



# Meeting Notes

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group**

12:00 PM - 2:30PM, Thursday, June 20, 2024

Hybrid: Teams and Salisbury Rowan Utilities | 1 Water Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

## AGENDA

- Welcome
- Presentations and Updates
- Business Items
- Roundtable Discussion
- Next Steps & Adjourn

## WELCOME

A meeting of the Yadkin Pee-Dee Water Management Group was held at the Salisbury-Rowan Utilities, 1 Water Street, Salisbury, NC, 28114 on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Jim Behmer welcomed attendees and shared safety information. A tour of the facilities is available following the meeting.

Mr. Behmer called the meeting to order at 12:02; attendees introduced themselves by name and organization.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

The following representatives and guests were present either in person or via Zoom. A quorum was confirmed with representatives from 12 member organizations in attendance.

Member Attendees	Primary Representative	Alternate Representative
Charlotte Water	David Czerr	
City of Albemarle		
City of Concord	Kevin Plemmons	
City of Kannapolis	Alex Anderson	
City of Monroe	David Rankin	
City of Statesville	Andy Smith	
Cube Yadkin Generation		Karen Baldwin
Davidson County		
Davidson Water, Inc.	Ron Sink	Jonathan Ray
Davie County		
Duke Energy	John Crutchfield	
Montgomery County		
Rowan County		
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities	Jim Behmer	Jim Amaral
Town of Wilkesboro	Sam Call	Alan Parker
Union County	Aubrey Lofton	
WSACC		
WS/FC Utility Commission	Alan Fowler	Bill Brewer

## Non-Member Attendees

HDR: Sara Yeh, Nicola Hill, Audri Baker

NC Division of Water Resources: Ginny Baker

***NORTH CAROLINA RIVER BASIN PLANNING UPDATE***

Ginny Baker gave a presentation on water quality conditions in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin. Highlights are provided here; the presentation will be posted on the YPDWMG website.

- Watershed basin planning is required every 10 years, the last plan was approved July 2022.
- Ms. Baker provided a quick overview of the plan components followed by a review of basin stats and changes since last report including HUC, land use and point and non-point source impacts, animal feed operations, agricultural studies, and biological assessment data.
- Specific impacts and recommendations for Rocky River and High Rock Lake were also presented.
- Recommendations to the Environmental Management Commission based on these results included
  - Increase ambient water quality monitoring
  - Increase biological monitoring
  - grow algal monitoring program in response to increase in algal blooms

***SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT***

**Bimonthly Financial Summary**

- David Czerr reported one invoice has been paid since the last meeting; this was to HDR.
- Overall account balance remains nearly the same; the current accounts payable figures reflect annual dues invoices issued June 3.
- Payment options for remitting dues are being explored; the results will be provided to members

**Banking update**

- Mr. Czerr will be setting up a direct bank account for the group and moving all funds to Civic Federal Credit Union. The Board will review annual expenditures and explore options for Money Market investments to take advantage of interest. A recommendation will be provided for member consideration at the next meeting.

***SOUTH CAROLINA RIVER BASIN COUNCIL UPDATE***

Aubrey Lofton provided the following summary for council activities:

- The River Basin Council officially hit the 2-year mark. This was the original target date to have a plan completed; the effort is running about 6 months behind. Current work is focused on developing a management plan and prioritization of strategies.
- Following document completion, there will be public meetings, and the council will transition to a standing committee.

***WATER RESOURCES PLAN PHASE 4B***

Summary.

- Current project focus is on strategic communications and five scenarios for evaluation
- Site security updates have recently been completed for the Oasis model, available online. As a result, existing user accounts are being temporarily deactivated if not used in 90 days. Members were recommended to log in as soon as possible to update access. Instructions will be sent to members following the meeting.
- Strategic communications – SAT meetings scheduled one in each of Q3 and Q4.
- R.J. Reynolds is in the process of renewing an Alliance for Water Stewardship certification and have issued a request from their stakeholders to share water challenges in the Muddy Creek Watershed or recommendations regarding clean water, infrastructure, et al. The email request will be forward to members.

## *NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND SITE VISIT*

Summary Grant requested. RK also requested grant last year.

- Mr. Behmer and Sara Yeh met with a representative from NCLWF on site May 30 regarding the grant requested by the YPDWMG. Ms. Yeh will submit photos of stakeholder and member meetings to demonstrate collaboration activities in action.
- The NCLWF Board meets October 1&2 for the selection process.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### *APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES*

- MOTION: Approve Thursday, April 18, 2024 minutes as written; motion carried.

### *CHAIR'S REPORT*

#### **Board met May 17**

#### **Nonprofit organization status**

- Final documentation of non-profit status has been received

#### **Proposed default meeting schedule from Board**

- Members discussed and agreed to the following recommendation from the Board
  - Full membership meetings: second Thursday of odd numbered months, starting September 12.
  - Board meetings: second Thursday of even numbered months.
  - Virtual only meeting in July to provide a brief update and facilitate transition to an odd month schedule
- Meeting locations will continue to vary around the basin

#### **YPDWMG one-page summary**

- The original one page summary has been updated and is available on home page of website. A copy will be distributed to all members.

### *VICE-CHAIR ELECTION TO FULFILL REMAINING 2024 TERM*

- Jim Behmer, retiring June 30, provided parting remarks. Vice-Chair, Alan Fowler, will be stepping up as Chair for the balance of 2024 term.
- Open nominations: Aubrey Lofton was nominated to fill the Vice-Chair roll; Ms. Lofton accepted the nomination.
  - MOTION: Elect Aubrey Lofton to serve as Vice-Chair for balance of current term; motion carried.

### *ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION*

- Members provided updates on proposed or recently approved rate increases, tax evaluations, and/or internal compensation studies.
- Winston-Salem continues to make progress on a new section of their water plant.
- Monroe is conducting a taste and odor study.
- Duke Energy is working with federal and state authorities to address oxygen needs in Lake Tillery through the use of new air runners.
- Wilkesboro is working in partnership with North Wilkesboro around funding opportunity for a new intake.

### *RECOGNITION*

- Mr. Behmer recognized Alan Fowler as incoming chair and presented him with the groups' Yadkin River sampler, a piece of a large Yadkin watershed model mounted on a block and filled with Yadkin River water and dirt which was gifted to the group by Duke Energy. The chair has been the keeper of this item.

- Mr. Fowler recognized and thanked Mr. Behmer for his dedication to the group and his leadership. Mr. Behmer was presented with Pilsner glasses engraved with YPDWMG logo.

### *NEXT STEPS*

Next steps include the following tasks:

- ACTION: Follow up email to members with OASIS model access updates and R.J. Reynolds feedback request.

### *CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS*

The next meeting will virtual only in July. Members are encouraged to share ideas for topics or presentations.

- MOTION: Motion to adjourn; motion carried. Jim Behmer adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

### *SUMMARY OF MOTIONS & ACTION ITEMS*

- MOTION: Approve Thursday, April 18, 2024 minutes as written; motion carried.
- MOTION: Elect Aubrey Lofton to serve as Vice-Chair for balance of current term; motion carried.
  
- ACTION: Follow up email to members with OASIS model access updates and R.J. Reynolds feedback request.