

Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Friday August 12, 2011
Approved on October 7, 2011

Commission members present: Senator Clodfelter, Senator Sheheen, Mark Hollis, Senator Allran, Smitty Hanks, Susie Hamrick Jones, Barry Gullet, Mitch Gillespie, Mark Farris Rick Lee, Senator Hayes, Jimmy Bagley

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Representative Gillespie called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. Election of Officers

- a. Senator Clodfelter nominated Senator Allran as the new Commission chair. The nomination was confirmed.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. SC Surface Water Withdrawal Regulation Update

- a. Mr. David Baize, Assistant Bureau Chief with SCDHEC's Bureau of Water gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of South Carolina's water withdrawal bill and regulation process.
- b. Mr. Baize agreed to send a draft copy of the water withdrawal regulations to the Commission.
- c. Mr. Baize also discussed water planning needs and updated the Commission on the status of the first established regional water council in South Carolina, the Savannah River Basin Advisory Council.
- d. Mr. Baize indicated that SCDHEC planned to continue to establish similar regional advisory councils in other watersheds in South Carolina, likely starting with the Pee Dee.

5. NC Water Issues Update

- a. Mr. Tom Reeder, Director of the Division of Water Resources at NCDENR gave a PowerPoint presentation on the legislative impacts HB 200 budget bill, HB 609 and Ecological Flows Science Advisory Board.
- b. Copies of the presentation as well as of HB 609 were distributed.
- c. Mr. Reeder indicated that North Carolina should have most of the 10 major water supply basins modeled by end of 2012. Federal funds have and will continue to be used to fund models, which cost approximately \$250,000 each to develop. The State plans integrate quality and quantity in the future.
- d. The issue was raised of possible joint modeling efforts in the Yadkin-PeeDee basin between North and South Carolina. After discussion, Senator Sheheen motioned to request a brief joint proposal from North Carolina and South Carolina water resource agencies for funding of joint modeling efforts in the Yadkin-PeeDee basin. The motion was approved.

6. Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group Update

- a. Mr. Barry Gullet gave a brief overview of the Management Group's activities. The Group consists of 18 Catawba water utilities and Duke Energy.

- b. The Group is conducting Phase II of its basin- wide water supply master plan, which includes an update to the modeling conducted as a part of the FERC re-licensing settlement agreement.
- c. Mr. Gullet requested to formally present an update on the Group's activities at the next meeting.
- d. The Group is also wrapping up a research project looking at the safe yield of Catawba reservoirs. The research has identified measures that would extend the useful life of the Catawba River.
- e. Mr. Gullet also noted that September 15th the National League of Cities will host a 1 day water resources event in Charlotte. Commission members should have received an invitation.

7. Implementation of NC/SC Settlement Agreement

- a. Mr. Baize noted that State regulation development has been a positive step forward in implementing the settlement agreement. Both states will now have interbasin transfer (IBT) legislation and will use the same public notice process for IBTs.

8. Election of Vice Chair

- a. Senator Hayes nominated Rick Lee as the Commission's new Vice Chair. The nomination was confirmed.

9. Issues for Next Meeting

- a. David Merryman, Catawba Riverkeeper, brought to the Commission's attention an Army Corps of Engineers permit application by Lancaster County Water and Sewer District to fill material in wetlands and other waters of the State. The permit is necessary for the County to construct a water supply reservoir for their Catawba River Water Treatment Plant. The proposal is currently on public notice.
- b. Mr. Lee motioned for the Commission to ask for an extension of the public comment period so that the Commission could provide comments on the issue. He also suggested that Lancaster County be asked to discuss their plans with the Commission.
- c. Senator Gilespie requested that the Commission review all existing IBTs in the Catawba. Senator Clodfelter requested that the Commission be placed on the Army Corps of Engineers and DHEC notification lists for permits affecting the Catawba basin.
- d. Mr. Lee modified his motion to specifically request from the Corps a reasonable time frame for the Commission to submit comments.
- e. Senator Sheheen requested that the Commission meet again to hear presentations on the reservoir issue and determine whether or not to submit comments. The Commission agreed to meet on October 7th in South Carolina to hear presentations.
- f. NCDENR agreed to contact the Corps immediately after the meeting to inquire about an extension of the comment period to November 1st.
- g. A motion by Ms. Jones for the Commission to provide comments on or before November 1st was approved.
- h. A motion by Senator Clodfelter for SCDHEC and NCDENR to draft a formal request to Corps that Commission be party to all future permit notifications was approved.

10. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anne McGovern, SCDHEC