

ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Albemarle-Pamlico Regional Councils
"Kick-off" Meeting
September 25, 1997 -- Plymouth, NC

Results of Regional Councils break out sessions

During a break out session at the September 25th Regional Councils "Kick-off" Meeting, members of the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council were asked to respond to the following question:

What are the priority environmental concerns in your river basins?

Below are the results/answers given by members who participated in the break out session.

Problem Statement #1: Address concerns over withdrawals from and flow rates of the Roanoke River (Example: Lake Gaston Pipeline).

- amount of water taken from up-stream
- controlling water levels
- water in our basin should be controlled and left in our basin
- asynchronous river flows
- Get the Corps of Engineers into the loop -- Does the state have any authority over them?
- proximity to large, populated areas without enough water resources of their own (Gaston pipeline)

Problem statement #2: Address problems of private and municipal wastewater treatment.

- improve sewage treatment facilities
- we definitely need cost-effective alternative septic systems
- incorporate new industrial technology
- improving municipal wastewater (systems are ill-managed, in disrepair)

Problem statement #3: Address issues/activities detrimental to water quality.

- control amount of sedimentation
- improve water color
- At what water flow could the river become "nutrient sensitive"?
- ensure water flow to prevent toxic build up
- determine the quality of the rivers & streams going into the river
- industrial draws & discharges -- paper mills form "cone of depression", pollute w/ dioxin
- work to eliminate/improve operations of poorly operated auto graveyards, etc (which introduce oils, etc. to groundwater)
- flow from areas not under our jurisdiction -- Virginia regulations better or worse?

Problem statement #4: Address agriculture and silviculture practices which affect water quality.

- need to seek out new farming practices that conserves soil, water and nutrients
- economic inducements to clear-cut alternatives
- impacts of wooded swamp alterations (drainage enhancements)
- Are silviculture BMPs being used? Are they working?
- maintain vegetation cover (critical to protecting river drainages)
- protection of wildlife



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- continue to encourage good stewardship with AG Cost Shares extend to industry & forestry
- restore healthy fish stocks
- prevent fish kills
- an understanding of nonpoint source pollution (status/comparative degree of impact)
- ensure that all animal waste operations are certified as required

Problem statement #5: Address rights and responsibilities of riparian landowners.

- come to grips focus attention on interbasin transfers
- make the case for rights of down-river riparian landowners
- protect riparian rights
- moratorium will activate "law of unintended consequences" counter productive.

Problem statement #6: Address projected growth and its impacts.

- properly plan for population growth and human impacts
- economic growth should be watched and controlled
- long-range plan for future expansion of industry or agriculture
- limit population growth or charge impact fees
- Is there enough water for economic development?

Problem statement #7: Address education of the public about uses & opportunities of Roanoke River.

- educate citizens & governments to make more recycling/reduction strategies a part of the plan
- teach our children to value environment without making them fearful

