



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. Box 389 100-A South West Boulevard Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389
www.catawbacountync.gov

Telephone: 828-465-8201
Fax: 828-465-8392

CATAWBA COUNTY ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER TAKES NEW POSITION IN DURHAM COUNTY

Lee Worsley, who has served as Assistant County Manager in Catawba County since March 2005, has been named Deputy County Manager in Durham County, North Carolina. Worsley will begin his new duties in late October. He said the prime factor in his decision is that the move to Durham County will bring his family closer together.

“This was a very difficult decision,” Worsley said. “I have truly enjoyed working here in Catawba County. Having two sons under the age of three and having an opportunity to be 20 minutes from their grandparents is very important to me now. And I know from previous work with Durham County in the late 1990s that it is a great place to live and work.”

Worsley and his wife, Amy, have two sons, Jack, who is 2, and Sam who is 7 months.



During his tenure with Catawba County, Worsley has had a positive impact in many areas, including emergency services, the use of emerging technologies, and mentoring people who are just starting out in local government management. In 2010, Worsley was recognized by his peers as the North Carolina City/County Management Association’s Assistant Manager of the Year after being nominated for the honor by Catawba County Manager Tom Lundy.

He has served as acting county manager in the absence of the County Manager and has had direct, day-to-day supervision of the Budget, Emergency Services, Finance, and Tax offices and the County’s state and federal legislative programs. Once in Durham County, he is expected to take on responsibilities for the oversight of departments and projects along with the Durham County Manager and other Deputy Manager.

“I look back with appreciation and pride on many things we have accomplished during my time in Catawba County,” Worsley said. They would not have happened without the outstanding staff that is here, and it’s been a tremendous honor and pleasure to work with everyone.”

A re-engineering of our use of technology is one major accomplishment we have made,” Worsley continued. “This included the hiring of Catawba County’s first Chief Information Officer, and efforts made since then, in technology and public information, with social media. A reconfiguration of our Emergency Services Department resulted in the hiring of the County’s first Emergency Management Coordinator and the aligning of services provided with the personnel we have. This has enabled us to provide much better service to the community and to partner agencies such as rescue squads and fire departments. I am also pleased with legislative efforts

“Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!”

we have accomplished, including major changes in North Carolina law regarding the use of 911 funds that made an additional \$500,000 available for a new 911 Center. Staff deserves the credit for these accomplishments, because they are the ones who have really made things happen.”

Worsley’s leadership in the area of technology included supervising a redesign of the County’s web site at www.catawbacountync.gov; and the use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr to connect with citizens. Catawba County recently won the Silver Circle Award from the national City-County Communications and Marketing Association for its innovative uses of social media. Worsley also oversaw an International City-County Management Association (ICMA) study of Catawba County’s citizen engagement practices, which led to new strategies being put in place; the launch in 2007 of an e-mail newsletter for citizens that has won two major national awards; a comprehensive blog on state and federal legislation that impacts the County; and the creation of a citizen alert telephone notification system.

Worsley is also credited with strengthening Catawba County’s Kids Voting program, which is educating children on the importance of voting, including the hiring of its first executive director, and strengthening of the organization’s efforts through an expansion into Burke and Iredell Counties.

Most recently, Worsley worked with other local government professionals to bring about a change in State law that broadened the ways in which local governments may use revenue from an E-911 phone surcharge. This provided the additional source of existing revenue that will be used to build a new 911 Center and Emergency Operations Center.

Catawba County is in need of a new 911 Center because the current center has no room for expansion or for new equipment to implement Next Generation 911 technology. The Emergency Operations Center is 30 years old and is inadequate when activated for emergency situations. The County was cited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in September 2006 for inadequate space at the Emergency Operations Center.

“Lee has been a stalwart and active partner in the growth and progress of Catawba County,” Lundy said. “His leadership has been superb--supportive, straightforward, forward-thinking and professional. He has risen to every challenge, and instinctively understood the big picture and the details. He has led from the front and from the rear, nurtured people, and made difficult decisions when necessary. He has been a consummate professional. I’m proud that he’s taken leadership positions in his graduate and undergraduate institutions, and in our professional associations, and am pleased that Catawba County has been able to support him in those endeavors.”

Worsley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science, with a concentration in town and city/county management, from Appalachian State University. In 1997, he earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He served as County Manager in Greene County, North Carolina from March 2002 until February 2005. Prior to his service in Greene County, he was an Assistant to the City Manager in Goldsboro, North Carolina from mid 1999 through early 2002 and was a Special Assistant to the County Manager in Durham County, NC from late 1997 through mid 1999.

Worsley has been a member of a number of state and national organizations, through which he has benefitted local government well outside of his home region. He holds the ICMA Credentialed Manager designation, has served on ICMA’s Governmental Affairs and Policy Committee, and is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Hickory and a member of Hickory Young Professionals.

“Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!”