

Huisman, John

From: John Shaw [john@jashaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 10:56 AM
To: Huisman, John
Subject: Falls Lake Nutrient Management Rules

Dear Mr. Huisman,

The Capital Group of the Sierra Club, the local Sierra Club organization for Wake and some other counties, has the following statement in support of strong rules to protect Falls Lake:

We strongly encourages the Environmental Management commission to adopt rules that will protect Falls Lake Rules as completely and quickly as possible.

Falls Lake provides drinking water to most of Wake County and also attracts over two million visitors a year who swim, fish, boat, or camp on the lake. The new state park trail, Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail, runs 25 miles along the south side of the lake; the lake has been identified as a state Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. The health of citizens, wildlife, and our long term economy depend on having a healthy water source.

It is imperative that the lake rules mandate cleaning up the entire lake. The water flows from the upper portion of the lake to the lower portion. So the upper portion – the part that is in Durham County, must be cleaned up as well as the part that is in Wake County – as pollutants will continue to migrate downstream.

A principle of environmental management is that polluters must pay the cost of managing their own pollution. It is good that downstream communities are contributing resources to help, but the responsibility for the cleanup of the upper portion of the lake belongs to those that allow nutrients to flow into the lake.

As a practical matter, changes to reduce pollution flowing into the lake can only be made by those causing the problems, who, without the responsibility to shoulder the full cost associated with their pollution, have reduced incentive to install the necessary pollution prevention measures. While the cleanup of the upper lake will be expensive, delaying the application of the rules will only serve to increase, not reduce, the cost. The upper portion of the lake is used for recreation, including boating and fishing. Wildlife lives in the upper portion. Many members of the Capital Group of the Sierra Club enjoy canoeing and swimming in the upper portion of the lake. This water must be clean. We oppose any delay between effective date of the rules affecting the lower portion of the lake and the rules affecting the upper portion of the lake.

The rules should provide greater emphasis on keeping stormwater on site by restoring natural hydrology.

The Capital Group of the Sierra Club strongly supports the immediate adoption of the Falls Lake rules and cleanup of both he upper and lower parts of the lake.

Regards,
The Capital Group of the Sierra Club
John Shaw, Co-Chair