

VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Visitor's Center at Lake Philpott, Bassett, VA

VRRBAC members present

Senator Frank Ruff, Senator Bill Stanley, Delegate Charles Poindexter, Delegate Tommy Wright, Tim Pace, John Feild, Haywood Hamlet, Al Zimmerman, Read Charlton, and Linda Green for Congressman Robert Hurt (phone)

Staff present

Tammy Stephenson, VA DEQ

Call to Order

Chairman Charlton called the meeting to order. Tim Hall, Henry County Administrator, welcomed the group to the County. Earl Wright, Assistant Project Manager for Philpott for the Corps of Engineers, welcomed the group to Lake Philpott.

All members and guests were introduced.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 21, 2013 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Hamlet, seconded by Mr. Pace, and unanimous vote of the Committee.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Pace reported that Henry County is funding development of a marina, including a floating store, on leased property. The County has also taken over the group campground.

Mr. Feild reported on development of Kerr Reservoir.

There were no other Sub-Committee reports.

Update on North Carolina's membership on the Bi-State Commission

Tom Fransen, NC Department of Natural Resources, participated by phone. He said the Governor's office had been a little slow on making appointments, but all the appointments have now been made to the Bi-State Commission. He has been working with Larry Yarborough, current Chair of the Bi-State Commission, to hold a meeting in November of the North Carolina contingency. They plan to work with Mrs. Stephenson to plan a Bi-State Commission meeting, hopefully in December or January.

There was a question about some of the NC appointments not meeting the basin residency requirements. Mr. Fransen reported that it has been verified that all the appointees meet the statutory requirements for membership. He added that he was not involved in the selection.

Mr. Fransen added that his agency has gone through major changes, namely the Division of Water quality programs have merged with the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources. The Division had about 150 people and suddenly had about 600 employees. Now, that figure has been reduced 10-12% due to not filling vacated positions.

Mr. Franson said he hoped to have more information after the North Carolina contingency meets. Chairman Charlton said he will make an effort to attend this meeting.

Gene Adesso said he would like a presentation at the next Bi-State Commission meeting on the changes in both states' legislation with regard to interbasin transfers.

Mr. Feild said he would encourage the North Carolina delegation to appoint a representative to the Kerr Allocation Ad Hoc Committee so the committee can be reinvigorated. Mr. Fransen reminded the group that NC is still working on the study which includes modeling that will provide information for this subcommittee. The report is due next June, at which time it will be presented to the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission. They will soon be soliciting input from stakeholders, including the Bi-State Commission.

Other Business

Resolution to honor Mike McEvoy

Upon a motion by Mr. Feild, seconded by Senator Ruff, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Committee:

*WHEREAS, **Mike McEvoy** was appointed to the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee as one of the initial Committee members in 2002, and*

*WHEREAS, **Mike McEvoy** also served as one of the initial members of the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission, and*

*WHEREAS, **Mike McEvoy** served in leadership roles numerous on both the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee and the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee that **Mike McEvoy** be commended for his leadership, guidance, and positive impact on the Committee and Commission.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that **Mike McEvoy**'s dedication and conviction to the issues of the Roanoke River Basin are hereby acknowledged.*

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all members of the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee, by approving and signing this resolution, show appreciation and gratitude for **Mike McEvoy**'s service to the Commonwealth and to the Basin.*

There was discussion on how to fill the vacant position on the Bi-State Commission due to Mr. McEvoy's resignation. Senator Ruff said the replacement must be a member of VRRBAC. VRRBAC can make a recommendation for the vacancy, but the Governor makes the appointment, per the following excerpt from the legislation:

"...The Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission is composed of 18 members, with nine members representing Virginia and nine members representing North Carolina. The Virginia delegation to the Bi-State Commission includes the six legislative members of the advisory committee and three nonlegislative members of the advisory committee appointed by the Governor..."

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamlet, seconded by Senator Ruff, Tim Pace was recommended for appointment to the Roanoke River Bi-State Commission. Mr. Pace abstained. The remaining membership present voted in the affirmative.

Regarding the vacancy on the VRRBAC due to Mr. McEvoy's resignation, Mrs. Stephenson reported that she has been in contact with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, who makes the recommendation for this position. The RVARC plans to make an appointment at its December meeting.

Resolution regarding Dam Safety Regulations

It was noted that Billy Martin, who presented this issue at the last VRRBAC meeting, was not in attendance. There was much discussion on the issue, including whether it was part of the VRRBAC's mission to consider this issue. Upon a motion by Mr. Feild, seconded by Delegate Wright, the issue was referred back to Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and Billy Martin. The Committee agreed unanimously.

For the next meeting, members requested an update on the North Carolina delegation and the Bi-State Commission and how the VRRBAC/Bi-State Commission can provide input on the model. Mrs. Stephenson will poll members for a meeting, which will be after the General Assembly concludes its session.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Lunch was provided by Henry County.

[These minutes were approved at the April 21, 2014 VRRBAC meeting in Danville VA.](#)