



Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

Public Involvement Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council Members

FROM: Joan Giordano, Outreach Coordinator *Joan/bs*

SUBJ: Next Meeting - October 19, 2001

DATE: October 10, 2001

Hi Folks:

This is to remind you of our next meeting scheduled for October 19th at PCS Phosphate in Aurora. We'll be gathering, as we have in the past when meeting there, at the recreation center (PCSRA) just past the ferry landing on Hwy. 306. Our thanks to Jeff Furness for arranging this location!

We will begin at 10:00am in order to promptly depart for the tour portion of our agenda. The tour will be a visit to the constructed wetlands associated with the nearby Aurora wastewater treatment plant. Following our tour, we will reconvene at PCSRA to conduct the business portion of our meeting.

I have enclosed a copy of the revised Estuarium exhibit proposal that was requested of Tom Stroud at our last meeting in Washington. Please give it your attention and come prepared to discuss it. It is expected that Jeff Furness will have definitive information about PCS Phosphate's contribution to this project at the time of our meeting, as well. I have also enclosed an agenda.

I look forward to seeing you on the 19th. Please drive safely and, as always, thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the beautiful and valuable natural resources of eastern North Carolina.

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

943 WASHINGTON SQUARE MALL WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27889 • PHONE: (252) 946-6481 EXT. 269 • FAX: (252) 975-3716
<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nep>

Michael F. Easley
Governor

William G. Ross Jr.
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Department of
Environment and
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Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Division of Water Quality

Guy Stefanski
Program Coordinator

Joan Giordano
Outreach Coordinator



THE ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council
PCS Phosphate Recreation Center
Hwy. 306
Aurora, North Carolina
October 19, 2001

AGENDA

10:00am	Gather for tour departure	All

11:30am	Reconvene at PCSRA	All
11:35	Call to Order	Vice Chairman Paul Blount
11:40	Acceptance of Minutes from 8-24-01 meeting	Vice Chairman Blount
11:45	<u>OLD BUSINESS</u> Discussion: * Estuarium Exhibit Proposal	All
12:05	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u> * Election of Officers * MJ Jennings: Farm Bill	All
12:20	Plans for Next Meeting (create agenda items)	All
12:30	Adjourn	

**ESTUARIAL EXHIBIT PROPOSAL PERTAINING to the CITY of
WASHINGTON'S STORMWATER CONTROL PROJECT**

With funding from the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council, the North Carolina Estuarium will develop an interactive model depicting a created wetlands/stormwater treatment system now being built by the City of Washington on property adjacent to the Estuarium.

The created wetland project is designed to reduce nonpoint pollution entering the Pamlico River from downtown Washington. For decades, urban runoff in Washington has washed into drainage sewers and emptied directly into the Pamlico River, carrying oils, sediment, and other contaminants along with it. The new system will collect runoff and divert it to a created wetland that will filter pollutants with natural processes. The runoff will enter at one end of the wetland, flow through vegetation and a series of swales and ponds, then empty into the river after its contaminants have been trapped in soils or precipitated out in ponds.

Being immediately adjacent to the project, the Estuarium is uniquely situated to provide education about this prototype for treating urban runoff. As proposed, the exhibit will be a cross-section model of downtown Washington that will feature depictions of the urban environment, the underground drainage system, the created wetland, and the Pamlico River.

The exhibit will be fully plumbed so that visitors can watch "contaminated" water flow through the system and be "cleansed" by the wetland. As much interactivity will be included as the budget allows, such as allowing visitors to start a storm that will wash across the pavement, or having miniature cars travel streets and leak oil. Associated text and graphics will describe the actual system and the problem of urban runoff, and visitors will be encouraged to walk along a boardwalk that will traverse the wetland so they can see the process in action.

The size and complexity of the model will be dependent on total funding. Ideally, the model will be four to six feet long and perhaps three feet, front-to-back. Contributions from additional sources will be sought to enhance the model's interactivity.

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The CSO Weekly Report
October 15, 2001 / Issue 01.33
Coastal States Organization
<http://www.sso.org/cso>

"The Voice of the Coastal States and Territories on Ocean, Coastal & Great Lakes Affairs"

On Capitol Hill . . .

House Passes Farm Bill

As reported in the previous CSO Weekly Report, the House of Representatives passed the Farm Security Act of 2001 (H.R. 2646) by a vote of 291-120. The bill would replace the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which is set to expire in 2002. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) offered an amendment that would have shifted \$1.9 billion from commodity support programs into the conservation title of the bill. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 201-226. However, the bill does authorize an 80 percent increase in spending for conservation programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program would receive \$1 billion more annually. The acreage cap of the Conservation Reserve Program has been increased to 39.2 million acres. The Wetlands Reserve Program would have the authority to enroll 150,000 acres annually year. The bill would also provide for \$50 million annually for the Farmland Protection Program and \$25 million per year for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. A complete breakdown of program spending is posted on the House Agriculture Committee's website at <<http://agriculture.house.gov>>.

Bill Would Help Coastal States With Energy Infrastructure Security

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has introduced a bill that would enhance security of the nation's energy infrastructure. The National Energy Infrastructure Security Program Establishment Act (S.1529) would establish a multi-year national energy infrastructure program overseen by the newly appointed Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. The bill would provide funding annually to all U.S. states to ensure that measures, from the monitoring and detection of potential threats, to mitigation, response and recovery, are in place against human and natural threats. S. 1529 would create two funds, one for the protection of energy infrastructure located in the coastal zones of oil and gas producing states, and the other for the energy infrastructure of all fifty states. The funding would be allocated on a formula related to the amount of energy infrastructure a state has as well as to the contribution of the states infrastructure to the rest of the country. To read S. 1529, visit the Thomas website <<http://thomas.loc.gov>>.

In the Agencies . . .

Water Quality Guidance Criteria Available

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technical guidance to assist states in the development of water quality criteria for coastal waters and estuaries is now available. The guidance, Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual: Estuarine and Coastal Marine Water, addresses total phosphorus, total nitrogen, algal biomass, and a measure of water clarity. In developing technical guidance for nutrient criteria, the report said states should consider using historical data, current or historical reference site information, models used to simulate or validate empirical relationships established between causal and response variables, and evaluation of downstream consequences. More information is available from David Flemer, EPA, Health and Ecological Criteria Division at (202) 260-0619. The technical guidance and the nutrient criteria is available at <<http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.html>>.

Update on TMDL Rule Revisions

EPA has announced that the effective date of the August 9, 2000 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule revisions promulgated by the Clinton Administration will be extended 18 months to April 30, 2003. EPA has also delayed the listing requirements for listing impaired waters under the 2000 rule until October 1, 2002. In the meantime, the agency will develop revisions to the rule with a new draft rule to be proposed in the spring of 2002. The agency will also continue to move forward with implementing the TMDL program in accordance with the existing program regulations.

The objective of the new rulemaking is to better integrate monitoring, standards, TMDL development, and point and nonpoint source implementation, and respond to criticisms of the TMDL program and 2000 rule in the recently completed National Academy of Sciences report mandated by Congress. The NAS report cited the need for better science, improved monitoring and modeling for the program to be effective.

Key rule revision issues include the listing cycle timeframe; scope of the 303 (d) listings; whether to address the development of implementation of TMDL plans separately from the TMDL rule utilizing existing programs; what changes would be required to existing programs if they are to be integrated with TMDL implementation; and the extension of the timeframe for EPA to act as a backstop for the development of state TMDL plans.

In addition to the revisions of the TMDL regulations, EPA is developing guidance to establish a consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) for state 305 (b) reports and 303(d) lists. Guidance for CALM is nearing completion for 2002. The CALM guidance will provide minimum

elements for comprehensive state monitoring programs. Draft guidance has been released by EPA for review and is available from CSO. Contact Kerry Kehoe at CSO for a copy: <cs0.rkk@ss0.org>.

EPA has announced a series of five public listening sessions on the TMDL program. The purpose of these listening sessions is to improve understanding of the TMDL program; provide information about the status of the current program; get stakeholder perspectives on key issues associated with the TMDL program; and identify and discuss ideas on how to address issues in the TMDL program. EPA will use the information received at the public listening sessions as it considers changes to the regulations which govern the TMDL program. Four of the listening sessions will focus on specific themes.

The TMDL listening sessions will be held on the following dates, times and locations, and focus on the themes mentioned:

Chicago, IL - Oct. 22-23 at the Congress Plaza Hotel:
Implementation of TMDLs Addressing Nonpoint Sources;

Sacramento, CA - Nov. 1-2 at the Doubletree Hotel:
Scope and Content of TMDLs;

Atlanta, GA - Nov. 7-8 at the Atlanta Capitol Plaza Hotel:
EPA's Role, the Pace/Schedule for Development of TMDLs;

Oklahoma City, OK - Nov. 15-16 at the Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest:
Listing Impaired Waters;

Washington, D.C. - Dec. 11 at the Wyndham Hotel:
All Issues.

For registration information visit EPA's TMDL website at <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/meetings>> or see the Federal Register (66 Fed. Reg., pp. 51429-51430, October 9).

In the Federal Register . . .

Final Guidance for Coastal Impact Assistance Available

The Final Guidance for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) is available (66 Fed. Reg., pp. 51396-51400, October 9). The CIAP will direct approximately \$145 million to the outer continental shelf (OCS) and gas producing states of Alaska, Alabama, California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas and the approximately 150 coastal political subdivisions within those states to help mitigate the impacts of OCS activities and protect coastal resources. The guidance provides the information necessary for eligible states and coastal political subdivisions to develop CIAP plans and submit them to the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Copies of the Final Guidance for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program can be found on the NOAA website <<http://www.ocrm.noa.noaa.gov/cpd>>. Further information can be obtained by contacting Josh Lott of NOAA at <josh.lott@noaa.gov>.

Meeting and Solicitation for National Sea Grant Review Panel

The National Sea Grant Review Panel will meet on Thursday, November 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m at the NOAA building in Silver Spring, Maryland. The meeting will resume the following day from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m (66 Fed. Reg., pp. 52113-52114, October 12). The panel will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, education and extension, science and technology programs. The Panel advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on related matters. The meeting is open to the public.

In addition, the Secretary of Commerce is soliciting nominations for membership on the National Sea Grant Review Panel (66 Fed. Reg. p. 52112, October 12). The Panel is to consist of 15 voting members. The solicitation is required at least once a year for membership. Interested parties should forward a resume by November 13. For details on both Federal Register notices, contact Ron Baird, National Sea Grant College Program at (301) 713-2448 or by e-mail at <Ronald.Baird@noaa.gov>.

ATTENDANCE

TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

PCS Phosphate Recreation Center
Highway 306
Aurora, North Carolina
October 19, 2001

NAME

AFFILIATION

1. Betty Sandow APNEP
2. John Peel Beaufort County Pamlico News
Washington Daily
3. Penny Womble Wilson Co (Sweet) Wilson Daily
4. Mark S. Smith Wilson Co / City Wilson Daily
5. Bucky Robbins Wilson Co Wilson Daily
6. Jeff Furness Pitt / Beaufort Co. Greenville Daily
Washington T
7. Timmy Thomas Person Co. The Courier
8. John Houston Louisburg Franklin T
Franklin T

9. Mary Jane Jennings (ENV) Franchise Co

10. ROB ROBBINS WSS (WILSON CO.) WILSON DAILY TIMES - HAL TARLETON, EDITOR

11. Paul Blount Rocky Mt (NASH COUNTY)
Rocky Mount Telegram, Jeff Herrin, Editor Rocky Mt, NC 27804

12. Joan Giordano APNEP

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

TOWN OF AURORA WASTEWATER YEARLY

YEAR	INF BOD	EFF BOD	FLTD BOD	AVG TEM	TSR	pH	AMM NIT	PHOS PHOR	EFF DO	FEC COL	TKN	NTRA NTRI	AVG FLOW	RAIN FALL
1974	UNTIL													
1980		41			54									
1981	UNTIL													
1985	158	27			44	8.9								
1986	127	30			67	8.8							0.065	
1987	183	32			41	8.5							0.082	
1988	214	45	18		50	8.1							0.070	
1989	157	95	28		68	7.7	3.38	2.08			12	0.26	0.098	
1990	285	51	18		43	7.9							0.076	
1991	378	34	13		42	7.9							0.079	
1992	547	27	11		49	7.8							0.071	
1993	799	35	12	18	60	8.3	5.08	2.19	8.3	690	19	0.29	0.078	
1994	274	28	12	20	48	8.2	3.77	1.78	6.7	35	12	0.36	0.078	
			WET-											
			LAND											
			ENTRY											
1995	267	21	41	20	29	7.8	1.27	1.04	6.0	7	3	1.12	0.079	52.96
1996	309	29	50	18	31	7.3	3.26	1.70	8.1	34	8	0.25	0.097	49.50
1997	258	12	28	18	6	7.0	0.56	1.44	7.9	3			0.063	47.90
1998	350	14	34	16	10	6.6	5.66	3.06	6.0	397			0.113	67.20
1999	359	11	48	17	4	7.3	3.61	3.26	7.5	2553			0.071	57.40
2000	146	9	27	17	6	7.4	1.80	1.34	9.6	319			0.079	60.70
2001	173	9	44	17	5	7.2	3.16	2.25	8.0	295			0.057	37.50

AVERAGE BOD BEFORE WETLAND CONSTRUCTION IS 40

2001 INFO THRU JULY

BOD: AVERAGE OF 11.5 FOR LAST 4 YEARS IS 38% OF ALLOWABLE LIMIT OF 30 MG/L

SOLIDS: AVERAGE OF 6.54 FOR LAST 4 YEARS IS 4% OF ALLOWABLE LIMIT OF 90 MG/L

FLOW: AVERAGE OF .079 FOR 2000 IS 66% OF ALLOWABLE LIMIT OF .120 MGD

FLOW FOR LAST 9 YEARS IS 68% OF ALLOWABLE LIMIT EVEN WITH 5 HURRICANES BERTHA, FRAN, DENNIS, DENNIS 2, AND FLOYD

FLOW FOR LAST 15 YEARS IS 67% OF ALLOWABLE LIMIT

FLOW FOR 2000 SAME AS AVERAGE OF LAST 15 YEARS



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MEMORANDUM

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Acting Director
Division of Water Quality

Guy Stefanski
Program Coordinator

Joan Giordano
Outreach Coordinator

TO: Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council Members
FROM: *Betty* Betty Sandow, Public Outreach Assistant
SUBJ: Minutes of October 19, 2001 Meeting
DATE: November 28, 2001

Hi folks,

Enclosed are the minutes from our last meeting held on October 19, 2001 at the PCS Phosphate Recreation Area in Aurora. Please note in the minutes the time and place of our next meeting on January 18, 2002. A reminder notice along with the agenda will be mailed as the time of the meeting draws nearer.

Also enclosed is the North Carolina Coastal Federation "State of the Coast" Report. The report focuses on the many environmental challenges facing our coast and the attempt to manage those challenges. After reading this publication, you will be reminded of how difficult a job it is to protect our beautiful coast.

Joan and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you in the new year. As always, thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the beautiful and valuable natural resources of eastern North Carolina.



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Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council
PCS Phosphate Recreation Area
Aurora, North Carolina

October 19, 2001

Minutes

The council members assembled at the PCS Phosphate Recreation Area at 10:00 am, then left to tour the Aurora constructed wetland cells that serve as their wastewater treatment facilities. A complete walking tour of the operation was given, which allowed for plenty of time to ask many questions about the details of the treatment system. After the tour, the group drove back to the Recreation Area.

The meeting was called to order at noon by Vice-Chair Paul Blount. Roll was taken and a motion made to accept the minutes from the August 24 meeting in Washington, NC, which was seconded and passed.

The first item of business was a discussion of the N.C. Estuarium exhibit proposal outlined at our last Council meeting. The Coordinating Council, at their last meeting, stated that this year they wanted to see our money spent on outreach and education projects, instead of brick and mortar projects. A total of \$12,000 was earmarked for this effort, and the idea of improving the Estuarium exhibits was put forward. At the August 24 meeting the TPRBRC voted to have Tom Stroud of the Partnership for the Sounds staff develop a proposal for an interactive model depicting the created wetlands/stormwater treatment system now being built by the City of Washington on property adjacent to the Estuarium.

Tom did write a proposal, and Jeff Furness reported that PCS Phosphate has agreed to donate \$5,000 toward the exhibit, raising the total budget to \$17,000. According to Tom's proposal, the exhibit will be fully plumbed so that visitors can watch "contaminated" water flow through the system and be "cleansed" by the wetland. Associated text and graphics will describe the actual system and the problem of urban runoff, and visitors will be encouraged to walk along the boardwalk that will traverse the wetland so

they can see the process in action. A motion was made to approve \$12,000 to go toward the proposed exhibit, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The next item was an update on Dr. David Lindbo's alternative septic system project. The project is not in the ground yet. The homeowner has contracted a contractor to install the system; however, they are waiting for a permit from the Pitt County Health Department. We have no indication of what the problem is with the Health Department.

Mary Jane Jennings then gave an update of the progress on the federal Farm Bill. It has passed the House, and the Senate will take it up when they get back in session. Jeff Peed stated that he would like to see farm policy included in a part of the federal energy policy.

Next, Mary Jane brought up the State isolated wetlands rule issue. Temporary rules had been passed by the EMC, then struck down, and the EMC is trying to get that decision reversed. There is also a lawsuit in front of a Wake County judge challenging North Carolina's authority to regulate any wetlands.

The final agenda item was a discussion on appointments and attendance at Council meetings. Joan Giordano is drafting a revision to the Governor's Executive Order establishing the Regional Councils, to make it easier to appoint people who will be more likely to attend Council meetings. A copy of the draft revisions will be given to us to review, and to decide if we would like to send a letter of support of the changes to NCDENR management.

The next meeting was set for January 18 at the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center located at 207 Research Station Road in Plymouth, NC beginning at 10:00 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

NOTE: Please find enclosed the North Carolina Coastal Federation "State of the Coast" Report.

These folks did not receive the "State of the Coast"

Sent revised memo to them. 11/29/01

& took the note off of the minutes.

EUGENE KEEN
ROXBORO CITY COUNCIL
PO BOX 128
ROXBORO NC 27573 ✓

GEORGE STEWART
NC DIV. Of SOIL & WATER
WARO
COURIER# 16-04-01 ✓

GUY STEFANSKI
Div. of Coastal Management
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TOM ALLGOOD
TOWN COUNCIL
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TOWN MANAGER
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JESSE SULLINS
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CLINTON WILKINS
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ROPER NC 27920 ✓

ROBERT WHITAKER
112 MC DANIEL STREET
ENFIELD NC 27823 ✓

ALAN FINKLE
3566-B NC HWY 96S
OXFORD, NC 27565

J H DIXON
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WILLIAM LEE SMITH
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PLYMOUTH NC 27962 ✓

RON THATCHER
US COE-WILMINGTON DISTRICT,
POB 1890
WILMINGTON NC 28401-1890 ✓

DOUG GREEN
US COE-WILMINGTON DISTRICT,
POB 1890
WILMINGTON NC 28402-1890 ✓







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Jax copy Transferred to Word + retyped

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Minutes

The council members assembled at the PCS Phosphate Recreation Area at 10:00 am, then left to tour the Aurora constructed wetland cells that serve as their wastewater treatment facilities. A complete walking tour of the operation was given, which allowed for plenty of time to ask many questions about the details of the treatment system. After the tour, the group drove back to the Recreation Area.

The meeting was called to order at noon by Vice-Chair Paul Blount. Roll was taken, and a motion made to accept the minutes from the August 24 meeting in Washington, NC, which was seconded and passed.

The first item of business was a discussion of the N.C. Estuarium exhibit proposal outlined at our last Council meeting. The Coordinating Council, at their last meeting, stated that this year they wanted to see our money spent on outreach and education projects, instead of brick and mortar projects. A total of \$12,000 was earmarked for this effort, and the idea of improving the Estuarium exhibits was put forward. At the August 24 meeting, the TPRBRC voted to have Tom Stroud of the Partnership for the Sounds staff develop a proposal for an interactive model depicting the created wetlands/stormwater treatment system now being built by the City of Washington on property adjacent to the Estuarium.

Tom did write a proposal, and Jeff Furness reported that PCS Phosphate has agreed to donate \$5,000 toward the exhibit, raising the total budget to \$17,000. According to Tom's proposal, the exhibit will be fully plumbed so that visitors can watch "contaminated" water flow through the system and be "cleansed" by the wetland. Associated text and graphics will describe the actual system and the problem of urban runoff, and visitors will be encouraged to walk along the boardwalk that will traverse the wetland so they can see the process in action. A motion was made to approve \$12,000 to go toward the proposed exhibit, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The next item was an update on Dr. David Lindbo's alternative septic system project. The project is not in the ground yet. The homeowner has contacted a contractor to install the system, however they are waiting for a permit from the Pitt County Health Department. We have no indication of what the problem is with the Health Department.

Mary Jane Jennings then gave an update of the progress on the federal Farm Bill. It has passed the House, and the Senate will take it up when they get back in session. Jeff Peed stated that he would like to see farm policy included in a part of the federal energy policy.

Next, Mary Jane brought up the State isolated wetlands rule issue. Temporary rules had been passed by the EMC, then struck down, and the EMC is trying to get that decision reversed. There is also a lawsuit in front of a Wake County judge challenging North Carolina's authority to regulate any wetlands.

The final agenda item was a discussion on appointments and attendance at Council meetings. Joan Giordano is drafting a revision to the Governor's Executive Order establishing the Regional Councils, to make it easier to appoint people who will be more likely to attend Council meetings. A copy of the draft revisions will be given to us to review, and to decide if we would like to send a letter of support of the changes to NCDENR management.

The next meeting was set for January 18, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

*These Benigno Partley
business*

@ the VJC (addresses)

beginning @ 10:00 AM.



AURORA, NC

FAX No. 252/322-4444

Transmittal Cover Sheet

Date: 11/19/01

To: Jean Giordano 975-3716

From: Jeff Furrus

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