

APPENDIX X

Summary of Comments Received at Public Workshop

**Summary of Comments Received at a Workshop Held on
the Chowan River Basin**

July 25, 1996 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Ahoskie, NC

Group 1

Major issues:

1. Greater review of water quality data
 - relating data to management strategies
 - identify correlations
2. Target sampling below/above known sources
3. Review operation and maintenance of point sources
4. Improve communication with Virginia
 - VA is implementing tributary strategies
5. Rural wastewater treatment
 - septic systems
6. Assure appropriate authority for programs
 - support legislation to promote multijurisdictional cooperation with the plan
7. Good summary of how BMP's are being implemented.
 - nutrient management plans (e.g. % being implemented)
 - animal waste management plans
8. Improve capability to acquire water quality samples
9. Need to develop a strategy for non-D.W.Q. monitoring
10. Communicate with other agencies on other types of contributions (e.g. air & groundwater)

Local Projects, efforts:

1. Check cooperative extension, soil & water
2. Ag-forestry demo project (Tidewater)
 - highways
3. 319 wetland & other projects in Edenton
4. APES research
5. No till project in Chowan County
6. Ag cost share projects in basin
7. Operator in charge training for animal waste
8. Increased local demonstration ag. projects, e.g. no till
9. D.W.Q. become involved in testing/monitoring local projects
10. Project designed to study urban contributions/impacts
11. Cost share money to upgrade commercial applicator's equipment
12. Continuous w.q. monitoring station & flow measurements at the state line

How is the state doing?:

- Not enough technical assistance
- Appropriate legislation
- Civil penalties put back into programs
- Implementing & following through of existing regulations

Group 2

Major Issues:

1. Fertilizer plant holding ponds (closed down) in Winton
-Superfund site
2. Chowan - Albemarle document '82
3. Merchant Millpond - submerged aquatics; new hog farm in watershed
4. Animal operations - some have problems
5. Public awareness for farmers
6. New permit program for animal ops.
Need before and after data
7. Need to define what the limiting nutrient is. Should coordinate with animal permitting program.
8. Subdivisions - maintaining water quality
9. Public education
10. Pumpout station for large holding tanks in upper Chowan
11. Future development, recreation
12. Stream buffers
13. Education programs
- existing programs are working (i.e. Beach Sweep); use these as a vehicle for education

Local Projects, Efforts:

1. Clean Sweep - over 100 people
Chowan County
2. Day camps
3. Mary Walter Romley - environmental educator in Washington region
4. Wildlife Club - Roanoke-Chowan
- educational programs, scholarships
- top club in NC 5 out of 8 years
- 180 members
5. Agencies need to offer speakers

Group 3

Major Issues:

- Low Do
- Lead
- Livestock facilities
- Drainage districts
- Nutrients
- Urbanization/growth
- Cooperation - interstate (create a seamless basin area)
- Consolidation of efforts and studies - communication
- Tunis facility (former fertilizer plant)
- Better causal information (location specific)
- Over - regulation
- Bring back herring
- Better characterization of non-point sources
- Maintenance of on-site wastewater systems
- Educate all levels of population (improve materials - gear them better to the audience)

- Improve monitoring and tracking of problems for basin modeling needs
- BMP development - specific to the area
- Automobiles
- Citizens monitoring
- Government assistance for repair of on-site wastewater systems
- Cost/benefit analysis of BMP's
- Better information-sharing among agencies
- Better mapping of information
- Prioritize concerns
- Address tourism benefits

Local Projects, Efforts:

- Hertford Co. CAMA Land use plans upgrade
- Citizens monitoring
- Chowan Basin Foundation (private)
- Health dept. ordinance addresses livestock North Hampton Co.
- Colerain land-application system
- Arrowhead Beach Property Owners Association monitoring
- Roanoke -Chowan Wildlife Club (Winton, NC)
- County soil & water conservation offices
- Union camp & other industries monitoring

What do Agencies Need to do?

- Better cooperation inter-state, inter-county, inter-agency
 - share data
- Communications
- Improve internet use and access
- Utilize citizens as a resource for monitoring, stream analysis, etc...
- More monitoring/refinement of monitoring
- Use citizens as watch dogs for violations and water quality problems
- Acquire funds to expand their efforts
- Need a statewide, coordinated monitoring program
- More causal information on sources of problems
- More outreach for local governments - what can they do to address problems specific to their
 - basin/region
- Better monitoring and characterization of atmospheric sources
- Reevaluate TMDL approach relative to non-point sources

Group 4

Major Issues

1. Nutrients
2. Concentrated Animal Operations
(including dry litter)
3. Non-point source controls
4. CAMA requirements, APES work, and this program
(Too much overlap? Poor coordination.)
5. Septic tanks - Clay soils
6. Discoloration of River from seasonal paper mill (Historically)
7. Effects on resources in river/estuary

8. Problems with municipal wastewater treatment plants
9. Application rates / practices for dry litter
10. Input mechanisms/sources for basin plan

Local Projects. Efforts:

1. Paper mill upgrade
2. Nutrient Management strategy in VA & BMP cost share program
 - federal money comes in for BMP
 - animal waste plan development support
3. Ag cost share/BMP's in NC
4. Large animal operation regulations - improved operator training/nutrient management plans
5. Buffer zones on tribs - Meherrin river runs clearer
6. No till farming and irrigation schedules
7. Small independent swine operations gone in Bertie
 - Dry litter operations have persisted
8. Buffer zones with forestry

How is the State doing?

1. Poor coordination / Overlap of programs
2. Disproportionate enforcement of rules
3. Involve broader & more local expertise
4. Go out to local group meetings rather than having just this one
5. Foster more communication between agencies, stakeholders & interest groups
6. Better information needed for the agricultural community
7. More information for new programs in advance

