

TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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For Immediate Release:

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Tideland EMC To Welcome Paul Spruill As Chief Executive Officer

PANTEGO, NC - Tideland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors announces the selection of Paul Spruill as the cooperative's new general manager and chief executive officer. Spruill currently serves as county manager for Beaufort County and will report for work at the electric co-op on Tuesday, July 5.

A native of Bertie County, Spruill is a graduate of Wake Forest University and holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His professional career began in 1997 at the Office of Management and Budget in Fairfax County, Virginia. The following year Spruill returned to North Carolina to serve as Grifton's town administrator. He successfully helped that rural community recover from the effects of Hurricane Floyd which ultimately claimed twenty percent of the town's residential structures. From 2000 to 2003, Spruill served as assistant county manager for Chatham County where he prepared their first Capital Improvements Plan specific to utilities.

Beaufort County commissioners hired Spruill in July 2003. As county manager, he has led a workforce of 288 full time employees and oversees the operation of a \$5 million water utility. During his tenure, Spruill has managed a \$50 million general fund, successfully navigating periods of both rapid growth and economic decline. Thanks to Spruill's wise stewardship of county funds, Beaufort County's tax rate is only one cent higher than when he arrived in 2003. Spruill has been actively engaged in economic development, financial planning, citizen outreach, statewide advocacy and staff development.

Tideland EMC board president Ray Hamilton said, "We are thrilled that Paul Spruill will be joining our co-op family in July. He understands the unique nature of

eastern North Carolina, has a proven track record when it comes to fiscal management and organizational efficiency, and has a strong background in project management. While as a citizen of Beaufort County, I am sorry to lose his talents as county manager, I couldn't be more pleased as a Tideland member to welcome him aboard.”

Tideland EMC is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative serving 22,725 accounts in Beaufort, Hyde, Pamlico, Craven, Washington and Dare counties.

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