Meeting Notes

Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Thursday, January 8, 2026

AGENDA

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

WELCOME

A Regular Meeting of the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at Salisbury Rowan Utilities, 1 Water Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Attendees enjoyed lunch and networking beginning at 11:30.

Chair Alan Fowler called the meeting to order at 12:01 and provided safety information. Attendees introduced themselves by name and organization.

MEETING ATTENDEES

The following representatives and guests were present either in person or virtually. A quorum was confirmed with 12 member organizations represented.

Member Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
Charlotte Water	Joseph Lockler	Carl Wilson
City of Albemarle		Eric Holz
City of Concord	Kevin Plemmons	
City of Kannapolis	Alex Anderson	Gerald Faulkner
City of Monroe	David Rankin	
City of Statesville	Andy Smith	
Davidson County		
Davidson Water, Inc.	Jonathan Ray	
Davie County		
Duke Energy	Mike Abney	Phil Fragapane
Rowan County		
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities		Jim Behmer
Town of Wilkesboro		Amber Garwood
Union County		Chris Clark
WSACC		
WS/FC Utility Commission	Alan Fowler	

Other Attendees and Guests

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities: Cinnamon Black
Union County: Hyong Yi, Jonathan Jordan, Jonathan Smith
HDR: Sara Yeh, Katie Clatterbuck, David Saunders
Black & Veatch: Frank Crump
Yadkin Riverkeeper: Edgar Miller
Western Hydrologics: Steve Nebiker

Presentations and Updates

Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Association Update

David Saunders, YPDRBA Executive Director, presented on current activities with the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Association. Highlights from the presentation are provided here; the complete presentation will be posted on the YPDWMG website.

- The YPDRBA was established in 1998 in response to a TMDL being established for the basin.
    - Members include private and public dischargers within the basin who pay annual membership dues.
- The group utilizes pooled financial resources to fund a water quality monitoring coalition to monitor water quality within the basin. This has historically been completely funded by membership dues.
    - 59 active monitoring locations are sampled monthly with results tracked by the organization and provided to NC DEQ.
- The YPDRBA has worked to preserve the basin as a water supply source through many other pollutant management strategies throughout its history including:
    - Stream bank restoration and protection projects funded through CWMTF Grants,
    - Funding a special assessment into Nutrient Management Financial Planning,
    - Acquiring grant funding for development of a watershed model; and
    - Supporting development of a basin-wide nutrient response model which allowed for identification of Phosphorous and Nitrogen pollutant sources by percentage contribution.
- The YPDRBA has since worked to support development of the High Rock Lake (HRL) Nutrient Management Plan in response to the EPA's Clean Water Act requirement for development of nutrient management plans.
    - High Rock Lake was identified in the NC Nutrient Criteria Development Plan (NCDP) as a good candidate for development of the Nutrient Management Plan because it is included on the 303(d) list for impairment for several pollutants and already had existing watershed and nutrient response models.
- In 2019, the YPDRBA developed a strategic framework that addressed reduction goals for both point and non-point sources following a phosphorus first treatment strategy. This strategy has been identified as the more cost-effective treatment option (rather than treating to remove Nitrogen) for reducing chlorophyl-a concentrations.
- This treatment strategy framework informed language that was ultimately included in the HRL nutrient management rules development. The YPDRBA has been heavily involved in commenting on the draft rules, providing information on the fiscal impacts of the rules, and participating in stakeholder engagement groups.
- The HRL Nutrient Management Rules (NMR) identify goals to reduce phosphorus by 50% and nitrogen by 25% to improve High Rock Lake water quality. The rules are not yet finalized or approved, but the draft strategies are outlined below:
    - Allocated nutrient loads and individual load limits will be established through the NMRs to achieve the nutrient reduction goals. The total allowable load to HRL will be 100% allocated meaning that no loading capacity will be held back to allow for growth.
        - Room for growth is expected due to available treatment capacity and future post-baseline treatment improvements.
        - It is anticipated that dischargers may form groups to meet their combined allocated load limits. An organization such as the YPDRBA may work to assist with facilitating those agreements.
        - Nutrient trading will be allowed but trading will not be permitted across W. Kerr Scott Dam.
- The current rulemaking schedule anticipates final approval of the rules in 2028 which would start the 5 year time period in which dischargers are expected to achieve compliance.
    - The schedule has been impacted by DWR staffing changes, the Falls and Jordan lake rules readoption process, fiscal note requirements, and EMC approval of Nutrient Response Models.

Water Resources Plan Phase 4B

Sara Yeh discussed Water Resources Plan (WRP) development progress and results from the survey sent to members after the November membership meeting.

- In November, the group discussed evaluating safe yield which was defined as the maximum quantity of water that can be guaranteed from a body of water during a critical dry period.
    - The available water will be defined for modeling purposes based on members' lowest level intakes. A survey was sent to members to obtain information on the lowest elevations at which their intakes can be operated.
        - After the November meeting, 9 members provided feedback representing 12 intakes which were a variety of in-stream, tributary, and mainstem impoundments. Currently
        - HDR is currently requesting further information from 6 members.
            - ACTION: Members that have not already, will complete a brief (about 6 question) survey to confirm the physical limitations of their intakes. Sara Yeh will send out a link to the survey.
        - Separate verification of intake limitations will be requested from reservoir operators.
            - ACTION: Reach out to Apollo (formerly Cube Yadkin) to gather further information on their intake elevations. (HDR)
    - The majority of members are operating intakes in sub-basins so they will generally not be impacted by the larger basin impacts shown in the model.
- Upcoming Phase 5b work will intersect with the NCLWF grant funding.
    - This transition will likely be a good time to re-engage the stakeholder advisory committee.

Business Items

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Review of November 13, 2025 draft meeting notes; no comments or changes were noted.

- MOTION: Approve November 13, 2025 minutes as written; motion carried.

Chair's Report

Strategic Plan Review

- The YPDWMG Board met in December to develop a 5-year strategic plan update to the plan originally developed for the group in 2018.
- Mr. Fowler reviewed the goals for the group that the Board established during their planning session. Board members had also performed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis of the organization and the conclusions from that analysis were reviewed.

2026 Non-Profit Management Services Renewal

- The current Non-Profit Management Services contract with HDR expired in December 2025. The proposed 2026 scope of services remains the same. The proposed fee is an increase of 3% over the 2025 fee.
    - MOTION: Approve the 2026 Non-Profit Management Services contract renewal with HDR as proposed; motion carried.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Gerald Faulkner reviewed the recent transactions and provided the following highlights:

Financial Summary

- Total assets = $589,735.16
- Accounts receivable = $7,500, which represents outstanding dues.
- Mr. Faulkner reviewed anticipated dues revenue in 2026 which will be lower than previous years due to recent membership changes.

2026 Proposed Budget for Discussion

- Mr. Faulkner reviewed the proposed 2026 budget for the YPDWMG that was developed based on historic expenditures.
    - The group discussed budget adjustments to account for the lower expected dues revenue in 2026. The proposed Water Resources Plan (WRP) budget for 2026 is slightly lower in response to the lower anticipated group income and because, historically, the allotted budget for the WRP has never been fully utilized.
    - MOTION: Approve the 2026 YPDWMG budget as proposed; motion carried.

Action Register

HDR reviewed items in progress on the Action Register.

- The YPDWMG's 2025 Annual Financial Summary will be provided to members this spring. Any comments or suggestions from members on desired content are welcomed.
- Annual Conflict of Interest Policy Review
    - All member representatives and alternate representatives should review the Conflict of Interest policy and return a signed copy to Maryann.Holbrook@hdrinc.com if they have not done so already.
- Foard and Co. has provided 2024 Draft Audit documents. No irregularities or areas of concern were identified.
    - Foard and Co. engagement letter is being prepared for 2025 audit and tax services. The group's taxes will be due on May 15th so engaging Foard's services as soon as possible will make it easier to meet this deadline.
        - Motion: Pre-approve the YPDWMG Board to engage Foard and Co. for 2025 Audit and Tax Services; motion carried.

Roundtable Discussion

- Salisbury-Rowan provided an update on their grant pursuit progress and their recent participation in a discussion to support a legislative study on IBT basins and regionalization. A report summarizing this study is anticipated to be published on April 1st.
- Charlotte Water provided an update on discussions regarding data center development. Currently, a data center site is being considered at a location in the Yadkin basin. Charlotte is pushing these facilities to use reclaimed water. Their new Stowe facility will have reclaimed water treatment capabilities, but managing the wastewater discharge from data centers is still a concern. A wastewater treatment plant expansion is already under way. Charlotte Water encourages municipalities to participate in the NC Water Quality Association as well.
    - Mr. Lockler provided Crown-Bucha for the group to try which is a kombucha made from treated wastewater effluent from the City's McDowell Plant. They also brew beer with the same process.
- The City of Concord anticipates executing their AMI contract shortly. This will involve swapping out 45,000 water meters. Additionally, Concord is hosting the upcoming NC OneWater Spring Conference at the Great Wolf Lodge and abstracts submissions are open now.
- Phil Fragapane and Mike Abney provided updates from Duke Energy. The Catawba Basin just moved into Stage 0 of the drought LIP. The Catawba-Wateree Integrated Water Resources Plan 10-year update was just completed.
    - Mr. Fragapane announced his upcoming retirement from Duke Energy so this will be his last YPDWMG meeting as a Duke Energy representative.

    - Mr. Abney provided an update on Duke Energy's annual bald eagle nesting surveys which were recently completed via visual helicopter inspections. A near record number of 31 eagles were found. From 2018-2025 they have found anywhere from 0-6 nests with 32 birds being the highest number found.
- The Yadkin Riverkeeper provided an update on upcoming forums planned to educate the public on the High Rock Lake Nutrient Management Plan. Mr. Miller also recommended that the group reach out to the NC Collaboratory that has been formed to study IBT policies.
- Other member organizations provided brief ongoing project updates.

Closing

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2026 at Blewett Falls.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Summary of Motions & Action Items

- MOTION: Approve November 13, 2025 minutes as written; motion carried.
- MOTION: Approve the 2026 Non-Profit Management Services contract renewal with HDR as proposed; motion carried.
- MOTION: Approve the 2026 YPDWMG budget as proposed; motion carried.
- Motion: Pre-approve the YPDWMG Board to engage Foard and Co. for 2025 Audit and Tax Services; motion carried.

- ACTION: Members that have not already, will complete a brief (about 6 question) survey to confirm the physical limitations of their intakes. Sara Yeh will send out a link to the survey. (Members)
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