

Catawba River Study Committee

February 10, 1010

MINUTES

Attendance:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Terry Watts | Hickory |
| Charles Beck | Lenoir |
| Dan McClure | Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D |
| Sue Ballbach | Catawba County |
| Seth Harris | Alexander County |
| Jan Herman | Conover |
| Terry Lail | Conover |
| Greg Padgett | Valdese |
| Mike Bennett | Hickory |
| Rani Holland | Long View |
| Seth Nagy | Coop. Ext. Caldwell |
| Jonathan Kanipe | Catawba |
| John Martin | Citizen |
| Caroline Martin | Lake Hickory Cove Keeper |
| Lenny Rogers | Coop. Ext. Alexander |
| John Tippet | WPCOG |
| Sam Schultz | Maiden |
| Bob Hibbitts | Catawba County |
| Sam Erwin | WPCOG |
| Tony Gallegos | WPCOG |
| Jessica Bargsley | Rutherford College |
| David Merryman | Catawba Riverkeeper |
| Lisbeth Hoover | LRU |
| Kathelyn Burwell | LRU |
| Kenneth Vilargos | LRU |
| Erin Seiling | LRU |

Bob Hibbitts called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Hibbitts turned the meeting over to Tony Gallegos who discussed proposed updates to the Catawba River Study Committee (CRSC). Mr. Gallegos gave a background summary on how the CRSC started and mentioned the groups 10 initial concerns and how these are still relevant today. A subcommittee recently met and developed two recommendations to modify the existing committee.

The first recommendation was “Change Committees Name to Western Piedmont Water Resources Committee”. The new name will better reflect the broader nature of the committee and to recognize water management issues in the Yadkin River Basin also affect our regions local governments.

The second recommendation was “Update Mission”. The committee serves in an advisory role for the local governments and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board on water resources and watershed issues including: water quality, water supply, water safety and recreation, and landuse within the regions river basins.

Also, Mr. Gallegos showed a list of groups that have at one time or another been involved with the committee and he would like to invite those groups to a future meeting. Sue Ballbach made a motion to accept the two recommendations and invite the groups to attend a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Charles Beck and was passed unanimously.

Water Resource Updates

1. Interbasin Transfer Settlement

Mike Bennett and David Merryman gave an update on the recent IBT transfer. The settlement will place limits on how much Concord/Kannapolis can withdraw from the Catawba River during drought situations. A new water intake on the Yadkin River to be completed by 2015 will also figure into the restrictions. The water levels are as follows:

| <u>Drought State Status</u> | <u>MGD Permitted</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 0 | 10 |
| 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 8.5 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 |

Concord and Kannapolis must also follow a long list of water conservation measures.

2. Fecal Coliform Levels in Lower Creek

Mr. Gallegos mentioned that DWQ had monitored Lower Creek in 2009 for fecal Coliform. Five samples were taken at each site and the results were much higher than those for 2004 and 2005. The 5x30 samples were taken during the summer when warmer water would potentially contribute to higher levels. Follow-up needed. LCAT considering proposal for partnership to address next steps.

3. NPDES Phase II Stormwater Programs (SWWG)

Terry Watts mentioned that the next step for the Stormwater group is the Public Education Coalition.

4. CWMTF Septic Assistance Grant Application

Mr. Gallegos mentioned that the WPCOG had resubmitted the \$500,000 Septic Assistance Grant application recently to the CWMTF for a modified program. There is no indication at this time what kind of funds the CWMTF will have for this cycle.

5. AmeriCorp Grant

The WPCOG is working with the Centralina Council of Governments on the AmeriCorp grant. Funding will allow 20 FTE people to work on sustainability for a year. This is a three year grant and the City of Lenoir has committed to hosting a person WPCOG is requesting a person to work with stormwater partnership.

6. Clarks Creek TMDL, local stakeholder grant application

Dan McClure briefed the group on the Clarks Creek project. A group of stakeholders met last week in Newton to begin the development of a 319 application to address water quality concerns on Clark Creek. This watershed affects Catawba County and municipalities of Hickory, Conover, Newton and Maiden before entering Lincoln County and connecting with the South Fork of the Catawba River.

7. Grant Applications

Mr. Gallegos mentioned that current priority is working on ARRA 205j grant on water efficiency education and outreach including one for the Hickory stormwater outreach.

The next meeting was set for March 10. Agenda items not covered will be carried over. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.