

## Roanoke River Basin Regional Council

June 02, 2000  
Claudine's Restaurant  
Rich Square, NC

### MINUTES

The chairman, Jerry Holloman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.. It was determined that a quorum of the membership was present.

Present for the meeting were the following:

Jerry Holloman	Jimmy Outland
Alex McLennan	Jerry Coker
Kay Winn	Jim Early

Michael Taylor called to inform Council of business pressures that would prevent his attendance.

Callie Dobson, NC DWQ-Planning Branch, attended as a guest. Joan Giordano and Guy Stefanski, APNEP Staff, were also in attendance.

The minutes of the March 31 meeting were approved as received, following a motion by Jimmy Outland and second by Jim Early.

Joan Giordano called roll, and it was determined that several members have been absent from at least three consecutive meetings without giving notice to Council as required in the bylaws. They are as follows:

Rick Harrell, Bertie County	William Cooley, Northampton County
Elmo Lilly, Martin County	William Sexton, Washington County
D.G. Matthews II, Martin County	Timothy Smith, Washington County

As the first order of New Business, Council determined that it is time for action on chronically absent members. For failure to appear at meetings or to notify Council or staff of an anticipated absence, these members will be removed from Council. Jerry Holloman will mail a letter to the county manager of each county needing a new appointee or appointees.

Council then addressed a concern that there needs to be more flexibility in establishing membership and retaining very involved members who have had changes in status due to elections outcomes. After much discussion, Jerry Coker, seconded by Jimmy Outland moved that Council amend its by-laws to establish four additional "at-large" membership positions, keeping in mind geographic distribution as much as possible. These positions

would be elected to two-year terms. Council agreed unanimously to direct staff to draft the correct wording for an amendment to the bylaws, and to distribute it to all members more than thirty days prior to the next scheduled meeting. A vote on the amendment is to be taken at the next meeting of Council.

The final item of New Business involved appointing Kay Winn to the special *ad hoc* committee of the Coordinating Council charged with investigating and devising ways to address deficiencies in regional council membership. Kay has attended the last two workshop meetings of the CC in place of Jerry Coker and Jerry Holloman. By motion of Jerry Coker, seconded by Jimmy Outland, Council agreed unanimously to have Kay serve on the committee.

Because of Andy Allen's loss in election, causing him to leave Council, there is a permanent void for this position. A motion was made by Jimmy Outland and seconded by Jerry Coker to appoint Kay as the alternate representative of Council to the CC. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn, and a substitute motion was made by Jerry Coker and seconded by Jimmy Outland, to appoint Kay as the replacement for Andy to the CC. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, Jerry Holloman reported that the progress of the demonstration project has proceeded to the stage of "breaking paper." The contract has been signed, and work is expected to begin this month. Guy asked about the timeline for the project, and Jerry outlined the general path of progress, from alternate water supply through exclusion of the cows from the river, ending with tree planting by January. Callie Dobson informed Council that in Section C of the new water quality plan, there is a report on this project under "Water Quality Improvement Initiatives."

Jerry also informed Council that media coverage of the project has purposely gone slowly. He told us that Pete Bromley at State would help us with the media coverage, too. Callie supported the idea of media coverage, and suggested that some on-site monitoring begin soon, and that photo documentation needs to take place now, before any work begins. She suggested that some up- and downriver testing for DO, turbidity, pH and temperatures be undertaken immediately. Jerry is planning to send Jean on-site to do the collection, and asked Callie's assistance in getting the lab analyses run. Callie has seen evidence that improvement in water quality has been shown in as little as five to six months after efforts similar to the demo project.

A small group of members and staff agreed to meet on Wednesday, June 8, at 8:00 a.m., for the purpose of photographing the site. Jerry Holloman, Kay, Joan and Guy planned to take film and digital images for the use of Council.

Next under Old Business, Jerry Holloman distributed copies of his draft letter to Secretary Holman regarding the cattle in the river at Caledonia. One grammatical correction was suggested. Callie also informed Council that she had sent a letter to the Secretary with some pictures of the site after Kay's mention of this problem at the Water

Quality public meeting/workshop at Windsor. The letter was unanimously approved for mailing as corrected.

In Open Discussion, Joan informed Jerry Holloman of an e-mail she had sent to Tom Ellis and Don Hoss regarding the concern of membership/participation on the CC. Jerry and Tom were both assigned to work on this at the last CC meeting. She also informed Kay of an e-mail from Cheryl Byrd, in which Cheryl said she would be contacting Kay and the others assigned to work on the membership/participation concerns, for the Regional Councils. Reports on both issues are due back to Joan by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Issues of concern in the basin included one brought forward by Jerry Holloman. He distributed a hydrograph of the river taken earlier this spring, showing a spike in levels. He asked Jim Early about the impact of these levels on fishing. Jim gave his observations, and agreed that holding to lower levels over a slightly longer period of time would not have adversely affected fishing. Jerry's point was that the higher levels (18,600cfs rather than a more conservative 14,000-15,000cfs) managed to flood much of the turkey nesting grounds and back swamps.

Jerry Holloman also asked if Jerry Coker could get someone to a future meeting to explain the alternative water intake plan that Weyerhaeuser had developed due to the saltwater intrusion last summer. Jerry Coker explained that the 100-year drought had caused an intrusion of saltwater that threatened to shut down the company's plant at Plymouth, costing the region 2,000 jobs. With pulp and paper prices so depressed at present, none of the alternatives of a 7-8 mile pipeline, reverse osmosis, ponds, etc., were deemed to be cost-effective. Even at a cost of \$1 million a day, the only option appeared to be a shutdown.

In return for permission to construct a 10,000-foot-long temporary pipeline, the company agreed with the Governor to evaluate long-term water conservation ideas. Due to peak power generation by Virginia Power and the flushing effect of hurricanes, the temporary pipeline was never actually used. Good to its word, though, Weyerhaeuser, at its last meeting on the issue in Raleigh, presented its plans to reduce water consumption between 20 and 25 percent over time. Callie asked for information from the company to include in her planning efforts.

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The next meeting of the Coordinating Council is August 9 in Greenville.

**Council agreed to meet at 9:30 a.m. on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Claudine's in Rich Square.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Winn. Secretary

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**AMENDMENT TO THE RRBRC BY-LAWS IS AS FOLLOWS:**

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This amendment supersedes the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council By-laws, (ARTICLE II, Section 1: RRBRC Composition) adopted January 14, 1998.



Roanoke River Basin Regional Council  
North Carolina Division of Water Quality  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889

May 30, 2000

Mr. Bill Holman, Secretary  
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
1601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Dear Bill:

You will recall our May 15, 1999 Roanoke River Tour with FWS staff Wilson Laney, Tom Augspurger, DENR Attorney Dan McLawhorn, USGS Assistant Coop Unit Leader Tom Kwak, and others. May 15 was a day of overcast skies, light rain, and cool breeze. We got a little damp and quite tired but I believed the trip was beneficial. One primary objective was discussion of ramifications associated with proposed river bottom development.

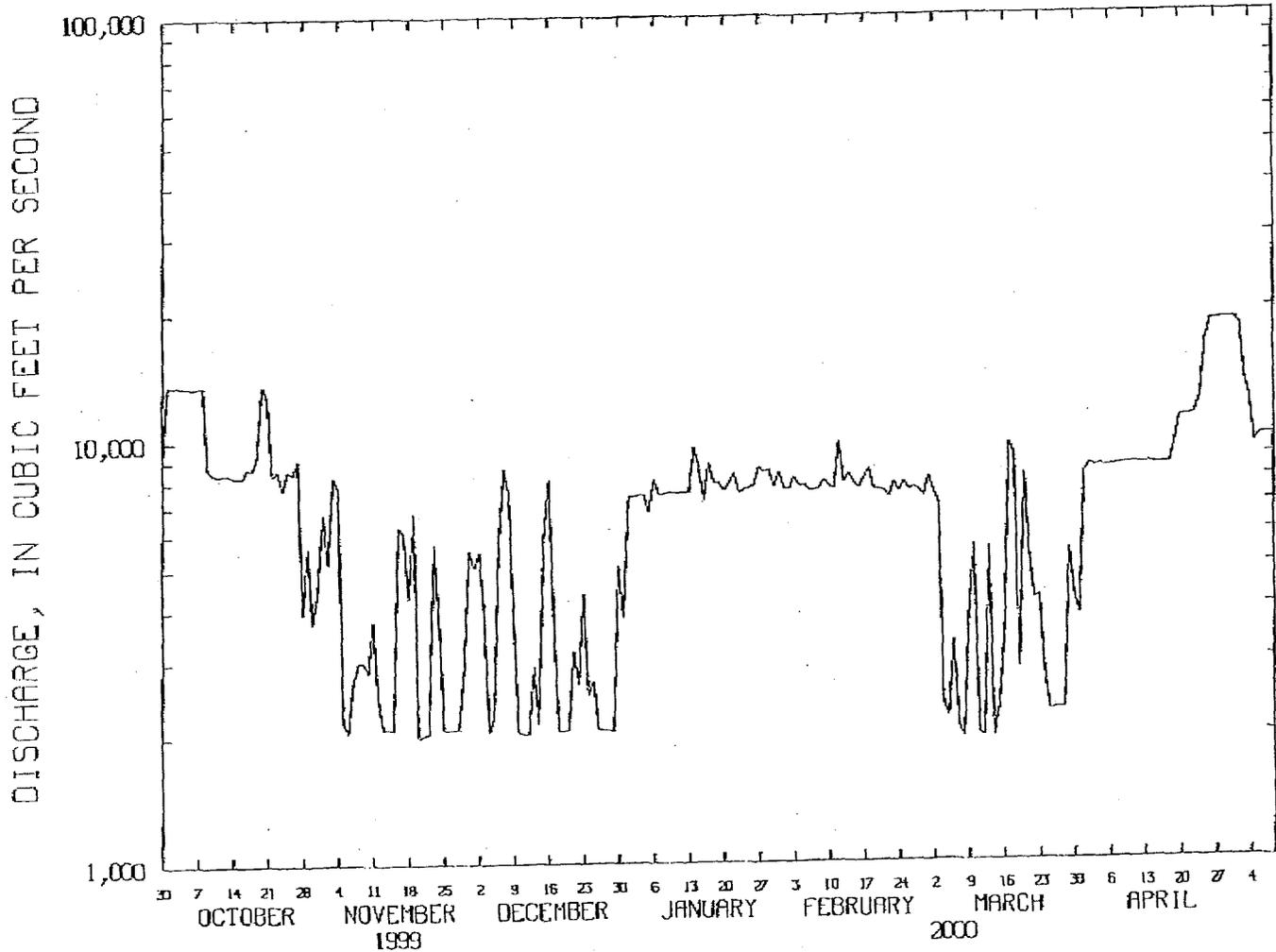
Well into the trip we observed evidence of cattle causing river bank erosion and general lack of slope protection along the river bank adjacent to the Department of Correction's Caledonia Prison Farm in Halifax County. It was at that time I mentioned the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council's general concern regarding uses that deteriorate basin wildlife habitat and water quality. I speculated that the Council could address the issue through the Coordinating Council's resolution process. Following further discussion you indicated that the issue should perhaps be addressed through communications between your office and the DOC. Subsequent to those discussions several things have happened, including a major weather related disaster, that I'm sure have occupied your time and on last check, you indicated that communications between you and the DOC had not occurred.

The Roanoke River Basin Council is hopeful that the above referenced communications will occur. Council members at our March 31, 2000 meeting asked (instructed) the Chair to determine whether there had been progress since my last inquiry and to offer Council's assistance, if deemed appropriate by you. Please inform us regarding any proposed remedies that you have proposed to the DOC.

Sincerely,

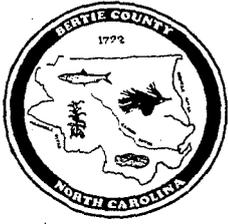
Jerry L. Holloman  
Chair





02080500 ROANOKE RIVER AT ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC  
MEAN DAILY DISCHARGE (CFS)





# BERTIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

POST OFFICE BOX 530  
106 DUNDEE STREET  
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA 27983  
(252) 794-5300  
FAX: (252) 794-5327

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
J. JASPER BAZEMORE, Chairman  
ELBERT R. BRYANT, Vice-Chairman  
CHARLES H. EDWARDS  
PATRICIA D. FERGUSON  
RICK HARRELL

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF  
JACK A. WILLIFORD, County Manager  
WENDELL M. DAVIS, Deputy Manager  
Clerk to the Board  
TONI B. LEDFORD, Administrative Assistant

## BERTIE COUNTY

### Resolution

#### Issues of Concern to be considered during the Section 216 Scoping Process John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir and Roanoke River Basin

**Whereas**, the Wilmington District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, is beginning a reconnaissance study to identify needs and opportunities for changes to the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir Project and its operation.

**Whereas**, the study area will include the Dam and Reservoir and the Roanoke River Basin beginning at the dam and proceeding downstream to the Albemarle Sound.

**Whereas**, the lower Roanoke River Basin below the Kerr Dam and Reservoir is one of the finest remaining forested wetland ecosystems within the eastern United States that can provide high quality habitats for fish, wildlife, sustainable forestry, wildlife-oriented recreation and associated eco-tourism.

**Whereas**, this Board of Commissioners, like its predecessors, have serious concerns about damages caused by devastating floods, it also has serious concerns about flood control operations that puts water on the county's Roanoke River floodplain during the growing season and the fall or recreational season.

**Whereas**, we believe current flood control operations have impacted our county's ability to fully develop its forested wetland's sustainable forestry, wildlife-oriented recreation and eco-tourism potential.

**Whereas**, Bertie County is within an Economically Depressed Zone and it is imperative that it be able to fully, and compatibly develop the segment of its economy represented by the Roanoke River floodplain.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, recognizing that cooperative efforts among local, State, and Federal governments and the public will be required, supports the US Army Corps of Engineers efforts to find ways to improve flood control. **Specifically, we recommend:**

·An economic analysis of the effect of growing season flooding on the county's Roanoke

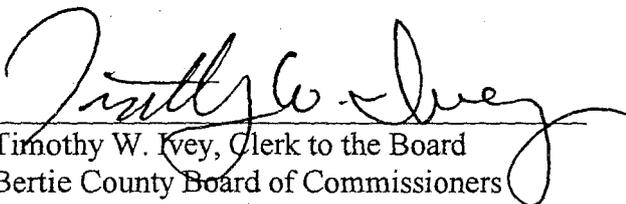
River floodplain forest resources.

- An analysis be made of the county's diminished economy related to growing season flooding of its Roanoke River floodplain forest resources during the last 50 years.
- A determination be made regarding the economic impact of growing season flooding on the county's Roanoke River floodplain agricultural community.
- A determination be made regarding the relationship between flood control floodplain flows and diminished eco-tourism developmental potential.
- A determination be made regarding the county's recreation losses during the last 50 years and diminished Roanoke River floodplain recreational potential due to flood control flows.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners asks other lower Roanoke River County Boards to join in this resolution.

This seal certifies that the above document was approved this the   1st   day of   May  , 2000.

SEAL

  
Timothy W. Ivey, Clerk to the Board  
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council (RRBRC)

**FROM:** Kay Winn, Secretary RRBRC

**SUBJECT:** Flow Management Easements

**DATE:** June 02, 2000

### **Background**

At our meeting on March 31, 2000, Council heard from Sharon Haggett, Project Manager for the Recon phase of the 216 Study currently running on the river basin. As a part of her presentation, she invited Council members to participate in "listening sessions" which were to be held at several locations throughout the basin. I attended one of those sessions and brought up, in both spoken and written comments, a concept that I would like to see Council investigate and possibly advocate.

With the managed flow manipulations that characterize the Corps' present strategy, downriver interests are often compromised significantly. Farmers and industries in the downriver region must cope with the impact of "controlled flooding" in order to accommodate upriver interests and economic concerns, some of which extend beyond the basin. Power generation, recreational lake levels and sport fishing are just three examples of public purposes such a management strategy serves, at private expense.

### **Concern**

My concern is that these affected citizens are being expected to absorb the direct costs of a management policy that benefits others. Their property is flooded for enough of the year that it becomes infeasible for it to be used for cropping. One estimate that we have been given by a Council member who farms in the lower basin, is that 30-40% of his land is so affected each year. This certainly has a negative impact on his economic prospects, and on others who are similarly situated.

Impacts exist for other industries as well. One example is the possible limitation on operations at industries such as Weyerhaeuser because of saltwater intrusion. Flow management can cause shutdowns and the loss of many jobs. In my opinion, the effects of these flow management strategies have resulted in a *de facto* "taking" of the lands, and land uses, of affected citizens and businesses.

### **Solution**

In other river basins of the state, landowners have been compensated for the establishment of riparian buffers. I believe that landowners, in the lower Roanoke basin, deserve similar compensation for the impacts of flow management which serve a public purpose, at private expense. My phrase for this effect is "flow management easements."

I respectfully request that Council pursue the existing avenues for obtaining compensation for these citizens, or identify a process whereby funds might be identified and earmarked for this purpose. It seems the only equitable thing to do.

If you have questions about this, please feel free to call me between 8:00 am and 11 pm at: (252) 534-1522 or e-mail me at: [weewinn@3rddoor.com](mailto:weewinn@3rddoor.com).

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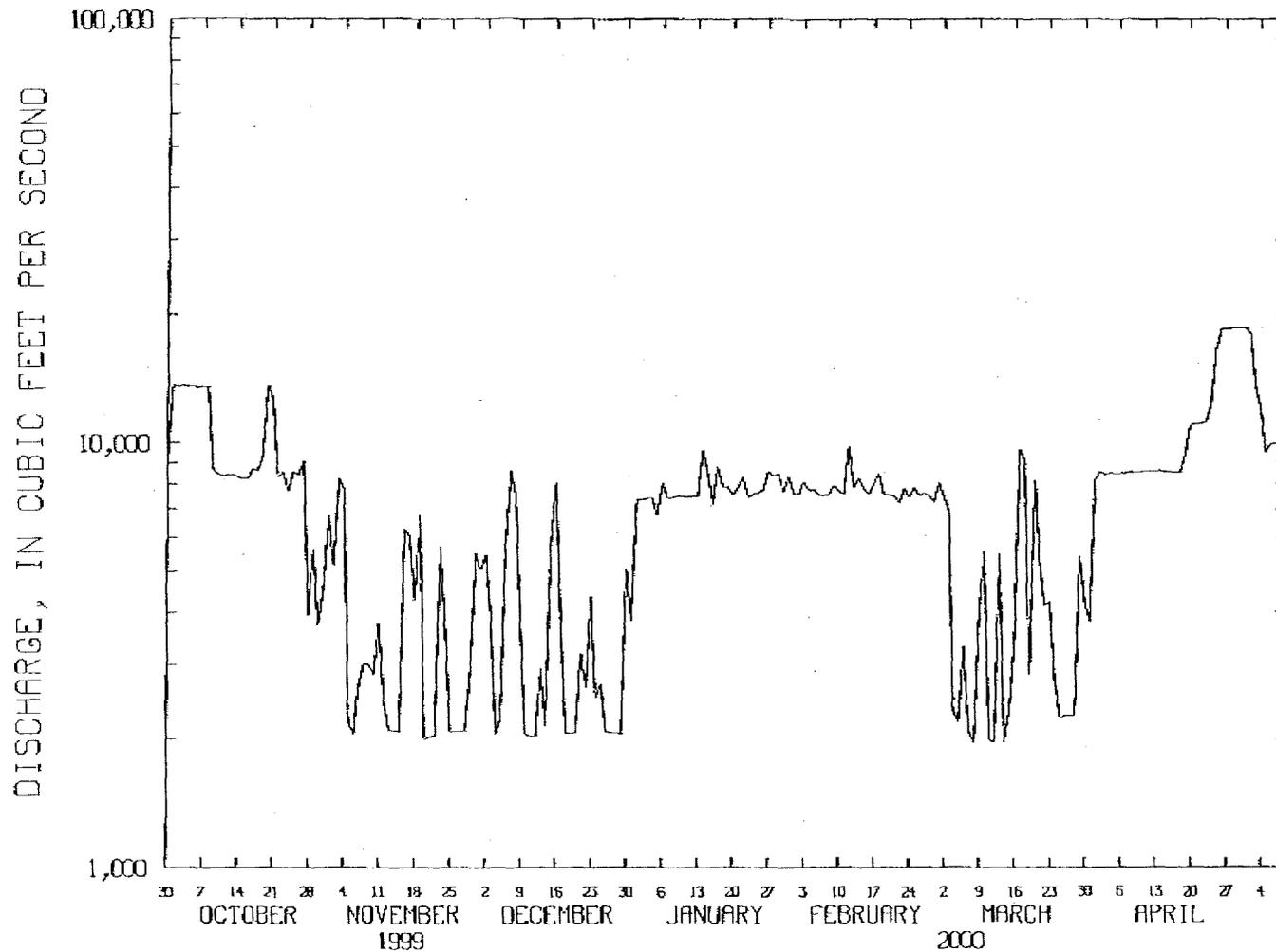
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