

ENO RIVER WATER USERS MEETING
10:00 A.M.

August 25, 2005
Hillsborough, NC

Meeting Highlights

Attendees:

Linwood Peele & Wayne Howard – DWR;
Michael L. Douglas – DEH/PWSS-RRO;
Brian Strong – DPR;
Dave Cook – Eno River State Park;
Paul Thames – Orange County;
Joe Phelps, Eric Peterson, Julie Fogleman & Kenny Keel – Hillsborough;
Ben Lloyd, Leo Allison, Roger Hellard & Faye Metcalf – Orange-Alamance;
Bob Atz – Piedmont Minerals;
Holly Reid – Eno River Association.

Historical Operations:

Paul Thames provided the history and overview of Eno River Voluntary Capacity Use Agreement.

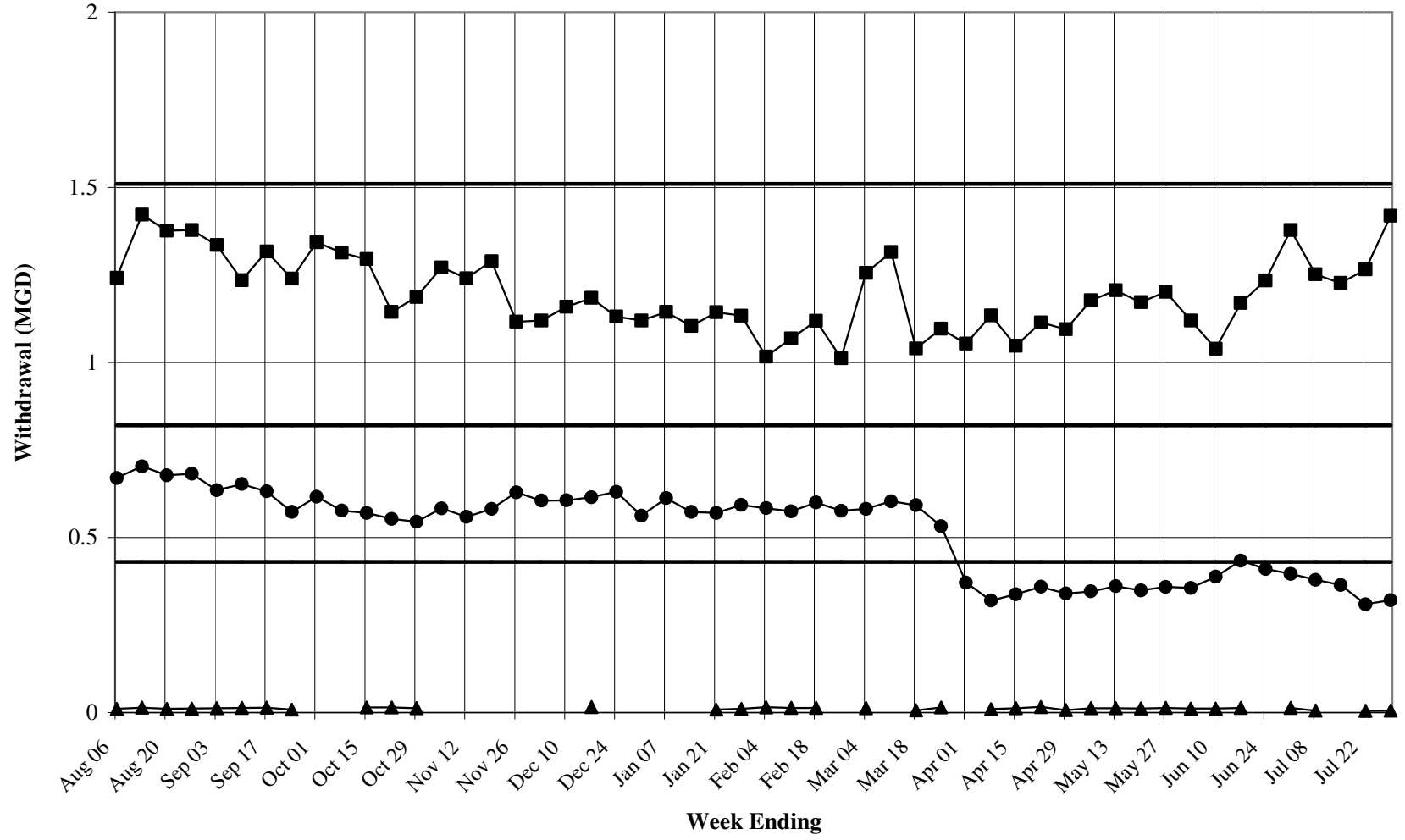
- Discussed why and how the area was designated for the Capacity Use Agreement.
- Provided a brief discussion of the Water Management Operation Plan and Procedures.

Water Use & Stream Flow Report:

Wayne Howard provided and discussed several graphs and tables.

- **Graph 1:** Eno River Average Weekly Withdrawals;
August 2004 – July 2005 with level of restrictions
- **Graph 2:** Eno River @ Hillsborough Gage #02085000;
Flow vs. Date (flow less than 10 cfs for August 2004 – July 2005)
- **Graph 3:** Eno River @ Hillsborough Gage #02085000;
Flow vs. Date (August 2004 – July 2005)
- **Table 1:** Summary for 2005 Stages of Restriction. (August 2004 – July 2005)
Provided number of weeks at each level of restrictions.
Provided average and total use for the Eno River Users.

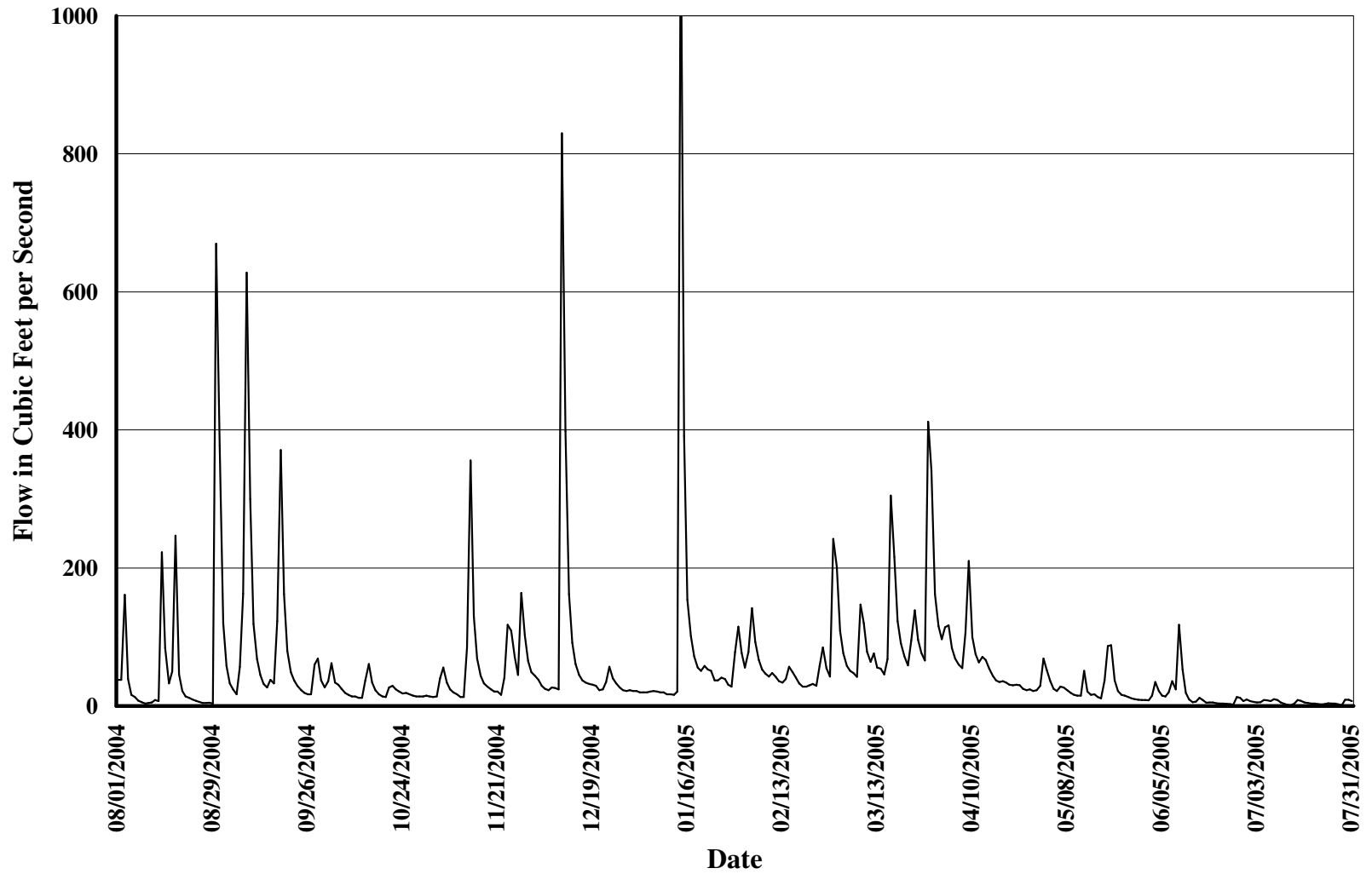
ENO RIVER AVERAGE WEEKLY WITHDRAWALS



Stage 1 Withdrawal Limits
 Hillsborough
 Orange-Alamance
 Piedmont Minerals

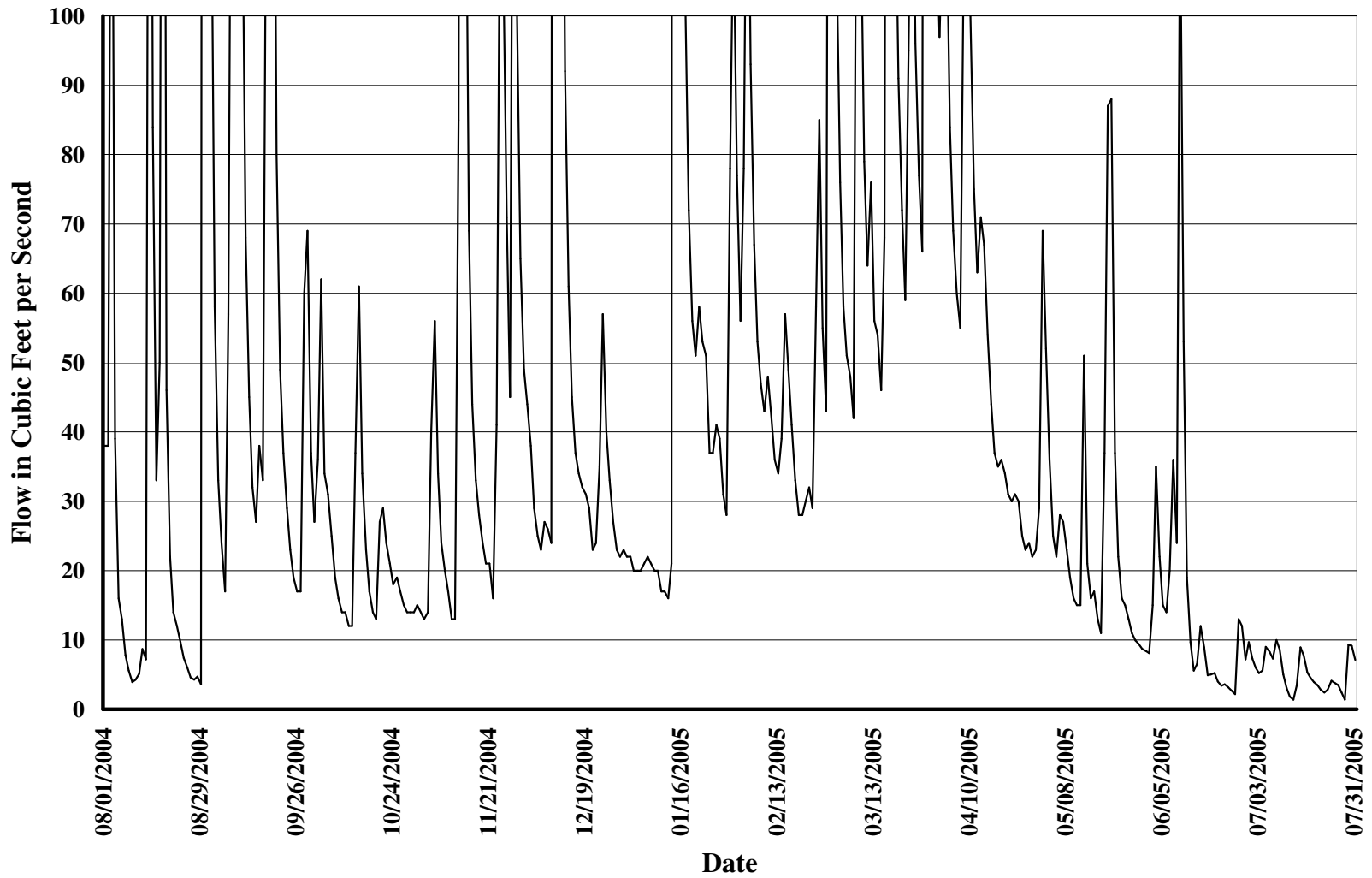
ENO RIVER @ HILLSBOROUGH, #02085000

August 2004 - July 2005



ENO RIVER @ HILLSBOROUGH, #02085000

August 2004 - July 2005



Summary for 2005 Annual Meeting
(covering Summer 2004 through Summer 2005)

Month	Restrictions	Dates
August 2004	STAGE 1	Aug. 1 – 3, 13 – 20, 29 - 31
September 2004	STAGE 1	Sep. 1 – 5
October 2004	NONE	*
November 2004	NONE	*
December 2004	NONE	*
January 2005	NONE	*
February 2005	NONE	*
March 2005	NONE	*
April 2005	NONE	*
May 2005	NONE	*
June 2005	NONE	* ^a
July 2005	STAGE 1	July 6 – 31 ^a

August - December 2004

Weeks of Restrictions
STAGE 1: 5 weeks, 1 day

January - July 2005

Weeks of Restrictions
STAGE 1: 3 weeks, 5 days

Hillsborough:

Avg. Eno use: 1.249 mgd
Total use: 1.249 mgd

Avg. Eno use: 1.160 mgd
Total use: 1.160 mgd

Orange-Alamance:

Avg. Eno use: 0.545 mgd
Total use: 0.733 mgd

Avg. Eno use: 0.448 mgd
Total use: 0.703 mgd

Piedmont Minerals:

Avg. Eno use: 0.003 mgd
(when operating: 0.011 mgd)

Avg. Eno use: 0.004 mgd
(when operating: 0.011 mgd)

* Note: Streamflows exceeded 10 cfs for this entire period.

^a Note: Due to recalibration of the gage by USGS, Stage 1 withdrawal restrictions were retroactively initiated on June 25, 2005 with notification and compliance of the users beginning on July 6, 2005.

Status of Water Users:

Hillsborough

- Hillsborough completed water treatment plant upgrades after 35 months on the project.
- Hillsborough brought their chloramines system online as of July 2005. Should now see a decline in THM levels. Purchase and sales with surrounding systems is now possible.
- As of the last report, the West Fork Eno Reservoir was approximately 8 inches below the spillway.
- Hillsborough is currently releasing 1.5 cubic feet per second, slightly more than the required 1.0 cubic feet per second.
- Hillsborough unclogged the release on Monday prior to the meeting, which accounted for the large spike in flows.
- Hillsborough has adopted revised water use restrictions on its customers. The new restrictions provide the Town with greater flexibility prior to the implementation of restrictions due to the West Fork Eno Reservoir.
- Hillsborough average daily use is 1.3 MGD and is starting to edge up.
- Hillsborough is continuing with the Waterstone Development; 320-acres between I-40 and I-85 that plans for the development of community college campus, retail outlets, homes, and offices.
- Kenny Keel stated that he emails a periodic update of the reservoir status and anyone can be added or removed from the list if they desire.
- The installation of the back-up generator at the water treatment plant is complete.

Orange-Alamance

- Orange-Alamance began operating their new pump station in March 2005, which reduced the load on the water treatment plant.
- Orange-Alamance now uses their uninterruptible purchase contract with Haw River for a minimum of 300,000 to a maximum of 800,000 gpd.
- Orange-Alamance now uses 4 wells for additional supply.
- Orange-Alamance's chloramines system usage will begin September 1, 2005.

Piedmont Minerals

- Piedmont Minerals is now running one shift instead of two shifts.
- The elimination and replacement of the wet-scrubbing dust elimination system with a dry system has continued the reduced river usage by Piedmont Minerals.

Eno River State Park

- Dave Cook noted canoeing was suppressed this year due to persistent low water conditions. High flows have been less, resulting in an increase in hydrilla in the river. Usually, the high flows dislodge the invasive species but not this year due to the sustained dry periods.
- Through the efforts of the Eno River Association, 80 acres have been added to the state park.
- Two studies are being conducted; the Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) study and ongoing monitoring of fish populations to examine the long term effects of the state water flow.

DEH-PWSS/RRO

- Michael Douglas commented that the users were all working well this year.
- PWSS-RRO has hired a new water treatment plant consultant. Mike Hicks, formerly of Kerr Lake Regional Water System will join the staff on September 1, 2005.

Eno River Association

- The Eno River Association is continuing to work with landowners to purchase tracts of land surrounding the Eno.
- In the Upper Eno watershed, Eno River Association is working with Orange County to purchase high priority areas to protect the river.

Orange County

Paul Thames reminded the board that Orange County and the residents surrounding Lake Orange are continuing discussions over the lake level. As mentioned last year, the 100+ homes surrounding Lake Orange have taken a visual ownership of the lake. The citizens have repeatedly expressed concern over the reservoir level and its effect on the aesthetic and recreational value to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. The homeowners have requested the West Fork Eno Reservoir be used primarily for the Capacity Use Agreement in order to maintain Lake Orange's water levels. Paul Thames opened the question of revising the current agreement up to the members of the Voluntary Capacity Use Agreement to determine the issues and concerns surrounding a potential change in allocation.

- Linwood Peele explained to the group that any changes to the agreement would reopen the Voluntary Capacity Use agreement and bring the matter before the EMC. If changes were to be made, they would need to be finalized prior to presentation to the EMC. The process of changing the rule would most likely prove lengthy, and would allow for additional issues surrounding the Eno River to be addressed.

- Joe Phelps reminded the group that the land for Lake Orange was originally given to the County by the original landowners to construct a water supply reservoir. It was re-emphasized that Lake Orange was built to encourage growth with Hillsborough and Orange-Alamance, not to contribute any recreational value to the nearby landowners.

- Paul Thames clarified that Lake Orange was under County ownership up to normal elevation (615') and an additional five foot elevation for flood storage, while recreational control was possessed by Lake Orange, Inc. It was stressed that none of the homeowners are riparian owners. Lake Orange's perimeter was covered by hydrilla prior to its elimination by addition of grass carp and the nine foot drop in lake level during the 2002 drought. Recreation was not an option due to the hydrilla, but with it gone, property owners have built docks out into the lake, which is not allowed and Orange County can enforce their authority if need be.

- Faye Metcalf of Orange-Alamance had no comment on the situation until an actual change to the agreement would be proposed. The concern for Orange-Alamance would be not to lose their allocation since they are trying to sell water. Roger Hellard added that possibly Orange County could contribute to usage reduction.

- Paul Thames agreed that Orange County could add an electronic monitoring/gage system that would coordinate with Orange-Alamance and Hillsborough during peak time withdrawals. Personally, Paul did not advocate change of the current agreement. His main concern is to keep all parties informed.

- Holly Reid of the Eno River Association suggested that Orange County change the information dissemination to future landowners of Lake Orange. A policy of improved notification regarding lake property may be better than attempting to change the allocation

agreement.

- Michael Douglas said that he would check the Environmental Health regulations to make certain Lake Orange was not a grandfather case for exemption to the ordinance banning recreational uses on a public water supply. He added that changing the allocation agreement would result in Lake Orange being required to meet the new regulatory standards.

- Brian Strong mentioned that a new Environmental Assessment/SEPA document would need to be generated if the allocation is reopened and any fish or wildlife issues would need to be addressed. Linwood Peele urged continued communication on this issue.

Follow-up Items:

Kenny Keel mentioned that Hillsborough's new restriction system only utilizes three stages versus Orange County's seven stages. He has worked with Paul Thames to have the water purveyors notify their individual customers in lieu of County notification to avoid any customer confusion.

Linwood Peele asked for opinions of the users on the Eno River Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) Reclassification. Most users were unaware of the current status of the reclassification process. Dave Cook mentioned that sampling was ongoing and that results were favorable to the ORW at this time. Paul Thames added that an ORW classification would cause significant changes in land use and discharge issues within the area.

The users group agreed to have monthly updates emailed to them in *.pdf* format in the future to help promote the DENR sustainability initiative. Additionally, the annual report will be added to the website information. It was asked that any additional information the group may find useful be forwarded to Wayne Howard to be added to the website.

Meeting Adjourn.