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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell and Members of the Virginia General Assembly

FROM: David K. Paylor

SUBJECT: Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee 2011 Annual Report

On behalf of the Roanoke River basin Advisory Committee and Pursuant to VA. CODE ANN. § 62.1-69.35:2, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") forwards the attached 2011 Annual Report for the Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee. The report provides a summary of the Committee's activities for 2011. Additional copies of the report may be obtained by calling Scott Kudlas, Director, Office of Surface and Ground Water Supply Planning, at (804)698-4456. The report is also available on the DEQ website at: http://www.deq.virginia.gov/regulations/reports/html.

Should you require further information concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff Reynolds, Water Policy Manager, at (804)698-4376.

A REPORT TO

THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. McDONNELL, GOVERNOR,

AND

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee
Executive Summary

The Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee (VRRBAC) was established in the executive branch of state government as an advisory committee to the Virginia delegation to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission. VRRBAC assists the delegation in fulfilling its duties and carrying out the objectives of the Commission pursuant to Virginia Code § 62.1-69.39.

VRRBAC hosted several presentations at meetings with topics of interest to the basin, including uranium mining.

This report provides information regarding VRRBAC's activities during the 2011 calendar year.

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I. Introduction

The Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee (VRRBAC) was established as an advisory committee to the Virginia delegation to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission. VRRBAC assists the Virginia delegation in fulfilling its duties and carrying out the objectives of the Commission pursuant to Va. Code § 62.1-69.39. VRRBAC is composed of 23 members that include one ex-officio U. S. Representative, six ex-officio Virginia legislative members, 13 non-legislative citizen members, and three ex-officio members from North Carolina. The planning district commissions (PDCs) located in the Roanoke River Basin (Basin) recommended 11 of the non-legislative citizen members of the advisory committee, while the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the House each appointed one non-legislative citizen member. These non-legislative citizen members reside within the Basin's watershed, represent the diversity of interests within the Basin area, and have demonstrated interest, experience, or expertise in water-related Basin issues.

The Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission was established as a bi-state commission composed of members from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina. The purpose of the Commission is to:

1. Provide guidance, conduct joint meetings, and make recommendations to local, state and federal legislative and administrative bodies, and to others as it deems necessary and appropriate, regarding the use, stewardship, and enhancement of the Basin's water and other natural resources;

2. Provide a forum for discussion of issues affecting the Basin's water quantity, water quality, and other natural resources;

3. Promote communication, coordination, and education among stakeholders within the Basin;

4. Identify Basin-related problems and recommend appropriate solutions; and

5. Undertake studies and prepare, publish, and disseminate information through reports and other communications related to water quantity, water quality, and other natural resources of the Basin.

II. Meetings and Locations

VRRBAC meets throughout the Basin in an effort to make the meetings available to all Basin constituents. This year, the VRRBAC held three meetings, in Danville, Roanoke, and Rustburg. Meeting agendas are available upon request.

III. Organization

Mike McEvoy of Roanoke was elected by the membership to serve as Chairman of the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee. Read Charlton of Charlotte Court House and Tim Pace of Collinsville were elected by the membership to serve as Vice Chairmen of the Advisory Committee.

IV. Current Membership of VRRBAC

There are currently 20 members on the VRRBAC. North Carolina is permitted by Virginia statute to provide three ex-officio members to the VRRBAC. To date, these members have not been appointed. A list of current members is provided below.

Senator Roscoe Reynolds
Senator Frank M. Ruff
Delegate Kathy J. Byron
Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr.
Delegate Charles Poindexter
Delegate Onzlee Ware
Representative Tom Perriello
Mike McEvoy, Chairman, Roanoke
Mark Wagner, Huddleston
Bill Lindenmuth, Bracey
Walter Coles, Chatham
John H. Feild, Mecklenburg
Haywood J. Hamlet, Phenix
Evelyn Janney, Floyd
Bob Jean, Brookneal
Russell Johnson, Wirtz
John Lindsey, Penhook
Billy Martin, Blue Ridge
Tim Pace,2nd Vice Chair, Collinsville
Read Charlton, 1st Vice Chair, Charlotte Court House

V. Non-legislative Delegates to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission

Mike McEvoy, John Feild, and Haywood Hamlet were recommended by the Advisory Committee to serve as the non-legislative delegates to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission and were appointed by the Governor.

VI. Subcommittees

The VRRBAC has six subcommittees that mirror those established by the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission: Agriculture, Forestry, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Lake Interests; Public Officials and Government Entities; Permit Holders; River Interests; and Basin Interests. These subcommittees are set up to parallel the structure of the North Carolina counterpart so that the groups can easily interface. The subcommittees are designed to bring together the most knowledgeable people on an issue to accomplish the work of VRRBAC. An effort is made to maintain a geographical and urban/rural balance. VRRBAC members serve as the chairs and vice-chairs of these subcommittees. Other members may serve as their particular skills are needed. No subcommittee met in 2011.

The current composition of the subcommittees is listed below.

Agriculture, Forestry Sub-Committee
Members: Haywood Hamlet - Chairman; Evelyn Janney - Vice-Chairman; Walter Coles, Robert Conner, Mark Wagner, and Billy Martin.
Responsibility: Farm, livestock, and silviculture practices; pesticide / herbicide management; land conservation programs; biosolids, manure, and nutrient management; bio-fuels development; dam and impoundment safety; soil conservation, economic development and agricultural tourism.
Sub-Committee Member Criteria: Agricultural and forestry interests throughout the Basin and representatives from the soil and water conservation districts. Examples: farmers, ranchers, wood products producers, state and federal forestry managers, agricultural agency representatives, dam safety engineers, extension agents, soil and water conservation officials; land conservation agencies; and trusts.

Lake Interests Sub-Committee
Members: Russ Johnson - Chairman; Bob Conner; Mark Wagner; Bill Lindenmuth; Olga Kolotushkina; Tim Pace.
Responsibility: Swimming standards; lake recreational uses, fishing and tourism; debris and sedimentation management; invasive species control; lake water quality standards and monitoring; water level management; marina, dock, and shoreline regulations; boat waste management; navigational aids; and boating safety.
Sub-Committee Member Criteria: Lake interest groups. Examples: Shoreline property owners, boating organizations, citizen lake association representatives, fishing advocates and fishery managers, environmental organizations, lake management and public safety officials, recreation and tourism officials, environmental protection agencies.

Permit Holders Sub-Committee
Members: John Lindsey - Chairman; Mike McEvoy; Read Charlton; Barry Dunkley, William Johnson, Maureen Castern, C.J. Mitchem, Willie Jones, Mike Ward, and Bill Reidenbach.
Responsibility: Water conservation, water recycling, and wastewater reuse; water quality standards and emerging contaminates; environmental laboratory requirements; water withdrawal rights; construction practices and low impact development; solid and hazardous waste management; fuel storage; air quality; power generation, mining and renewable energy.
Sub-Committee Member Criteria: Those entities that hold permits issued by a federal, state or local regulatory agency pertaining to the water of the Basin. Examples: Industrial facility representatives; commercial, development, and mining interests; manufacturing advocacy organizations; permitting agency representatives; water and wastewater management agencies; landfill operators; fuel supply and power generation interests; and consulting engineers.

Public Officials and Government Entities Sub-Committee
Members: Tim Pace - Chair; Delegate Charles Poindexter; John Feild; Jean McCarter; Billy Martin; Bob Jean; Andrew Lester; and Brian McCrodden.
Responsibility: Water supply planning; water public health; flood control, flood plain

regulation, storm water management, emergency response, and water resource financing; land development planning and use requirements; erosion and sediment programs; waste disposal requirements; transportation impacts to watershed; economic development; and disputes between jurisdictions.

Sub-Committee Member Criteria: Representatives of each county, city, and town and any other governmental entities that the Commission deems appropriate as provided by statute. Examples: Elected officials (local, state, or federal) local government managers, state environmental regulatory representatives, state and local health department representatives, council of governments or planning district commission members, economic development officials, local government advocacy organizations, and federal agency representatives.

Roanoke River Basin Interests Sub-Committee
Members: Read Charlton - Chairman; Bud LaRoche, Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries; Pamela Kent Pettus; Maureen Castern; J. T. Davis; Jerry Lovelace, Tom Stutts, and Bob Jean.
Responsibility: Scenic river designations; river water quality standards and monitoring; species protection and restoration; in-stream recreational uses, greenway development and tourism; stream bank restoration; and minimum in-stream flows.
Sub-Committee Member Criteria: River interest groups. Examples:
Riparian landowners, fishing advocates and fishery managers, environmental organizations, canoeing and kayaking interests, citizen watershed monitoring groups, environmental protection agencies, recreation and tourism officials, game management agencies, watershed managers, and consultants.

VII. Issues and Other Pertinent Topics

Kerr Reservoir Water Allocation
The VRRBAC delegation to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission initiated action by the Commission to create a Water Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee to evaluate alternatives for requests for water allocation of Kerr Reservoir. Committee work continues. Legislation was proposed in the 2011 Virginia General Assembly to establish a permitting process for interbasin transfers. The proposed legislation was referred to the Water Commission for further review. Similar legislation may be introduced again at the 2012 General Assembly.

Uranium Mining
The VRRBAC received a number of presentations and public comments regarding lifting the ban on uranium mining in Virginia. The VRRBAC continues to gather information and maintains its earlier commitment to delay any evaluation on the subject until all environmental impact studies are completed.

Stormwater Regulations
Stormwater issues continue to receive ongoing interest from the VRRBAC. An update of Virginia's stormwater regulation was given at the August 2011 meeting with no significant comments from the Commission members.

VIII. 2011 Presentations to the Committee

The following presentations were provided to the Committee. Copies of presentations are available upon request.

- "Spatial analysis of relations among conservation practices, aquatic ecosystem services, and human well-being in the Albemarle-Pamlico basin" – Paul Angermeier
- City of Virginia Beach Uranium Mining Impact Study – Dr. Peter Pommerenk
- Stormwater Regulation Update – VA Department of Conservation and Recreation
    - This presentation was unavailable at the writing of this Report.