

## ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

First Citizen's Bank  
North Main Street  
Warrenton, NC

January 13, 1999  
10:00am

### AGENDA

10:00	Call to Order & Welcome	Jerry L. Holloman Chairman
10:05	Introductions	All
10:15	Acceptance of Minutes from September 23rd Meeting-Plymouth	Jerry L. Holloman
10:20	Organizational Considerations -Regional Council Vacancies	Joan Giordano & Guy Stefanski
10:40	Resolution(s) -216 Status -Minimum Flow Status	Jerry L. Holloman
11:00	The Hydropower Relicensing Process	Russell Slayton, Coordinator Reg. Partnership of Local Governments
11:30	The Roanoke River-A Biological Jewel for the Nation	Kevin Moody USFWS
12:00	New Business/Public Comment	All
12:15	Plans for Next Meeting	
12:30	Adjourn for Lunch	



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MINUTES

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The meeting was called to order at ten a.m. by the chairman, Jerry Holloman.

Representing the council were:

Jerry Hollman, Chairman  
Kay Winn, Secretary  
James Outland  
Bruce Perkinson  
Joe Kloeker, standing in for Jerry Coker.

This attendance constitutes a quorum.

Also present were:

Joan Giordano, DWQ Staff  
Guy Stefanski, APNEP  
Andy Coburn, APNEP  
Kay R. Horner, *The Warren Record*  
Mike Bollinger, *Lake Gaston Gazette*  
Dave Little, USDA-NRCS  
Peggy Richardson, Warren County EDC  
Rick Seekins, Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments  
Mary T. Outland.

Featured speakers were:

Russell Slayton, Regional Partnership of Local Governments  
Kevin Moody, USFWS.

After the call to order, welcome, and self-introductions, the chairman called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September meeting. The secretary noted that on the third page, third paragraph, the abbreviation "cfm" should in all cases be corrected to read "cfs" in the proposed resolution to FERC. With a motion by Bruce Perkinson and second by James Outland, the minutes were approved as submitted with that correction.

Under the matter of organizational considerations regarding the regional council vacancies, Joan Giordano reported that we had determined that we have eight active members and twelve vacancies to fill, as outlined at our last meeting. This issue is going



to be addressed at the meeting of the Coordinating Council on Friday, January 15. There had been some delay in dealing with the issue due to the Tar-Pam council wanting to try a different approach, but they have decided to proceed with the other councils in filling vacancies. Joan explained that it has been decided in Raleigh yesterday that contacts need to be made with the county supervisors. It is anticipated that letters will go out to all counties in each region asking for new appointments for those slots not presently filled.

As for interest group representation, it is the Secretary's responsibility to choose those representatives. The chairman asked that James Outland and Joan Giordano serve with him to form a membership subcommittee.

Following the CC meeting on Friday, the chairman and Joan Giordano will meet with Guy Stefanski to sign and prepare to send the letters to the county managers of each county needing to make new appointments.

Also under old business, the chairman reported that the 216 Study Resolution had been sent, and that many responses had been received, all supportive. He had prepared a packet of these responses to submit to staff. He had gotten information that led him to believe that Senator Helms is also in support, although nothing official had been received to date.

Our cover letter had asked the recipients of the resolution address their statements in support to Preston Howard, and some had done that, while others had responded directly to the chairman. It was noted that the official address for the Council is DWQ, P.O. Box 29535, Raleigh. Joan Giordano suggested that in the future, we might wish to include the title "NEP Coordinator" under "DWQ" in order to direct the mail more effectively, as the post office box serves for the entire agency. Using the title along with the agency name would carry the mail directly to Guy Stefanski. If any member has a concern about this change, it should be voiced at the next meeting.

Next under old business, the chairman stated that he had attempted to draft the resolution on minimum flow as directed by the council at the September meeting. He expressed that he had found it impossible to do without seeming in contradiction with the 216 Study request. He asked if the council might be persuaded to let the second resolution ride until we see what takes place with the 216 Study issue, since that might better address the matter of minimum flow.

In discussion, James Outland asked what might be our position on other issues besides minimum flow, should we not make a recommendation as to what the 216 Study should consider. The secretary brought up the point that the Council had directed that the proposed resolution was directed to FERC in regards to the relicensing, which is presently going on, and that the 216 Study, if funded, might be further off in time. The two issues, although related, if left as the chairman suggested, might leave the second resolution too far off in time to contribute to the relicensing process. Joe Kloeker, representing Jerry



Coker, explained that the time line for the 216 Study might be as long as four or five years.

In further discussion, Russell Slayton informed the Council that NC Power has committed to 2,000 cfs year-round in the relicensing discussions, and that 3,000 cfs has been a point of discussion. Present levels range seasonally from 1,000 to 2,000 cfs. Slayton and Kevin Moody filled in some pieces of information on the progress of the relicensing process.

Moody explained that once the application is submitted on Jan 31, 1999, the public will be notified that the application has been received by FERC. That does not mean that the entire application process is complete at that point. Particulately, the construction of a bridge on I-95 has delayed some of the environmental studies. In answer to a question from the chairman as to the timing of a resolution that would take a couple of months to draft, mail, and approve, Moody responded that in the applications process, there would be opportunity to make comment, perhaps in April-May of this year.

Following that response, the chairman requested that Joe Kloeker inform Jerry Coker to prepare to draft the resolution with him within the next 30 days.

Also, at the request of the secretary, Kevin Moody offered to meet with her after the meeting to help inform her as to how to register the Council with both NC Power and FERC as an interested party to be notified of events in the relicensing process.

Under new business, the Council heard from two speakers. Russell Slayton, Coordinator for the Regional Partnership of Local Governments, informed the Council on his group's involvement in the relicensing process. Mr. Slayton is an attorney from Brunswick County, Virginia. He serves as county attorney for several counties. He explained that in January of 1998, the counties' interest in the relicensing took an uptick due to the information being brought back to them by staff attending meetings. Originally, five counties - Brunswick and Mecklenburg in Virginia, and Northampton, Warren and Halifax in North Carolina - joined in a loose coalition to address their concerns related to relicensing. The primary issue of interest was shoreline management.

The license for the hydroelectric dam, originally issued in 1951, is set to expire January 31, 2001. A very complicated process is being carried out for the relicensing, and there are many different interests, some which are often difficult to reconcile. The coalition identified its issues of greatest concern. Three other entities joined with the group - municipalities of Oxford and Henderson, and Vance County, all in North Carolina. Crucial to the localities of the coalition is water withdrawal. Slayton noted that the chairman of the Council had been present at many of the relicensing meetings, and that this had helped many to realize the impact of minimum flow rate downriver.

Adaptive management is the desired strategy in the view of the coalition. This means that management of the river will be conducted by a group for the entire river, rather than in sections along it.

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Also, the process so far has been at the entire expense of the power company, and the end result needs to be a financially feasible one. Power consumers have a stake in the matter, too.

The coalition has filed position papers in the relicensing process. All meetings in the settlement process are open to the public.

The second speaker, Kevin Moody of the USFWS, spoke on the topic "The Roanoke River: A Biological Jewel for the Nation." He outlined the history of study of the unique ecosystems of the river, which really began to be noticed about 25 years ago. There has been a 20-year effort to catalog the black-and brownwater swamps of the lower Roanoke.

Loss of diversity is a major concern. Mr. Moody's job is to identify species and help manage for the continued benefit of the American people. Issues of particular importance are the fact that over one-half of the Piedmont system is impounded, which affects virtually the whole system. Different dams, under either FERC or Corps of Engineers control, exist for different reasons. The goal of the USFWS is to protect species and habitats, preserving biological diversity for generations to come.

Much of the damage done to the river was due to the sedimentation caused by past practices, particularly in agriculture and forestry. This has been helped with present practices such as BMP's. Suburbanization has changed the type and rates of runoff. As DWQ nails down point sources, it stands to reason that non-point sources will have a proportionally higher effect.

The goals of the Clean Water Act are far from being realized. The USFWS also sees adaptive management as a proper strategy, with management of the river being a sort of exercise in representative democracy.

James Outland commented at the closing of the presentation that the river has certainly changed, and that flow was not a problem prior to 1974.

Under New Business/Public Comment, the Council heard from Rick Seekins, representing the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments. He gave some figures citing the majority interest of the citizens above the dams (250,000 of 265,000 people and 8,000 of 10,000 square miles of area being above the dams.) Economic impacts of the management of the river are a major concern of his group. He spoke to the need to have balance between the interests of the people both up- and downriver.

Council plans for the next meeting are for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 24 in Windsor, at the Bertie County Administration office building.

Jerry Holloman, Jerry Coker, and James Outland will meet on February 4 to draft the resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Winn, Secretary

