

Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council
N. C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Office
Washington, North Carolina

April 3, 1998

Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman Earl Bell. Self-introductions were made with 23 members present.

Boyce Cheek reported on the first Coordinating Council meeting which was held in Raleigh at the end of March. Minutes from the Coordinating Council meeting will be sent to all TPRBRC members.

Mary Jane Jennings then reported that Dr. Joe Zublena from N.C. State University had some recommendations for putting together some form of conference for Tar-Pamlico River stakeholders, similar to but on a smaller scale of last year's Neuse River conference. Suzanne Hoover said that there will be a Tar-Pamlico River planning conference in May or June, and Joan Giordano reported that the next APES Implementation Conference will be in October or November.

The group then proceeded to discuss and prioritize concerns and issues. Guy Stefanski had prepared a breakdown of concerns for the Council to work from, with each concern listed under the pertinent APES CCMP category (see attachment of priority environmental concerns). After combining similar concerns and adding a few more, each council member voted for their top five concerns in each APES category. The following are the priority concerns that resulted from the voting:

Water Quality

1. Sewage Systems - septic systems, municipal sewage systems, county sewage systems, inspections
2. Intensive livestock operations and treatment of animal waste and spray irrigation of waste
3. Non-agricultural fertilization
4. Agricultural fertilizer run-off
5. Improve impaired waters and prioritize and implement projects to upgrade such waters

Vital Habitats

1. Loss of riparian buffers
2. Loss of wetlands
3. Habitat fragmentation (need to plan for wildlife corridors)
4. Loss of biodiversity
5. Submerged aquatic vegetation

Fisheries

1. Loss of biodiversity
2. Loss of wetlands
3. Submerged aquatic vegetation
4. Fish kills
5. Bycatch reduction
6. Overfishing

Stewardship

1. Sustainable development (growth management, rampant development, increased basin population)
2. Environmental education
3. Allocation of resources toward land use plan development, implementation, and enforcement
4. Funding of infrastructure by developers
5. Deciding if something is perception or fact

Mary Jane Jennings then reported on her Extension Environmental Education Committee work. She distributed two handouts (attached) to the Council members regarding the proposal to request General Assembly funding for a Tar-Pamlico Basin Extension Environmental Education Team. The information in these handouts may be considered, discussed and voted on at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the TRPBRC will be May 8 in Greenville at the Three Steers Restaurant from 9:30 - 1:30 p.m. A facilitator will

be present to assist the Council in crafting the Program of Work.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR FACILITATED WORKSHOP MEETING
BEING HELD ON MAY 8TH IN GREENVILLE AT THE 3
STEERS RESTAURANT ON MEMORIAL DRIVE FROM 9:30AM -
1:30PM. PLEASE REFER TO YOUR MAILING OF APRIL 18,
1998 WHICH INCLUDED DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE. HOPE
TO SEE YOU THERE!

Funding Appropriation Proposal
Tar-Pamlico Basin Extension Environmental Education Team

The Extension Environmental Education Team will coordinate educational programs and serve as “contact points” for counties in the upper, middle and lower portions of the River Basin. Primary responsibilities are: (1) facilitate communication among citizens in the watershed; (2) assist county extension faculty in organizing local education programs and activities related to reducing NPS (non point source) pollution; (3) identify local needs for implementing NPS reduction strategies and communicate needs to the Tar-Pamlico River Basin NSW (nutrient sensitive waters) Team; and (4) provide leadership for focused watershed projects to address local needs. The educational programs will emphasize nutrient management, animal waste management, conservation tillage, storm water runoff management, precision agriculture, pest management, riparian buffers, and water table management.

The TPEEE Team will be supported by two NCSU nutrient management specialists from the Neuse team and five on campus faculty. They will work closely with the Neuse River Team and the organizations on the Tar-Pamlico River Basin NSW Team.

Proposed Non Point Source Pollution Educational Positions

Basin-wide Coordinator: This position will be responsible for coordinating and stewarding the comprehensive educational program throughout the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. The coordinator will initiate development of a comprehensive strategy with the team, and be responsible for coordinating programs, evaluations, impact assessments, and marketing of the entire basin. The position will implement and coordinate NPS environmental programs in the Tar-Pamlico Basin. These programs will complement the state Tar-Pamlico River NSW management strategy plan.

Educational Requirements: MS with at least three years in Extension or related experience, preferred.

Three Area Extension Environmental Educators: One upper basin, one middle basin, one lower basin: Agents will have the responsibility of implementing and coordinating NPS and NSW programs in their area. As members of the basin-wide team, they will use a variety of activities and program projects to educate citizens, and implement the NSW Plan in their region.

Educational Requirements: MS with at least three years in Extension or related experience preferred.

One Habitat Specialist: The specialist will design and implement projects and programs concerning biodiversity of the forests, wetlands and streams of the Tar-Pamlico River system.

Educational Requirement: MS with at least three years in Extension or related experience preferred.

Non Point Source Pollution Educational Positions

Position	Salary	Benefits*	Operations**
Basin-wide Coordinator	\$50,000	\$12,050	\$8,500
Area Ext. Env. Educator	40,000	9,640	8,500
Area Ext. Env. Educator	40,000	9,640	8,500
Area Ext. Env. Educator	40,000	9,640	8,500
Habitat Specialist	40,000	9,640	8,500

*Benefits calculated @ 24.1%

**Operations include travel @ .32 ½ cents per mile

The Tar-Pamlico Basin Council requests a Habitat Specialist for the Team whose time we will share with the Neuse Basin in exchange for assistance from their two Nutrient Specialists (*already funded through the Neuse Team*).

One Nutrient Management Specialist/Assistant Professor: The specialist will provide educational leadership in nutrient management, and be responsible for developing and providing technical and education programs throughout the basin.

Educational Requirement: PhD

One Urban NPS Management Specialist/Assistant Professor: The specialist will provide educational leadership in urban NPS management, and be responsible for developing and providing technical and education programs throughout the basin.

Educational Requirement: PhD

Proposal for Funding Appropriation from Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council

Five positions—Tar-Pamlico River Extension Environmental Education Team

The positions requested consist of: One Basin-wide Coordinator, three area Extension Environmental Education Agents, and one Habitat Specialist.

The Extension Environmental Education Coordinator, Agents, and Specialist, supported by North Carolina State University on-campus staff, and Neuse Nutrient Specialists will function as a basin wide problem solving team. Using science based, cost effective, socially acceptable solutions, the coordinator and agents will use a variety of educational programs, activities and site specific projects to implement BMPs (Best Management Practices), CCMP (Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan) and NSW (Nutrient Sensitive Waters) strategies to reduce non point source nutrient pollution in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin System. Target audiences will include municipal leaders, planners, engineers, developers, agribusiness, large and small farmers, homeowners, youth and urban residents. There will be an emphasis on interagency cooperation and a focus on both local and regional situations.

The Cooperative Extension Service has a proven record of providing leadership, information, practical applications and support. The citizens of the Tar-Pamlico Basin need and deserve more specialized help than is now available. We must go beyond the necessary time and funding limitations of the County Extension System to a focused team dedicated to addressing the serious immediate and complex long term needs of the entire Tar-Pamlico Basin and its people.

To save money, we propose sharing the three specialist positions between the basins. Since the two nutrient positions are already funded for the Neuse Team, we will need only the Basin Coordinator, the three Education Agents and the Habitat Specialist.

The water quality problems of the Tar-Pamlico River are equally as severe as those of the Neuse, and include large fish kills attributed to the toxic dinoflagellate *Pfiesteria*. Meeting nutrient reduction goals in the coming years will be increasingly difficult.

The success stories from the Neuse offer us great hope and encouragement that user friendly changes can be made, and that our river can be clean and productive again. The Extension Agents involved in the Neuse project have gotten results by working directly with people who have been unable to cope alone with mandated government rules and regulations.

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council therefore requests that these positions be approved and funded as soon as possible.



TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

What are the priority environmental concerns in your river basin?

Members of the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council have developed a list of priority environmental concerns for the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. This list was determined by members during their regular meeting on April 3, 1998.

Below are the TPRBRC's priority environmental concerns as correlated to the main goals, objectives and management actions of the CCMP:

WATER QUALITY PLAN

Goal: Restore, maintain or enhance water quality in the Albemarle-Pamlico region so that it is fit for fish, wildlife and recreation.

According to the CCMP (pg. 42), Objective B, Management Action 1, Critical Step #1:

"The Department of Environment & Natural Resources, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, the Regional Councils, universities, and other members of the public and private sector, will develop a comprehensive nonpoint source control plan specific to each river basin".

This action should be considered as the overall theme to the primary concerns listed below:

Primary Concern #1. Sewage systems (with emphasis on septic systems) -- 10 votes.

Objective B: Reduce sediments, nutrients and toxicants from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 3: Continue to research and develop alternative septic systems and new best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement to detect and correct ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Primary Concern #2. Intensive livestock operations (treatment of animal wastes/spray irrigation techniques) -- 9 votes.

Objective B: Reduce sediments, nutrients and toxicants from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 3: Continue to research and develop alternative septic systems and new best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement to detect and correct ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Primary Concern #3 (tie). Non-agricultural fertilization issues -- 8 votes.

(associated with: (1) runoff from DOT projects, (2) urban fertilization (golf courses, residential lawns) and (3) industrial/corporate landscape runoff.

Objective B: Reduce sediments, nutrients and toxicants from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 2: Expand funding to implement nonpoint source pollution controls, particularly agricultural best management practices through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, **and also to develop a broader Water Quality Cost Share Program**. Expand the cost share programs to include wetlands restoration. Increase cost share funds to problem areas.

Management Action 6: Enhance stormwater runoff control by strengthening existing regulations and developing new ones, if needed, by 1995. Improve enforcement to ensure that stormwater management systems are properly installed and regularly maintained.

Primary Concern #3 (tie). Agricultural fertilization runoff -- 8 votes.

Objective B: Reduce sediments, nutrients and toxicants from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 2: Expand funding to implement nonpoint source pollution controls, particularly agricultural best management practices through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, and also to develop a broader Water Quality Cost Share Program. Expand the cost share programs to include wetlands restoration. Increase cost share funds to problem areas.

Management Action 3: Continue to research and develop alternative septic systems **and new best management practices** to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement to detect and correct ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Primary Concern #5. Improve impaired waters. Implement projects to upgrade their quality -- 7 votes.

The CCMP's Water Quality Plan offers many strategies designed to "improve impaired waters". Specifically, Objective A, Management Action 1, Critical Step #2 (pg. 29) says that the Regional Councils shall have input into the basinwide planning process.

Objective A: Implement a comprehensive basinwide approach to water quality management.

Management Action 1: Develop and begin implementing basinwide plans to protect and restore water quality in each basin according to the schedule established by the Division of Water Quality. The plans would include provisions for basinwide wetland protection and restoration.

Management Action 2: Establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and associated control strategies for all impaired streams in the Albemarle-Pamlico region by 1999.

OTHER CONCERNS RELATED TO WATER QUALITY:

- 6- identification of pollution sources (6 votes)
 - urban stormwater runoff (6 votes)
- 8- quantity of groundwater (water shortage) (5 votes)

- 9- inter/intra- basin transfers (3 votes)
 - standard operating procedures for monitoring (3 votes)
- 11- toxic dinoflagellate (2 votes)
 - excessive and/or poorly planned drainage (2 votes)

VITAL HABITATS PLAN

Goal: Conserve and protect vital fish and wildlife habitats, and maintain the natural heritage of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Primary Concern #1. Loss of riparian buffers -- 14 votes.

Primary Concern #2. Loss of wetlands -- 13 votes.

Objective A: Promote regional planning to protect and restore the natural heritage of the APES region.

Management Action 1: Develop ecosystem protection and restoration plans (basinwide ecosystem plans) for each river basin in the region. **NOTE: Critical Step #1 (pg. 84) indicates that the Regional Councils would have input into developing these plans.**

Management Action 2. Develop and maintain accurate maps and records of wetlands, fisheries habitats, federal and state endangered species and their habitats, natural areas, and natural communities.

Management Action 3: Expand programs to identify wetlands on a regional scale and to evaluate and rank wetland function.

Objective B: Promote the responsible stewardship, protection and conservation of valuable natural areas in the APES region.

Management Action 1: Bring areas identified as having the highest priority for protection into public ownership and/or management. Expand funding for public acquisition of park lands, gamelands, coastal reserves, and other natural areas.

Management Action 2: Provide incentives and technical assistance for the protection of privately owned vital habitats.

Objective C: Maintain, restore, and enhance vital habitat functions to ensure the survival of wildlife and fisheries.

Management Action 1: Enhance the ability of state and federal agencies to enforce existing wetlands regulations by 1995.

Management Action 2: Strengthen regulatory programs to protect vital fisheries habitats, which include submerged aquatic vegetation, shellfish beds, and spawning areas by 1995.

Management Action 3: Enhance existing efforts to restore the functions and values of degraded wetlands and vital fisheries habitats. Develop and begin implementing an

expanded program to restore wetlands.

Primary Concern #3. Habitat fragmentation (need to plan for wildlife corridors) -- 12 votes.

Objective A: Promote regional planning to protect and restore the natural heritage of the APES region.

Management Action 1: Develop ecosystem protection and restoration plans (basinwide ecosystem plans) for each river basin in the region. **NOTE: Critical Step #1 (pg. 84) indicates that the Regional Councils would have input into developing these plans.**

Primary Concern #4. Biodiversity loss -- 11 votes.

Primary Concern #5. Submerged aquatic vegetation -- 5 votes.

Objective A: Promote regional planning to protect and restore the natural heritage of the APES region.

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Objective C: Maintain, restore, and enhance vital habitat functions to ensure the survival of wildlife and fisheries.

Management Action 2: Strengthen regulatory programs to protect vital fisheries habitats, which include submerged aquatic vegetation, shellfish beds, and spawning areas by 1995.

Management Action 3: Enhance existing efforts to restore the functions and values of degraded wetlands and vital fisheries habitats. Develop and begin implementing an expanded program to restore wetlands.

OTHER CONCERNS RELATED TO VITAL HABITATS:

- 6- deforestation (4 votes)
- 7- loss of wildlife (3 votes)

FISHERIES PLAN

Goal: Restore or maintain fisheries and provide for their long-term, sustainable use, both commercial and recreational.

PRIORITY ISSUES OF CONCERN: (No votes taken -- members agreed that each of these issues should be addressed equally).

- 1- biodiversity loss
- 2- loss of wetlands
- 3- submerged aquatic vegetation
- 4- fish kills

- 5- bycatch reduction
- 6- overfishing

Items 1 through 3 (above) are addressed in the Vital Habitats Plan.

Item #4 fish kills, is addressed in the Water Quality Plan, Objective E, Management Action 1: "Continue to track and evaluate indicators of environmental stress, including algal blooms, fish kills, and fish and shellfish diseases".

Items 5 and 6 are the focus of the Fisheries Plan:

Objective A: Control over-fishing by developing and implementing fishery management plans for all important estuarine species.

Management Action 1: Develop and implement management plans for fisheries that are important to recreational and commercial fishing interests.

Objective B: Promote the use of best fishing practices that reduce bycatch and impacts on fisheries habitats.

Management Action 1: Continue and expand the development of bycatch reduction gear and practices, and require their use as practicality is demonstrated. Aim to reduce inside trawl, long haul seine, pound net, and gill net bycatch by at least 50 percent by 1995.

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Goal: Promote responsible stewardship of the natural resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Sustainable development (smart growth) -- 12 votes.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Allocate resources for land use plan development, implementation and enforcement -- 12 votes.

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Management Action 1: Support local planning by providing funding and economic incentives to local governments to integrate environmental and economic planning by 1999.

Management Action 2: Provide to local governments affordable and accessible data from the state Geographic Information System for use in planning and public education within the region by 1996.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Environmental education -- 12 votes.

Objective B: Increase public understanding of environmental issues and citizen involvement in environmental policy making.

Management Action 1: Expand and coordinate education projects about the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, focusing on both environmental and economic issues.

Management Action 2: Increase opportunities for citizens to communicate with members of environmental agencies and policy-making commissions.

Management Action 3: Enhance and heighten local public involvement in issues affecting the estuary.

Management Action 4: Expand involvement in the Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Program and make the program more interactive with regulatory agencies.

Objective C: Ensure that students, particularly in grades K-5, are exposed to science and environmental education.

Management Action 1: Support the development of a comprehensive environmental science and education curriculum.

Management Action 2: Provide for teachers at all levels ongoing opportunities to gain renewal credits in workshops on environmental and estuarine education.

Primary Concern #4. Funding of infrastructure by developers -- 7 votes.

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Primary Concern #5. Deciding if something is perception or fact -- 6 votes.

Possibly consider addressing under "Environmental education" concern above.

OTHER CONCERNS RELATED TO STEWARDSHIP:

6- Pursue river basin signs along highways (3 votes)

- Impact from automobiles (expand rail system as mode of transportation) -- 3 votes

- Adequacy of existing resources (Tar-Pamlico overshadowed by Neuse) -- 3 votes.

- Agricultural designated areas (3 votes)

10- nesting priorities w/n watershed segments (problems in upper end of basin differ from those in the lower end) -- 2 votes.

11- access to public lands (1 vote)

- clearinghouse for data (1 vote)

April 7, 1998.

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Items 5 and 6 are the focus of the Fisheries Plan:

Objective A: Control over-fishing by developing and implementing fishery management plans for all important estuarine species.

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Goal: Promote responsible stewardship of the natural resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Sustainable development (smart growth) -- 12 votes.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Allocate resources for land use plan development, implementation and enforcement -- 12 votes.

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Management Action 1: Support local planning by providing funding and economic incentives to local governments to integrate environmental and economic planning by 1999.

Management Action 2: Provide to local governments affordable and accessible data from the state Geographic Information System for use in planning and public education within the region by 1996.

Primary Concern #1 (tie). Environmental education -- 12 votes.

Objective B: Increase public understanding of environmental issues and citizen involvement in environmental policy making.

Management Action 1: Expand and coordinate education projects about the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, focusing on both environmental and economic issues.

Management Action 2: Increase opportunities for citizens to communicate with members of environmental agencies and policy-making commissions.

Management Action 3: Enhance and heighten local public involvement in issues affecting the estuary.

Management Action 4: Expand involvement in the Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Program and make the program more interactive with regulatory agencies.

Objective C: Ensure that students, particularly in grades K-5, are exposed to science and environmental education.

Management Action 1: Support the development of a comprehensive environmental science and education curriculum.

Management Action 2: Provide for teachers at all levels ongoing opportunities to gain renewal credits in workshops on environmental and estuarine education.

Primary Concern #4. Funding of infrastructure by developers -- 7 votes.

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Primary Concern #5. Deciding if something is perception or fact -- 6 votes.

Possibly consider addressing under "Environmental education" concern above.

OTHER CONCERNS RELATED TO STEWARDSHIP:

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- Adequacy of existing resources (Tar-Pamlico overshadowed by Neuse) -- 3 votes.

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April 7, 1998.

