

Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission
Meeting Notes from the May 2, 2008 Meeting held at the Baxter Hood
Center, York Technical College

- The meeting started at 10:00 a.m., and called to order
- Minutes from the last meeting were approved
- There was a request to have the meeting minutes reflect the commission members in attendance – DHEC agreed to record this for future meetings
- There was a discussion of current issues of concern in the basin by SCDHEC and NCDENR Staff
- The first issue discussed is the phosphorous Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Catawba. A model is being developed to address nutrients impairments in Fishing Creek Reservoir, Cedar Creek Reservoir and Lake Wateree. Stakeholders, including all NPDES-permitted dischargers will be involved in TMDL development and implementation. This will include the model simulation of multiple potential nutrient reduction scenarios in the watershed that will lead to the recommendations for NPDES-permitted discharge limitations. DHEC has collaborated with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality in developing the Catawba model and will continue to do so to ensure that all dischargers to the lower Catawba River are treated fairly and equitably. A question was asked about ways to speed up the TMDL, but staff explained that this was a lengthy process and, as of this date, no assistance from the Catawba Bi-State Commission is needed.
- The second issue discussed was surface water allocation. David Baize discussed the status of SC's draft surface water permitting bill. The bill (S.428) was discussed in Committee several times but did not pass this session. The issue of allocation of water resources in the basin between the states was discussed. While the Commission and the states supported moving forward with discussions, the on-going litigation between SC and NC complicates beginning these discussions. Senator Sheheen outlined a plan to move forward on allocation, including the first step of obtaining permission from each state's respective attorney general's office to allow DHEC and DENR to discuss allocation.
- The meeting was adjourned by 1:00.