

Catawba Wateree Bi-State Commission Meeting Minutes May 29, 2009

- 1) **Rep Jimmy Bales called the meeting to order at 10 AM.**
 - Meeting was held at the Lee S. Dukes, Jr./North Mecklenburg Water Treatment Plant in Huntersville, NC
 - Welcoming remarks by the Chairman
 - Suggestions for changes to the previous meeting minutes:
 - Include members who attended as part of the minutes
 - Sign minutes at the bottom to identify who wrote them

- 2) **Old Business Items:**
 - Letter from the NC Attorney General
 - No response to the previous memo to SC's Attorney General
 - Senator Hayes will follow up with AG's office

- 3) **Reports of New Surface Water Permitting Bill:**
 - David Baize, SC Gave an update on surface water bill, S452
 - Several senate sub-committee hearings were held
 - Minimum flows resolved with proposal from DNR on seasonal flows: 40/30/20 (percent of mean annual flow) for winter/spring/summer, respectively- Jan-April would be at 40%; May, June, Dec. at 30%
 - Caveat: DHEC and DNR working on a MOA to determine how they will work together to implement this seasonal plan
 - It is anticipated that the Bill introduced will be discussed in the January 2010 legislative session

- 4) **Amy Pickle Attorney with Duke's Nichols Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions**
(amy.pickle@duke.edu, www.water.unc.edu)
 - Distributed copies of SB907
 - Power point presentation with 9 recommendations that SB907 and House Bill 1101 puts into law- in 3 major categories focusing on laws and institutions, increasing the knowledge base and increasing water supply
 - Emphasized that water is a public trust resource- there are no water owners, only water users
 - Bill creates the framework for using models to understand the water budget. Models may be used to develop interim allocations, process for new and expanded withdrawals, develop permit systems, etc.
 - Bulk of the Bill is based on model code and riparian law.
 - Will be implemented basin-by-basin
 - Existing uses are protected
 - 100,000 gpd threshold- an estimated 10,00-15,000 entities in NC need permits
 - Bill would only permit withdrawals, not consumptive/non-consumptive use
 - Fee-based system so it would be self-sustainable
 - Allows for current interbasin transfer

- This bill is debated now because the water users need certainty to protect existing investments and plan for the future, have adequate resource for economic growth as water can be a major global competitive advantage for NC
- Full report can be found at <http://water.unc.edu>

5) Representative Carney had people express an interest in appointing new advisory members- would be non-voting

- Suggestions include Rick Lee, former York County Councilman. Motion held, seconded and approved
- Senator Hayes recognized Phillip Land, who is now retired, for his dedication and services to the State of SC

6) Commission Member in attendance:

- Sen. Robert W. Hayes
- Sen. Dan Coldfelter
- Rep. Jimmy Bales
- Mark Hollis
- Gary Falkerberry
- Pam Beck

7) Meeting minutes scribe:

- Anne Rone and Mihir Mehta (SCDHEC-BOW)

8) Adjourned at 11:05 AM.