

Agenda Item: 12-06 **Request to Proceed to Public Hearing with the Proposed
Reclassification of a Segment of the Roanoke River along the Bertie
County/Martin County Line to Class WS-IV Critical Area (CA) and
WS-IV (Protected Area or PA)**

Explanation:

Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority has requested that a Roanoke River segment be reclassified from Class C to Class WS-IV CA and WS-IV (PA) in order to construct a public water supply intake. This new water supply source will allow Martin County and the Town of Williamston to meet requirements of the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA) rule and meet water demands through 2030; thus, this proposal serves the public interest per Executive Order #70 and Session Law 2011-398. Division of Water Resources staff has no objections to the proposal. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) has been issued for this project, and 2011 DWQ studies show the waters meet water supply water quality standards.

If reclassified, wastewater discharge and new development restrictions will apply throughout the proposed watershed. Other requirements, which apply only in the proposed CA, are additional treatment for new industrial process wastewater discharges as well as no new landfills and new land application sites. There are no permitted wastewater discharges in the proposed watershed except for one mine; this facility is located in the proposed PA and would not be impacted by the proposal. In addition, there are not any known planned land application sites or planned landfills in the proposed CA, and no known planned wastewater discharges or developments in the entire proposed area.

Resolutions were received from Martin County, Bertie County, and the Town of Williamston, which are the local governments with jurisdiction in the proposed area. Local governments with jurisdiction in a proposed watershed have 270 days after the reclassification effective date to modify or create water supply watershed protection ordinances.

At the January 2012 Water Quality Committee (WQC) meeting, the WQC granted staff approval to proceed to the full Environmental Management Commission (EMC) with the reclassification. The fiscal analysis' quantifiable results showed a one-time cost of approximately \$5,500, \$5,000, \$3,500, and \$2,420 to Bertie County, Martin County, the Town of Williamston, and the state, respectively.

To receive necessary American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding, the proposed 2.0 mgd Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for this project must be able to operate by September 2015. Thus, the Authority requests that the proposal become effective by early 2013, and the proposed effective date for this reclassification is January 1, 2013.

Recommendation:

That the EMC approve the fiscal note and grant staff approval to proceed to public hearing for the proposed reclassification.