

NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wayne Center
208 W. Chestnut Street, Goldsboro, NC
(919) 731-1520

MARCH 27, 1998

* * * 9:00 am Executive Session Executive Committee * * *

AGENDA

9:30	Call to Order & Welcome	Chairman Bill Ritchie
9:35	Self-Introductions	All
9:40	Acceptance of Minutes from 1-30-98 meeting	Chairman Ritchie
9:45	Report on Executive Committee meeting on 3-5-98	Chairman Ritchie
9:50	“Findings and Recommendations of the Craven County Intensive Livestock Operations Moratorium Study Committee”	Jimmy Spruill Craven County Soil & Water Board
10:20	<u>Discussion</u> : Development of new resolution regarding ground water quality	Vice-Chairman Costlow
10:35	<u>Discussion</u> : NRBRC Annual Report (draft)	Chairman Ritchie
10:50	BREAK	
11:00	NRBRC Priority Concerns: Correlation to CCMP	Joan & Guy (DWQ Staff)
12:15	New Business/Open Discussion	Chairman Ritchie
12:30	Adjourn	

NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

March 27, 1998
Wayne Center
Goldsboro, NC

Meeting Minutes

The Neuse River Basin Regional Council met in Goldsboro on March 27, 1998. In attendance were the following:

Bill Ritchie	Joe Hughes	Caroline Parker
Margaret Holton	Norman Ricks	Sam Holton*
Joan Giordano*	John Simmons	E.T. Iseley
Sondra Riggs	Charles Riggs*	Charles Pittman
John Costlow	Marion Smith*	Guy Stefanski*
Jim Cummings	Terry Rolan	Alan Clark*
Tom McGhee	Wayne Cash	Jane Ashford*
Marguerite Whitfield	Tom Jones*	Bruce Whitfield

*Denotes visitor or staff

Rick Dove and Donald Cox sent representatives

Chairman Ritchie called the meeting to order at 9:35am. The minutes were approved as received. Chairman Ritchie reported on the Executive Committee Meeting held on March 5, 1998 in River Bend. See Attachment A.

Dr. Costlow explained that we will have a program in the fall on fate and transport modeling for the Neuse River. He explained that, fundamentally, a transport model showed how materials were transported in a river system. Marion Smith and Terry Rolan responded to questions and comments from the members concerning this subject.

In the absence of our scheduled speaker (Mr. Spruill) Mr. Ritchie explained the process and actions of the Craven County Intensive Livestock operations Moratorium Study Committee. Council members asked a number of questions and a discussion ensued. Dr. Costlow made a motion that the report be distributed to the 17 counties in the Neuse River Basin, to the Association of County Commissioners, the League of Municipalities, and to the Coordinating Council. Sondra Riggs seconded the motion which then passed.

Dr. Costlow introduced a draft resolution entitled "Resolution: To Provide Regular Testing of

Ground Water Within the Neuse River Basin.” Marion Smith explained that the state is much further behind on ground water issues than it is on surface waters. After much discussion it was the consensus of the group that we get more information on this subject before formal introduction of this resolution.

Joan Giordano requested comments on the draft of the NRBRC Annual Report.

Mrs. Giordano and Guy Stefanski then reviewed the Correlation of Primary Environmental Concerns to the CCMP. Adjustments, changes, and additions were made to this document.
See Attachment B

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

The next full committee meeting is scheduled for May 29, 1998 in Goldsboro at the Wayne Center beginning at 9:00am.

Please remember our facilitated workshop meeting which is being held in Kinston at the Lenior Co. Cooperative Extension Office on Hwy. 11/55 on May 7th from 9:30am - 1:30 pm. Please refer to your mailing of April 18, 1998 which included directions to the site. Hope to see you there!

NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

River Bend Town Hall
River Bend, NC
March 5, 1998
10:00 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

10:00 am Call to Order Chairman Ritchie

Discussion items: ALL

- ✓ - Draft NRBRC Annual Report
- ✓ - Craven County Summary Report on Intensive Livestock Operations
- Upper\Middle\Lower Nonpoint Source Teams in the Neuse River Basin
- Upper\Lower Neuse River Basin Associations
- Fate and Transport Model
- NRBRC Priority Concerns: Correlation to CCMP

12:00 pm - Establish Agenda for March 27th Meeting

12:15 pm Adjourn

NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting

March 5, 1997
River Bend, NC

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

ET Iseley	Caroline Parker, excused absence
Sondra Riggs	Margaret Holton, excused absence
John Costlow	
Bill Ritchie	
Joan Giordano	
Guy Stefanski	

Chairman Ritchie called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. He informed the group that James Spruill would be speaking to the full NRBR meeting on March 27th in Goldsboro and his topic would be the "Findings and Recommendations of the Craven County Intensive Livestock Operations Moratorium Study Committee."

The next order of business was discussion on the quality (and potential testing) of well water in the Neuse River basin watershed. The discussion culminated in a motion being made (Costlow) and seconded (Riggs) to develop a resolution relating to ground water quality and to present it to the full membership on the 27th.

Chairman Ritchie stated that he was in need of minutes from the period 1/97- 4/97 to include in the Annual Report. A copy of the 2/97 meeting minutes was supplied, but a gap still remains. Mr. Ritchie asked that the meetings be taped (as was done in earlier meetings) so that there would be a secure record of our proceedings. Joan Giordano agreed to begin taping our meetings, for use by the Recording Secretary, to aid in the preparation of minutes.

Chairman Ritchie then presented a copy of a letter which will be sent to sponsoring organizations/agencies whose members have not been regularly attending meetings. He felt there could not be balanced representation from throughout the basin if all members were not participating. The letter will be refined and submitted for final approval.

Discussion again turned to the Annual Report. It was decided that each County within the basin, the Div. Of Water Quality (DWQ), the Secretary of NCDENR, and the other 4 Regional Councils should all be provided with a copy. Further discussion centered around what should be included in the Report. Dr. Costlow and Mr. Ritchie agreed to further develop this document and get it to Joan Giordano.

The next topic of business was discussion centering on the non-point source teams within the DWQ. It was decided that the representatives from the NRBRC, to the non-point source teams, should report to the full NRBRC on a quarterly basis. There are non-point source teams for the upper, middle and lower portions of the Neuse basin. Additionally, it was recommended that a quarterly report by the liaisons from the NRBRC to the Upper and Lower Neuse River Basin Associations be made.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of having a presentation by Steve Bevington (CWMTF) on fate and transport modeling. Dr. Costlow agreed to follow-up with Mr. Bevington. It is anticipated that this presentation would be made at the annual APES conference which is tentatively scheduled for September or October, in New Bern.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Correlation of Primary Environmental Concerns with the CCMP

Primary Environmental Concerns in the Neuse River Basin according to the Neuse River Basin Regional Council. The five primary concerns presented below are derived from a "summary of issues" by members of the Neuse River Basin Regional Council during its first meeting in November 1995 in New Bern, NC. Thirty-eight of 52 members attended. Members were divided into four smaller groups to identify issues of concern. Individual groups produced a list of issues and then prioritized them according to their level of concern. These are the five most common issues of the four groups: 1) Nutrients, 2) Identify pollution sources, 3) Education: Informational needs of Council members, 4) Economics, and 5) Growth management.

The purpose of correlating these concerns with the CCMP. An important role of the NRBRC is to help implement the management actions of the CCMP at the local level in the Neuse River Basin and to gain local support for the environmental management of its natural resources. Therefore, the following is a correlation of the NRBRC's five primary concerns with specific management actions of the CCMP. This information will be used in a facilitated workshop scheduled for early May 1998 for the purpose of developing the NRBRC's annual program of work.

Primary Concern #1. NUTRIENTS

There is a need to better understand nutrients and their relationship to water quality problems. What are the major sources of nutrients to surface waters and how do we reduce their overall load? What programs are in place to address nutrient loads from point and nonpoint sources?

CCMP Management Actions: *The CCMP contains two objectives addressing pollution to surface water and ground water. Objective B focuses on the reduction and control of nutrients from nonpoint sources; while Objective C targets reductions from point sources. Please review the management actions listed below and consider which are most amenable in addressing the primary nutrient concerns of the Neuse River Basin as perceived by the NRBRC.*

WATER QUALITY PLAN

Objective B: Reduce sediments, nutrients and toxicants from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 1: For each river basin, develop and implement a plan to control nonpoint source pollution as part of the basinwide management plans.

Management Action 2: Expand funding to implement nonpoint source pollution controls, particularly agricultural best management practices through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, and also to develop a broader Water Quality Cost Share Program. Expand the cost share programs to include wetlands restoration. Increase cost share funds to problem areas.

Management Action 3: Continue to research and develop alternative septic systems and new best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement to detect and correct ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 5: Strengthen implementation of forestry best management practices through training, education, technical assistance and enforcement.

Management Action 6: Enhance stormwater runoff control by strengthening existing regulations and developing new ones, if needed, by 1995. Improve enforcement to ensure that stormwater management systems are properly installed and regularly maintained.

Management Action 7: Implement an inter-agency state policy that addresses marina siting and integrates best management practices through permitting and better public education by 1995.

Objective C: Reduce pollution from point sources, such as wastewater treatment facilities and industry.

Management Action 1: Promote pollution prevention planning and alternatives to discharge, where feasible, for all point sources to reduce the volume and toxicity of dischargers.

Management Action 2: Expand and strengthen enforcement of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Increase site inspections and review of self-monitoring data to improve facility compliance by 1995.

Primary Concern #2. IDENTIFY POLLUTION SOURCES.

Identify all sources of pollution and determine the significance of each source's effect/impact on the environment. Implement achievable solutions to problems associated with these pollution sources.

CCMP Management Actions:

WATER QUALITY PLAN

Objective D: Reduce the risk of toxic contamination to aquatic life and human health.

Management Action 1: Increase efforts to assess and monitor the extent of estuarine sediment contamination, fish and shellfish tissue contamination, and water quality violations, and to identify the causes and sources of these problems.

Management Action 3: Continue to research and develop alternative septic systems and new best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement to detect and correct ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 5: Strengthen implementation of forestry best management practices through training, education, technical assistance and enforcement.

Management Action 6: Enhance stormwater runoff control by strengthening existing regulations and developing new ones, if needed, by 1995. Improve enforcement to ensure that stormwater management systems are properly installed and regularly maintained.

Management Action 7: Implement an inter-agency state policy that addresses marina siting and integrates best management practices through permitting and better public education by 1995.

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Primary Concern #3. EDUCATION: INFORMATIONAL NEEDS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council members need more information to better understand the scientific, economical, regulatory, and political aspects of environmental management, and guidance on how they will provide input into this process. They also recognize their need to better understand the issues of the basin in order to make informed decisions.

CCMP Management Actions:

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Management Action 2: Provide to local governments affordable and accessible data from the state Geographic Information System for use in planning and public education within the region by 1996.

Management Action 4: Provide support to organizations that promote nature-based tourism and environmental education as a way of fostering environmentally sound economic development in the region.

Objective B: Increase public understanding of environmental issues and citizen involvement in environmental policy making.

Management Action 1: Expand and coordinate education projects about the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, focusing on both environmental and economic issues.

Management Action 2: Increase opportunities for citizens to communicate with members of environmental agencies and policy-making commissions.

Management Action 3: Enhance and heighten local public involvement in issues affecting the estuary.

Management Action 4: Expand involvement in the Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Program (CWQMP) and make the program more interactive with regulatory agencies.

Primary Concern #4. ECONOMICS

Council members realize that "solving the problems of the Neuse" will be expensive and that tough decisions are needed to affect "change" throughout the basin. Peoples' jobs and livelihoods will be affected by decisions made to reduce nutrients to the river. Is there enough money to implement corrective strategies? Can we pay a lot of money for these "solutions" and be willing to live with them? How does managing growth of a particular area effect the local economy? There is a concern for the effective use of money and that it be spent on high-priority issues. Are there enough incentives for stakeholders to implement "change"?



NOTE: The potential economic costs and considerations of each management action is provided in the CCMP. The recommendations contained in the CCMP may require redirecting existing authorities or funding sources of state and federal agencies. The document includes discussion of funding strategies for how agencies could meet the costs of the recommended management actions.

For a more thorough evaluation of the economic costs and benefits regarding each management action for the government and private sector (including social benefits), please refer to APES report #93-16 titled, "Economic Characterization of the Albemarle-Pamlico Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan".

Primary Concern #5. GROWTH MANAGEMENT

How are we going to manage population growth occurring throughout the basin? Expanding development creates additional demand on the natural resources, resulting in conflicts among various interest groups. What are the secondary impacts of potential growth to an area? How will we manage new and/or expanding animal operations?

CCMP Management Actions:

WATER QUALITY PLAN

Objective A: Implement a comprehensive basinwide approach to water quality management.

Management Action 4: Consider the potential for long-term growth and its impacts when determining how a basin's assimilative capacity will be used.

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Management Action 1: Support local planning by providing funding and economic incentives to local governments to integrate environmental and economic planning by 1999.

Management Action 2: Provide to local governments affordable and accessible data from the state Geographic Information System for use in planning and public education within the region by 1996.

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NRBRC ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 1996 AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1997

I. Responsibilities and duties:

The responsibilities and duties of the Neuse River Basin Regional Council are as outlined in Executive Order No. 75 as amended by Executive Order No. 118, dated 15 September 1997 and are summarized as follows:

The Council shall advise and consult with local, state, and federal governments, as well as the general public and different interest groups within the basin, on the implementation of environmental management programs in the river basin. The Council shall work to prioritize the problems to be addressed in the basin and to design and build consensus support for the most cost-effective strategies for dealing with those problems. The Council shall also advise the public and local governments of actions and information relevant to environment management in the basin. The council has no authority other than as an advisory body.

The council shall work with DEHNR in preparing an annual report on the progress of environmental protection and related concerns. The council shall meet at least two times each year and more often if deemed appropriate.

II. Annual summary report 1996

Considerable effort was expended by the Neuse River Basin Regional Council in organizing the council and the development of by-laws. In order to provide insight into the varied perspectives of the many special interest groups, representatives of these groups were invited to make presentations which included such topics as Best Management Practices (BMPs), Silviculture, Waste Water Treatment, Buffers, Storm Drains and the Pork Industry. The quality of the presentations were generally excellent and provided the basis for substantive informational interchanges. Although expectations may have exceeded performance in the short term this period provided the necessary background for efforts to follow. Lessons learned should also facilitate the activation of the state's other regional councils.

III. 1997 Activities

Organizational. In May, Bill Ritchie was elected Chairman of the NRBRC to replace George Wolfe. In order to more constructively use the talents available, grater emphasis was placed on the use of committees and the role of the executive committee in setting objectives and the preparation of an action agenda. An organizational chart, which includes the names, addresses and phone numbers of both local government and special interest groups representatives (Appendix I). The strength of the organization is in its diversity; a consensus reached is a viable alternative.

Meetings.

The NRBRC met as a council _____ times during 1997. Meeting dates are at Appendix II. Additional scheduled meeting attended by council members included the CCMP Forum held in New Bern in June and the activation meeting of the four other councils "Kick off" meeting in September in Plymouth. The following summarizes presentations made to the NRBRC during 1997.

General Jim Mead, the new Executive Director of the Neuse River Council of Governments provided an update on COGs environmental activities. General Mead reported that the NRCOG and its nine county members have directed him to become involved and have asked that he try to gather factual information relative to the responsibilities and coordination between the organizations involved which has created a great deal of confusion. He stated that efforts were underway to update relevant information He expressed enthusiasm for working with the NRBC on the pollution problems of the Neuse and seeking a solution.

Mr. Steve Hicks, President of the Greater New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce articulated the necessity for protecting the quality of life in Craven County, which is very dependent upon the health of the Neuse River. He stated that he felt that a balance must be found between industry, livestock and the military, and that local

government should take the lead in trying to achieve this balance between economic enhancement and environmental protection. Business and industry are heavily dependent on a clean environment if the quality of life in Eastern North Carolina is to be a drawing card for industry. The business community is committed to protecting the Craven County environment. Mr. Hicks then emphasized the need for a citizen monitoring program so that current and correct information could be made public on a daily basis. He also supports land use planning so that infrastructure may be scheduled. He concluded by saying that "its good business to have clean water."

Dr. Stanley Riggs of East Carolina University gave a slide presentation on the historical and geological formation of subsurface aquifers in North Carolina's Coastal Plain. He stressed the relevance of the historical perspective to the understanding of potential problems confronting the use of our under ground water supplies. Nat Wilson and Cat Shirer of the North Carolina Division of Water Resources then presented a review of ground water management in North Carolina's Central Coastal Plain.

Lisa Tolley of the Office of Environmental Education outlined the initiatives being taken by her office in the Neuse River Basin, especially those targeted for adults. These include literature, the

press, radio and television. She stressed the importance of keeping the public informed about both the good and the bad.

Resolutions.

During the year, the Neuse River Basin Regional Council has identified issues which it feels have been over looked or deserve greater attention. In pursuit of discharging its duties as an advisory body, the Neuse River Basin Regional Council drafted resolutions addressing specific problem or potentially problem areas. The following resolutions were passed, copies of which are included in Appendix III.

Requested that the state address its responsibilities for the cleanup of its navigable waterways by contracting with fisherman to pick up large fish kills for disposal in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Expressed support for improvements in the funding process for studies and supporting services for water quality improvements in the Neuse River Basin.

APPENDIX I

NEUSE RIVER BASIN
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

APPENDIX II

MEETING DATES

Meeting Dates 1996-1997

1996

May 3
May 17
June 21
July 26
Aug 16
Sep 27
Oct 22
Nov 22

1997

April
May 30
June
July
Aug 6
Aug 22
Sep 25
Oct 31
Nov 21

APPENDIX III

RESOLUTIONS

State of North Carolina

2/28/97

RESOLUTION OF THE NEUSE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FUNDING PROCESS FOR STUDIES AND SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEUSE RIVER BASIN

WHEREAS, many uncertainties exist regarding water quality in the Neuse River basin; and

WHEREAS, scientific study of these uncertainties and related phenomena are necessary if effective use is to be made of the state's financial resources in cleaning up the waters of the Neuse River Basin; and

WHEREAS, recent irregularities in scientific grants have raised questions concerning the process; and

WHEREAS, this Advisory Council is concerned and does approve of a third party investigation of this matter; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Neuse River Basin Regional Council that it stands firmly in favor of the current investigation and recommends that it be extended to an investigation of the process to determine what, if any, additional checks and balances are changes are required to assure the integrity of the process and that a full public disclosure be presented to include findings and recommendations.

Adopted this 28th day of February, 1997.

John D. Costlow

201 Ann Street
Beaufort, N.C. 28516

(919) 728 4027 Phone
(919) 728 5327 FAX

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION: REVIEW TO PROVIDE MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING
OBSOLETE AND INADEQUATE SEWERAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, development throughout North Carolina over the past two decades has resulted in significant increases in population, industry, agriculture, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, many of these increases have resulted in significant increases in the generation of sewerage, both human and that derived from large animal factories; and

WHEREAS, inadequate and obsolete treatment facilities, combined with technical problems and such natural disasters as floods and hurricanes, have resulted in the accidental discharge of untreated human and other animal sewerage into wetlands, tributaries and major rivers throughout North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, direct discharges of untreated human and other animal wastes into the public trust waters of North Carolina have been demonstrated to contribute to excessive nutrients, as well as potentially hazardous materials which constitute a threat to human health as well as natural, renewal resources including fisheries; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that the presence of excessive nutrients resulting from the direct discharge of untreated sewerage from all animal sources contributes to both noxious algal blooms and the proliferation of the uni-cellular organism identified as *Pfiesteria*; and

WHEREAS, *Pfiesteria* has been demonstrated to constitute a threat to human health as well as both estuarine and marine fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, consideration needs to be given immediately to the replacement of existing inadequate and obsolete sewerage treatment facilities with systems which will utilize the most modern concepts and technology available in the interest of reducing the discharge of excessive nutrients and materials hazardous to human health,

NOW, THEREFORE, It is:

RESOLVED, that the Neuse River Basin Regional Council requests the Office of the Governor charge the N.C. Board of Science and Technology, or any other qualified body within North Carolina, to conduct a review of new and innovative sewerage treatment facilities and provide recommendations as to specific facilities which are deemed appropriate for both treatment of human sewerage and the treatment of the wastes generated from large, animal factories.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION: Improved Communication and Coordination on Water Quality Issues in NC

WHEREAS: Information on issues of water quality in coastal surface waters was developed during the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (APES) and the subsequent Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP); and

WHEREAS: Recommendations within the CCMP were jointly accepted by Governor James Hunt and the US Environmental Protection Agency in November of 1994; and

WHEREAS: Executive Order #75 issued by Governor James Hunt in March of 1995 called for the formation of five River Basin Councils and a Coordinating Council in keeping with the CCMP recommendations; and

WHEREAS: The first of these Councils, the Neuse River Basin Regional Council, was formed in November of 1995 and has worked toward the objectives contained within the CCMP; and

WHEREAS: The remaining four River Basin Councils were organized in Plymouth, September 25, 1997 to continue implementation of the provisions within the CCMP; and

WHEREAS: A number of additional teams and programs have subsequently been initiated within the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) to expand on agency and citizen involvement in issues relating to water quality throughout NC;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED: The Secretary of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources is requested to provide for all River Basin Regional Councils an organizational chart which identified all State bodies responsible for issues relating to water quality.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The organizational chart shall provide names of contacts for each body involved in water quality issues, the focus of their responsibility, and the extent and manner by which they are to communicate and coordinate their activities with other State bodies, including the established River Basin Regional Councils and the Coordinating Council which is to be organized.

March 27, 1998

Dear Sponsoring Agency: (Either County Commissioners or the Sec. of DENR)

The purpose of this letter is two fold. First of all we would like to inform you of the progress of the Neuse River Basin Regional Council (NRBRC) and secondly, we seek your input and assistance as we proceed into our third year. A copy of our most recent annual report is enclosed for your review and consideration.

There has ben considerable progress by this organization in the pursuit of water quality improvements in the Neuse River Basin. There is much more to be done.

As you know each County has at least three representatives on the Council. Your representatives include one elected or appointed county official and one elected or appointed municipal official selected by each county commissioners and the third which is appointed by the Secretary of N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from among special interest groups. Your representatives are _____ and _____.

Support from some appointed members ^{has been excellent & others have been} ~~has been~~ sporadic; therefore, we are requesting that all appointing authorities poll their appointed representatives as to their intention to participate. If they cannot, for any reason fulfill their commitments, would you kindly replace them at your earliest convenience and advise us of same. We value your support.

Sincerely,

*Make req. to Co's to dist. annual rept to all
Commissioners*

