

**Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission (RRBBC)  
Institute for Advanced Learning, Danville, VA**

**DRAFT Minutes from April 21, 2014 Meeting**

RRBBC members present:

Larry Yarborough (Chair), Delegate Tommy Wright (First Vice Chair), Senator Angela Bryant, Chuck Peoples, Nate Hall, John Feild, Haywood Hamlet, Linda Green for Congressman Hurt, Christopher Blakeman, and Senator Frank Ruff

Other attendees:

Billy Martin, Read Charlton, Al Zimmerman, Christy Lipscomb, Andrew Lester, Gene Adesso, Sam Pearsall, Bob Beadle, Brian McCrodden, Jerry Lovelace, and Kay Field

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

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

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) Staff present:

John Kennedy, Scott Kudlas, Mary Ann Massie, and Jeff Reynolds

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Chairman Yarborough called the meeting to order. He welcomed the group to the meeting and called for introductions around the room. Chairman Yarborough then called for a procedural discussion on the appointment of the RRBBC First Vice Chair, Delegate Tommy Wright, to the chair of the RRBBC. After some discussions on the subject, John Feild proposed that Chairman Yarborough retain the chairmanship for another year, due to the recent inactivity of the NC delegation and appointments. The proposal was seconded and chairman Yarborough accepted. It was announced that Senator Bryant has been nominated as Second Vice Chair from the North Carolina delegation, but that an electronic vote will need to be conducted to confirm the appointment.

Chairman Yarborough provided a report from the North Carolina delegation on the discussion items from the delegation meeting from earlier in the day. These included the status of the Roanoke River basin hydrologic model and basinwide plan from Harold Brady, current activities regarding the Dan River coal ash incident, current status of the USACE 216 study from Sam Pearsall and Chuck Peoples, and an update on the Uranium Mining proposal in Virginia.

Chairman Charlton then gave a short report on the proceedings of the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee meeting that occurred earlier in the day. The presentations

from this meeting focused on the activities and implications of the recent Duke Energy coal ash incident.

The first presentation to the RRBBC was from Ms. Dianne Reid, DWR Water Sciences Section Chief, on the recent activities stemming from the Duke Energy Dan River coal ash incident. Ms. Reid provided a timeline of events since the spill in early February and described the known implications of the spill on the environment including details on water quality monitoring. John Kennedy, VADEQ Director of Ecology and Infrastructure, provided additional background information on the subject and together (along with Corey Basinger, DWR Winston-Salem Regional Engineer) they answered the many questions from delegates as well as interested individuals present. Ms. Reid emphasized that all pipe closures and river remediation activities have gone through significant review by a comprehensive partnership group including representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Duke Energy, NCDENR, VADEQ, and many others. This group meets weekly to discuss the ongoing activities and concerns. John Kennedy distributed a map of the DEQ long-term monitoring plan.

Monitoring data is being compiled by several agencies, including NCDENR, VDEQ, EPA, USFWS and Duke Energy. Sampling has been conducted at the intakes of several downstream water treatment plants (Danville, South Boston, and Clarksville). The results have shown no observed drinking water issues. The North Carolina Department of Public Health (NCDPH) has deemed contact with the water (including drinking) in the Dan River safe for wildlife and domestic animals. Another issue discussed was the maintenance and sharing of the extensive monitoring data. This data is now being shared on a limited basis, but the analyses are fully shared during the weekly operations meeting (mentioned in the preceding paragraph) and will eventually be housed on a 'collaboration site' with access to the public via the internet. In presentations and other materials generated for public information, reminders are included about the pre-existing fish consumption advisories for the Dan River due to mercury and PCB contamination which are unrelated to the coal ash spill.

After significant discussion on the Dan River coal ash incident, Ethan Lane, consultant with Foundation Earth, gave a presentation on the proposed Uranium Mining project in Virginia. Discussion followed. Mr. Lane's power point presentation is posted to the RRBBC web page.

Following the Uranium Mining Report, Chairman Yarborough asked for any other issues that the Commission should take up before discussing general business. Gene Adesso, Roanoke River Basin Association President, asked that the Commission consider issuing a resolution to formally request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) properly evaluate the "alternative" scenario to the existing operation protocols on Kerr

Lake Dam presented in the draft USACE Section 216 Study. Furthermore, this study should be completed in its entirety by the end of 2014. This resolution would be shared with the North Carolina General Assembly and the Virginia Legislature. Sam Pearsall and Chuck Peoples provided some background information and answered questions regarding the Kerr Lake 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. The study has been ongoing for nearly 20 years and is planned to lose federal and state funding and support by the end of 2014. According to Mr. Pearsall, the “alternative” scenario provides increased variability to the flows in the Roanoke River downstream of the dam. However, 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.

It was decided that due to time constraints with the short session of the North Carolina General Assembly, that a resolution should be composed and distributed among the members of the RRBBC as soon as possible. This would allow for an electronic vote of the resolution via email prior to the next meeting of the RRBBC. Should it be approved, the resolution would be delivered to the North Carolina General Assembly while in session. The resolution would be presented to the Virginia Legislature during their next session. Mr. Adesso agreed to draft the resolution and forward it to Chairman Yarborough.

After this topic had been fully vetted, Chairman Yarborough asked if there was any additional business before discussing the timing and location needs of the next RRBBC meeting. It was decided that a meeting should take place in the July/August timeframe, to be hosted at a North Carolina location. Agenda items should include details of the impending Kerr Lake allocation process and updates on the Dan River coal ash spill as well as the Section 216 USACE Study. Representatives from NCDWR and VADEQ would work in concert to arrange for the next meeting agreeable to both delegations.

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