



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 2nd Quarter April 9, 2019 Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee Meeting, Goldsboro City Hall, 200 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, NC

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Bottorff, Chair
Hon Chuck Allen
Paul Friday
Sonny Roberts
Stan Walz (by phone)

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville (by phone)
Robert Hosford, Department of Agriculture
Will Best, Department of Commerce
Marc Finlayson, ACT
Jamie Norment, ACT (by phone)
Bryan Ayers, FRC-East (by phone)
Robert Johnson, DMVA
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Frank Bottorff called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. He took a roll call of the attendees at the meeting. He said that the last couple of meeting had not been extensive and this one will not be long either. He would expect that the meetings will become more extensive as we get organized. We do have some items that are ongoing and long-term efforts. We do have a lobbying contract and we are about to embark on a strategic planning session for the Commission. We will have some more strategic priorities coming from that planning session. We will also go back to our quarterly priority reviews and have assignments of those top priorities to each subcommittee. This subcommittee has it fair share of the past and future priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that we did not have any minutes to approve at this time. He asked for a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. Sonny Roberts made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Stan Walz and passed by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: KELLY JACKSON/ROBERT JOHNSON

Robert Johnson said that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) had the following events on the calendar. The Military Child Appreciation Day, April 30th in Raleigh, NC at the Arts Museum. The next event is the Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 10th in Raleigh, NC at the Contemporary Arts Museum. The last event is the Armed Forces Day which is May 15 at the Governor's Mansion. Frank Bottorff told the group to reach out to us if they wanted additional information. He also asked if there were any invitations to the NCMAC? Kelly Jackson told the committee that the NCMAC representatives from Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune had been invited to the Military Child event

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since the children that will be attending are from the Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune school systems. The military spouse appreciation day event is open to everyone.

BUDGET/LOBBING/BY-LAWS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that he did not have any new information on next year's budget request. He hopes to have any update prior to the NCMAC meeting in May. He knows that the Legislature is in session and as soon as we get feedback on the status of the budget request he will update the Commission. The current years funding, no significant change since our last meeting. There have been some administrative funds spent, but the update will be at the Full meeting. We did authorized funding for the upcoming Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Conference and we have had 3 members who have shown an interest in attending the conference. We are working on the registration for those individuals. That will expend the current funds that we allocated for conferences. There is a chance that one additional person will attend the conference and that will be the Chairman. If he decides to attend, we will have to authorize additional funding for that expense. Once we have done that we will organize the appropriate visits for that group when they are in DC. We have approved the lobbying contract, but no funds have been spent to date, but we will see activity in the next 3 months. Robert Hosford asked what firm was selected? Chairman Bottorff said that the firm was Cassidy & Associates and our manager is Chad Syndor. He worked for Senator Burr prior to working for this company. We have received the Purchase Order (PO) for the Defense Asset Inventory (Cluster Analysis). They will start working on refreshing that document soon. The only other item that is ready for movement is the Community Grants. We are in the final review process with the Department of Administration. Most of the NCMAC members who wrote the currently version are no longer NCMAC members. We will be forming a new group to conduct the submission reviews.

Will Best asked if there is a timeline on the release of the new Cluster Analysis? Frank Bottorff said that he would have to review the period of performance in the PO. Kelly Jackson said that she would review the PO and let them know that information. Will Best said that he has received a question from his Labor Economic Assistance Team, with the recent legislation on the SB 231, Study Military Economic Zones that was filed. Do we know, or can we find out with the Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI) that was purchased over 5-years ago for the original Cluster Analysis under the Perdue Administration how much was spent on this? Do we know how much was spent on the budget to buy the REMI, we are trying to determine what can Commerce put together? There is no dollar figure, financial figure in the bill. Frank Bottorff said that was a big discussion at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) in Miami and reviewing the different models and which ones they thought were the most beneficial. Frank Bottorff told Robert Hosford that they may need to get together and compare notes from the ADC conference in Miami. Will Best said that the Department of Commerce already owns REMI and that is what we will stick with. We need to learn how to use it with parameters to reflect what we need. Robert Hosford said that Virginia and Texas had a good program. You may want to have a conversation with the personnel in VA. They pulled down some big numbers. Will Best said that they want to make sure that the input of the REMI data is correct before we move forward. So, if this legislation passes, we want to be ready. Frank Bottorff told Will Best that if you need the assistance of the NCMAC to talk about the importance of this study and keeping them updated we can get some people to talk on that topic. The ADC conference in Miami was very valuable on this matter and a length discussion on this. The people that were successful in this said that they do this every year. They do the model and then

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you learn how we make adjustments to accurately reflect the impact of the segment on state. Then over time you get much better and it changes. Robert Hosford said that they do it every year. Will Best said that once they do it and get the template set and do this right. Frank Bottorff said that they said that each program has positives and negatives but changing programs is a big deal because you will be staring over with a new group of metrics. Frank Bottorff asked what kind of impact does that have on state revenue and taxes, and sustainability for farmer staying in farming? Robert Hosford said that they were hearing that people that are in their low 60's, have gone through 3 hurricanes in 2 years and terrible crisis in the past 3 years. Now they can't get loans, so they are selling. They also don't want to strap their children with a farm that has a huge debt. This happened in the 80's in the Midwest due to the economic downturn in agriculture. There were a lot of little farmers. We had a nice mix of small, medium and very large farms in the battle state. Now there are just small farms and very large mega farms. In Eastern NC we are blest with all of types of farms. In the Midwest, that is when the small towns started to dry up because you don't have the tax base or the people to justify schools etc. We don't want this to happen to NC. Our large farmers will probably get larger. Congress was supposed to come through with some type of relief. The State did a nice job with this, but the Congress can't seem to find themselves. One thing that will help us get a disaster package is what happened in the Midwest a couple of weeks ago. The flooding in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. We are hoping that we can bundle this whole thing together and it goes through. We were told after Mathew, by the incoming new Majority of the House that once they passed the Farm Bill there were done and moving on to other things. Without Congressional aid coming in the form of USDA programs, we are facing a very scary time.

Frank Bottorff talked about the new lobbying firm, Cassidy and Associates. We have not had our kick off meeting, but we will have done that prior to the Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting and they will be attending that meeting. The will also attend the Full NCMAC on May 21, 2019. Then we will be conducting an internal strategic planning session which will consist of 5-7 NCMAC members and a facilitator for 1 day. Then we will bring that information and data to the Full NCMAC meeting on Aug 20, 2019. This will turn into our short-term strategic priority list for the Commission. Longer term is a contract requiring updating our strategic plan and that plan is due by February 2020. We need to do our part for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to get it on the street at the beginning of 2020 or the end of 2019.

We also talked yesterday about reenergizing the Community Coordinators responsibilities for the major installation areas. As we have our NCMAC priorities, we also have visibility on the local and installation priorities. As we talk to our Congressional delegation representatives from NC we can represent the NCMAC priorities but also understand the priorities of each local installation and installation area.

Robert Hosford asked to go back to the strategic plan. The NCMAC had its top 10 priorities. Robert Hosford said that it was important that the priorities for the NCMAC are doable priorities. Some of the prior ones were not doable actions. Frank Bottorff said that with some of the priorities we will be able to take small bites like sustainability or wind power. We will keep at it is not a win or loss type priority. Other priorities are philosophical, and we won't make much ground on those.

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Frank Bottorff talked about Economic Development Partnership for NC (EDPNC). We had a position working in the military related sector. That position is now vacant, and Chris Chung and his team are working to fill that vacancy. They can fill that position or look for someone through a contract. We are currently supporting that position for \$120,000 a year for salary, benefits and travel. Chris Chung's recommendation to fill the position is through a contract. We should have someone on board soon. During this period, they have continued the efforts funded by the NCMAC. Chuck Allen asked if there was any measure that we are getting our monies worth from EDPNC? Frank Bottorff said that there is not a definitive answer on that question. They do have metrics with the contract.

Kelly Jackson informed the committee that David Hayden is now the Chairman for the Economic Development Committee. Cresswell Elmore asked Chairman Martin to be replaced as the Chairman. Frank Bottorff said that Cresswell Elmore is still a member of the Commission but patiently waiting for his replacement to be appointed.

SENTINEL LANDSCAPES: ROBERT HOSFORD, NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Robert Hosford presented for Sentinel Landscape. He gave the committee members a handout.

Use of Funds Status and Ongoing NC Sentinel Landscape Projects: \$150K

NCD&CS/ADFP: of \$75K

- Acres of signed options in the ENCLSL: 36,695
- Four part time employee hours on military projects since December 2018
- 302 Landowner contacts since December 2018: Will forward once I get information back from field staff. NCD&CS-NCDMVA MOU money expended: \$10,075.75 (NCSU and NCFSW has not asked for money yet).
- # of military conservation easement contracts in the ENCSL: 16 (7 2016 RCPP, 8 2018 RCPP, 1 MCIEAST-ADFP)
- 2016 RCPP contract acres: 2,034
- 2016 RCPP contract total project value: \$6,548,249
- 2018 RCPP contract acres 5,096
- 2018 RCPP contract total project value: \$12,584,750
- MCIEAST -ADFP contract acres: 120
- MCIEAST-ADFP contract total project value: \$171,765

**Total number of acres under military conservation easement contracts: 7,250

***Hurricane relief amount checks: As of 4/2/19: \$96.7 M

NC State University/College of Natural Resources: of \$40K

- 2 NCSL Partnership meetings
- "Thank You" Letter from the NC SL State Committee
- Completed NC State Hoffman Forest Public Workshop

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NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts: of \$35K

- Landowner meeting in Moore County

Robert Hosford thanked the NCMAC for funding him to attend the ADC conference in Miami. It was a great conference and good information. He said that at the conference he was walking through a hallway and the person who manages Conservation Business for the Air Force walks up to Robert Hosford and says he had concerns about what we are doing in NC. He said that we did not have any contracts out and we have \$3.6 Million that we have not used. They plan to pull the money back. He called DeWitt Hardee, NC Agriculture to send Robert Hosford the documents that he needed. He found Dennis Goodson, and we presented the gentlemen with the paperwork he was looking for. They found out that the individuals at Dare Bombing Range and Seymour Johnson AFB and the individual at the Conservation Business were not communicating. Working is being done and we sent the paperwork where it needed to go.

Chuck Allen asked about a meeting that the Legislators are having on April 10, 2019 on Wind Farms. He was asked to speak at the meeting. His focus is going to be on the economic impact on the military. One thing he thinks is important is for him to incorporate the things that are going on with Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) and how there is some ability for Landowners who want to participate to have some payment. Chuck Allen asked Robert Hosford questions about his report and bottom line the total number of acres under military conservation easement contracts is 7,250 acres. Robert Hosford said that there is additional 37,000 acres of folks that want to participate. With that the Marine Corps, they have their own REPI dollars. They have REPI Challenge dollars, Command dollars, and the Air Force has REPI Challenge dollars, REPI dollars and Command dollars. Then the State came in and added dollars. Chuck Allen said that the total amount of dollars is about \$30 Million. He wants to say at the meeting he will be speaking at that in some of these Counties where money is an issue there is some ability if landowners want to participate they can do that? Robert Hosford said that was correct and a lot of the land owners are represented in that 302. We are conducting Landowner outreach meetings and we plan to conduct 5 meetings. They had a planning meeting in Moore County and then the opening meeting in June in Moore County. Then there will be 4 more meetings. They do a seminar and tell them how they can be part of this program and walk them through the process.

Paul Friday said that the 2 issues dovetail very tightly. Those landowners are looking for alternative sources. There are some that are going to come slow on the federal side or others. They would have been approached regardless of their financial situation. They just happen overlap. We need to be careful when you have those discussions, but the opportunities are there to move forward. I think that the State has done a great job, both in terms of the State funding and the staff. The issues have been more on the federal side and the changes that must take place up the chain and take a lot longer.

MAPPING TOOL UPDATE: WILL BEST, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Frank Bottorff asked Will Best to give the Committee an update on the Mapping Tool. He said that the General Assembly (GA) was currently in Session and this is a hot topic and may only allow limited disbursement of information. Will Best said that all inquiries and/or questions are to be deferred to the

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Legislative Services Office under Chuck Hefren. His contact information is chuck.hefren@ncleg.net. All inquiries regarding the map, AECOM and the study and its impact should go directly to Mr. Hefren. Chairman Bottorff said that this was a study that was generated by the GA and is near completion. It has been publicly released or at least portions of it. Will Best said again that any inquires, or questions should be directed to Chuck Hefren. Frank Bottorff said that he would ask Chuck Hefren his questions. He also said that remember from the beginning it was an attempt to at least demonstrate to some responsible level those areas that are important to military training that potential be negatively impacted by tall structures and wind turbines. The NCMAC has not officially endorsed the map at this point it is something that in the past we have looked at those maps and understand that at the top of the list of things that we can do to help installation sustainability is to mitigate or minimize encroachment. Tall towers and wind turbines are probably the most active or most damaging current encroachment method against military training. It is something we have had our eye on. Having a reasonable map, although it may not be down to the scale of whether you can build here or not build here. I think having something that shows those areas that have a negative impact on training is a valuable tool and we look forward to looking at the specifics but in general I think we need to educate our NCMAC members to talk to their Legislative officials, understanding that not protecting those areas, like loosing a farmer and not protecting those areas would have a negative impact on every County in the state of NC and every family in NC. Robert Hosford said that this is AT&T and Verizon that have the tall towers. It is a tough thing to manage communications and other things. Chuck Allen said to this point, the Air Force has a map of all the Counties that they are concerned with that have tall structures and I was going to present that at the meeting tomorrow. I think that will give them some understanding that this is a concern. Frank Bottorff said that he did not know about the map that Chuck Allen was referencing but does each Service have releasable maps that show what they consider areas of concern for tall structures and wind power? Paul Friday said that the use of the work releasable concerns him. Each Service produces similar maps. Chuck Allen said that he was told that the map he had was a public document. Paul Friday said all the Services have agreed to share their maps with the State, so in that sense they are available. What the State does with it furthering that availability is a separate step. In addition to that each Service does an encroachment plan or Joint Land Use combination. Chuck Allen asked what happened to the Red, Green, Yellow Maps and are they no good anymore? Frank Bottorff said there has been many versions of those maps produced over the last 10 years. The efforts have been to refine those maps to be more definitive or authoritative. I don't believe that anyone has developed a map that says yes to this area and no to this area. Paul Friday said mission footprint data is more readily available than a subset of that has certain defined piece. I think that this is worth repeating. You have conservation issues in general, which is more of the traditional land protection. Then you have working land issues on top of conserved land. Then you have other compatible industrial use of land in terms of the sort of things that the military cares about and those 3 tiers. The last thing you want is conflict or an accident. There are also 3 tiers of Stakeholders. The military internally trying to do its part; Pentagon (about the Services) and the federal statutory driven process; and State/County (separate voice). There are pros and cons to each of these tiers. Anyone that is looking for a Service to specifically give the type of information that they long to get, they will be waiting a long time. Having enough information to make a good judgement and a state or county level, that information is available. Chuck Allen said that was important information to share with our Legislators. If we want to keep this \$65 Billion industry it is up to the state of NC to do it not the Department of Defense (DoD). Frank Bottorff said that he agreed with Chuck Allen. We do have some

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reasonable maps that show the areas that are important to the military. Some of the nay sayer will try to get down to the granular level and say I don't think that it is right that this parcel of land is important to the military. Then I would say if it looks like a duck, and quack likes a duck, it is a duck. These are the lands that we should protect. On the other point, there is already a Wind Committee that is going to look at this stuff at the federal level, so why do we need to do anything. My response to that is then we might as well resolve the General Assembly and let the federal government tell us what to do in the State of NC. They will not be looking out for NC's best interests on this matter or any other matter. If we want to have priorities in NC, then should be done by NC. Chuck Allen said that we all agree with what Frank Bottorff said, but how do we convey that to the Legislators that don't understand the military? Robert Hosford said a tall structure, whether it is communications or wind power, from a farmer's perspective, we walk a very thin line of property rights and protect the military. If Verizon visits that farmer and wants to put up a tall tower, that is a revenue stream that the farmer is looking for. That is were the REPI dollars can help in those situations. Chuck Allen said that all of this is not fair, but do we want to protect a \$65 Billion industry or save Hyde County. Frank Bottorff said that therefore we have supported the Sentinel Landscape Program, so there are some means to help those landowners. That is why the NCMAC has been an advocate for the Sentinel Landscape Program.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) UPDATE: JOHN NICHOLSON

Frank Bottorff said that John Nicholson was not able to attend the meeting so there is no update from DEQ.

NEW BUSINESS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Frank Bottorff the committee members if there had any new business for the group.

Paul Friday said that he was happy to be a new member of the NCMAC and part of this committee. He talked about Post National Disaster issues and the innovations that occurred since opening up REPI opportunities that might not have existed before to keep that sharp in front of everyone's mind. We have yet to solve the process flow. The State has done a great job of putting teams together but until our federally elected officials pony up and match up with what the State has done, things are going to move slowly. We had a good discussion at this meeting on what the State is doing, but we have work to do at the federal level.

Robert Hosford said that the Department of Agriculture recently had visits from VA and FL to talk about NC Sentinel Landscape Program. Texas has been asking questions about our program. We need to give credit to individuals like Paul Friday and others who stood up this program. We are desperate to bring in the Navy to this program. We want to build a relationship with VA. Virginia tried to get into Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPASS) and turned down by the Secretary of Defense's office.

Paul Friday said that the second item to plant that this goes back to Senator Rand, Cumberland County. There was a statue passed through his stewardship that stated that the military was an industry. There has not been much done to what that means. It might be worth taking the cover off that statue to see what it means and talk to the Department of Commerce to see what it could mean. He thinks there are

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other avenues that can be tapped on the synergy side. This could help us with the Base Sustainability partnership.

WRAP-UP: FRANK BOTTORFF

Frank Bottorff went around the group for any additional comments.

Sonny Roberts said that there was a change at Cherry Point in Towers place. Wanda will be a great asset. That has been an area that we have been lacking in since he retired. I think that the one thing that has dropped down in our area is communications between the base and the civilian community. We need to work on this as I have seen this slide away from us. When Frank Bottorff was there things were great. I have a few concerns from Chambers of Commerce and different organizations.

Mayor Allen had nothing to report.

Stan Walz said that I represent the Coast Guard and live in Elizabeth City. One of the things that is starting to happen due to the lower cost of living is that Elizabeth City is becoming a bedroom community for employees in Tidewater. This is a good thing and needs to be promoted. The toughest challenge for this area is K-12 education. We have a lot of Active Duty personnel here that live in the Chesapeake area due to the school system. That is very common. The ties to the university, the recent development of aviation state school here which is middle school through high school. I think the more we look and ramp up that education aviation piece here is going to be key to bringing in more Coast Guard business. There are a lot of opportunities. Frank Bottorff said that Elizabeth City has always been hard for us to get our hand around. Partly because it is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. The NCMAC has 3 assigned members from all the other major installations, 1 from the Senate, 1 from the House and 1 from the Governor. Elizabeth City has 1 assigned member from the Governor which is Stan Walz. I mentioned earlier the Community Coordinators and I don't want to steal Chairman Martin's thunder, but he will be talking about that soon. He will be assigning one member from each area as the Community Coordinator. They will be responsible for touching the base and understanding what their needs are. You already have your finger on the pulse of your community and the education. That is usually Elizabeth City's number 1 concern. You will be tasked with ensuring that quarterly you reach out and talk to the base leadership. Then bring back to the Committee any issues that you think we may want to address. Stan Walz said that sounded great to him and he is very connected to the base and their leadership.

Frank Bottorff said he wanted to talk about a couple legislative items. One item was the military state income tax relief, Senate Bill 188. He also told the members that if the NCMAC has not officially supported the bill, but you like them you are welcome to call your elected official and give them your opinion. Frank Bottorff talked about a couple of other bills, Senate Bill 230, Excused Absences for Military Children and Senate Bill 231 Study Military Zones. In the NCMAC's current strategic plan there was an initiative to create economic impacts zones around military communities that support the installations. Senate Bill 231 does address that and tries to help those areas. Will Best said that one example that he would like to use is as it pertains to the zones and down to the rural counties is Goldsboro. Goldsboro is a great main street community and the wonderful partnership that they have with the military as an industry as well as an installation. Frank Bottorff said that the State investing in

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those military host communities is a great investment and return on their investment. The success of those communities helps with the success and sustainment of those installations. Which is the foundational element of the \$66 Billion industry. If we don't have thriving communities around our installations, they are not going to be good places to be stationed and the military will find other places to send their people. I think this is a worthy bill to consider, please support this bill and talk to your elected officials. Paul Friday said that he saw 2 different versions of that bill in terms of the titles. One of the bills seemed to imply that the host community base relationship and the other one seemed to speak more expansively by title. As a reminder we may want to clarify the bills. Frank Bottorff also mentioned Senate Bill 672, Military Liaison Counselors/Funds. This has been supported by the NCMAC. Kelly Jackson said that his bill was different than the resolution that the NCMAC signed in support of \$350,000. This senate bill is for \$450,000 and adds one additional military liaison counselor for Harnett County Schools. That last bill is for House Bill 340, Amend Appt for Compact on Education Military. This bill is to amend the current legislation to remove the language "a licensed North Carolina attorney."

Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville said the federal government made their big announcement on the 1 April. It is important for the Census that our military installations are engaged with their local complete count committees. We want Bob Coates to address the NC Commander's Council on May 21.

Marc Finlayson, Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow gave a quick update on the grant status they received from the NCMAC. We have engaged White and Smith, Charleston, SC to help us with the Military Influence Overlay Districts and the associated regulatory language for local governments to adopt those districts. We held a stakeholder kickoff meeting on March 20, 2019 in Havelock, NC. Prior to that meeting a couple of us from the Cherry Point area accompanied the contractor on a drive around to look at the booming ranges and outlying regions. We wanted them to get a geographical sense of where they are located in relationship to Cherry Point. Also, a sense of the communities around them. The work continues.

Bryan Ayers, MCI East said that Bob Coates would be briefing at the NC Commander's Council. He also requested a copy of the bills that had been discussed.

Jamie Norment, ACT said that he just wanted to re-emphasize the meeting tomorrow, April 10 about the Wind Turbines.

Frank Bottorff said that he was going to put on the NCMAC meeting schedule an update from the 2 Grant awardees.

Kelly Jackson said that the items she had for the NCMAC agenda was Grant update, briefing from Robert Hosford and Bob Coates, Census. Frank Bottorff said that was correct.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Bottorff requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sonny Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Allen and passed by unanimous vote at 10:54 am.