

# ENO RIVER WATER USERS MEETING

August 23, 2017  
10:00 A.M.

Hillsborough Town Barn  
Hillsborough, NC

## AGENDA

- (10:00 – 10:15) Welcome and Introductions (Linwood Peele)
- (10:15 – 10:30) Historical Overview (Kevin Lindley)
  - Demand/Supply Concerns
  - Voluntary Agreement
  - Operational Rules
- (10:30 – 10:45) Annual Operations (Harold Brady)
  - Water Use Report
  - Stream Flow Report
  - Gages and Weirs
- (10:45 – 11:15) Status of Water Users
  - Hillsborough (Kenny Keel)
  - Orange-Alamance (Dale Hamby)
  - Piedmont Minerals (Tonya Scarlett)
  - Other Agencies/Organizations
- (11:15 – 11:30) Follow-up Items
- (11:30) Adjourn

**ENO RIVER ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT**  
**August 2016 – July 2017**

August 4, 2017

Month	Dates of Restrictions:	
	No Restrictions	Stage 1
August 2016		01 – 07
September 2016	01 – 30	
October 2016	01 – 13	14 – 31
November 2016	01 – 07	10 – 30
December 2016	09 – 31	01 – 08
January 2017	01 – 31	
February 2017	01 – 29	
March 2017	01 – 31	
April 2017	01 – 30	
May 2017	01 – 31	
June 2017	01 – 30	
July 2017	01 – 31	

**August - December 2016**

Weeks of Restrictions

**STAGE 1:** 7 weeks, 6 days

**January - July 2017**

Weeks of Restrictions

**STAGE 1:** none

**Hillsborough:**

Avg. Total use: 1.456 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 1.456 mgd  
 (when operating: 1.456 mgd)

Avg. Total use: 1.463 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 1.463 mgd  
 (when operating: 1.463 mgd)

**Orange-Alamance:**

Avg. Total use: 0.593 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 0.170 mgd  
 (when operating: 0.245 mgd)

Avg. Total use: 0.546 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 0.181 mgd  
 (when operating: 0.264 mgd)

**Piedmont Minerals:\***

Avg. Total use: 0.00009 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 0.00009 mgd  
 (when operating: 0.00026mgd)

Avg. Total use: 0.00005 mgd  
 Avg. Eno use: 0.00005 mgd  
 (when operating: 0.00018mgd)

**Eno River Water Users Annual Meeting  
Hillsborough Town Barn  
Hillsborough, NC**

**Summary of Minutes from August 23, 2017 Meeting**

The meeting began at approximately 10:00 AM by Mr. Linwood Peele, North Carolina Division of Water Resources (DWR) – Water Supply Planning Branch Supervisor. He thanked Mr. Kenny Keel and the Town of Hillsborough for allowing the use of their facility to meet. He welcomed the group to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves. The full attendance sheet is included as an appendix. Following the introductions, Mr. Peele provided a brief historical overview of the Eno River Voluntary Capacity Use Area (CUA) Agreement. Then, Mr. Harold Brady, DWR – Water Supply Planning Branch, gave a brief presentation on the annual water use report, and the changes observed throughout the past year in the stream flow records from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage on the Eno River in Hillsborough. These items provided context for the topics and discussions to follow.

Mr. Andrew Gay, DWR – Aquatic Weed Control Program, provided updated information on the on-going *Hydrilla* control project in the Eno River. He began by providing background information, including a timeline, on when *Hydrilla* was first reported in the Eno River in 2005/2006 and how it spread. The invasive weed is thought to have originated from one of the upper lakes or reservoirs, traveling downstream as live, broken pieces of plant until ultimately taking root in the river. This led to a detailed survey in 2013 which found the invasive weed covering approximately 25 river miles. Efforts began in earnest in 2010 to develop a plan to avoid the further downstream spread. To date, it has not been found in Falls Lake. An Environmental Assessment document was produced by DWR with significant input from other resource agencies and water users. Through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process it was determined the most effective course of action while minimizing environmental impacts was herbicide treatment of the affected areas. The treatment methodology involves a very small, but continual, automatic dosage of a specific herbicide released during a specific time-window within the growing season to focus the effects on *Hydrilla*.

According to Mr. Gay, the treatments in 2015 and 2016 were highly successful; therefore, this year the project was expanded an additional 6 miles to include areas upstream up to the Ben Johnson Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Hillsborough. The treatment ended in mid-August. Mr. Gay encouraged everyone to visit the webpage (<http://nc-ipc.weebly.com/eno-river-hydrilla-project.html>) for more background and updated information on the Eno River Hydrilla Management Task Force.

Mr. Keith Neelson, Eno River State Park, stated that the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation fully support the current *Hydrilla* eradication efforts and that he encourages all water users and interested parties in the Eno River to financially support the efforts. The financial commitments were described as being 50% covered by the DWR – Aquatic Weed Control Program, with the other 50% covered by approximately 11 other organizations, both public and private. Mr. Kenny Keel, Town of Hillsborough – Utilities Director, stated that complete eradication is not expected, but that continual long-term control is likely.

Following the presentation and discussion on the *Hydrilla* control efforts, Mr. Peele asked each of the water user organizations to provide any pertinent information regarding the water use over the year and anticipated projects or issues for the upcoming year. Mr. Keel spoke first that the West Fork Eno Reservoir was currently approximately 1.5 feet down from normal pool elevation in preparation for the construction work associated with the upcoming reservoir expansion. The construction work is anticipated to begin in mid-October 2017 and by then the reservoir will need to be brought down approximately 4.5-feet below normal pool elevation. This lower than normal elevation will last throughout construction.

As a result, the Town of Hillsborough has begun gradually increasing the releases in order to get the reservoir down the required amount before construction. The project is scheduled to end in December 2018 and will raise the level of the reservoir approximately 10 feet. In conjunction with the reservoir expansion, NCDOT will be conducting roadway work at the end of 2017 and into early 2018. Mr. Keel also mentioned the severe flooding that occurred in April and June of this year, which resulted in several small wastewater releases and the flooding of a major local park. He noted that the event in June dropped 4.5 inches of the precipitation in approximately 7 hours. Ms. Tonya Scarlett, Resco Products (formerly known as, Piedmont Minerals), stated that they had been flooded as well by this event and it has forced them to delay upgrading the intake pump until the pump house can be elevated well above the high-water levels of the recent floods. Mr. Keel also noted that a recent audit of the water system showed that even though their population has increased over the past several years, the overall water use has remained fairly consistent. This is due primarily to the water conservation efforts on the part of their customers with support and encouragement from the Town. This results in less water directly withdrawn from the Eno River.

Following Mr. Keel, Mr. Dale Hamby, Orange-Alamance Water System, discussed their recent activities. He stated that there was not much to report from this past year, but some needed dredging in the reservoir. Following Mr. Hamby, Tonya Scarlett, Resco Products provided an update on the activities at Piedmont Minerals. She reiterated that no work had

been made on the pump house due to the two recent flooding events, but it is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Mr. Peele then opened the meeting up for the other organizations represented to speak concerning their activities and concerns in the Eno River. Ms. Allison Reinert, Orange County, mentioned the existing *Hydrilla* management efforts in Lake Orange, which includes the restocking of carp. She also provided important details on improvements to the lake including, the repair of structures below the spillway that keep the carp from escaping and regular tree removal on the spillway. These actions as well dredging activities have greatly improved Lake Orange. She noted that currently Lake Orange is full and that the SCADA system controlling the releases is fully functional.

The discussion moved to the Eno River State Park represented by Mr. Nealson who began by thanking Tonya Scarlett of Resco Products for her continued communication and assistance with the goals of the State Park. Mr. Nealson then shared his concern that should a severe drought occur in the Eno River basin, the minimum flow of 2.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) will not be sufficient to meet the goals of the state park and would likely harm the aquatic wildlife in the river through the state park. He implored the members of the CUA in attendance that should severe drought conditions come that we should all work together to meet the needs of all the water users, including aquatic wildlife. This generated a lively conversation around how the 2.5 cfs value was developed and the competing interests that would need to be involved in the discussions. Ms. Robin Jacobs, Eno River Association, provided some additional background information regarding the diversity of water demands that should be expected during low flow conditions. She also took the opportunity to thank the Town of Hillsborough for the continued releases above what is required per the CUA agreement. Mr. Keel then explained that the additional 10-foot height on the dam for the West Fork Eno Reservoir will create an additional 1.1 billion gallons of storage. This will put Hillsborough in a position to potentially continue the higher than required releases to help sustain aquatic wildlife in the downstream portions of the Eno River.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Peele thanked the attendees and adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15.