairs from @townofapex @TownofCary talking #broadband and fiber mapping to all our managers."

Member Services

Assisting local elected officials and government staff work proactively on regional issues, share best practices, and leverage resources.

Project Highlights

Engaged regional human resources staff for an overview of administrative investigations, an in-depth look at the investigative process, and lessons learned. Southeastern Consulting and Investigations presented.

Workforce Investigations Lunch 'n Learn

Received resolutions of support from all 6 member counties to submit an EDD application. Once finalized, the designation will allow staff to coordinate regional economic development strategies, and COG members to more easily receive EDA funding.

Economic Development District (EDD) Application

Activated Site #7 at Southern Lithoplate, received authorization to expand the service area to include Wilson County, held meetings with 7 interested businesses, two of whom are now developing applications; and attended US FTZ Board Grantee Training.

Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)

Convening Like-Stakeholders to Learn About and Collaborate on New Opportunities



Began a **Regional Broadband Asset Map** with the Regional Chief Information Officers Committee and Wake County GIS. The map will highlight potential interconnections between municipal-owned broadband assets.



Held a **broadband-focused Regional Managers Meeting** to learn about the TJCOG CIO Committee broadband effort, review fiber deployment in the region and facilitate a conversation on future needs.



Convened the **Regional Mayors and County Chairs** at the Sanford Buggy Factory to discuss downtown development, at the Johnston County Workforce Development Center to discuss economic development, and at the UNC Cleantech Summit and Public-Private Partnership Panel.



Hosted **Envision Carolina** with SAS and the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster, for member governments interested in smart cities technologies.



Hosted the first meetings of the **Strategy and Innovation Network**, bringing together local government staff tasked with lean government or strategic initiatives to share and test new ideas.

Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

Transitioned to a new third party administrator, **Safe-T-Works**.

Provided training to **14** designated employee representatives and **40** employee supervisors.

14 program member organizations

861 drug tests administered

102 breath alcohol tests administered

1071 employees covered



New Services for Member Governments

Joined the **HGACBuy Procurement Program**, which offers competitively priced contracts and streamlines the governmental procurement process. Through an Interlocal Agreement, all member governments can utilize the cooperative purchasing contracts at their convenience.



In response to increased requests from member governments for **facilitation services**, staff completed intensive facilitation training focused on engaging elected officials and government leaders, and finding consensus on divisive issues.

Out and About in the Region... and Beyond

Held a hands-on interactive workshop for local government staff on federal and state legislation, changes in technology, impacts on local government and policies that localities could adopt to address application and policy issues.

Dealing with Wireless Antenna and Tower Applications in the Public Right-of-Way

- NC Rural Assembly and Rural Advocacy Day
- Johnston County Racing for Recruitment
- Engaging Local Government Leaders Conference
- Global Carolina Connections Conference
- Wake County Managers Meeting
- Research Triangle Regional Partnership State of the Region
- Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities Conference

- Kenly Town Council Meeting
- Pinehurst Village Council Work Session
- Delegate Orientations for Orange County and Archer Lodge
- National Association of Foreign Trade Zones Annual Conference
- NC World Trade Association Board
- NC Economic Developers Association
- Clayton Chamber Eggs and Issues

Improving Engagement and Communication with Member Governments

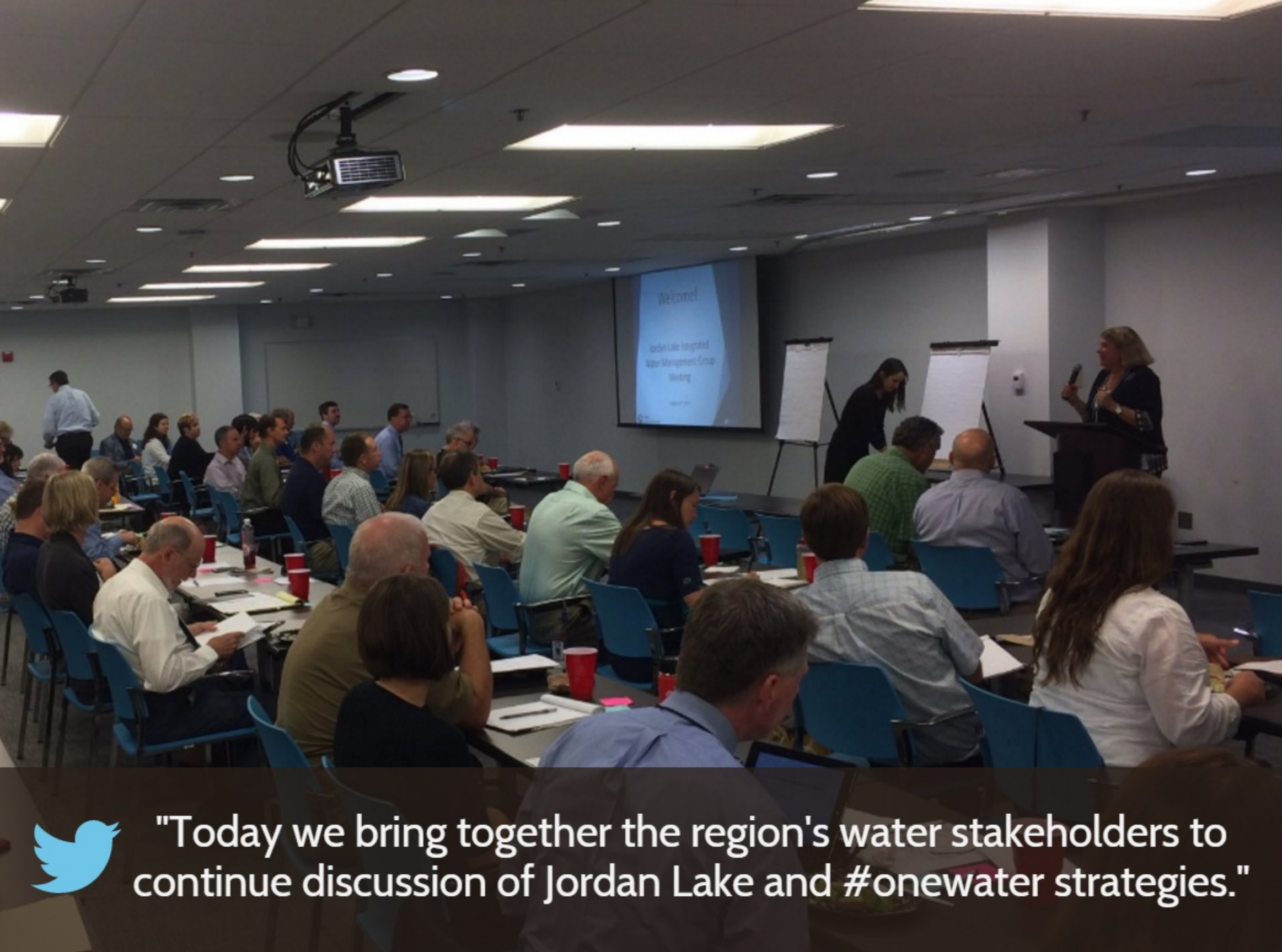
Hired an **Engagement Specialist** to help member governments understand program offerings and opportunities.

Created the **Executive Director's Blog** to provide updates and highlights from Lee Worsley and staff.

Revamped **The Week Ahead** newsletter to offer a more forward looking source of news, events and resources to TJCOC stakeholders.




"Excited to be at Galot Sports Park with @JoCoEconomicDev celebrating local industry! #FTZ #supportlocal"



Water Resources

Building collaborative partnerships and programs to manage water supply, water quality and watershed protection in the region's two river basins.

 "Today we bring together the region's water stakeholders to continue discussion of Jordan Lake and #onewater strategies."

Project Highlights

Provided support for the Technical Advisory Committee, regional involvement in the Cape Fear River Assembly and general program support.

Upper Cape Fear River Basin Association

This interlocal program monitors the presence or absence of pollutants and long-term trends in the region's water supplies. The fifth year of the project's Phase VII was completed, officially achieving 20 consecutive years of water quality data collection.

Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project

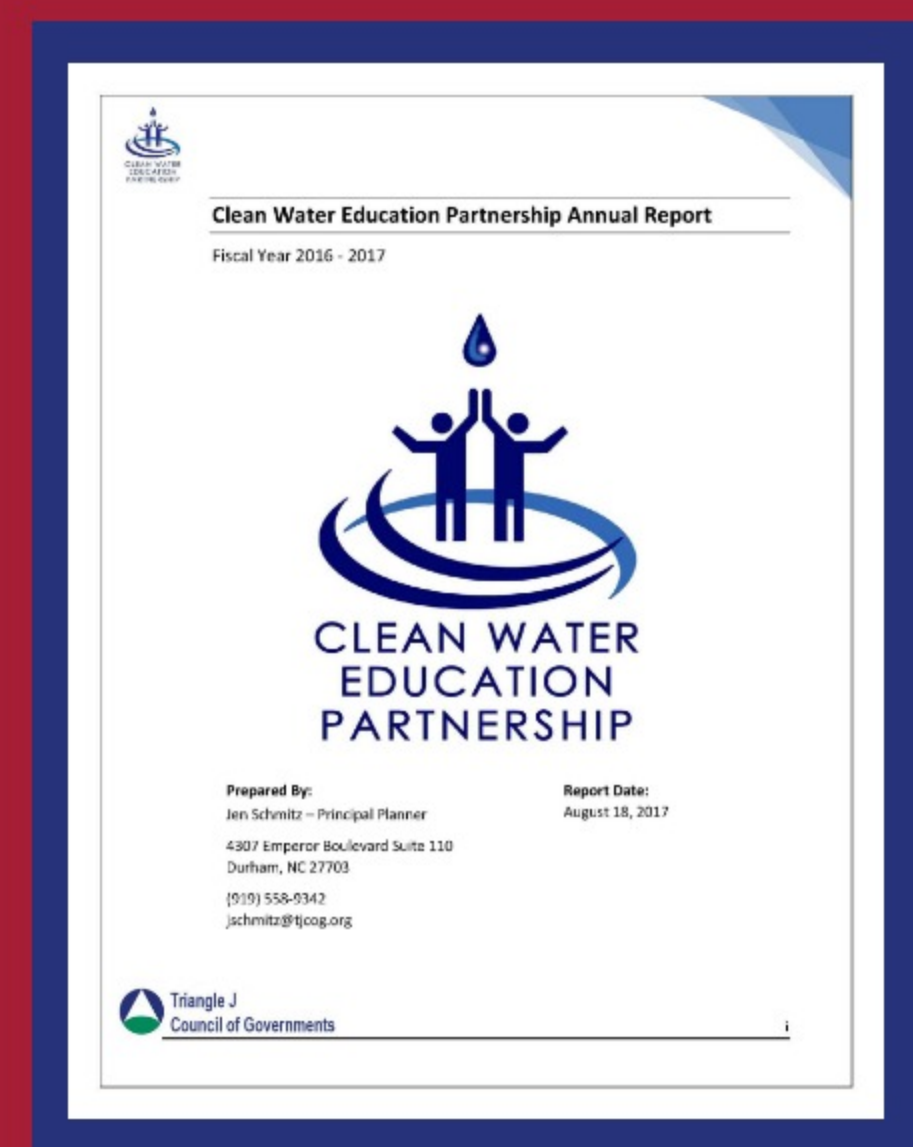
Created a Conservation Plan for the Town that was used to inform the Siler City Land Development Plan created later in the fiscal year to ensure it was environmentally conscious.

Siler City Conservation Plan Development

Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP)

The year was a time of major change for the CWEP program. New direction from staff resulted in a longer-term and increasingly digital education strategy for the partners. By leveraging resources from the 37 local governments in the Partnership, CWEP was able to produce high quality stormwater education materials and ensure consistency across the region. Partners were provided the following marketing tools, among others:

- Annual report submitted on behalf of partners to NCDEQ on program activities.
- Cable campaign with **150,000** citizen impressions.
- An internet campaign with **900,000** citizen impressions.
- A cinema campaign with **215,000** citizen impressions.
- New, blog-style website that promotes fun, engaging and modern content.



A Collaborative and Comprehensive Approach to Regional Water Issues

Presented to the Watershed Alliance on Stormwater Management in North Carolina and possibilities for advancement.

Wrote and submitted 205j grants for the towns of Smithfield and Pittsboro for funding of water quality planning projects.

Presented to the Lee County and City of Sanford Joint Environmental Affairs Board on the causes and ramifications of stormwater runoff and management.



Restructured the Water Resources department to be within the Energy and Environment team for more collaboration.

Participated in the Triangle Region's One Water Delegation at the One Water Summit in New Orleans.

Held the first meeting of the Jordan Lake One Water Association with regional elected officials and stakeholders to discuss integrated water management and the "One Water" holistic mentality in the watershed.

Jordan Lake One Water Summit

Hosted two joint meetings with the TJCOG Smart Growth Collaborative that focused on inter-related issues of development, growth and water quality, and improving regional resiliency. Revitalized the Water Resources Committee to be a more open, collaborative entity and merged yearly meetings with the Smart Growth Committee to encourage further joint discourse on smart growth and water issues.

Water Resources Collaborative

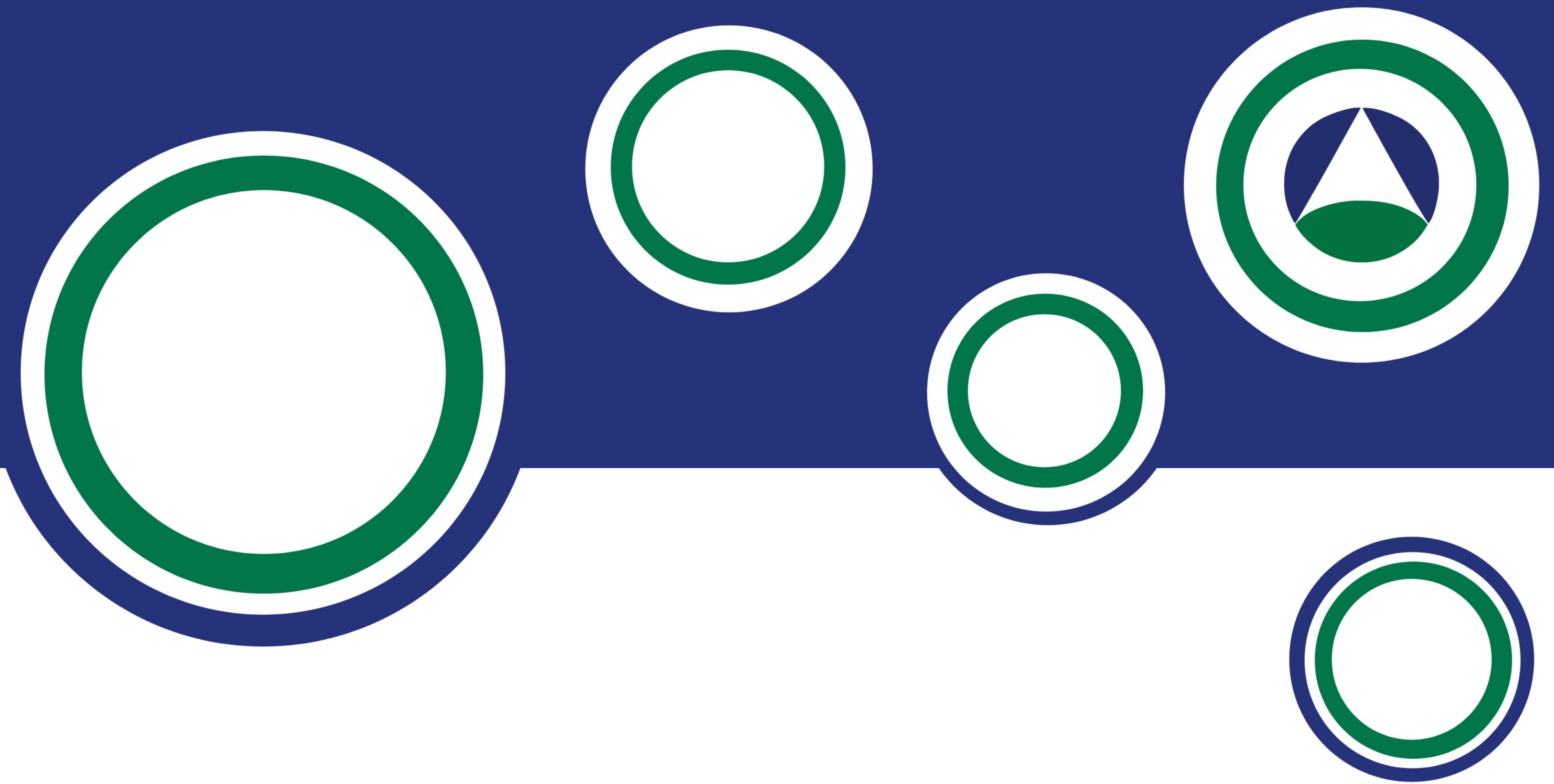
Little Cross Creek 9-Element Watershed Plan



Jordan Lake Partnership

The Triangle Regional Water Plan, which identified strategies for water allocations and interconnections among 13 local governments, was approved by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.





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