

**NC Delegation of the Roanoke River Basin Bi State Commission
(RRBBC)**

North Carolina Legislative Office Building, Raleigh, NC

Summary of Minutes from September 8, 2015 Meeting

NC delegation of the RRBBC members present:

Senator Angela Bryant (chair),

Rep. Susan Martin, and

Rep. Larry Yarborough

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) – Division of Water Resources (DWR) Staff present:

Harold Brady, Tom Fransen, Linwood Peele, and Kim Nimmer.

Other attendees:

Roanoke River Basin Association representatives present: Andrew Lester, Greg Godard, and Mike Pucci

Sen. Bryant (chair) called the meeting to order. She welcomed the group to the meeting and called for introductions around the room.

Harold Brady provided a presentation on the requested Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Certificate by the Kerr Lake Regional Water System (KLRWS). The importance of this topic was emphasized due to the anticipated decision by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on the requested certificate planned to occur on Thursday, September 10 following an anticipated decision by the Water Allocation Committee (WAC) to move it forward to the full Commission on Wednesday, September 9.

Details of the request by KLRWS generated considerable discussion regarding how a water system transfers water across basin boundaries, project purpose and need, the size of the KLRWS service area, and condition of the water system. It was also mentioned that the water system is waiting until they receive their IBT Certificate before breaking ground on the long-planned and authorized upgraded Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Mr. Brady then discussed the IBT approval process and decision making requirements for the EMC, specifically the nine factors that must be addressed in the findings of fact. These were briefly gone through and the draft Hearing Officers Report, that provides more details, was passed around the meeting room. The volume of public comments, both in favor and opposed to the transfer were discussed to provide the delegation with the public perceptions and feelings towards the requested transfer and potential impacts. It was at this point in the meeting that

Mike Pucci, RRBA President, stated that his organization has no plans to contest the requested IBT Certificate, should the EMC approve it.

Following the IBT discussion, the delegation briefly discussed the current water resource and drought conditions in the basin. The delegation then discussed the recently passed SEPA Reform Act (HB 795) limited only to Section 7 which is intended to keep the existing IBT statutory requirements in place. Mr. Brady briefly discussed the statutory purpose and responsibilities of the Roanoke River Bi-State Commission for the benefit of some of the newer delegates.

The December 2014 NC delegation meeting summary was distributed to the attendees present. Discussion of the next full Bi-State Commission meeting followed. Several agendas items were requested to be presented at this forthcoming meeting including, the status of the KLRWS IBT request, Uranium mining litigation in Virginia, and the Dan River coal ash spill, as well as a review of basin-wide drought conditions, any significant water resource legislative actions, and background information on the federal 216 process. Mr. Brady agreed to speak with his counterpart in Virginia DEQ to determine a good time for the next meeting, to be hosted by Virginia. He also agreed to extend an invite to the Army Corps of Engineers for this forthcoming meeting. It was decided that a doodle poll should be distributed with several dates to choose from after October 15; thereby, providing the delegation a buffer of time following the anticipated ending of the 2015 General Assembly session.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.