

# **Robeson County Drainage Districts One and Two**

## **Mission Statement**

The purpose of the drainage districts, political subdivisions of the state, is to manage and maintain three USDA PL-566 drainage systems by addressing multi-jurisdictional drainage and flood control challenges that protect people, property, and the environment from storm water drainage within the Drainage Districts' boundaries, with the duties of the Court-appointed Commissioners being more specifically set forth in NCGS 156-82.1 and in all of Subchapter III of Chapter 156 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

## **General Information about Drainage Districts**

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) authorized the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to plan and implement watershed projects by assisting local organizations and units of government. The PL-566 watershed projects in Robeson County are locally led through Robeson County Drainage Districts One and Two, which are political subdivisions of the State of North Carolina and are governed by the provisions of Chapter 156 of the General Statutes of North Carolina (hereafter "G.S.").

The PL-566 works through local government sponsors and helps drainage districts solve natural resource and related economic problems on a watershed basis. Projects can include flood prevention and damage reduction, erosion and sediment control, wetland creation and restoration, and increased recreational opportunities. Technical and some financial assistance were made available through USDA-NRCS which provided allocations of funds for plan development, engineering designs, and implementation of projects.

The main purpose of Robeson County Drainage Districts One and Two is to provide a series of major canal systems and levees in a common drainage area that provides strategic outlets for subsurface and surface water drainage runoff from, roads, and major highways, rural and urban areas, and relatively flat agricultural and forest lands.

For additional information about Chapter 156 of the GS of North Carolina, refer to the following website: <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/StatutesTOC.pl?Chapter=0156..>

## **Drainage District Tax Assessments**

Drainage assessments were levied on landowners to pay their share of construction and up-front costs (hereafter, the "drainage assessment") for each watershed and annual maintenance assessment will always be billed for each watershed at rates determined annually by the Drainage Commissioners as provided by G.S. 156-93.1. The annual maintenance assessments are set by the Drainage Commissioners after a required public hearing (See G.S. 156-93.1), which must be advertised as required by statute. Our current advertising is in the legal ad section of *The Robesonian*. A Levy of Maintenance Assessments is filed with the Clerk of Superior Court each year for each watershed.

Payments by landowners for drainage assessments and maintenance assessments of the Drainage Districts are made to the Robeson County Tax Collector as a result of annual assessment notices sent out by the county tax office (all of these records are on the county tax office computer

system). Robeson County Drainage Districts Number One (Back Swamp and Jacob Swamp watersheds) and Two (Moss Neck watershed) employ a bookkeeper who serves as the Treasurer for each District. The drainage and maintenance assessments are collected by the county tax office and deposited in Drainage accounts. A report of the payments made by each landowner is prepared by the tax office and delivered to the Drainage District Treasurer.

Drainage District assessments deposited into the Drainage District accounts are utilized to maintain the travel ways (“right of way”) along the main canals and laterals on an annual basis; including beaver suppression and beaver dam removal, culvert replacement/repair, and tree/debris removal as these needs are identified, to the extent funds allow.

Any questions involving the “Drainage Assessments” should be addressed to legal counsel for the Drainage Districts, Robert E. Price.

## **Robeson County Drainage District Commissioners**

The Drainage Districts are managed by a Board of Commissioners of three persons. They are usually persons who own land in the drainage district, and they are appointed by the Clerk of Superior Court for three-year terms pursuant to G.S. 156-81(c) and Session Law 2013-254.

The Robeson County Drainage District Commissioners are supported by a lawyer who delivers legal counsel, coordinates meetings, and records meeting minutes. The Drainage Districts are also supported by the local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), which provides technical advice and assistance to the Drainage Districts Commissioners.

## **Current Robeson County Drainage District Commissioners**

### **Drainage District #1**

#### **Back Swamp**

Lycurous Lowry - Chair of District 1 (910-734-4686)  
Ozmer Lee Oxendine Jr.

### **Drainage District #1**

#### **Jacob Swamp**

Kenny Biggs (910-740-9600)  
John Walton Hendren Jr.

### **Drainage District #2**

#### **Moss Neck**

Lockwood Locklear - Chair (910-827-1260)  
Terry Locklear  
Casey McQueen

## **Lumberton City Contacts (Meadow Branch and Jacob Swamp Levee System)**

Rob Armstrong  
Dixon Ivey

## **Lawyer and Assistant Secretary**

Robert (Rob) E. Price

## **Treasurer**

Cynthia Mauldin

## **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Jeremy Roston Navas- District Conservationist

Kenneth “Chip” Campbell- Soil Conservationist

## **Beaver Trapping Program (USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services)**

Butch Adams- District Supervisor

Bo Benton-Wildlife Specialist

## **Drainage District History**

### **Back Swamp Drainage District**

The system in the Back Swamp Watershed was renovated by court process (G.S.156-93.2) in 1970. Drainage assessments were levied on landowners to pay their share of construction and up-front costs, which were borrowed from the Farmers Home Administration in March, 1970. \$118,620 was borrowed at 3.342% for 30 years. Landowners were given the opportunity of paying their assessments in full without interest or to finance the payments over the 30-year period at 3.342% interest. Those who paid in full before a cut-off date reduced the amount borrowed and those funds were used in the construction process. Those who paid after the cut-off date had their funds placed in a Sinking Fund account to be used over the 30-year period to pay their individual assessments. The loan has been paid in full, and no one is being billed for the drainage assessment (for construction of the system) for this watershed. The Commissioners have a contract with the Federal Government which requires the Drainage Districts to maintain the canals in perpetuity. This was a requirement for obtaining a grant of federal funds when the renovation project was approved. 76% of the initial renovation costs was funded under U.S. Public Law 566 by the USDA. About 19% of the costs came from funding by the State of North Carolina, and about 5% of the construction costs were left to be paid by the landowners. All of the non-construction costs, which included the drainage engineer, attorney, the superintendent of construction and various other costs were paid totally by the landowners.

The Back Swamp Watershed extends from just south of Maxton to the Lumber River just west of 1-95 about 5 miles south of Lumberton. There are about 40 miles of channels in the Back Swamp Watershed that are maintained by the Drainage District.

### **Jacob Swamp Drainage District**

Jacob Swamp Watershed was also renovated by court process in about 1976, and the same procedures were involved. A Farmers Home Administration loan of \$106,000 at 4.012% annual interest has been paid in full. The Commissioners have a contract with the Federal Government which requires the Drainage Districts to maintain the canals in perpetuity. This was a requirement for obtaining a grant of federal funds when the renovation project was approved.

The district extends from the old four-lane Highway 74 south of Lumberton mostly in an eastern and southern direction through Lumberton on the west side of the Lumber River to Alamac Road and then westerly to Highway 72 just above Lumber River. Jacob Swamp drainage district also contains a 2.8-mile dike system, for flood prevention and control, on the west side of the Lumber River in the city limits of Lumberton. There are about 18 miles of canals in the Jacob Swamp

Watershed that are maintained by the Drainage District and the City of Lumberton. All channels inside the city limits are maintained by the City, as is the dike itself. There is a written agreement between the two governments providing for maintenance and providing for payments by the City for the landowners within the City who would otherwise be assessed.

### **Moss Neck Swamp Drainage District**

Moss Neck Watershed is Robeson County Drainage District No. Two. The Commissioners for this District are different from those who manage the Back Swamp and Jacob Swamp Watersheds in Drainage District No. One. Moss Neck was renovated through the court process in about 1986, and still has a drainage assessment. This district was financed differently, because the Farmers Home Administration loan rate was too high at the time funds were needed. A loan of \$114,000 was obtained from Southern National Bank in 1986. The loan has been paid in full, and drainage assessments will continue for this District through 2015. The Commissioners have a contract with the Federal Government which requires the Drainage Districts to maintain the canals in perpetuity. This was a requirement for obtaining a grant of federal funds when the renovation project was approved.

Moss Neck Watershed is located north and east of the Town of Pembroke. This watershed has about 18 miles of channel work.

## **Drainage District Maps**

### **Back Swamp Drainage District**

[Backswamp Watershed Map 1979](#)

[Backswamp Watershed Map 2014](#)

[Backswamp Watershed Map with Roads](#)

### **Jacob Swamp Drainage District**

[Jacobs swamp Watershed Map 1980](#)

[Jacobs swamp Watershed Map 2014](#)

[Jacobs swamp Watershed Map with Roads](#)

### **Moss Neck Swamp Drainage District**

[Moss Neck Watershed Map 1990](#)

[Moss Neck Watershed Map 2014](#)

[Moss Neck Watershed Map with Roads](#)

### **Meadow Branch Drainage District**

[Meadow Branch Watershed Map 1977](#)

[Meadow Branch Watershed Map 2014](#)

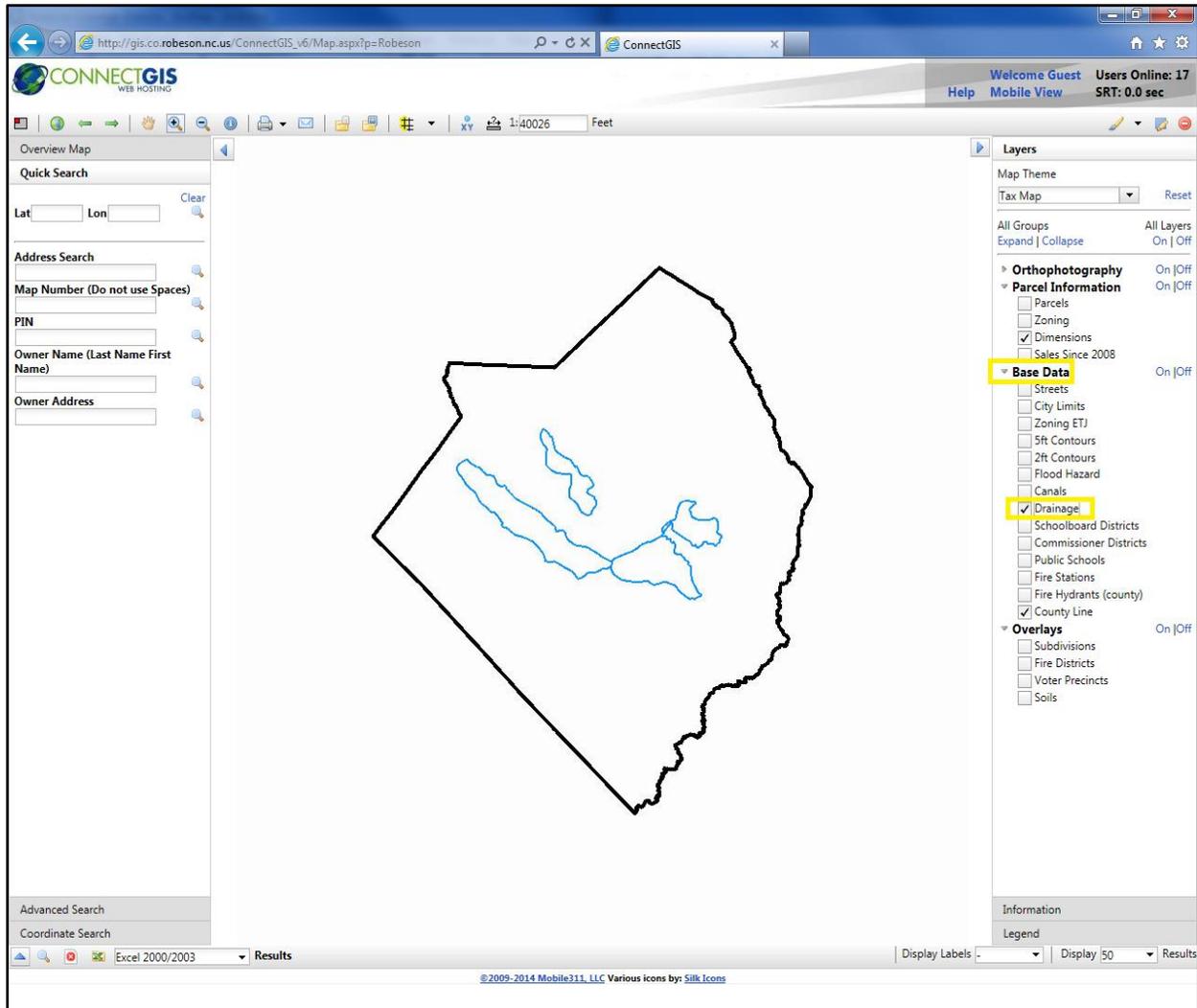
[Meadow Branch Watershed Map with Roads](#)

## **Find out if you live in the Drainage District Watershed**

Visit the Robeson Co GIS Website.

[http://gis.co.robeson.nc.us/ConnectGIS\\_v6/Disclaimer.aspx?p=Robeson](http://gis.co.robeson.nc.us/ConnectGIS_v6/Disclaimer.aspx?p=Robeson)

On the right hand column, under the “Base Data”, check the “Drainage” box. Allow the interface a few seconds to refresh. The display will have 4 blue polygons which represent the 4 Drainage Districts in Robeson Co. From here you can zoom in or out to explore the location of your property in reference to the Drainage Districts.



## **Drainage District Plan of Work 2010-2020**

Phase I- Beaver Suppression and Beaver Dam Removal (Starting 2010-Continuous)

Phase II- Clearing and Snagging (Starting 2010-Finishing 2015)

Phase III- Culvert Repair or Replacement (Starting in 2015-Finishing 2020)

[DD Plan of work](#)