

ROANOKE RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

**December 8, 2000
Claudine's Restaurant
Rich Square, North Carolina**

The December 8, 2000 meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the chairman, Jerry Holloman. Present for the meeting were Council Members as follows:

**Jerry Holloman
Kay Winn
Alex McLennon
Michael Taylor
James Outland
Joe Kloeker for Jerry Coker**

This constituted a quorum for the meeting.

**Staff present: Joan Giordano
Guest present: Jean Richter, RRNWR**

The only item of business was consideration and refinement of the resolution introduced by the chairman at the November 17, 2000 meeting. After careful consideration and discussion, Council agreed to adopt the resolution with amendments. This came by consensus, following a motion by Alex McLennon and second by Jimmy Outland. Following adoption of the resolution the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is January 19, 20001, at 9:30 a.m. at Claudine's.

Respectfully submitted

Kay Winn

jwm

RESOLUTION
Roanoke River Basin Regional Council

Whereas, the Roanoke River is a natural wonder; it supports over 119 species of fish, among the most biodiverse east of the Rockies; the lower river section includes the largest intact bottomland hardwood swamp forest on the Atlantic slope, comprising almost 160,000 acres and supports the Atlantic Coast's third largest anadromous striped bass population; over 214 species of migratory birds, including 90 species of breeding birds; and some of the best opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, environmental education, hunting and fishing in NC, and

Whereas, the lower section of the Roanoke River basin can provide more food and fiber than currently produced, subsistence, and otherwise sustain many individuals through economic activities related to aesthetic, recreational and environmental tourism; and has many social and historical sites, some recorded, and many not recorded, and

Whereas, landowners and local county agricultural and forestry economies of the lower section of the Roanoke River continue to sustain or suffer a disproportionate and uncompensated loss related to river flow management, and

Whereas, the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the lower section of the Roanoke River has been, and is being affected, by point and non point sources of pollution; dams; flow alterations; and land use practices, such that sturgeon may be locally extirpated; once abundant fish, such as American shad are now severely depleted; and freshwater mussel species diversity and population numbers have suffered alarming declines, and

Whereas, intergenerational equity and environmental justice are ill-served by the present flow regime, including low flow augmentation and high flow dampening; and the encouragement of industrial facilities within the floodplain which continue trends that irreversibly damage the vitality, health, and integrity of the river and its floodplain; and trades the natural beauty, national significance, and capacity for sustainable regional subsistence provided by the basin for short-term and localized economic gains, and

Whereas, the Implementation Plan of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), of 1994, recommended the creation by Governor's Executive Order, of the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council (RRBRC) to provide a local forum for input into the implementation process by public and private interests; consult with local, state, and federal governments; as well as the general public and interest groups within the basin on the implementation of environmental management programs in the Roanoke River basin consistent with the CCMP, and

Whereas, inter-related administrative processes, including the Roanoke Rapids and Gaston hydropower licensing; the Corps of Engineers section 216 Study; the North Carolina Division of Water Quality's Basinwide Water Quality Plan; the development of a multi-species Fisheries Management Plan; Wetlands Restoration Plan; water needs of the Weyerhaeuser mill at Plymouth; and the renewal of many water quality certificates in the basin; provide an opportunity to alter the trends damaging to the river's ecological integrity and the region's capacity for subsistence,

Whereas, many statutes give the State of North Carolina opportunity to take corrective action and seek avoidance, minimization, and full compensation, including in-kind mitigation; and adaptive management, for past, present, and future environmental and economic damages, including loss of use; for damage related to the facilities and operations reviewed under pertinent administrative processes, and

Whereas, anecdotes do not constitute reliable data for decision-making, and best professional judgement is less than a perfect tool for allocating public trust resources for private gain; and successful natural resource management depends on an understanding of cause and effect relationships; and scientifically sound management must include institutional mechanisms to account for significant uncertainty and adaptability, as new or improved information becomes available,

Therefore, be it resolved that the RRBRC recommends the State of North Carolina regulate and administer the Roanoke River to ensure that (1.) long term, sustainable ecological integrity, subsistence production of food and fiber, and economic viability, including non-market values, are not compromised; (2.) management decisions are supported by scientifically sound information; (3.) environmental restoration and protection is not impeded or hindered by authorized activities, including water diversions, flow regulation and discharges of pollutants, and; (4.) no irreversible commitments of the public trust are made that would preclude future generations from implementing the same management options, and obtaining the same results, available to the present generation.

The signature below certifies that the above resolution was approved by the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council this the _____ day of _____ 2001.

Jerry L. Holloman, Chair
Roanoke River Basin Regional Council

RESOLUTION
Roanoke River Basin Regional Council

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The signature below certifies that the above resolution was approved by the Roanoke River Basin Regional Council this the _____ day of _____ 2001.

Jerry L. Holloman, Chair
Roanoke River Basin Regional Council

Roanoke River Basin Regional Council
North Carolina Division of Water Quality
943 Washington Square Mall
Washington, NC 27889

December 26, 2000

Lynn C. Phillips, Assistant Secretary
North Carolina Department of Correction
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4201

Dear Assistant Secretary Phillips:

The Roanoke River Basin Regional Council (Council) congratulates your Department of Correction (DOC) staff for their prompt responses to Roanoke River riparian habitat and water quality concerns expressed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Holman. When I visited the Caledonia Correctional Institution Farm on September 12, 2000 with Manager Phillip Sykes, DOC Environmental Officer Randy Lee and Wayne Short and his staff from the Fishing Creek Soil and Water Conservation District (FCSWCD) I was impressed with the positive attitude in evidence, the near completion of the tire dump clean-up, the absence of cattle on the river's up gradient slopes and nearby corridor, plans discussed to permanently exclude farm animals from several dozen acres of river corridor and the reforestation of its hardwood forest. I am looking forward to a spring visit with Manager Sykes and Mr. Lee to view the results; I realize the reforestation will not be completed for some time but animal exclusion should have resulted in considerable natural revegetation of much of the sloped areas.

Success of your Roanoke River riparian zone improvements will parallel a similar effort, a cooperative public/private venture, undertaken by the Council on a farm a few miles down river from the Caledonia Farm. Hopefully, your efforts and those of the Council, will have progressed sufficiently to be noted in the February update of the Roanoke River Basinwide Water Quality Plan. By copy of this letter to Ms. Callie Dobson, Water Quality Plan Coordinator, I am suggesting she appropriately reference our efforts; especially if she feels that success is evident to justify bragging and an example being made of what our respective departments and North Carolina farmers, can cooperatively accomplish to improve and protect the Roanoke River's water quality. The FCSWCD staff has already been asked to join the Council in an effort to timely publicize our efforts. Please join the Council, DENR, FCSWCD and others in coordinated efforts to communicate to North Carolina citizens the success of our efforts.

Thank you for your efforts to be good stewards of your Roanoke River's natural resources. We look forward to green banks, clean waters and good fishing.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Holloman,
Chair

cc: Bill Holman
Phillip Sikes
Randy Lee
Wayne Short
Monica Miller
Joan Giordano

RESOLUTION

Roanoke River Basin Regional Council
Special Scheduled Meeting, December 8, 2000

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Resolution, Roanoke River Basin Regional Council, December 8, 2000, Page 2

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Jerry L. Holloman, Chair
Roanoke River Basin Regional Council