

Chowan River Basin Regional Council  
Martin Community College – Windsor Center  
August 5, 1999

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Brewster Brown at 4:00 P.M. A quorum was present (attendance list attached).

A motion was made by Billy Griffin to accept the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as mailed. Second was made by Vice-Chairman Brewster Brown. Minutes were approved.

Vice-Chairman Brown turned the meeting over to Guy for presentation of the two demonstration projects voted on at our last meeting. Guy thanked Billy Griffin for all his time and assistance in drafting the projects.

**PRECISION AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Billy Griffin explained that Colerain Supply was named specifically as the agri-business for this project because they are the only agri-business in the area with GPS capability. Vice-Chairman Brown asked how the Education and Outreach component of the project will be carried out. Billy stated that Extension is continually hosting field days and this could be one way to do outreach. Vice-Chairman Brown suggested that more money be put in this project for promotion, such as: flyers, mailings, and field days. Bertie County should not have to pick up this expense. The council agreed to add an additional \$750 which would bring total project cost up to \$5,000. The actual "on-the-ground" aspects of this project would basically take place in Bertie and Hertford Counties. The basinwide impact would come from the education and outreach component of the project. We need to be sure we show the water quality impacts, not just savings to farmers on fertilizer costs and increased yields.

Joan explained that all proposals would be mailed to the Technical Committee of the Coordinating Council next week for their review and responses back to us. In October presentations can be made to the Technical Committee. Then we may need to tweak proposals as necessary. Concern was expressed over the timeline of getting this project approved due to the nature of farming (timing). The latest this project should begin would be October to be able to get soil samples back, apply fertilizers, etc.

A motion was made by Brewster that we approve this demonstration project with changes as discussed and forward on to the Technical Review Committee. Second was made by Lee Wynns. Motion passed.



## **CRB SUBSOILER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT:**

Discussion was held on the role the Albemarle and Mid-East RC&D's would play in this project. Actual monitoring of the project would take place at the Town of Aulander site. Funding for this monitoring is coming from an on-going EPA 319 grant that is already in place. No money or time would be required by RC&D on the monitoring portion of project. RC&D could be the contact for keeping up with the equipment – signing in and out, etc. Vice-Chairman Brown will take this project draft to the Mid-East RC&D meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> and will ask them to endorse it as a project. Billy will also be contacting local Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD's) to work with them in contacting animal operators. Billy stated that if RC&D doesn't want to be the lead agency for this project, then the Cooperative Extension Service would be the lead agency.

A question was asked on how the equipment will be maintained and how it will be kept up with. Maybe a form will need to be developed that would address damages to equipment, storage, etc. This can be done at a later date.

After Vice-Chairman Brown checks with the Mid-East RC&D Council, he will communicate the outcome to Joan & Guy. They will then fine tune the proposal, if necessary, and mail to all council members for their information.

The next meeting date for the Council will be in October. Joan and Guy will come up with the date and inform the Council. Election of officers will take place at this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nan Laughton*  
Recording Secretary

Attachments



attendance  
CRBC  
8/5/98

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Joan Giordano	APNEP
Brewster W. Brown	
Roger C. Spivey	Chowan, silviculture
Nan Laughton	Chowan SWCD
Lee Wynns	City Government
Bill Ruffin	Ratio C.F.D.
L.P. Perry	Bertie Farming
Guy Stefanski	APNEP

- **Likelihood of Success:** This project will successfully demonstrate the use of a subsoiler to reduce soil compaction and the benefits associated with reduced compaction. This method has been tried and proven successful by the Town of Ahoskie, NC Wastewater Treatment Plant. They won a state and national award for the use of a subsoiler on their spray fields.
- **Public Support:** Support for this project is clearly illustrated by the involvement of several local, state and federal resource management agencies, as well as by the participation of over 15 municipalities and landowners in the Chowan River Basin.
- **Time & Resources Required:** Resources required will be the subsoiler, tractor to pull the subsoiler, method to haul equipment to different sites, monitoring equipment to check compaction before and after subsoiling. Time required to run the equipment will be one hour per acre using a 150 horsepower tractor. Scheduling equipment and monitoring the fields will be minimal.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** The use of a subsoiler to fracture compacted soil is highly cost-effective because it involves the purchase of equipment that can be shared by multiple users, and requires little, if any, additional labor costs. A subsoiler can also reduce chemical and nutrient application costs.
- **Deliverables:** The project will be ongoing for many years with minor equipment repairs expected. The subsoiler will reside at the last users location until needed by another user. It will be available to all municipalities in the Chowan River Basin.

#### **IV. DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SCOPE of WORK**

**WHAT:** This project will demonstrate to municipalities in the Chowan River Basin of North Carolina the advantage of subsoiling resulting in better water infiltration, less compaction, and less runoff. The project will allow the purchase of the subsoiler to be used mainly by municipalities and irrigated swine waste fields. This equipment is not affordable by small municipalities on limited budgets.

**WHO:** The project will involve agents from the NC Cooperative Extension Service and the Albemarle and Mid-East RC&Ds.

**HOW:** Purchase of the equipment will allow municipalities and farmers to use the subsoiler with the only cost associated with renting a large tractor to pull it and the cost of transporting the equipment to their site. Each municipality will be encouraged to establish paired fields, one subsoiled and one without. Monitoring will take place at the Town of Aulander site in cooperation with Dr. Carl Crozier, Extension Soil Science Specialist, Vernon James Research and Extension Center, Plymouth, NC. Results will be shared with all municipalities in the Chowan River Basin of North Carolina.

**WHERE:** Throughout the Chowan River Basin.

**WHEN:** Upon purchase of the subsoiler, scheduling with municipalities and swine lagoon operators could begin immediately.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** \$8,000 to purchase the subsoiler.

#### **V. ACTIVITIES to MONITOR SUCCESS**

The Aulander Waste Treatment site will be the location for specific monitoring. A survey will be developed to monitor results from other municipalities and users.

#### **VI. PROGRESS REPORTS**

Comparison results will be made available to the Chowan River Basin Regional Council on a quarterly basis. Results will be made available to the general public upon request.

#### **VII. REVIEW, EVALUATION and REDIRECTION**

This demonstration project will be reviewed, evaluated and redirected (if necessary) by the Technical Committee of the Coordinating Council for the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program and the Albemarle and Mid-East RC&Ds.

#### **VIII. BASINWIDE or REGIONAL APPLICATION**

The methodology and results of this demonstration project can be transferable to other river basins with wide application. In part, the NC Cooperative Extension Service views this project as a "teaching/training demonstration project" to be applied locally and statewide.

#### **IX. EDUCATION and OUTREACH:**

This demonstration project will help approximately 15 municipalities improve conditions for wastewater irrigation, as well as swine farmers who are land-applying waste via spray irrigation in the Chowan River Basin. A field day is planned for municipal waste operators to explain benefits of the project and proper techniques of using the subsoiler.

#### **X. ENDORSEMENT by REGIONAL COUNCIL**

This demonstration project was officially endorsed by members of the Chowan River Basin Regional Council on June 15, 1999 at a meeting in Edenton, NC.

