

**VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Draft Minutes

**Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Campbell County Board Room
Rustburg, VA**

VRRBAC members present: Mike McEvoy, John Feild, Read Charlton, Evelyn Janney, John Lindsey, Delegate Charles Poindexter, Senator Roscoe Reynolds, Senator Frank Ruff, Delegate Thomas Wright, Billy Martin, Denise Van Valkenburg for Congressman Robert Hurt.

DEQ Staff present: Tammy Stephenson

Others present: Kaye Feild, Deborah Lovelace, Andrew Lester, Barbara Wilson, William Wilson, Derrick Wilson, Eloise Nenon, Byron Marty, Mark Schonbeck, Gene Adesso, Clare, Clark, William Clark, Jerry Lovelace, Katie Whitehead, Eileen Rowan, Jim Thornton, Allen Gross, Georgie Stuart, Tim Stuart, Phillip Lovelace, Joan Wages, Mike Lawless, Aaron Burdick, Hope Cupit

Chairman Mike McEvoy called meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked for introductions around the room.

Campbell County Administrator David Laurell welcomed everyone to Campbell County.

Minutes of the May 5, 2011 VRRBAC Meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Feild, seconded by Mr. Charlton, and unanimous vote of the Committee.

Chairman McEvoy said he wanted to mention an issue that was not on the agenda, report from the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission (RRBBC). He said the RRBBC met at the end of May. They were hoping to coordinate another Bi-State meeting, but North Carolina has some membership issues they need to work out. Following the May meeting, Chairman McEvoy drafted a letter to Delegate Onzlee Ware as Chair of the Uranium Mining Subcommittee, expressing the action taken by the Bi-State Commission. (Adopted Motion: *“As studies on uranium mining in Virginia will not be completed before December 2011, the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission requests that no action be taken by the Virginia General Assembly on lifting the ban on uranium mining until the studies are completed and analyzed, and not before January 2013. Furthermore, the Commission requests that the issue not be considered by the Virginia General Assembly until the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission takes action on the issue.”*)

Delegate Poindexter reported that Delegate Lee Ware, not Delegate Onzlee Ware, was Chair of this Subcommittee. Chairman McEvoy said he would correct that. He added that all VRRBAC members received a copy of the letter.

Delegate Wright said he supported the motion taken by the Bi-State Commission, but opposed lifting the uranium mining ban based on the information he has received from localities and citizens.

Chairman McEvoy announced that North Carolina Representative Edith Warren is now chair of the RRBBC. John Feild was the previous (and first) chair of the RRBBC.

Mr. Feild said he hoped the Water Allocation Ad Hoc Committee could provide a recommendation that VRRBAC and RRBBC can endorse with regard to the allocation of Kerr Reservoir. He asked Chairman McEvoy to express to Chairman Warren to encourage the ad hoc committee to continue working until a final product is produced that can be presented to both states' General Assemblies. He added that the Corps of Engineers has been waiting a number of years for this recommendation.

Gene Adesso announced that NC Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee was abolished in the NC General Assembly. However, he expects NC will continue its membership on the RRBBC. There was much discussion centered on the need to continue with the RRBBC. Issues that need to be addressed include water allocation, interbasin transfers, and uranium mining.

There were no Sub-Committee Reports. However, the following comments were made:

Regarding Lake Interests, Mr. Feild reported that the new marina, Satellite Point, was dedicated and there was a workshop in North Carolina regarding the Hydrilla issue. Mr. Lester reported the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) was working to connect recreational opportunities with the Dan River Basin Association and the upper Roanoke River. They applied for a grant from the Tobacco Commission for Eco Tourism, including connection to the Outer Banks. A decision on the grant is expected at the end of September. Mr. Feild said the RRBA would like to bring some issues before VRRBAC, such as the Blueway Initiative. He recommended everyone go the RRBA website.

There was some discussion on the Hydrilla issue. Chairman McEvoy suggested this may be a good topic for a future meeting.

Delegate Poindexter said the Shoreline Management Plan for Smith Mountain Lake has been revised and there may be court action as a result, as FERC was taking a hard line on a number of issues. He added that the water quality reports look good.

Mr. Charlton reported that he recently attended a Charlotte County Board of Supervisors meeting, at which time they were considering the regional water supply plan. Until then, he did not realize that all localities were preparing these plans. Chairman McEvoy asked Ms. Stephenson to give an update on the water supply plans. Ms. Stephenson explained that all localities in Virginia were preparing water supply plans. The local (individual) plans were due 2008-2010, based on population. All regional plans are due November 2, 2011. Most of the state participated in a regional plan. Once all plans are submitted, DEQ will be reviewing and analyzing them to prepare the State Water Resources Plan. The Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee was established in the 2010 VA General Assembly to guide DEQ in this process.

Chairman McEvoy announced there would be a watershed conference at Ferrum College on October 7.

Chairman McEvoy introduced Doug Fritz of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. He added that the VRRBAC had a presentation a few years ago on stormwater regulations that were being developed. The regulations have changed, which Mr. Fritz will address.

Mr. Fritz gave a presentation on Virginia's Stormwater Regulations. The presentation is an official part of these minutes. Mr. Fritz said for the next two years, DCR will be working with the local governments to education and train on the new regulations. July 1, 2014, new general permit will be issued and the new regulations will be implemented.

Chairman McEvoy said the next VRRBAC meeting may be the same day as the next RRBBC meeting in the lower basin, as it is Virginia's turn to host the next RRBBC meeting. Ms. Stephenson will poll members for the next meeting.

Senator Ruff spoke on the interbasin transfer legislation presented in last year's General Assembly. He said there was resistance from manufacturers, electric co-ops, and the City of Norfolk. They wanted language added that they would be comfortable with. Senator Ruff has been working with Jeff Reynolds, DEQ Water Policy Manager. Options for the upcoming session are to reintroduce the legislation as is, get the parties together on the language of the legislation, or establish criteria in the water supply planning regulation for when an interbasin transfer should or could be allowed. He hopes to have something by the next meeting of the State Water Commission.

There was citizen comment regarding uranium mining.

The meeting was adjourned.