TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Development Institute (Willis Building)
Auditorium
Greenville, NC

January 23, 1998
1:00-4:00 pm

AGENDA

1:00	Call to Order	Clarence Skinner, Acting Chair
1:05	Self-introductions	All
1:15	Old Business	Clarence Skinner, Acting Chair

*Adoption of By-laws
*Expansion/Discussion Priority Concerns
*Nomination of Officers

3:15	New Business	All
3:45	Public Comment	
4:00	Adjourn	

Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council
Willis Building
Greenville, N. C.

January 23, 1998

Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by acting Chair Clarence Skinner. Self-introductions were made, with 17 members present.

The revised bylaws were reviewed by Joan Giordano, with general typographical errors noted. A motion was made to accept the bylaws as amended, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Next, nominations were taken for the office of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Earl Bell was voted in as Chair, Paul Blount as Vice-Chair, and Jeff Furness as Secretary. Earl Bell then took charge of the meeting as the new Chair, thanking Clarence Skinner for his role as interim Chair.

Discussion then was turned to the list of priority concerns that was initially developed at the September 25, 1997 "kick-off" meeting in Plymouth. The word residential was added to the concern over urban fertilization, and new concerns were added as follows:

Recreation causing problems with the Tar River (jet skis)
Development of farmland to residential
Lack of septic system inspection
Funding for infrastructure
Open space regulation
Automobile pollution to creeks and rivers

Joan reminded everyone of the importance of these concerns in that they will guide our work program over the next 1 to 2 years.

Vince Bellis said that for priority development we may need to group related concerns and decide to have different priorities for different segments of the river. This grouping of concerns needs to be done before the next meeting, and Paul Blount volunteered to perform this task.

We will have a faciliator at our meeting in late April or early May to help in finalizing the priority concerns. Joan said that before the facilitator comes, we need to focus on key areas from the concern list and the management strategies from the APES CCMP. She recommended that everyone reread the CCMP (or at least the CCMP summary book) and think about narrowing down the concern list (5 or

6 water quality concerns, 4 or 5 fisheries, 3 or 4 habitat, 3 or 4 stewardship). At the next meeting, we will try and prioritize the concerns and issues within each one of the four CCMP categories.

Clarence Skinner suggested that we look at developing an entry/exit water quality measurement for each county that the Tar-Pamlico River runs through. Suzanne Hoover said that there are 16 mainstem water quality monitoring stations and 13 tributary stations that are sampled and analyzed monthly. This data would be available from the DWQ computers.

Vince Bellis suggested a river health index broken down by river segment or county. The index could include things like nutrient levels, dissolved oxygen, biodiversity, etc., and published yearly and disseminated to the public and the media. Mary Jane Jennings said that she would like to see something like that written in simple, easy to understand terms, and released on something more like a monthly basis. Guy Stefanski said that we could start by reviewing the existing GIS data layers, and learning more about the sampling and the water quality data that is available each month. He suggested and the group approved of a mini-educational seminar at our next meeting on what is happening to the river, advice on a health index, and information on current water quality monitoring. Walter Cole passed out an article called Pfiesteria Fight as an example of what citizens in other states are doing. The CGIA home page is at http://cgia.cgia.state.nc.us.

Vince Bellis offered 2 informal ways to get to know each other: first would be an educational field trip or guest speaking on the area we are meeting in, and second is eating lunch together before the meeting.

It was brought up that we need 3 people from the Regional Council to put on the Coordinating Council, which oversees the implementation of the APES recommendations. Two of the people must be from local government, and one interest group person. We will elect or appoint these people at our next meeting.

The next meeting was set for February 20 at City Hall in Rocky Mount at 1:00. We will meet for lunch and a possible short field tour at Bob Melton's restaurant at 11:15, for anyone interested. Paul Blount will coordinate the facilities.

Under new business, the by-laws were amended by striking Article III Section 1.C.

It was also requested that everyone who has not done so please submit a short biographical sketch.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Tar-Pamlico
Attendance Listing
Jan. 23, 1998
RDI

NAME	AFFILIATION
~~Dave Giordano~~	DWQ ~~Staff~~
Guy Stefanski	DWQ Staff
Mary Jane Jennings	Franklin Co - at large Fish & Wildlife
Earl Bell	Wilson Co. - Agri
~~Jeff Furness~~	Beaufort Co., Bus. & Indust. (PCS Phosphate)
~~Joe Hudson~~	Louisburg Town Council
DAN WYNNE	STOKES, FARMER
B. Wardell Joyner	Nash Co Rocky Mt. FARMER
Adrienne Hiner	Pamlico Co. Planner
~~Walter Cole~~	Pamlico Co. Env. Health Specialist & Supervisor
JESSE A. SULLINS, JR	CITY OF OXFORD. PUBLIC WORKS
Paul Blount	City of Rocky Mt - Nash Co. Director - Water Resources
Scott Coble	Hyde Co. Comm. RETIRED
Clark Parrott	Dare Co. Board Member
Ephraim O'Neal	
Suzanne Hoover	DWQ
HARRY S. ODOM	NASH County
Vince Bellis	
CLARENCE SKINNER	DARE Co. REAL ESTATE
JOHN S MULLEN	HYDE Co.

Priority Environmental Concerns by the Tar-Pamlico Regional Council

Water Quality Goal: Restore, maintain or enhance water quality in the basin so that is fit for fish, wildlife and recreation.

Implement a comprehensive basinwide approach to water quality management

- *Inter & Intra-basin transfers*
- *Increased basin population*
- *Adequacy of existing resources*
- *Allocation of resources*
- *Deciding if something is fact or perception*

Reduce sediments, nutrients, and toxicants from nonpoint sources

- *Non-point source pollution*
- *Identification of pollution sources*
- *Nutrient sensitive waters*
- *Urban stormwater runoff*
- *Intensive livestock operations*
- *Failing septic systems*
- *Runoff of sediment and/or fertilizer from DOT projects, lawns, golf courses, and other artificial landscaping*
- *Spray irrigation*
- *Lack of alternatives for treating animal wastes*

Reduce pollution from point sources such as POTWs and industries.

- *Point source pollution*
- *Identification of pollution sources*
- *Nutrient sensitive waters*
- *Countywide sewer needs*
- *Lack of alternatives for treating human wastes*

Reduce the risk of toxic contamination to aquatic life and human health

- *Submerged aquatic vegetation*
- *Countywide sewer needs*
- *Runoff of sediment and/or fertilizer from DOT projects, lawns, golf courses, and other artificial landscaping*
- *Biodiversity loss*
- *Fish kills*
- *Accumulation of poisons/metals in sediment and land application sites*

Evaluate indicators of environmental stress and develop new techniques which will better assess water quality degradation

- *Intensive livestock operations*
- *Fish kills*
- *Toxic dinoflagellate*

Clearinghouse for data
User friendly documents
Standard procedures for monitoring

Vital Habitat Goal: Conserve and protect vital fish and wildlife habitats and maintain the natural heritage of the basin.

Promote regional planning to protect and restore the natural heritage

Need for sound land use planning
Land use plan implementation and enforcement
Endangered biological communities
Adequacy of existing resources
Allocation of resources

Promote responsible stewardship, protection, and conservation of natural areas

Fish kills
Deforestation
Loss of wetlands
Loss of riparian buffers
Clogged creeks and canals (dead water)

Maintain, restore, and enhance vital habitat functions

Biodiversity loss
Rare mussel species in the Tar-Pamlico River
Awareness of Zebra Mussel and other exotic species
Habitat fragmentation
Deforestation
Loss of wetlands
Clogged creeks and canals (dead water)
Loss of riparian buffers

Fisheries Goal: Restore and maintain fisheries in the basin and provide for their long-term, sustainable commercial and recreational use.

Control over-fishing by developing and implementing fisheries management plans for all important estuarine species

Promote the use of best fishing practices to reduce bycatch and impact on fisheries habitat

Biodiversity loss
Loss of wetlands

Stewardship Goal: Promote responsible stewardship of the natural resources of the basin.

Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth

Need for sound land use planning
Adequacy of existing resources
Impact of automobiles
Land use plan implementation and enforcement

Rampant development
Increased basin population
Growth management
Quantity of groundwater
Loss of wetlands
Loss of riparian buffers
Access to public lands
Inter & Intra-basin transfers
Countywide sewer needs

Increase public understanding of environmental issues and citizen involvement in environmental policy making

Adequacy of existing resources
Deciding if something is fact or perception
Allocation of resources
Intensive livestock operations
Failing septic systems
Nutrient sensitive waters
Deforestation
Toxic dinoflagellates
Loss of wetlands
Loss of riparian buffers
User friendly documents
Highway signs defining river basin

Insure that students, particularly at the elementary levels, are exposed to science and environmental education

Biodiversity loss
Habitat fragmentation
Environmental education
Highway signs defining river basin
Concern that children are being "cut-off" from the environment

PFIESTERIA FIGHT

Maryland's Citizens Pfiesteria Action Committee, which studied fish kills on the Eastern Shore, issued these recommendations to Gov. Parris Glendening on Nov. 3:

- Adopt a nutrient-management plan for all farmers by 2000, with plans implemented by 2002. Farmers have complained this is too fast to allow them to change practices, but the recommendation came dependent on state aid.
- Form a committee of secretaries of agriculture, natural resources and environment to oversee development of technology for dealing with animal manure. Options include trucking it away, composting, burning and marketing of manure-based products.
- Develop alternate uses for manure.
- Add phytase to the chicken feed supply. The enzyme is already used in fish food and could reduce phosphorus in chicken manure 20 to 25 percent.
- Encourage use of cover crops to consume nutrients in fields before runoff.
- Test soil before adding fertilizer to determine how much is needed.
- Improve septic tanks and effluent filters.
- Identify watersheds vulnerable to Pfiesteria piscicida outbreaks.
- Track people who get sick, with an eye toward determining how much exposure to waterways causes illness. The 13 people who reported nausea and memory loss were watermen or swimmers, not people who ate seafood.
- Study the microbe to determine what makes it toxic and what can be done to prevent it.

Source: the Citizens [illegible]teria Action Committee