

ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
JULY 09, 1999

Roanoke-Cashie River Center
Windsor, North Carolina
10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Jerry Hollomann. Present for the meeting were:

Jerry Hollomann
Bruce Perkinson
James Outland
Michael Taylor
Jerry Coker
Andy Allen
Kay Winn.

This constitutes a quorum for the meeting. Also present were:

Guy Stefanski
Joan Giordano
Mary Lilley
Tom Stroud.

The minutes of the June meeting were amended as follows:

It should be noted that the list of those present should indicate that Mary Lilley and Tom Stroud were visitors;

And, on the last page, the phrase after "chairman" should read "address some inadequacies in DWQ's steady flow model for the lower Roanoke River."

Both changes were requested by the Chairman.

With a motion by Jerry Coker and a second by Andy Allen, the minutes were approved by consensus of the Council.

The single order of business for the Council was the decision on how to award the grant money provided for demonstration projects. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the council looked back at its criteria from the June meeting, using the minutes.

First under consideration was the Plymouth stormwater monitoring project. Due to emergency conditions at Weyerhaeuser caused by the drought, Andy Allen and Jerry Coker had been unable to find time to meet for the development of the written criteria for the project. The main factor missing was the actual cost of the project.

In discussion, it became apparent that considering that the technical committee needed a fair amount of time to prepare the proposal(s) we submit for mailing to the Coordinating Committee by August 23 (legal lead time for their September 24 meeting), Council really had no time to delay in making a choice. That time line became a crucial element in making the Council's final decision.

Second under consideration was the Roanoke-Cashie River Center Stormwater Pollution Control Demonstration Project. Mary Lilley presented the project as an elaboration on the discussion of it at the June meeting. Mary stated that their proposal was under way, and that it could be ready by next Tuesday at the earliest, although she would like to have longer to develop it further. Just prior to the meeting, she and Tom Stroud had met with representatives of Bertie NRCS and the Mideast RCand D. As to the issue of cost-share, NRCS had nothing for which the project fit guidelines. They offered technical support, and volunteer labor was considered a possibility.

In addition to the previous streambank development and flashboard riser, costing \$25,000, the resource people the Center had consulted recommended a constructed wetland in the ditch in front of the Center. A rough estimate of an additional \$10,000 for that aspect brought the total for the project to \$35,000. A suggestion that use of a culvert and Weir instead of a flashboard riser might increase the innovative nature of the project was not expected to change the costs. Mary further expressed that the Roanoke River Partners and The Nature Conservancy had indicated informal interest in the project, but that they had not offered to extend any funding to it.

In questions and discussion on the project, several points were brought up for consideration. Andy Allen expressed the concern that the project might cause a drainage problem for downtown Windsor. Jerry Hollomann raised the issue that the cost estimates were not yet firm, that Council was presented with many unknowns, that the costs seemed in some instances seemed to be highly inflated, and that so far, identified partners came forth with no money.

Mary responded that the function she served was that of "leveraging funds," and that "the project will either get done or not get done," but she couldn't say at this point who the matching people might be.

Final concerns brought up were by Kay Winn, as to who would take ongoing responsibility for the operation of the flashboard riser, if used. Tom Stroud replied that the administrator of the Center would handle that responsibility. Mary suggested that the town might offer to do it. If a Weir is used instead, there wouldn't be any such concerns. Concerns over the unknowns and seemingly inflated costs continued to be voiced by several members.

Third under consideration was the Riparian Zone Rehabilitation Project for removing the cows from the river at Scotland Neck. The Chairman had been able to obtain the cooperation of the landowner, Mr. Lloyd Winslow, whose ownership stretches for a mile of riverbank and one-half mile of tributary. Jerry had worked with Wayne Short of Halifax NRCS. The project entails two miles of fencing (one mile riverbank, ½ mile up and ½ mile back down the tributary), an alternate water supply for the cattle, and a cattle trail crossing over the tributary. As for water quality monitoring, Jerry has gotten in touch with Bill Holman, asking for the agency's help. Jay Sauver of DWQ has discussed training FWS personnel, mainly on calibration of equipment, with DWQ performing the analyses.

In discussion of the project, Jerry Coker brought up the matter of transferability of the project, and Bruce Perkinson asked about other funding, such as cost-share. Including funding from other sources, the total cost of the "cow" project is \$45,000, with a contribution of \$24,700 requested from the Council's available funds.

Some discussion was held over whether or not to re-hear the proposals on or before July 20th. By consensus, Council agreed that their basic decisions would not change. The Roanoke-Cashie River Center's project was considered to be out of the question. It was decided to fund the Riparian Zone Rehabilitation Project to a maximum of \$25,000. The remaining \$1,080 and any residual from the "cow" project will be reserved for post-monitoring on the Plymouth project.

In an informational item, Council was informed that the minimum flow resolution was sent to the Hon. David T. Boergers, Secretary of the FERC on July 01, 1999.

There being no further business, Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Winn, Secretary