Meeting Notes

Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Thursday, March 26, 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 Thursday, March 26, 2026 at Blewett Falls Tailrace Fishing Area, 2593 Power Plant Rd, Lilesville, NC 28091. Attendees enjoyed lunch and networking beginning at 11:30.

Chair Alan Fowler called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 10 member organizations represented.

Member Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
Charlotte Water		Carl Wilson
City of Albemarle		Eric Holz
City of Concord	Kevin Plemmons	Jane Kopstad
City of Kannapolis	Alex Anderson	Gerald Faulkner
City of Monroe	David Rankin	Amy Cook
City of Statesville	Andy Smith	
Davidson County		
Davidson Water, Inc.	Jonathan Ray	
Davie County		
Duke Energy	Mike Abney	
Rowan County		
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities		Kalah Simpson
Town of Wilkesboro	Sam Call	
Union County	Aubrey Lofton	Chris Clark
WSACC		
WS/FC Utility Commission	Alan Fowler	Bill Brewer

Other Attendees and Guests

Union County: Nathan Lindholm
Yadkin Riverkeeper: Edgar Miller
HDR: Sara Yeh, Katie Clatterbuck
Black & Veatch: Frank Crump
Western Hydrologics: Steve Nebiker

Presentations and Updates

Fish Passage at Blewett Falls

Mike Abney, Duke Energy, presented on Duke Energy's fish passage facility at Blewett Falls. Highlights from the presentation are provided here; the complete presentation will be posted on the YPDWMG website.

- Duke Energy is required by their license for the Yadkin-Pee Dee hydro development to facilitate fish passage for American Shad and American Eel.
    - Passage for the Shad is to promote adults moving upstream to spawn in Blewett Falls Lake or tributaries and then moving the juveniles back downstream.
    - For the Eels, juveniles are moved upstream and then the adults are moved back downstream.
- In addition to promoting passage, Duke Energy does significant data collection to track the Shad population quantities which are then used to determine when to start and stop operating the fish passage facility. The facility only begins operation when substantial numbers of Shad are collected during electrofishing each spring. The facility is operated for 10 weeks mid-March thru Mid-May for four days a week (typically Monday-Thursday).
    - Typically, water temperature has the greatest impact on the number of fish in the area being caught during electrofishing.
    - Some fish are kept for DWR to age them using either scales or ear bone cross-sections.
    - Catch per unit effort (CPUE), the number of fish caught per boat, per day, per week, is tracked. The number of injuries and mortalities during fish passage is also tracked.
- Duke Energy also has a program to tag and track adult Shad. Tagging is planned for over 100 fish each year for the next two years.
- To verify that the Shad being passed upstream are actually spawning, plankton tows are used to collect and identify different species of baby fish.
    - Other methods to track the Shad population include hydroacoustic surveys and Mamou Trawl collections.
    - To account for the fish passing over the spillway, stationary hydroacoustic transducers are mounted on the spillway gates. These monitor fish moving any time the spillway gates are open.
- A ramp was constructed for American eel as an addition to an existing ramp that had been non-operational for decades.
    - This will eventually allow volitional passage for the eels so no trucking will be necessary, but this facility is not fully operational yet.
    - Operations for eel collections started last week and they will migrate in both spring and fall with the fall migration being smaller.
    - The process to allow downstream passage for the eels is still in development.

Water Resources Plan Phase 4B

Sara Yeh discussed Water Resources Plan (WRP) development progress and results from the survey sent to members regarding the members' critical intake elevations.

- Draft safe yield has been calculated based on the input received from members on their critical intake elevations.
    - Members with in-stream intakes may receive follow-up questions to get critical flow rate information.
- Low inflow protocol has a significant impact on the behavior of the reservoirs.
- Additional example scenarios from model runs are provided in the presentation slides.
- Slides will be provided to members after the meeting and be made available on the website for further information.

Business Items

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Review of January 8, 2026 draft meeting notes; no comments or changes were noted.

- MOTION: Approve January 8, 2026 minutes as written; motion carried.

Chair's Report

Strategic Plan Update

- At the Board's last meeting, they prioritized the goals defined in the strategic plan. Goals were broken into three separate categories: 2026 priorities, annual priorities, and longer term 5-year priorities.
- 2026 priority goals for the YPDWMG include:
  - USACE low flow modification,
  - Basin water supply modeling, and
  - Stakeholder engagement

Membership Update

- Davie County has notified the Board of their desire to resign from the group.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Kevin Plemmons reviewed the recent transactions and provided the following highlights:

Financial Summary

- Total assets = $544,604.21
- Year-to-Date Expenses = $40,751.10
- Year-to-Date Interest income = $3,120.15

2025 Annual Financial Report

- Mr. Plemmons reviewed the 2025 Annual Financial Report
  - A summary of the 2025 YPDWMG transactions and bank account balances was presented to the membership.
  - The group has approximately 21 months of liquidity available as of 2025 year-end.

Action Register

HDR reviewed items in progress on the Action Register.

- The 2025 audit and tax documents are being prepared and provided to Foard.

Roundtable Discussion

- No roundtable items discussed.

Closing

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Salisbury Rowan Utilities.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm and members proceeded to the tour of the Blewett Falls fish passage facility.

Summary of Motions & Action Items

- MOTION: Approve January 8, 2026 minutes as written; motion carried.