

**Item Title:** FY 2017 Tip Fee Waiver at the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station for the Wake County Big Sweep and Neuse River Clean-Up

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners waives the tipping fee to “zero charge” at the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station for waste collected by Wake County Big Sweep, Sound Rivers Inc. (Upper Neuse Riverkeeper), and all participating partners during Fall 2016, Spring and Summer 2017.**

**Item Summary:**

Wake County Solid Waste Ordinance Section V (C) requires that the Wake County Board of Commissioners shall regulate and govern the fees to be charged by licensed operators of disposal facilities for garbage, refuse, solid wastes and recyclables. Each year Wake County Big Sweep, through Wake Soil and Water Conservation District, leads a partnership to remove solid waste from designated watersheds in Wake County. Sound Rivers Inc. may also lead a fall, spring, and/or summer cleanup to remove solid waste from the Neuse River.

For the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016, Wake County Big Sweep’s 1,396 volunteers collected 21,085 lbs. or 10.5 tons of solid waste from 40 waterways in eight municipalities that equates to a fee waiver of \$430.5 (calculated at \$41 per net ton). In addition, the summer 2016 Neuse River Clean-Up’s over 70 volunteers on the river collected a total of 10,000 lbs. or 5.0 tons of trash from the Neuse River that equates to a fee waiver of \$205.

Wake County Big Sweep is a County-wide volunteer effort to make our watersheds litter-free. All Wake County municipalities are welcome to participate. Wake Soil and Water Conservation District coordinates the Wake County Big Sweep in partnership with City, County and State governments, parks, civic organizations, youth groups, schools and universities, churches, and businesses. Supplies are provided by the Solid Waste Division of Environmental Services and the international nonprofit Ocean Conservancy.

Numerous volunteer-led cleanups of designated watersheds are scheduled in fall and spring of each fiscal year. Watersheds include streams, creeks, lakes, and wetlands that are tributaries to the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers.

The Upper Neuse Riverkeeper, in conjunction with community groups from around the County, will conduct a river cleanup event either in fall 2016, or spring/summer 2017. Volunteers will cover the river from Falls Dam down to Smithfield, more than 50 miles of river, collecting trash by canoe and dropping it off at designated points for loading and hauling.

**Logistics of Disposal and Recycling**

Organizers for Wake County Big Sweep and Neuse River Clean-Up work closely with the City of Raleigh’s Solid Waste Services Department, Parks and Recreation

Department, and Community Services Department to ensure that volunteer-collected trash is properly disposed of and that recyclables are properly recycled (especially in light of the state's new landfill ban on plastic bottles, wooden pallets, etc.) In FY2015-2016, Wake County Big Sweep diverted a total of 5,660.0 lbs. of recyclables from the County landfill.

Wake County Big Sweep: Proper trash disposal and recycling is coordinated with each participating Zone Captain and municipality in Wake County, especially the City of Raleigh.

Neuse River Clean-Up: City trucks will be scheduled to pick up trash and recyclables at designated drop off points along the Neuse River and within Raleigh city limits.

Municipal trash trucks collect the volunteers' trash and recyclables, delivering them to the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station scale house and multi-material drop-off. Here, facility staff records the tons of material collected, number of trips the vehicles make to the landfill, and time of delivery.

All participating municipalities appreciate and need a Wake County Landfill Tipping Fee Waiver so they do not incur an additional disposal fee for the solid waste that their volunteers collect as a critical community service.

#### **Tentative Schedule for 2016 Fall Wake County Big Sweep**

- Sept. 9: Crabtree Creek along Raleigh Blvd. & Crabtree Blvds.
- Sept. 10: Lake Benson and White Deer Parks in Garner, Walnut Creek Wetland in Raleigh
- Sept. 18: Harris Lake County Park in New Hill
- Sept. 24: Upper Crabtree Creek from Crabtree Valley Mall to dam
- Oct. 1: Numerous sites in Town of Cary, Lake Crabtree in Morrisville, Falls Lake at Blue Jay Point County Park in north Raleigh, Falls Lake at Hwy. 50 Boat Ramp in Wake Forest
- Oct. 4: Trib. to Hare Snipe Creek behind York Elementary in Raleigh
- Oct. 8: Durant Nature Preserve in Raleigh, Marsh Creek at Brentwood Road and Stony Brook Drive in Raleigh
- Nov.: Re-scheduled cleanups due to inclement weather

#### **Tentative Schedule for 2017 Spring Wake County Big Sweep**

March – May: Cleanup schedule to be determined after the New Year.

#### **Tentative Schedule For 2016 Fall, Or 2017 Spring Neuse River Clean-Up**

- TBD Ten sites along 50 miles of the Neuse River beginning from Falls Dam and ending at Smithfield Town Commons in Johnston County. Crabtree Creek from Capital Blvd to Raleigh Blvd along greenway. Smith Creek in Wake Forest along Greenway.

#### **Attachments:**

None