ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Archdale Building-Ground Floor Hearing Room
January 9, 2013

BRIEF

At the January 9, 2013 meeting of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Water Quality Committee (WQC), the WQC received an overview of various aspects of North Carolina's proposed 2014 303 (d) Listing Methodology.

WQC Members in Attendance:
Dr. Charles H. Peterson (Chairman)
Dr. Ernest Larkin
Mr. Steve Tedder
Mr. Benne Hutson
Mr. Jeffrey Morse
Mr. Tom Ellis
Mr. Kevin Martin
Mr. William Less Hall, Jr.
Mr. Stephen T. Smith

WQC Members Not in Attendance:
Ms. Amy Pickle
Mr. Dickson Phillips III

Others Present:
Mr. Chuck Wakild, DWQ Director
Mr. Ted Bush, DWQ Deputy Director
Mr. Frank Crawley, Attorney General Office
Ms. Marion Deerhaake, EMC
Mr. Marvin Cavanaugh, Sr. EMC

1. Request Approval of 2014 303(d) Listing Methodology - (Action Item) (Kathy Stecker)

Description
Section 303(d) of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act requires states to submit a list of waters that do not meet water quality standards to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval by April 1 of even-numbered years. The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) staff provided an overview of the regulatory context, a brief summary of the DWQ's monitoring programs, and details of the 303(d) Listing Methodology. In November 2012, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) decided to approve future 303(d) Listing Methodologies, beginning with the 2014 cycle. From September-November 2012, DWQ accepted public comment on the Listing

Methodology. Twelve organizations and individuals submitted comments. Staff summarized comments and proposed revisions to the Listing Methodology in response to the comments.

Discussion

DWQ staff answered WQC questions. The WQC charged DWQ staff with the following tasks:

- Provide the Division's written responses to the public comments.
- Provide a comprehensive, transparent document of North Carolina's water quality assessment process.
- Give more information on the process for assigning an assessment category to waterbodies including how an assessment category for a waterbody can change, including changing the assessment category for a waterbody from 4 to 1.
- Explain the criteria for the de-listing of a waterbody.
- Provide more language to clarify - data solicitation, QA/QC, the use of fish consumption advisory and water quality data in fish consumption assessments, and how stream assessment units are determined and used.
- Explain how conflicting data is addressed in the listing process.

DWQ staff will come back to the WQC in March to request approval of the water quality assessment process document.

This summary was prepared by Adriene Weaver and Kathy Stecker