

Catawba Wateree Bi-State Commission Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2009

(Approved February 26, 2010)

1) Meeting called to order at 10:15 AM.

- Meeting was held at the Baxter Hood Center – York Technical College
- Welcoming remarks by the Chairman
- Previous meeting minutes approved
- Jimmy Bagley was confirmed by the commission to replace Nick Stegall
- Rep. Becky Carney resigned from the commission
 - Sen. Hayes. Motion to send Rep. Carney a letter for her services to the commission. Commission members approved
- Request was made to have name plates for commission members by Rick Lee

2) Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (WMG) Up date: Barry Gullet

- One page handout was given at the meeting
- Water management group is comprised of 18 members (public water utilities) in Catawba basin.
- The group partnered with USGS to increase ground water monitoring well network for 3 to 10 wells in Catawba basin
 - USGS sites and data collected will be available through USGS web site
 - WMG will fund some of the O & M costs of these wells
- Centralina COG and WMG working on a GIS project using existing data – currently gathering data in one place to start the process
- Ongoing smart irrigation study for direct water withdrawers to quantify withdrawals – determining if smart technology makes a difference in water usage
- Benchmarking survey of successful water management programs across the country – hired a consultant to this study
- Defining and enhancing the safe yield of a multi-use and multi-reservoir water supply
- Applied for a \$150,000, 18 month grant from the Water Research Foundation to study safe yield in the Catawba — how to factor in climate change, how to increase safe yield, and how water can be transferred.
- WMG has received \$30,000 in grants to develop educational materials – WMG money will be used to help distribute the materials
- WMG works on a 5 year strategic operating plan, which was approved in December
 - To date it has send more than 120 letters to request suggestions but the response has been very limited
 - New ideas: complete a basin-wide water resource master plan; develop a plan for water use efficiency plans; impacts of lakes long term due to sedimentation.
 - Sediment study may include bathymetric surveys to determine rate of fill and impact on usable storage – have data for all lakes due to recent FERC re-licensing studies

- The NC Water Resource Research Institute (WRRI) has commissioned a study to examine areas in the State that may have the potential to be sites for future reservoir construction.
- Question was asked – how about dredging existing lakes. Response from NCDENR was it is cost prohibitive on a major scale
- Question – are there other groups like WMG in South Carolina? There is a similar group in Atlanta.

3) Reports of New Surface Water Permitting Bill:

- In SC the bill is in sub-committee

4) Water Quality Update by NC: Melanie Williams

- Provided the power point presentation package
- Discussed 2010 Catawba plan schedule
- Moving towards using HUC codes
- 2008 303(d) list of impaired water still not approved by EPA Region 4

5) Water Quality Update by SC: Mihir Mehta

- Provided power point presentation
- Discussed current monitoring, assessment, and status of impaired waters in Catawba
- Discussed ongoing project to restore water quality
- Discussed status of nutrient TMDL on Fishing Creek Reservoir and Lake Wateree

6) Other Business

- David Baize mentioned that SCDHEC is working on a guide for accepting outside data for regulatory and non-regulatory purposes

7) Commission Member in attendance:

- Sen. Robert W. Hayes
- Sen. Austin Allran
- Rep. Mitchell Gillespie
- Mark Hollis
- Pam Beck
- Rick Lee
- Susie Hamrick Jones
- Tim Mead
- Jimmy Bagley

8) Adjourned at 12:25 PM

Meeting minutes by Anne Rone and Mihir Mehta (SCDHEC-BOW)