

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

**Institute for Advanced Learning, Danville, VA**

**Summary of Minutes from April 21, 2014 Meeting**

NC delegation of the RRBBC members present:

Larry Yarborough (chair),  
Senator Angela Bryant, and  
Chuck Peoples.

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

Harold Brady, Tom Fransen, Dianne Reid, Corey Basinger, and Ian McMillan.

Other attendees:

Christy Lipscomb, City of Henderson;  
Andrew Lester and Gene Adesso, Roanoke River Basin Association;  
Sam Pearsall, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF); and  
Bob Beadle, NC Electric Cooperatives

Chairman Yarborough called the meeting to order. He welcomed the group to the meeting and called for introductions around the room.

Harold Brady provided a short update on the status of the Roanoke River Basin OASIS hydrologic model. The model had been available for public review and comment during the first part of the year, through the Office of State Clearinghouse. Comments collected during that period have since been integrated into the revised hydrologic model. The revised model is anticipated to be presented to the Water Allocation Committee (WAC), a committee of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), during their scheduled May meeting. If agreeable to the WAC, the Roanoke River model will then be presented to the full EMC for approval. Once complete and approved by the EMC, other items such the Roanoke River basinwide plan and permitting approvals, such as Interbasin Transfer (IBT) certificates, can move forward.

Corey Basinger provided a synopsis of the activities associated with the Duke Energy Dan River coal ash incident. This was essentially a timeline of actions from the initial spill in early February up to the current actions. He emphasized that all pipe closures and stream remediation activities have gone through significant review by a comprehensive partnership group including representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Duke Energy, NCDENR, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

(VADEQ), and many others. This group meets weekly to discuss the ongoing activities and concerns. Dianne Reid followed Mr. Basinger with a quick assessment of the water quality conditions through the actions timeline. The information provided by both Mr. Basinger and Ms. Reid generated many questions and significant discussions ensued regarding the finer details of the spill and the resulting actions by federal, state, local, and Duke Energy representatives.

Sam Pearsall led the discussion on the current issues regarding the Kerr Lake United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 216 Study. This active study is investigating the need for changes to the Kerr Lake dam operational protocols, particularly the scheduling of water releases. Mr. Pearsall began by describing the nearly 20-year history of the project up to the current status, in which the project is projected to lose federal and state funding and support by the end of 2014. EDF, RRBA, and other environmental organizations request that the “alternative” scenario as detailed in the draft document be selected. This alternative provides increased variability to the flows in the Roanoke River downstream of the dam. The primary hindrances of the selection of the “alternative” scenario are the agricultural property owners who would observe increased land area inundated. Even though there will be greater occurrences of flooding, the duration of those individual events would decrease. After some discussion, it was agreed that this issue should be brought before the full bi-state commission for discussion of issuing a resolution to the legislatures of both North Carolina and Virginia.

The last discussion topic was the proposed Uranium mining project in Virginia. Andrew Lester updated the delegation on recent activities, which included a meeting with the current Virginia governor, Terry McAuliffe, who promised Mr. Lester that he would use his office to stop the proposed Uranium mining in Virginia. Since that time little effort has been made by the Uranium mining industry to continue lobbying the Virginia legislature for approval.

To conclude, the delegation discussed the election of a vice-chair, who would become the chair of the North Carolina delegation at the conclusion of Mr. Yarborough’s term. Since there was less than half of the delegation present, a quorum was not met; however, Mr. Yarborough nominated Sen. Bryant and Mr. Peoples second the nomination. It was agreed that an electronic vote would be conducted via email to confirm the election.

The decision of when the next meeting would occur was tabled until after the full bi-state commission meeting. A location for that meeting would be determined at that time based upon whether the General Assembly would be in session. If not, proximity to members unable to attend the April 2014 meeting should be considered to make efforts to attract a larger attendance.

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