

# Wastewater TAG Meeting #1

December 12, 2022 / 1 - 4 pm / virtual on Zoom

## Purpose

- Form as a TAG group.
- Gain an overview of this process and
- Establish next steps to tackle the first part of the charge for the TAG

## Goals

1. Begin to establish an effective working group for the High Rock Lake nutrient rules process
2. Better understand the rule making objectives and informational context
3. Become familiar with and role of and charge to the TAG
4. Plan for meeting the charge

## Participants

Kevin Haynes  
Bill Kreutzberger  
Doug Lassiter  
Grace Mettsinger  
Andy Smith

Joey Hester - DWR  
Rich Gannon - DWR  
Maggie Chotas - Facilitation team  
Laura Swartz - Facilitation team

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## Meeting Summary

### Presentations Given

- Objectives of Rulemaking (Joey Hester, DWR)
- Charge to the Wastewater TAG (Joey)
- Baseline Data Exploration (Joey)
- Planning for Accomplishing the Charge (Laura Swartz, Facilitation team)
- Next Steps & Post Meeting Survey (Laura)
- Closing (Joey)

### Key Points

- Lake modelers propose using 2006 as the baseline year for High Rock Lake

- Need to get production at or below 35 micrograms/ litter during the warm season months
- Permit limits will be on discharge loads
- Need to reduce both Nitrogen and Phosphorous
  - Needs to be 37% less Phosphorous than it existed in High Rock Lake in 2006 - SC will set final targets for reductions
- There is the overall lake reduction needs that get applied to the annual load, and based on the watershed model, the point source slice of the pie. That pie can be done at the source or down at the lake. The point source slice of the loading reduction needs at the lake can be calculated at the lake.
- Regulations need to be “fair, reasonable and proportionate”
- Septic tank systems are identified as 1% contribution.
  - Bill added that Tetrattech was using failure rates from septic tanks not operating correctly with the other lake models.
  - May have to prioritize septic systems closer to the lake differently than other systems further away
- Annual Nutrient Loading Pies - we are working to shirk the overall size of the pies; we will not eliminate the slices
  - Uncontrollable sources will have to be distributed to the controllable source reductions. The Steering Committee will have to decide how to distribute these uncontrollable source reductions in a way that is “fair, reasonable and proportionate.”
- Review of annual P loading by facility over time between 1994 - 2021
  - Need to evaluate the big cities as they have the largest discharges
  - Need to consider implementation timeframes - when brainstorming possibilities
- Wastewater has already made reductions - and anything after 2006 counts towards overall reduction goals
  - Some wastewater facilities have been upgraded recently; some will be updated soon
  - Large rain events add challenges to managing the wastewater facilities
    - Importance of having people in place willing to address new challenges with large rain events
- Connection between stormwater runoff and deteriorated collection lines in the system
- OneWater connection to this group - more innovative and creative options for strategic partnerships (Grace is involved with this group)

## Key Questions

- How to factor in septic system contributions given that they represent 1%?
- How to consider implementation timelines when brainstorming possibilities?
- What have wastewater plants done to upgrade since 2006? Which wastewater plants are planning upgrades?

## Decisions/ Next Meeting Time

- **This Wastewater TAG will meet again virtually on Wednesday, February 8 from 10 - noon.**

## What's Next / Action Items

1. Bill will send draft survey questions to TAG members before Jan 6
2. Joey will finalize a list of NPDES permittees that are in and out of YPDRBA w/ Bill's help, then send to Grace for potential outreach
3. Kevin Haynes will write up his experience with Tyson and Doug will draft a document about what has been done in the septic community since 2006
4. Bill will look into who else should be on this TAG from Winston-Salem
5. Members will consider who else needs to be on this TAG