

CHOWAN & PASQUOTANK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCILS
JOINT MEETING

Riverside Restaurant
Winton, NC
July 23, 1998

MINUTES

The Chowan and Pasquotank River Basin Regional Councils met jointly on July 23, 1998 at the Riverside Restaurant in Winton. In the absence of Chairmen Stutts and Haste, Vice Chairman of the Chowan RC, Brewster Brown, presided.

Self-introductions were made. (See Attachment A)

The minutes of the last meetings were presented for approval (Chowan, 5/19/98 and Pasquotank 6/1/98) and were accepted as written.

The agenda item pertaining to the amendment to the by-laws was tabled until the next meeting.

Joan Giordano explained that she was tape recording the proceedings of the meeting so that an accurate record of concerns and questions, presented by the attendees, could be made.

Discussion centering around the siting of the Nucor plant on the banks of the Chowan River, near Tunis, dominated the meeting. There were several guests present, principally those associated with the Wiccacon Concerned Citizens group, who were encouraged to express their concerns. A compilation of concerns is included with these minutes. (See Attachment B)

A number of motions were made during the course of the meeting. (See Attachment C)

Lloyd Griffin suggested that results of the motions passed be carried to a meeting being held later that same evening at the Roanoke-Chowan Community College. That meeting dealt with the organizational aspects of holding an informational forum (for the public) pertaining to the environmental permitting process. Lloyd penned a brief announcement and Patricia Piland agreed to carrying it to the subsequent meeting.

Joan Giordano referenced the results of the letter of inquiry sent to all Regional Council members. She said that a tabulation of the results would be compiled shortly so that replacements to the Councils could be made.

In new business, Vice Chairman Brown announced that there could possibly be a vacancy in the Chairmanship of the CRBRC in the near future. He asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Lloyd Griffin and seconded by G.D. Perry. The meeting adjourned and a "dutch" dinner was served.

Attendance
 Chowan + Pasquotank Joint
 Regional Council
 meeting
 7/22/98

NAME

AFFILIATION

Joan Giordano

DWR Staff

ERIC WALBERG

HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DIST.

Lee Wynns

Chowan River Basin Council

Guy Stefanski

Excuse Mike

W. E. Baker

Duncan his

Alan Clarke

rep is Roy

H. P. Jones

Harrison @

~~John Clark~~

Lloyd GRIFFIN

7/23/98 meeting

Roger Spiery

A. M. Batts

Gene BATTON

WICCAHON

CITIZENS

Joyce Bell

Wiccacon Concerned Citizens

BILLY GRIFFIN

BERTIE CO. EXTENSION SERVICE

Patricia P. Filand

Gates County Biology Student

Ellen Sutherland

Duke Marine Lab / Univ. of Georgia student

Betsy Beem

Duke Marine Lab / University of Washington

Christine Colverley

Duke Marine Lab

Melissa Eason Rowley

Duke Marine Lab / Univ of Chicago

Carolyn Fortson

Wiccacon

Hollis F. Cressy

Gates Co. Comm.

Yates M. Barber

Pasq. R. B Regional Council

Helen Cotton

Wiccacon Concerned Citizens

Annie Baymore

Wiccacon Concerned Citizens

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Trove Callis
Harry L. Winslow
IRFRED M. HOWARD
J. W. Stephenson

Wicacoa Co. Citizen
Pasquotank R. Co.
CHOCOMAN REGIONAL COMM.
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation

Attendance
 Chowan + Pasquotank Joint
 Regional Council
 Meeting
 7/22/98

NAME

AFFILIATION

Joan Giordano	DWQ Staff
ERIC WALBERG	HAMATON ROADS PLANNING DIST.
Lee Wynns	Chowan River Basin Council
Guy Stefanuk	DWQ Staff
W. E. Baymore	Wiccacon Community
Alan Clark	NC Division of Water Quality
J. D. King	Chowan River Basin Council
Pat Clark	PASQUOTANK REGIONAL COUNCIL - DARE
Lloyd GRIFFIN III	PASQUOTANK Reg Council - ELIZ. CITY, N
Roger Spiery	Chowan River Council
M. B. Bates	Wicconco Citizens
Gene Barton	Wicconco Concerned Citizens
Joyce Bell	Wicconco Concerned Citizens
Billy GRIFFIN	BERTIE CO. EXTENSION SERVICE
Patricia P. Filand	Gates County Biology Student
Ellen Sutherland	Duke Marine Lab / Univ. of Georgia student
Betsy Beem	Duke Marine Lab / University of Washington
Christine Calderley	Duke Marine Lab
Melissa Easton	Duke Marine Lab / Univ of Chicago
Patricia Easton	Duke Marine Lab
Hollis F. Cusack	Gates Co. Council
Yates M. Barber	Pasq. R. B. Regional Council
Helen Cotton	Wicconco Concerned Citizens
Annie Baymore	Wicconco Concerned Citizens

Concerns Expressed by the
CHOWAN & PASQUOTANK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCILS
(pertaining to the siting of the Nucor Steel Plant)
at their joint meeting held on **July 23, 1998** at the
Riverside Restaurant, Winton, NC

4:00-7:30pm

There were many concerns regarding the proposed siting of the Nucor plant on the banks of the Chowan River expressed by the Regional council members present, as well as the many guests in attendance at the meeting. There were also motions made, duly voted upon, which carried. They are attached.

CONCERNS

Source and amount of water needed:

- 1.) The figure of 2000 gals//min. Has been mentioned. Is this correct? Is a capacity use area study needed when additional use by (future) related industries and existing industries is factored in?
- 2.) Which aquifer is impacted and what is the nature of the water chemistry from that aquifer?
- 3.) Is the chemistry of this aquifer water compatible to the river or will treatment be needed?
- 4.) What is the anticipated size of the cone of depression?

Air Quality:

- 1.) Of particular interest is the emission of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide from the stacks.
- 2.) Do we really know what the emissions will be and how much they will be putting out?
- 3.) What will the air emissions do to the air in Va. where Nucor was denied siting?
- 4.) Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) needs pre-construction monitoring to establish a baseline since no monitoring stations are within the county or nearby
- 5.) Airborne particulates need to be included in water quality analyses since the Chowan has been designated nutrient sensitive and atmospheric deposition of nitrogen has been shown to be a



source of eutrophication.

6.) The vicinity of the mill to Gatesville is under 5 miles; to Merchant's Millpond, 7.5 miles; to the Great Dismal Swamp, 15 miles; and it is within 75 miles of seven National Wildlife Refuges.

7.) The area is heavily cultivated in farmland which could be impacted by air emissions.

Water discharges:

1.) Temperature, chemical make-up, nutrient levels, and suspended solids (turbidity) are all of concern.

2.) Will heavy particulates to flume water?

Public resource waters:

1.) What is the width of the river at the site?

2.) What fisheries will be impacted by establishing the mill?

3.) Recreational use of the river is heavy in this area, how will this be impacted?

Wetlands:

1.) What is the type and extent of wetlands, including pocosins, on the site?

2.) Will wetlands be destroyed and degraded by roads, tracks, gas and power lines and sewage?

3.) What about Brooks' Branch? It meanders all through the area.

Socio-economic Considerations:

1.) What really are the socio-economic pluses and minuses of the project?

2.) Who will bear the cost of infrastructure including long term maintenance of roads, etc.?

EIS:

1.) It appears that an environmental impact study needs to be conducted due to the expenditure



of public funds (e.g. level of government involvement or roads, infrastructure, tax incentives) the need for state action on issuance of permits and the potential for significant environmental impacts.

General:

- 1.) What will be the effects on habitat and local communities?
- 2.) Does anyone know what permits they are going to apply for?
- 3.) Has Nucor actually outlined the permits they will be requiring?
- 4.) Does anyone know what these permits are?
- 5.) Has a specific site been selected?
- 6.) Do we know what, and how much, Nucor will be discharging to the air, water and land?
- 7.) Are they going to smelt crushed cars with upholstery, plastics, etc. still in them?
- 8.) Who is going to monitor them?

Given the range of concerns, it appears that inadequate information, rumor, speculation and misinformation, abound. This was the general consensus of the groups which were meeting. This consensus was what prompted the following motions: (See Attachment C).

Also in attendance were several members of the Wiccacon Concerned Citizens group. They generally spoke to their frustration and seemingly futile attempts at obtaining information other than what is circulated in newspapers. They stated that they have been unsuccessful, despite several attempts, at securing a place on the agenda of County Commission meetings. They are equating the siting of the Nucor plant, to the siting of the old CF Industries plant at Tunis. Environmental degradation caused by the CF Industries plant culminated in Superfund labeling for that site.

For an attendance listing, see (Attachment A).

Attachment C

MOTIONS MADE AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CHOWAN AND PASQUOTANK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCILS - JULY 23, 1998

Captain Al Howard made the motion that the Chowan River Basin Regional Council co-sponsor, with the Coastal Federation and others, an informational public forum to be held on Sept. 3, 1998. The purpose of the forum is to make citizens aware of the environmental permitting process, especially noting the point during the process at which the public is entitled to make comment. Motion was seconded by Patricia Piland. Motion carried.

Lloyd Griffin mad the motion that the Pasquotank River Basin Regional Council co-sponsor with the Coastal Federation and others, an informational public forum to be held on Sept. 3, 1998. The purpose of the forum is to make citizens aware of the environmental permitting process, especially noting the point during the process at which the public is entitled to make comment. Motion was seconded by Carl Parrott. Motion carried.

Yates Barber made the motion that the Pasquotank River Basin Regional Council file a letter to Governor Hunt or Secretary Wayne McDevitt of DENR, advocating a full-scale environmental impact study (EIS) to evaluate the Nucor proposal before the permits are approved. Lloyd Griffin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Captain Al Howard made the motion that the Chowan River Basin Regional Council file a letter to Governor Hunt or Secretary Wayne McDevitt of DENR, advocating a full-scale environmental impact study (EIS) to evaluate the Nucor proposal before the permits are approved. G.D. Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

