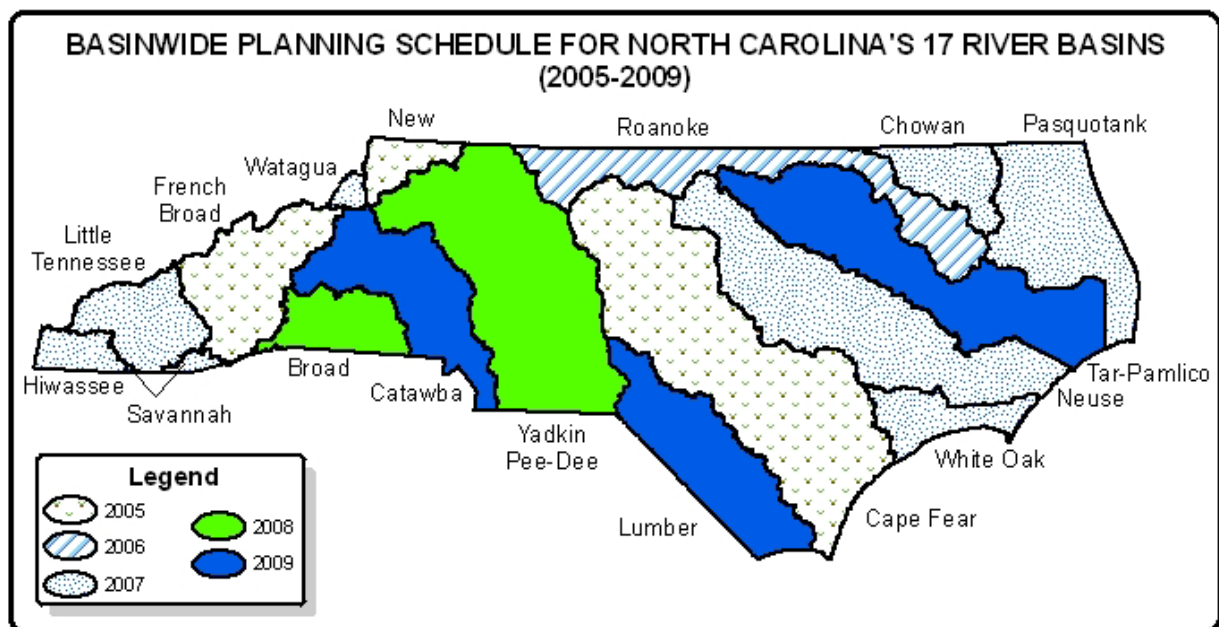


Introduction

What is Basinwide Water Quality Planning?

Basinwide water quality planning is a watershed-based approach to restoring and protecting the quality of North Carolina's surface waters. Basinwide water quality plans are prepared by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for each of the 17 major river basins in the state (Figure 1 and Table 1). Preparation of a basinwide water quality plan is a five-year process, which is broken down into three phases (Table 2). While these plans are prepared by DWQ, their implementation and the protection of water quality entail the coordinated efforts of many agencies, local governments and stakeholder groups throughout the state. The first cycle of plans was completed in 1998. Each plan is updated at five-year intervals.

Figure 1 - Basinwide Planning Schedule (2002 to 2007)



Goals of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

The goals of basinwide planning are to:

- identify water quality problems and restore full use to Impaired waters;
- identify and protect high value resource waters; and
- protect unimpaired waters while allowing for reasonable economic development.

DWQ accomplishes these goals through the following objectives:

- collaborate with other agencies to develop appropriate management strategies (This includes providing agencies information related to financial and funding opportunities.);
- assure equitable distribution of waste assimilative capacity;
- evaluate cumulative effects of pollution;
- improve public awareness and involvement; and
- regulate point and nonpoint sources of pollution where other approaches are not successful.

Benefits of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

Basinwide planning and management benefits water quality by:

- focusing resources on one river basin at a time;
- using sound ecological planning and fostering comprehensive NPDES permitting by working on a watershed scale;
- ensuring better consistency and equitability by clearly defining the program's long-term goals and approaches regarding permits and water quality improvement strategies;
- fostering public participation to increase involvement and awareness about water quality; and
- integrating and coordinating programs and agencies to improve implementation of point and nonpoint source pollution reduction strategies.

How You Can Get Involved

To assure that basinwide plans are accurately written and effectively implemented, it is important for citizens and local stakeholders to participate in all phases of the planning process. DWQ is continually coordinating with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), council of governments, NC Cooperative Extension Service, the county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and stakeholder groups to develop language and identify water quality concerns throughout the basin. Citizens and local communities can be involved throughout the planning process by contacting their county extension service or local SWCD and reporting water quality concerns.

During the public comment period, the draft plan is available online and by request for a period of at least 30 days. DWQ welcomes written comments and questions during this phase of the planning process and will incorporate comments and suggestions when appropriate. Remember, you may contact the basinwide planner responsible for your basin anytime during the plan's development.

Division of Water Quality Functions and Locations

For more information on the basinwide planning process, DWQ activities or contacts, visit <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/> or call (919) 733-5083 and ask for the basin planner responsible for your basin of interest. You can also contact the appropriate Regional Office (Figure 2) for additional information. For general questions about the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, contact the Customer Service Center at 1-877-623-6748.

Table 1 - Basinwide Planning Schedule (2000 to 2007)

Basin	DWQ Biological Data Collection	Public Mtgs. And Draft Out For Review	Final Plan Receives EMC Approval	Begin NPDES Permit Issuance
Chowan	Summer 2010	5/2007	9/2007	11/2007
Pasquotank	Summer 2010	5/2007	9/2007	12/2007
Neuse	Summer 2010	3/2007	7/2007	1/2008
Broad	Summer 2010	7/2007	1/2008	7/2008
Yadkin-Pee Dee	Summer 2006	1/2008	4/2008	9/2008
Lumber	Summer 2006	1/2008	1/2008	7/2009
Tar-Pamlico	Summer 2007	1/2009	5/2009	9/2009
Catawba	Summer 2007	1/2009	5/2009	12/2009
French Broad	Summer 2007	1/2009	5/2009	7/2010
New	Summer 2008	1/2010	5/2010	1/2011
Cape Fear	Summer 2008	3/2010	9/2010	2/2011
Roanoke	Summer 2004	7/2006	9/2006	1/2007
White Oak	Summer 2004	3/2007	5/2007	6/2007
Savannah	Summer 2004	1/2007	3/2007	8/2007
Watauga	Summer 2004	11/2006	1/2007	9/2007
Hiwassee	Summer 2004	1/2007	3/2007	8/2007
Little Tennessee	Summer 2004	1/2007	3/2007	10/2007

Note: A basinwide plan was completed for all 17 basins during the second cycle (1998 to 2003).

Table 2 - Five-Year Planning Process for Development of an Individual Basinwide Plan

Years 1 – 2 Water Quality Data Collection Identification of Goals and Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sampling needs • Conduct biological monitoring activities • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities • Coordinate with local stakeholders and other agencies to continue to implement goals identified in current basinwide plan
Years 2 – 3 Data Analysis and Collect Information from State Local Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and analyze data from sampling activities • Develop use support ratings • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities • Work with state and local agencies to establish goals and objectives • Identify and prioritize issues for the next basin cycle • Develop preliminary pollution control strategies • Coordinate with local stakeholders and other state/local agencies
Years 3 – 5 Preparation of Draft Basinwide Plan Public Review Approval of Plan Issue NPDES Permits Begin Implementation of Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft basinwide plan based on water quality data, use support ratings and recommended pollution control strategies • Circulate draft basinwide plan for review and present draft plan for public review • Revise plan (when appropriate) to reflect public comments • Submit plan to Environmental Management Commission for approval • Issue NPDES permits • Coordinate with other agencies and local interest groups to prioritize implementation actions • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities

Some Other Reference Materials

There are several reference documents and websites that provide additional information about basinwide planning and the basin's water quality. These include:

- *A Citizen's Guide to Water Quality Management in North Carolina* (August 2000) This document includes general information about water quality issues and programs to address these issues. It is intended to be an informational document on water quality. Visit the website at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/basinwide_wq_planning.htm to download this document.
- *Basinwide Assessment Report Roanoke River Basin* (NCDENR-DWQ, April 2005). This technical report presents physical, chemical, and biological data collected in the Roanoke River basin. This report can be found on the DWQ Environmental Sciences Section (ESS) website at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/esb/Basinwide/ROA2005.pdf>
- *Roanoke Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan* (September 1996; July 2001). These first basinwide plans for the Roanoke River basin present water quality data, information, and recommended management strategies for the first two five-year cycles. Visit the website at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/> to download this document.
- *North Carolina's Basinwide Approach to Water Quality Management: Program Description* (Creager and Baker, 1991). NC DWQ Water Quality Section. Raleigh, NC.

How to Read the Basinwide Plan

Chapters 1 - 10: Subbasin and Watershed Information

- Summarizes information and data by subbasin, including:
 - Recommendations from the previous basin plan.
 - Achievements, current priority issues and concerns.
 - Impaired waters and waters with notable impacts.
 - Goals and recommendations for the next five years by subbasin.

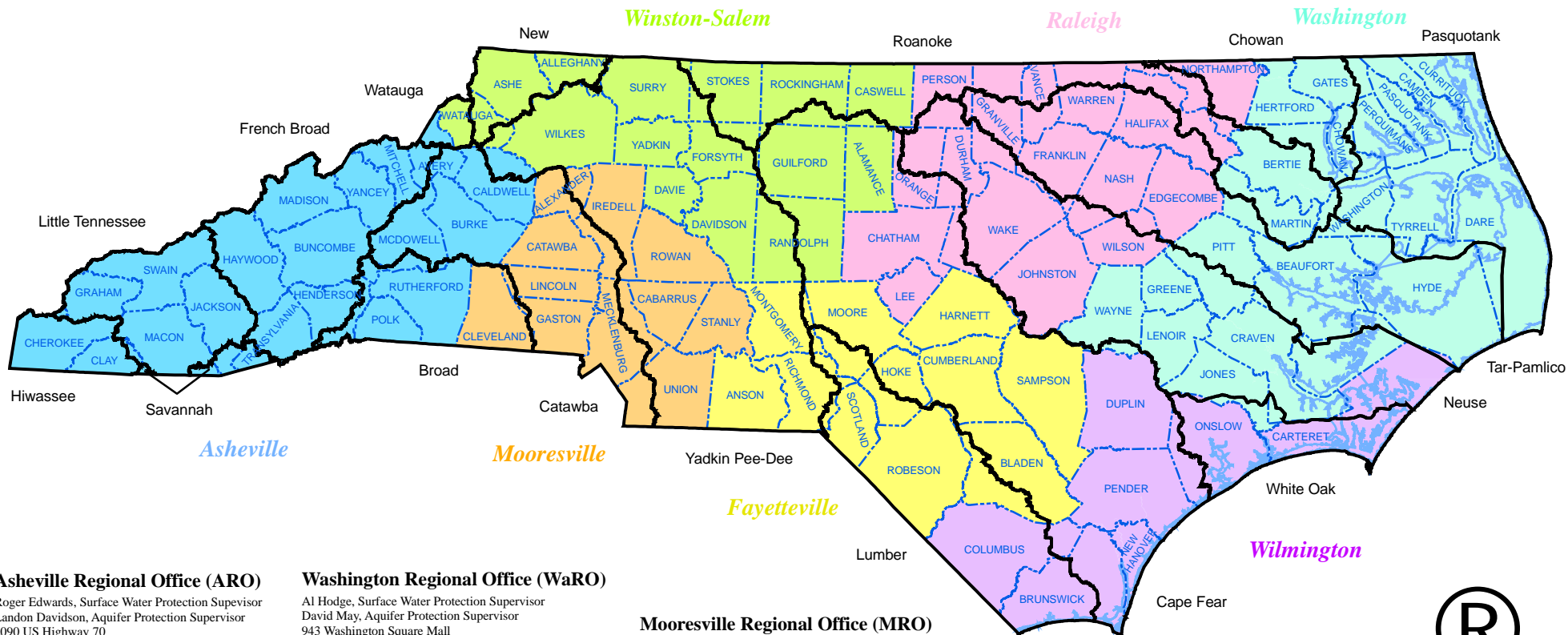
Chapter 11 – 20

- Presents information on various topics of interest to protect and restore water quality in the basin, including:
 - Stream classifications.
 - Population and land cover changes.
 - Water Quality stressors.
 - Agricultural, forestry and permitting activities in the basin.
 - Water and natural resources.
 - Local initiatives.

Appendices

- Population and land use changes over time.
- Local governments in the basin.
- Water quality data collected by DWQ, use support methodology and 303(d) listing.
- NPDES dischargers and general stormwater permits.
- Points of contact.
- Glossary of terms and acronyms.

**Figure 2 North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality Regional Offices**



Asheville Regional Office (ARO)

Roger Edwards, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Landon Davidson, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
2090 US Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778
COURIER 12-59-01
Phone: (828) 296-4500
Fax: (828) 299-7043

Avery	Haywood	Polk
Buncombe	Henderson	Rutherford
Burke	Jackson	Swain
Caldwell	Macon	Transylvania
Cherokee	Madison	Yancey
Clay	McDowell	
Graham	Mitchell	

Fayetteville Regional Office (FRO)

Belinda Hinson, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Art Barnhardt, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
225 Green Street
Systel Building Suite 714
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Anson	Moore
Bladen	Richmond
Cumberland	Robeson
Harnett	Sampson
Hoke	Scotland
Montgomery	

Washington Regional Office (WaRO)

Al Hodge, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
David May, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
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Fax: (252) 975-3716

Beaufort	Gates	Pamlico
Bertie	Greene	Pasquotank
Camden	Hertford	Perquimans
Chowan	Hyde	Pitt
Craven	Jones	Tyrrell
Currituck	Lenoir	Washington
Dare	Martin	Wayne

Raleigh Regional Office (RRO)

Chuck Wakild, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Jay Zimmerman, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
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Raleigh, NC 27609
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Chatham	Johnston	Vance
Durham	Lee	Wake
Edgecombe	Nash	Warren
Franklin	Northampton	Wilson
Granville	Orange	
Halifax	Person	

Mooresville Regional Office (MRO)

Rex Gleason, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Andrew Pitner, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
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Mooresville, NC 28115
COURIER 09-08-06
Phone: (704) 663-1699
Fax: (704) 663-6040

Alexander	Lincoln
Cabarrus	Mecklenburg
Catawba	Rowan
Cleveland	Stanly
Gaston	Union
Iredell	

Wilmington Regional Office (WiRO)

Ed Beck, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Charlie Stehman, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
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Wilmington, NC 28405-2845
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Phone: (910) 796-7215
Fax: (910) 350-2004

Brunswick	New Hanover
Carteret	Onslow
Columbus	Pender
Duplin	

Winston-Salem Regional Office (WSRO)

Steve Tedder, Surface Water Protection Supervisor
Sherri Knight, Aquifer Protection Supervisor
585 Woughtown Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
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Phone: (336) 771-5000
Fax: (336) 771-4631

Alamance	Forsyth	Watauga
Alleghany	Guilford	Wilkes
Ashe	Randolph	Yadkin
Caswell	Rockingham	
Davidson	Stokes	
Davie	Surry	



Central Office

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Planning Section
Basinwide Planning Unit
July 12, 2006

