

CHOWAN RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
CHOWAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
JULY 19, 2001

MINUTES

Vice-Chair Marjorie Rayburn called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. A quorum was present (see attendance list). Special guest, Al Hodge with NC Division of Water Quality was welcomed.

Nan Laughton read the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made by Roger Spivey to accept the minutes as read. Second was made by Peter Bogus and motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Subsoiler Demonstration Project

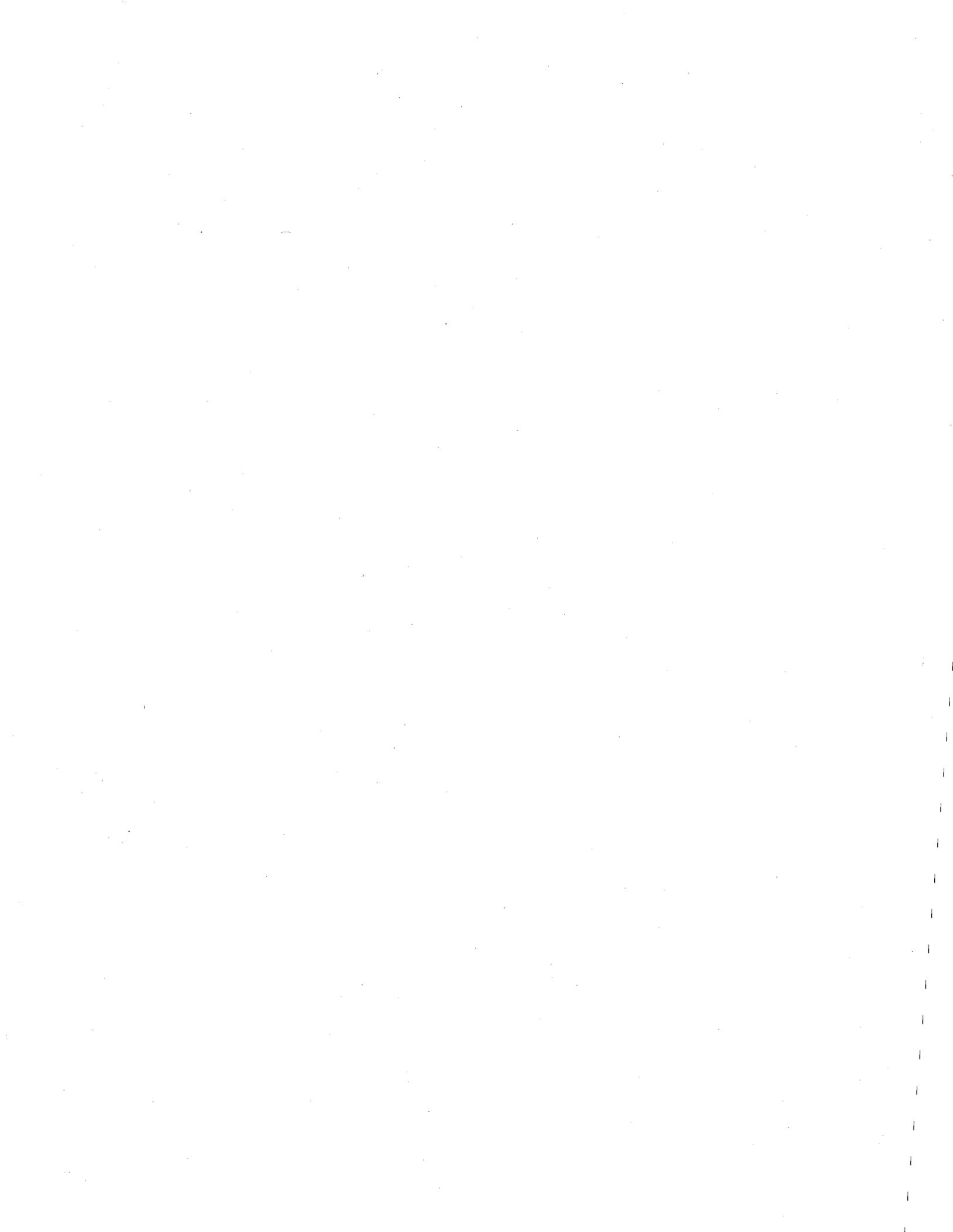
Guy Stefanski will mail council members a copy of the final report. As wastewater flows through the system, it goes through denitrification barriers or walls that are 200 feet in length and 5'-10' wide filled with debris material, such as peanut hulls, sawdust, wood chips, etc. This material was provided in-kind. Twelve monitoring wells are in place per site. This is a "low-tech" alternative to treat wastewater.

Chowan River Basinwide Plan

Joan Giordano reported that the draft of the plan is in internal review. The draft for the public will be ready in October. Regional Council members are on the mailing list to receive this draft.

Virginia Liaison

Noah Hill reported that the "Chowan Roundtable" will meet in September. The Roundtable is made up of representatives of soil and water districts, Victor Liu, John Carlock, Ernie Brown and Noah. Virginia approved the MOA and released it back to North Carolina. It is now in the hands of Secretary Bill Ross. Joan stated that another MOA package was mailed last week to the Secretary along with a few reminders. Council members expressed concern over the lengthy turn-around time and asked Joan and Guy to let council members know if phone calls or other contacts would be helpful. There is a proposed signing date in October at the Great Dismal Swamp Visitor's Center. Joan will keep the council informed of any developments.



PROGRAM

Al Hodge, Division of Water Quality, reported on the status of the DWQ Non-discharge Program in the Chowan River Basin. Al stated that the program began when the Chowan River was designated as Nutrient Sensitive. Twenty years ago there was a greater availability of low interest loans and grant funds to help counties and municipalities meet the requirements of the program. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a federal program established through the Clean Water Act. It was established to "eliminate all discharges to the waters of the state." It has done a good job in permitting, but is poor in follow-up. There are 21 counties in our region with more spray fields and more nutrient sensitive waters. Collection systems are separate from treatment and disposal systems and a permit is required for each. DWQ has only one inspector to cover all of this. Al stated "wastewater is a resource in the wrong place." This "re-use" water can be sprayed on lawns, used to flush toilets, wash cars, etc. This technology is currently being used on several golf courses in the Washington area. There is plenty of water but drinking quality water is a shrinking resource. The level of treatment needed is rising dramatically and this appears to be worse in the northeast part of the state. Al reported that Edenton is at present under a "special order by consent"; Aulander's system is doing okay; Ahoskie's system is not doing well (poor soils); Winton has constructed several new spray fields; and Murfreesboro is close to reaching their capacity. Council members were encouraged to write a letter to legislators regarding the non-discharge program's lack of funding, too few inspectors, high turnover of inspectors and the low salary scale.

Chowan RC Issues & Concerns

Joan handed out a list of priority environmental concerns for the Chowan River Basin and a synopsis of the Council's Two-Year Plan of Work. Both were developed by the RC in 1998. She asked that Council members review this information be ready to discuss it at the next meeting. (Handouts attached to minutes.) Joan stated that the Coordinating Council meets once a year to develop the work plan. Capt. Al Howard spoke highly of the plan. The plan will be distributed to council members after approval of DENR upper management.

Plans for Next Meeting

Lee Wynns invited the Council to visit Colerain and tour their wastewater treatment facility. The meeting will be held at the Colerain Community Center on October 4th. Capt. Al Howard requested that the Quick Response Teams be put on the next agenda, if possible.

There being no further business or comments, the meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.

(NPDES) is a federal program established through the Clean Water Act. It was established to "eliminate all discharges to the waters of the state." It has done a good job in permitting, but is poor in follow-up. There are 21 counties in our region with more spray fields and more nutrient sensitive waters. Collection systems are separate from treatment and disposal systems and a permit is required for each. DWQ has only one inspector to cover all of this. Al stated "wastewater is a resource in the wrong place." This "re-use" water can be sprayed on lawns, used to flush toilets, wash cars, etc. This technology is currently being used on several golf courses in the Washington area. There is plenty of water but drinking quality water is a shrinking resource. The level of treatment needed is rising dramatically and this appears to be worse in the northeast part of the state. Al reported that Edenton is at present under a "special order by consent"; Aulander's system is doing okay; Ahoskie's system is not doing well (poor soils); Winton has constructed several new spray fields; and Murfreesboro is close to reaching their capacity. Council members were encouraged to write a letter to legislators regarding the non-discharge program's lack of funding, too few inspectors, high turnover of inspectors and the low salary scale.

Chowan RC Issues & Concerns

Joan handed out a list of priority environmental concerns for the Chowan River Basin and a synopsis of the Council's Two-Year Plan of Work. Both were developed by the RC in 1998. She asked that Council members review this information be ready to discuss it at the next meeting. (Handouts attached to minutes.) Joan stated that the Coordinating Council meets once a year to develop the Albemarle-Pamlico NEP work plan. Capt. Al Howard spoke highly of the plan. The plan will be distributed to council members after approval of DENR upper management.

Plans for Next Meeting

Lee Wynns invited the Council to visit Colerain and tour their wastewater treatment facility. The meeting will be held at the Colerain Community Center on October 4th. Capt. Al Howard requested that the Quick Response Teams be put on the next agenda, if possible.

There being no further business or comments, the meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Laughton

Nan Laughton
Recording Secretary

corrected page

rec'd 11/19/01

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Laughton

Nan Laughton
Recording Secretary

Chowan River Basin Regional Council
July 19, 2001

Meeting Attendance

Roger Spivey
Nan Laughton
Marjorie Rayburn
Peter Bogus
G. D. Perry
Lee Wynns, III
Capt. Al Howard

Silviculture-Chowan County
Soil & Water Conservation-Chowan County
Env. Science-Gates County
Tourism – Chowan
Agriculture – Bertie County
Municipal Rep. – Bertie
At-large – Chowan

APNEP Staff:
Joan Giordano
Guy Stefanski

Advisors:
Noah Hill

Watershed Field Coordinator – VA & NC

Guests:
Al Hodge, DWQ



Chowan River Basin Council
~ July 19, 2001 ~

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
1.	Lee Wynns	Town of Colerain - Gov't.
2.	Al Howard	CRBC
3.	Boyer Spruay	Silver Cullens (Forestry)
4.	Peter J. Fogus	Turtle House Inn
5.	G. W. Perry	Bertie Farmer
6.	Nan Laughton	Chowan SWCD
7.	Marjorie Rayburn	NCCES - Gates Co
8.	Guy Stefanski	APNEP -
9.	Jean Howard	APNEP
10.	J. HODGE	DWQ - WASHINGTON OFFICE
11.	Nook Hill	VA DCR
12.	CHAD PRIOR	Nues-Steel

