 **Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group**

***Meeting Summary***

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group Meeting**

12PM to 2:30PM, December 12, 2019

*Salisbury-Rowan Utilities*

*1 Water Street, Salisbury, NC*

##### *Action Items*

The following action items were identified by the Group at the meeting:

* **The next YPDWMG meeting will be held in February 2020. We are rescheduling the date of this meeting due to a conflict.**
* **W. Miller to reach out to South Carolina AWWA and set up a conversation for the March conference.**
* **YPDWMG members to give comments and edits on the Strategic Communications Plan and Stakeholder Advisory Committee suggestions to J. Williams before the end of 2019.**
* **YPDWMG members to provide feedback on potential HDR scenarios and identify any missing items to J. Williams by the end of the year.**

##### *Welcome and Approval of Minutes*

Chair Bill Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:14 pm. The members approved the meeting minutes from the October 10, 2019 meeting pending corrections.

##### *Election of Officers*

Jim Behmer was elected to the Chair position. All members were in favor.

Johnny Lambert was elected to the Vice Chair position. All members were in favor.

##### *Administrative Items*

* Bill Brewer provided a financial update to the group. He updated the group on Duke Energy’s contribution to Phase 5B. This will be accounted for in FY 2020 under the operating revenues. The net ending position is $123,000 after the encumbrances.
* YPDWMG needs to reschedule the date of the upcoming February meeting due to a conflict.
* YPDWMG still plans to engage with South Carolina at the South Carolina Environmental Conference in March 2020.

Action Items

* W. Miller (Fountainworks) to reach out to South Carolina AWWA and set up that conversation for the March conference.

##### *HDR Presentations Overview*

J. Williams of HDR reviewed the following with the YPDWMG:

We are in Phase 2 of the Water Resources Plan. Currently, we are looking into communications strategies and technical logistics around scenarios we will evaluate. Sabrina Colon has helped develop a Strategic Communications Plan for the group –this will be how YPDWMG rolls out the Water Resources Plan both internally and externally. Additionally, there is a Stakeholder Advisory Committee framework HDR has developed. The Committee will be a core group of about 15 representatives of water interests outside of YPDWMG. This advisory group can be a sounding board that the YPDWMG can present some of the projects to for feedback. We are planning to hold the first meeting of that group in the beginning of February. Before then, we need to get consensus around who we want to serve on the committee. HDR (J. Williams) needs all comments back on these documents no later than the end of this year.

Scenario Planning – HDR has a high level overview of potential scenario areas that can be evaluated as part of this.

Action Items

* YPDWMG members to give comments and edits on the Strategic Communications Plan and Stakeholder Advisory Committee Framework to J. Williams (HDR) before the end of 2019.
* YPDWMG members to review and comment on scenarios before the end of 2019.

##### *Stakeholder Advisory Committee Framework (HDR)*

Nicola Hill of HDR presented the following about the Stakeholder Advisory Committee Framework to the YPDWMG (Slides can be found [here](http://www.ypdwater.org/uploads/1/3/0/2/13025771/ypdwmg-hdr-strategiccommunicationsplanupdate_scenarioplanning.pdf) under the 12/12 meeting).

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee’s role will be to support the YPDWMG through the development of the Water Resources Plan. This may include activities such as providing input on behalf of their own organizations, providing feedback on strategic initiatives and scenarios, filling in knowledge gaps, and supporting the Plan to their audiences. The time commitment for these Advisors is one meeting every three months or every quarter for approximately a year and a half.

1. ***Timeline***

* Once HDR finalizes the framework and gets YPDWMG feedback, invitations will start to be sent out to advisory group committee members and the first meeting with the group will be held (aimed for February).
* HDR wants to outline the targeted groups and make sure they are in line with what the YPDWMG needs.

1. ***Advisory Committee Representative Categories* – Are these categories encompassing descriptions of what the YPDWMG is looking for?**

HDR needs to get consensus from this group on who/what organizations the YPDWMG wants to approach. When there is consensus, Sabrina Colon (HDR) will compile them and get them back out to the group to rank their priorities. N. Hill presented the following categories of representatives for the Advisory Committee to the YPDWMG for their comments and suggestions. Comments and Suggestions came from YPDWMG membership.

* **Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation Interest Groups** – Groups or professional organizations working in the field of *agriculture* or *forestry* or who are involved in other industries utilizing large volumes of water for *irrigation* purposes, such as golf courses.
  + - Membership Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Irrigation interests – Think irrigation is different. This category may have to have two representatives. Irrigation is a different business.
         1. In this Basin, irrigation is not typically a large part of agriculture.
         2. For irrigation interests there is the NC Licensing Board for Irrigation Contractors and an NC Irrigation Society.
      2. This is a really important category to have involved, but it is really hard to get representatives. One organization we really need to be thinking about is the NC Farm Bureau.
      3. Forestry – EGGER Wood Products
  + **Local Governments** – This category refers to locally elected government officials (or their designees) from the Basin’s municipalities, counties, councils of governments (COGs), and districts.
    - Membership Comments & Suggestions for Advisory Committee Members:
      1. We could have two representatives: one from the Piedmont Triad COG and one from the Centralina COG since they are the two largest. The group recommends Jason Wager for Centralina and Cameron Colvin for the Piedmont Triad.
  + **Districts** – This category refers to independent, special-purpose governmental units that exist separately from municipal or county governments. This category includes, but is not limited to, special purpose districts, public service districts, Watershed Conservation Districts, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
    - Membership Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Rob Baldwin – Wilkes County Soil and Water Conservation District
      2. Someone near the bottom part of the Basin since they are not included in the two COG districts we talked about.
      3. Stormwater Program Director in a Town – ex. Salisbury, Concord, Charlotte
         1. Are we worried about cross-over if the town is already represented in the YPDWMG?
         2. Is a municipal stormwater group going to be able to provide the Basin-wide perspective that we need? Maybe NCDEQ.
      4. Tammi Remsburg from Cabarrus County Soil and Water Conservation District
      5. Amanda Kirby – Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District
  + **Regulatory Agencies** – This category refers to governmental or independent entities that create, enact, and enforce regulations in the basin pertaining to water quality, distribution, and usage. Example representatives in this category could come from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Army Corp of Engineers – Tony Young
      2. NC Division of Water Quality – Bob Midgette or Linda Raynor
      3. Linwood Peele or Ginny Baker from Division of Water Resources
      4. Rebecca Sadosky from Source Water Protection
      5. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but they won’t participate.
  + **Higher Education and Academia** – This category refers to groups and individuals affiliated with academic institutions such as colleges and universities that can be considered experts in water-related topics. Representatives in this category should be involved in regular or ongoing research studies on the subjects of water quality, water management, resource distribution, etc.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Dr. John Ware at Catawba College – he leads the Center for the Environment
      2. Chris Zarzar with Wake Forest Engineering and Sustainability
      3. UNC Charlotte
      4. Water Institute and the School of Business (has done some water planning for the state) at UNC Chapel Hill
      5. UNC Greensboro – most physical geography graduate students
      6. Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas
      7. US Geological Survey
      8. NC Wildlife Resources Initiative
  + **Industry and Economic Development Interest Groups** – Refers to groups that own or are affiliated with a manufacturing or industrial facility that uses a large volume of water; own or operate a small business; or represent business interests, such as, but not limited to, chambers of commerce or the National Association of Manufacturers.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce – Barbie Jones
      2. Davidson County EDC
      3. EGGER Wood Products (Industry) – A lot of wood comes from this Basin. This could also be in the forestry category.
      4. NC Department of Commerce
      5. Dole Fruit Company (Kannapolis)
  + **Water-Based Recreation Interest Groups** – This category refers to groups that enjoy water-related recreational activities in the Basin and the professional organizations or businesses that support those activities. This includes, but is not limited to boaters, recreational fishermen, paddlers, marina operators, outfitters, and waterfront-park operators.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Salisbury/High Rock Lake Marina Boat Club
      2. Marine Commissions
      3. High Rock Lake Association – Primarily the homeowners around the lake, more concerned with water quality and lake level.
      4. North Carolina State Parks
      5. NC Wildlife/Resources
      6. Carolina Canoe Club – They have been active in some things like this in the past. Jim Mead.
      7. Charlotte US National Whitewater Center
  + **Environmental Interest Groups** – This category refers to groups or professional organizations that advocate for conservation and ecological issues in the Basin. This includes, but is not limited to, Riverkeepers, land trusts, foundations, and conservation groups.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Travis Morehead – Three Rivers Land Trust
      2. Yadkin River Keepers
  + **NC-at-Large Water-Based Interest Groups** – This category refers to groups in North Carolina with significant interests in the Basin’s water resources that are not affiliated with any of the specific interest groups listed above.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. High Rock Lake Association
      2. Representation from certain foundations in the region like the Stanback Foundation or the Robertson Foundation.
      3. NC Water Infrastructure Authority – manage funding programs that DEQ used to manage. Kim Colson.
      4. NC Rural Water Association
  + **SC-at-Large Water-Based Interest Groups –** This category refers to groups in South Carolina with whom future coordination will be key to implementing the Plan, such as the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.
    - Comments/Suggestions:
      1. Peter Raabe, American Rivers – covers both NC and SC
      2. SCDNR – Scott Harder

1. ***Strategic Communications Plan*** 
   * Will determine how we engage with stakeholders to keep people updated with the plan. This will be the roadmap for how we communicate our plan to the public.
     + Comment from YPDWMG: In the background it needs to tell a brief summary of the group before it gets into the plan. There will be a lot of board members who don’t know what we do.

Action Items

* YPDWMG to review the Communications Plan document and send edits or questions to J. Williams at HDR.

##### *YPDWMG Scenario Planning (HDR)*

**J. Williams of HDR reviewed the following with the group.**

1. ***Categories of Scenario Planning***

* HDR has broken these scenarios into categories and each looks at 4 distinct areas in those categories. These four areas are: scenarios that have a perceived *decrease in water quantity*, those that have a perceived *increase in water quantity*, those that have a perceived *water quality improvement*, and those that cause perceived *water quality degradation*.

1. **Industrial** – If a huge industry comes to the region – how does that impact water quantity and quality. What impacts do they have on the Basin? What kind of economic impact does it have for your utilities?
2. **Agriculture**
3. **Thermoelectric Power and Hydropower**
4. **Commerce**
5. **Public Behavioral Shifts**
6. **General Policy Shifts**
7. **Climate/Environmental Shifts**
8. **Water Supply Shortage**

* How are you going to analyze the water quality scenarios?
  + J. Williams: It will come back to what the group decides the scenario is. If there is a water quality scenario you think we need to look at then we can review that. There are things from a water quality perspective like watershed protection measures that are more of a qualitative assessment rather than quantitative assessment.
* How does this group know that this is a model that can be funded or done technically? The quality part seems to be fuzzy.
* J. Williams: For the purposes of water quality my recommendation is to be able to look more at a qualitative perspective of water quality. But there are also tools related to nutrient assessment. That part doesn’t rely on just the modelling – we have years of data to share trends. We can look at things like as development increases – what is the qualitative impact of adding additional stormwater measures in the basin and what is the effect of nutrient load?

Action Items

* YPDWMG to send J. Williams (HDR) questions or things that are missing in the scenarios.

##### *Update on DEQ Progress on Modelling*

* NCDEQ is still on track with their modelling progress, with an anticipated start date in January. NCDEQ just completed the last round of meetings for the New/French Broad/ and Watauga Basins.

##### *Preliminary Discussion on 2020 Strategic Priorities*

* **Looking at your MOU and your Strategic Plan – Do you want to review these goals and activities and track progress? Is there something else you want to do?**
  + YPDWMG review its MOU and it current strategic plan and activities. Most of the resources YPDWMG is using right now are going into the Water Supply Master Plan. When the group meets in February Fountainworks will ask if there is anything else you want to do. Are there other strategic priorities? Do you want to have a presenter to talk about one of these subjects?
  + Established Goals:
    - Comprehensive and collaborative regional planning
    - Effective management of the river basin
    - Optimize water supply resources
    - Facilitate broad support and a unified regional voice for water supply needs
    - United regional approach to drought response
* Established Strategic Activities:
  + - Hydrologic model update/development
    - Basin wide water demand and wastewater return forecast
    - Baseline hydrologic conditions analysis
    - Coordinated regional drought response planning
    - Water supply master plan (WSMP)
* Comments/Suggestions:
  + - * Like the idea of an update of progress. Do these things need tweaking?
      * An email update or for this to be included as part of our agenda - any important issues people may be aware of – house bills or senate bills, etc.

##### *New Member Outreach Updates*

* Fountainworks has met with:
* Mooresville – they are interested in the YPDWMG and are coming to the next meeting.
* Lexington – they plan to join the group.
* Albemarle – plans to continue being part of the Group
* King – have met with staff and they are interested in learning more about YPDWMG

Comments/Suggestions:

* Follow up with Richmond County
* Stanly County has some interest – A. Lofton (Union County) offered to reach out.
* Monroe – A. Lofton (Union County) offered to reach out.

##### *Group Member and Other Updates*

**Salisbury-Rowan Utilities:** A lot of construction is getting ready to start at the water plant.

**Yadkin River Keepers:** We had an opening at the Waterworks art gallery yesterday for a program called Dance for the River. This is a photography series from the School of the Arts on the Yadkin River. The idea was to get input from people who are not river oriented.

**Union County:** We are about 65 percent done on our water project – withdrawing water from Lake Tillery. We got a rate increase approved by our Board.

**Davidson Water:** We have agreed to wholesale water to Davie County and probably the town of Knoxville. It is in the early stages of preliminary planning.

**Duke Energy:** I wanted to plug the Water for All Annual Summit in Gastonia on February 13, 2020. It is hosted by the Catawba Wateree. We expect 150-200 people to attend.

**City of Kannapolis:** We have a few projects going on at the water plant – volt tank replacements and residual pond dewatering.

##### *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM by new Chair Jim Behmer.

##### *Meeting Attendees*

**Member Attendees:**

Rusty Campbell, City of Concord

Ron Sink, Davidson Water, Inc.

Johnny Lambert, Davie County

Jeff Lineberger, Duke Energy

Ed Bruce, Duke Energy

Alex Anderson, City of Kannapolis

Greg Greene, Rowan County

Jim Behmer, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities

Aubrey Lofton, Union County

Kevin Moluf, Union County

Bill Brewer, City of Winston-Salem

\*Casey Smith, Davidson County (via conference line)

**Non- Member Attendees:**

Warren Miller, Fountainworks

Tara Nattress, Fountainworks

Jonathan Williams, HDR, Inc.

Nicola Hill, HDR, Inc.

Brian Fannon, Yadkin Riverkeepers

Kayla Mounce, Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation

BJ Cook, Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation