

ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Western Steer Restaurant
Hwy. 64
Plymouth, NC

September 23, 1998
9:30 am

AGENDA

9:30	Call to Order and Welcome	Chuck Laughridge Vice-Chairman
9:35	Introductions	ALL
9:40	Acceptance of Minutes from June 11th meeting in Rich Square	Chuck Laughridge
9:45	<u>Organizational Considerations</u> 1- Chairmanship vacancy 2- Regional Council vacancies	Joan & Guy
10:45	Draft Resolution supporting "216 Study"	ALL
11:00	<u>Next Steps: Program of Work</u> <i>"Develop a strategy for highlighting concerns of the Lower Roanoke"</i>	Chuck Laughridge
11:45	New Business/Public Comment	ALL
12:00	Plans for next meeting	ALL
12:15	Adjourn for lunch (Dutch at the restaurant)	

ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

The September 23, 1998 meeting of the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council was convened on Wednesday, September 23, 1998, at the Western Steer Restaurant in Plymouth. The meeting was called to order by the Secretary, Kay Winn, due to the resignation of the Chairperson, Mary Lilley, and the absence and pending resignation of Vice Chairman, Chuck Laughridge. The Secretary determined that a quorum did exist, and the meeting proceeded. Members present were:

Andy Allen	Town of Plymouth
James Outland	Northampton County Commissioner
Bruce Perkinson	Warren Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
Jerry Coker	Weyerhaeuser
Kay Winn	Northampton County Member at-large
Joan Giordano	Div. of Water Quality Staff
Guy Stefanski	Div. of Water Quality Staff

The minutes of the June 11, 1998 meeting were approved by motion of James Outland, second by Jerry Coker, and consensus of the members present.

The first order of business was an update on the status of several officers and the membership in general. Joan Giordano reported that Mary Lilley had written to say that, since she is leaving her agency, she had to leave the Council. Several members remarked that they'd received a letter to that effect. Chuck Laughridge communicated to staff that he would preside today, but called yesterday to say that he did not think that he could continue his service to the Council. Mary Lilley was also one of our representatives to the Coordinating Council.

Joan Giordano had also calculated vacancies on the Council on the basis of the letter of inquiry sent to all members. Of 20 letters sent, 6 received no response. The Council had previously agreed to consider these as being no longer interested in serving on the Council. Four responded "no" to the inquiry. Ten responded "yes" to continued involvement. Also, our by-laws state that two consecutively missed meetings, without contacting the Chair or staff, are to be considered an indication of failure to continue involvement. Several fell into that group, but the letters of inquiry were sent to all members of record to get a clearer picture of what we need to do about filling vacancies. Of the 10 who responded "yes", two have since resigned (Mary and Chuck). This leaves 8 active members and 12 positions to fill.



At present the vacancies on county and municipal member positions are as follows:

Washington County	County Rep.
Northampton County	Municipal Rep.
Halifax County	County and Municipal Reps.
Bertie County	County and Municipal Reps.
Martin County	County and Municipal Reps.

Letters will be sent by staff to county commissions to ask for new appointments.

We also need four new interest group representatives - 2 from Martin County and 2 from Halifax County. The interest areas to be filled include Environmental Science, Agriculture, Tourism and Recreational Fishing. Staff will take recommendations for these positions from the Council, compile the list, and send it to the Secretary of DENR for fair geographic distribution. Kay Winn offered to change her interest representation to Agriculture so that another member might be located more easily to fill the "At-Large" designation if that made it easier to find a good representative, and if such a change is permissible.

By consensus, it was agreed that staff will write to the county commissions asking for their new appointments.

It was suggested that we ask Chuck Laughridge to help us with finding his replacement, James Outland will contact Wilson Shoulars in Raleigh, who is, or was, president of the Tar River Hunt Club to get more suggestions.

The next order of business was filling the vacancies for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council. James Outland moved, seconded by Jerry Coker, that Jerry Holloman serve as Chairman. Since Jerry was absent due to requirements of his job (training program in West Virginia), Guy Stefanski read an e-mail message from him stating that he would not oppose serving in that capacity. It was determined by consensus, that Jerry Holloman would serve as Chairman.

To fill the office of Vice-Chairman, James Outland moved, seconded by Andy Allen, that Jerry Coker serve in that capacity. By consensus, it was agreed that Jerry Coker would serve as Vice-Chairman, and that he will represent us on the Coordinating Council.

Andy Allen continues to serve as a representative to the Coordinating Council. Jerry Holloman will continue to represent us there as well.

Next on the agenda, the Council addressed the draft resolution agreed upon at the June meeting, and since drafted and mailed to all members for consideration. Two changes were recommended by the members. First, the subject-verb agreement in the 6th clause of the resolution needed to be corrected to change the word "is" to "are." The name of the Chairman needed to be changed to "Jerry Holloman" from "Mary Lilley."



The Council agreed to direct the staff to prepare the resolution with the given corrections, and to direct the Chairman and Secretary to sign and forward copies to the Secretary of DENR, all relevant US Representatives, both US Senators, all county and city managers represented on the Council, Ken Baker at Virginia Power, Terry Brown with the Corps of Engineers, and Sam Pearsall with the Nature Conservancy.

By consensus, the Council agreed to direct the Chairman to draft a letter to these recipients briefly describing the 216 Study, and asking the county and municipal governments to support and adopt a resolution in support of funding the Study, and to forward that to their congressional representatives. Staff will finalize copies of the resolution for signature of the Chairman and Secretary for mailing to the designated addressees.

James Outland also requested that we consider sending something from the Council to the FERC on minimum flow in relation to the relicensing by Virginia Power. Discussions of the subject included the information that the present minimum flow is 1,000cfm, and that we certainly want to see no reduction in minimum flow; and would favor an increase to 2,000cfm. Condition of drought, hurricane, and other extremes can cause the saltwater wedge to back up further into the river with resulting water quality problems. The Council agreed by consensus to ask the new Chairman to draft a resolution to the FERC supporting a non-reduction of the present minimum flow rate, and requesting that a new minimum of not less than 2,000cfm be established. Jerry Coker and James Outland will discuss this issue with Jerry Holloman, and he will deliver a draft resolution to the staff by November 2nd, so that it may be transmitted to the Council at least 15 days before the next meeting. 

Next, under Old Business, Guy Stefanski reviewed our progress on the Program of Work for developing strategies for highlighting concerns of the lower Roanoke. There will be approximately \$25,000 per Council for grant awards for projects to address identified concerns. The criteria for the awarding of grants will be on the agenda of the Coordinating Council scheduled to meet on October 16th, in Raleigh. Looking back at the Program of Work, we had suggested a precision farming project, but the driving force for that project was Jack Powell, and he has tendered his resignation from the Council. In addition, Bruce Perkinson stated that several projects are ongoing in that area at present. He cited one in Warrenton.

Joan Giordano reminded us that we do not need to limit our interests to just one proposal. Once the criteria are established, materials on the Request for Proposals (RFP) will come to each of the Councils. There is potential for several projects to be funded or for partnering to occur.

James Outland returned to the issue of the 216 Study. Guy Stefanski stated that part of Jerry Holloman's communication with him included that he plans to share some hydrographic data with us in the future. There was a suggestion that we might want to do a Web page, but staff informed us that APES has one in the making, done with the assistance of EPA.

Kay Winn suggested that we might want to consider a program to address the educational concerns of the Council. The level of funding, even separated into five parts, one for each county represented on the Council, could provide significant funding for an educational program, within

each county or possibly as a regional effort through an institution {Community College}. Discussion of the idea identified several parameters which might be addressed, and several potential mentors: on flow issues, perhaps the Corps of Engineers at Little Washington; on wildlife issues, Jerry Holloman; others for forestry, agriculture, or other identified areas of concern. It will depend upon the structure of the RFP as to how the funds can be expended. It was decided that the Council members would continue to think over the issue of the Program of Work and possible projects.

Council members still want to take a field trip, and that will be discussed by staff and the Chairman.

Under New Business, we addressed the issue of the FERC resolution within discussion of the 216 Study resolution.

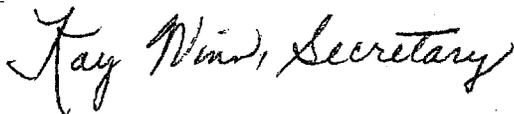
Upcoming Events: Coordinating Council meeting, October 16, 1998 in Raleigh at the Archdale Bldg., 3rd floor Wildlife Resources Commission conference room beginning at 10:00am.

Joan Giordano notified us that there will be an Albemarle-Pamlico Sound Forum on the 19th and 20th of November in New Bern. The purpose of the forum is to examine implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and the public's role in protecting the natural resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico sounds region. Council members are urged to attend, as there will be breakout sessions (day 1) featuring speakers who will address issues identified as vital to our watershed. (See enclosed "Save the Date" card.)

For the next meeting, the Council agreed to meet in Warren County on December 2, 1998. That meeting will be held at the First Citizens' Bank conference room on North Main Street, in Warrenton. The meeting will begin at 10:00am. Suggested topics for the meeting were relicensing, the pipeline, residential development in the basin, and public access to the river. Bruce Perkinson is arranging the meeting logistics and will secure a speaker for that meeting.

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Winn, Secretary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kay Winn, Secretary

