

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: JUNE 12, 2017 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 2

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARK A. TUCKER
ON THE OCCASSION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF FORSYTH COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: June 6, 2017
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARK A. TUCKER
ON THE OCCASSION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS
DIRECTOR OF FORSYTH COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

WHEREAS, Mark A. Tucker began his employment with Forsyth County in June 1987 as an agricultural agent working with tobacco and grain farmers and after 30 years, he remains passionate about preserving farming as a way of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker has spent his entire life working on a farm and his entire career working with farmers to improve profitability and sustainability of their farms; and

WHEREAS, Mark Tucker assisted almost every tobacco farmer in Forsyth County with establishing plant bed clippings, production of tobacco transplants in the greenhouse, retrofitting tobacco barns with heat exchangers, and converting to baling of cured tobacco; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker worked with farmers to establish on-farm tests for the first tropical corn used for silage production in Forsyth County, the first plastic mulch and drip irrigation system used in Forsyth County for strawberry production, and on-farm demonstrations for almost every new variety or production practice developed for farmers by N.C. State University; and

WHEREAS, Mark Tucker has been recognized for his outstanding extension programs and leadership with the R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Tobacco Extension Award (1990), the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina Outstanding Leadership Award (1993), the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award (1999), the Outstanding Extension Agent Award for North Carolina (2002), and with inclusion into the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Program (2002-2004); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker was promoted to Cooperative Extension Director in 2004; and his leadership of the department has resulted in increased emphasis on environmental and natural resource issues, farmland preservation, utilization of volunteers, local foods and community gardens; and

WHEREAS, under Mark Tucker's guidance, volunteers have contributed significant time and resources to Forsyth County including maintenance, garden improvements and providing education to thousands of youth and adults at the Arboretum at Tanglewood Park, a comprehensive farmland preservation plan for the County has been developed, a Community Gardening Resource Program which is the premier program in the State of North Carolina has been established, and community gardens and local food production have increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker is a dedicated family man, who is devoted to his wife, Ronda, their two daughters, Kaitlyn and Morgan, and to their son, Luke;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and thanks Mark A. Tucker for 30 years of outstanding and distinguished service to Forsyth County and its citizens.

Adopted this 12th day of June 2017.