The Harnett County Connection: Dumping on a County’s Future©

An Investigation by Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Therese Vick
Introduction

Sandhills Environmental LLC has proposed locating a 370 acre landfill near the Johnsonville area of Harnett County, North Carolina. The landfill site is a sand mine owned and operated by G&S Materials, which is slated for closure and reclamation. First alerted to the landfill proposal in early August 2011 by an anonymous flyer, nearby residents have organized in opposition to the plan.
Local government activities have put the siting process into high gear with little opportunity for public participation. The decision on granting Sandhills Environmental a franchise could come in early October 2011—only two months from the community’s first awareness of the plan.

It is inherent on public officials to recognize potential conflicts and to act with integrity. Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League feels that there is ample evidence for a formal investigation of this matter.
The Investigation: What a Long Strange Trip its Been

This presentation is the result of weeks of research on the landfill company, their representatives, and possible current or future conflicts of interest among Harnett County officials. In the course of this investigation, there have been many detours, curves and dead ends; as well as surprising intersections. What is happening in Harnett County is a harbinger for other North Carolina communities. The journey continues.
Disclaimer

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League in no way means to imply or infer any wrongdoing on the part of Harnett County officials, Sandhills Environmental LLC, or any other company or individual named in this presentation.
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC?
Articles of Organization Filed By NC Secretary of State 2/24/2011
Registered Agent: William J Wolf, Bugg and Wolf PA
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC?: Matthew H Kirkpatrick

(1) Ronald Kirkpatrick is Matthew Kirkpatrick’s father. The G&S Materials sand mine is the proposed landfill site. Sources: NC Secretary of State, Hoover’s, newspaper accounts.

(2) Sources: Hoover’s, NC Secretary of State.


(4) Source: Hoover’s.

(5) Source: Sandhills Environmental LLC website.
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC? Matthew H Kirkpatrick (continued)

(1) Source: NC Secretary of State. Hugh Connerty Jr. Listed as VP. Managed by Stokes Bush Investments LLC. Source: Florida Secretary of State.

(2) Matt Kirkpatrick listed as owner by manta.com search 9/02/2011.

(3) Source: Hoover’s. Hugh Connerty, Jr. listed as President. (Note: Connerty is also a principal in Green Frontiers Energy Group LLC (GFEG), proposing a chicken litter incinerator in Biscoe, NC under the name of Poultry Power USA. Scott DeSano, formerly of Fidelity Investments, is listed as co-founder of GFEG. Source: Company website http://www.greenfrontiersenergy.com/people/. *ALSO see slide 9

(4) Source Hoover’s.


(6) Source: NC Secretary of State.

(7) Source: NC Secretary of State.
Who Is Sandhills Environmental LLC? Thomas E Terrell Jr

(1) Thomas Terrell Jr frequently writes for the “NC Legal Landscapes” blog. Source: Smith, Moore, Leatherwood LLP website.
(2) Selected by his peers for “The Best Lawyers in America 2011” Source: Smith, Moore and Leatherwood LLP website.
(3) “Law and Politics” magazine named him one of North Carolina’s “Super Lawyers” Source: Smith, Moore and Leatherwood LLP website.
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC? David Garrett

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(1) Source: Letter to North Carolina Division of Waste Management (NC DWM) dated April 9, 2008 from David Garrett and Associates re: Burnt Poplar C&D Transfer Station.
(3) Source: Hoover’s.
(5) Source: Minutes Wake County Commissioner’s meeting dated February 1, 2005 outlining WCA of Wake County LP’s acquisition of Material Recovery LLC.
(7) Presentation by CICO LLC to the City of Greensboro NC. March 1, 2010.
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC? David Garrett (continued)

(1) Sources: Hoover’s, Company website: http://ejerecycle.com/
(2) Previous clients/employers. Source: Sandhills Environmental LLC.
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC? Kenn Cassell

(1) Source: Presentation by CICO LLC to the City of Greensboro NC. March 1, 2010.
(2) Previous employers. Source: Sandhills Environmental LLC.
(3) Source: Hoover’s.
(4) Sources: Hoover’s, Company website: http://ejerecycle.com/
Who is Sandhills Environmental LLC? Alvin Cagle

(1) Previous employer. Source: Sandhills Environmental LLC website.
Tires Go Around and Around
Central Carolina Holdings LLC
DBA Central Carolina Tire Disposal
Articles of Organization Filed By NC Secretary of State 7/27/2000
Registered Agent Corporation Service Company

Thomas A Womble
President

Johnny Holder
General Manager

Timothy McNeill
Sales Manager

Joyce Whitten
Accountant
Tires and Landfills: One Thing Leads to Another

- Central Carolina Tire Disposal is a tire shredding and processing facility and landfill located near the proposed Sandhills Environmental LLC landfill site.
- Thomas Womble, member of the Harnett County Board of education is listed as president.
- Timothy McNeill, Chairman of the Harnett County Board of Commissioners is listed as sales manager.

There are many uses for tires in today's solid waste landfills.

For example:
“Landfill construction and operation is a growing market application for tire shreds. Scrap tire shreds can replace other construction materials that would have to be purchased. Scrap tires may be used as a lightweight backfill in gas venting systems, in leachate collection systems, and in operational liners. They may also be used in landfill capping and closures, and as a material for daily cover.”

US EPA Scrap Tires
Who is Central Carolina Holdings LLC? Thomas A Womble

(1) Source: Hoover’s. Liberty Waste Services Limited LLC listed as ultimate parent of Central Carolina Holdings LLC. Shares physical location with Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC in Pittsburgh, PA.

(2) Source: NC Secretary of State. Originally organized by Billy S Thomas as a non-hazardous waste collection, transportation service. After several mergers, B&T Sanitation Service Inc merged with Diversified Brokerage Inc in 1999. All stock was listed as belonging to Diane Thomas Womble, and Thomas Womble was listed as President. In December 2000, Jeffrey Kendall (Liberty Tire) was listed as President and CEO, and is currently listed as such in the 2009 annual report.

(3) Source: NC Secretary of State. Land Development. Note: When organized and through 12/21/2005 Bill S Thomas was listed as a principal member. Diane Womble listed as Vice-President.

(4) Source: NC Secretary of State.

(5) Source: NC Secretary of State.

(6) Source: NC Secretary of State.


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Who is Central Carolina Holdings LLC? Timothy McNeill

Connecting the Dots: Who Knows Who?
“What did the President know and when did he know it?”*
Or, does Sandhills Environmental LLC + Central Carolina Tire=Conflict of Interest?

“A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or organization is involved in multiple interests one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation for an act in the other.”


“Board members should avoid impropriety in the exercise of their official duties.”
“Board members must be aware of their obligation to confirm their behavior to standards of ethical conduct that warrant the trust of their constituents.”
“Board members should act with integrity and independence from improper influence as they exercise the duties of their office.”

*Code of Ethics for the Harnett County Board of Commissioners of the County of Harnett, North Carolina

*Senator Howard Baker during the Watergate investigation
Many statements have been made that there are no connections between Sandhills Environmental LLC and Central Carolina Tire Disposal. However, facts show that David Garrett, Sandhills Environmental engineering manager, and Brian Boutin, long-time associate of David Garrett, have worked together on numerous projects. Boutin is the consulting geologist on groundwater contamination at the Central Carolina Monofil.
March 31, 2011
Ms. Jaclynne Drummond
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section
P. O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687

RE: Water Monitoring Report: November 2010
C&D Landfill, Inc. – Phase 2
Greenville, Pitt County, NC
Permit # 74-04

Sincerely,
Brian S. Boutin, P.G.
Consulting Geologist
Cc: Judson Whitehurst, C&D Landfill, Inc.

David Garrett, PE, PG
May 17, 2011
Ms. Jaclynne Drummond
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section
P. O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687

RE: Report of Results
Semi-Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring: April 2011
Central Carolina Tire Monofill Landfill Phase I/II
Cameron, Harnett County, NC
Permit # 43-04

Sincerely,
Brian S. Boutin, P.G.
Consulting Geologist

Cc: Tim McNeil, Central Carolina Holdings, Inc.
Vance Moore, Garrett and Moore, Inc.
David Garrett and Associates PG, PE

✓ David Garrett has his own consulting firm, David Garrett and Associates (1)
✓ David Garrett is listed as engineering director for Sandhills Environmental LLC (2)
✓ David Garrett has consulted for many solid waste companies: BFI, MRR Southern/WCA, Allied Waste, Republic Industries, Chambers Development (3)
✓ David Garrett has associates who work for/with him on various projects (4)
Brian S Boutin, PG

- Consulting geologist on groundwater contamination at Central Carolina Tire for Garrett and Moore (5)
- Associate/consultant with David Garrett and Associates from as early as January 2007 (6)
- Brian Boutin has consulted for many solid waste companies: BFI, MRR Southern/WCA, Allied Waste, Republic Industries, Chambers Development (7)
- Brian Boutin has worked with David Garrett and associates on these projects/facilities: (See slide #26)
Brian S Boutin (continued)

- A-1 Sandrock 2007
- Anson County Waste Management MSWLF 2009
- BFI Charlotte Motor Speedway MSWLF 2007
- C&D Landfill, Inc Greenville NC-2011
- City of High Point Kersey Valley MSWLF 2007
- WCA Brownfield Road C&D Landfill Raleigh NC 2007, 2008
Sources:

(1) David Garrett & Associates, 5105 Harbour Towne Drive. Raleigh, NC 27604. Letterhead on documents provided to the NC Division of Waste Management (NC DWM)
(2) Sandhills Environmental LLC website
(3) Sandhills Environmental LLC website
(4) Sandhills Environmental LLC website, documents submitted to NC DWM
(5) Documents submitted to NC DWM
(6) Documents submitted to NC DWM
(7) Documents submitted to NC DWM
(1) Source: Letter on David Garrett and Associates letterhead to NC Division of Waste Management (DWM) dated January 12 2007.
(3) Source: Letter on David Garrett and Associates letterhead to DWM dated October 8 2007.
(4) Source: Permit to construct application City of High Point NC dated September 2007.
In the Wings? Or it Tastes Like Chicken

- Hugh Connerty Jr is involved in numerous business ventures with Matt Kirkpatrick. (1)

- Connerty is involved with numerous limited liability corporations. (2)

- He is also a co-founder of Green Frontiers Energy Group LLC, who is proposing to locate a chicken litter incinerator in Biscoe, NC. Connerty is the founder of Longhorn Steakhouse and Hooter’s, and the original franchisee for Outback Steakhouse. He is also the President of Stokes Land Group. (3)
Scott DeSano is a co-founder of Green Frontiers Energy Group LLC along with Hugh Connerty, Jr. (4)

DeSano is associated with Connerty in other ventures. (5)

DeSano was a former VP for Fidelity Investments and equity trader. DeSano was implicated in a scandal which Fidelity settled for $8 million. DeSano was ordered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to pay a civil fine of $125,000 and costs in December 2008. (6)

- Among the findings of the SEC were:
SEC Findings

- DeSano Violated Section 17(e)(1) of the Investment Company Act
- DeSano Failed Reasonably to Supervise the Equity Traders
- DeSano Was a Cause of Fidelity’s Failure to Seek Best Execution for its Clients’ Securities Transactions
- DeSano Was a Cause of Fidelity’s Failure to Disclose Conflicts of Interest in Violation of Section 206(2) of the Advisers Act
Sources:

(1) Florida Secretary of State, North Carolina Secretary of State, Hoovers, company website: http://www.stokeslandgroup.com/

(2) Florida Secretary of State, North Carolina Secretary of State

(3) Green Frontiers Energy Group website: http://www.greenfrontiersenergy.com/people/

(4) Green Frontiers Energy Group website: http://www.greenfrontiersenergy.com/people/

(5) Florida Secretary of State

(6) Boston Globe Article:
http://www.boston.com/business/personalfinance/articles/2008/03/06/fidelity_to_pay_8m_to_settle_gift_taking_case/

To Be Continued...