

**Environmental Management Commission
Water Allocation Committee
Minutes**

**January 11, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

On January 11, 2017, the Water Allocation Committee met in the Ground Floor Hearing room at the Archdale Building in Raleigh, North Carolina.

WAC Members in Attendance:

Julie A. Wilsey
David Anderson (WAC Vice-Chairman)
Charlie Carter
Tommy Craven
John Solomon
Manning W. Bill Puette

Others present:

Steve W. Tedder
Dr. Lawrence W. Raymond
Ms. Jennie Hauser, Attorney General's office
DEQ Acting Secretary William Ross

I. Preliminary Matters:

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute §138A-15, Vice-Chairman Anderson asked if any WAC member knew of any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any item on the January 11, 2017 WAC agenda and none of the members stated there was a conflict. The July 13, 2016 draft meeting minutes needed approval. Ms. Julie Wilsey moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting in July 2016; Mr. Tommy Craven noted that a correction as to who was in attendance was needed, since Mr. Steve Tedder was identified as a WAC member but he was not at the time of the July meeting. The July 13, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved, with the noted correction.

II. Informational Items

A. Update on two Interbasin Transfer Certificates (Linwood Peele, N. C. Division of Water Resources)

Presentation Description:

Mr. Peele discussed the current status of the proposed IBT in Union County. It is currently in mediation. He also discussed the Pender County Utilities IBT request. That

request is to transfer up to 14.5 mgd to address water demands in 2045. Water is proposed to be transferred from the Cape Fear River Basin to the New, Northeast Cape Fear, and South River IBT basins. The Pender County Utilities request is following an abbreviated process as outlined in G.S. 143-215.22L (w).

Questions/Comments:

There were no questions.

B. Summary of DWR Recommendations for Jordan Lake Allocations (Don Rayno, N.C. Division of Water Resources)

Presentation Description:

Original purpose of Jordan Lake was for flood storage and flood control in response to significant flood damage sustained in Fayetteville in 1945. Water supply storage recommended as secondary purpose to include water supply storage to supplement downstream flows to avoid water quality violations; state also requested sufficient storage to provide 100 MGD of water supply storage, to be paid for by the state.

Summary: How water is stored and parsed out to management accounts. Providing overview of allocation recommendations for Round 4.

Mr. Steve Tedder asked about additional capacity for water supply storage since sedimentation rates for reservoir not as high as originally projected? Mr. Rayno responded that Army Corps of Engineers required to periodically look at sediment storage rates and any change to percent of reservoir allocated for public water supply would have to go through a federal process. Mr. Tom Fransen added that the US ACE is currently soliciting public input on reallocating sediment storage in Corps reservoirs for water supply. A study to determine whether storage from the sediment pool could be reallocated would be a lengthy and expensive process, requiring state funding to match federal funds.

Allocation Decision Process (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Based on need for water
- Limited to 30-year planning horizon
- Limit diversions off the Jordan Lake watershed to 50% of yield
- Allocations can be rescinded
- If IBT certificate required, be considered with allocation

Addressing the concern for yield, recent hydrologic modeling has demonstrated more than 100 mgd is available for water supply allocation, a conservative amount originally selected given numerous uncertainties.

Currently, 63% of water supply storage from Jordan Lake is allocated. For Round 4, DWR received 10 applications from 13 local governments. Total requests represent

105.9% of water supply pool storage. DWR recommendation is to allocate 95.9% of the water supply pool storage.

Cape Fear-Neuse River Basins Hydrologic Model
Modeling Withdrawals and return flows
Model Additions for Electric Generation
Request from Duke Energy question – to be added to the model.

Watershed Use Review
Modeling Scenarios
Minimum Values Summary
Changes in Conditions for Jordan Lake Storage Accounts
Harris Lake Outflow and Buckhorn Creek Flows
Jordan Lake Water Levels
Jordan Lake Recreation Season Water Levels
Jordan Lake Water Supply Storage
Jordan Lake Flow Augmentation Storage
Jordan Lake Daily Water Level Changes (fluctuations April 1- June 30)

Cape Fear River Flow at Lillington
Percent of Mean Annual Flow
Western Jordan Lake Intake Proposal
Raleigh needs additional sources of water

Conclusions:

Modeling indicates are not expected to face flow related shortages over the range of flow conditions captured by the 81 years of historic data.
DWR recommends approval of the proposed allocations, which total 95.9% of the Jordan Lake water supply pool.

Question/Comments:

Mr. Bill Puette asked why flow augmentation can't meet some or all of ecological flow needs, since ecological flow was not included in hydrologic modeling? Mr. Rayno answered that it may. There is not a metric to determine an appropriate ecological flow. It is considered in places where minimum release requirements have been established, particularly for dam projects, but only on a site by site basis.

Comment: Mr. Tedder: Disappointed that the Jordan Lake allocation action was pulled from the EMC agenda tomorrow (January 12, 2017). This has been a lengthy process which started in 2010. How exasperating to get drinking water in the state with the system we have (loop of non-decisions). Many people/water systems are waiting on the EMC's decision. Hope we are able to move on with the project.

Mr. Rayno – question: Do you want to see this presentation again before it moves to the full commission?

EMC Chairman J.D. Solomon – question: Procedurally, is a recommendation from the WAC needed in order to move forward to full EMC for action? Ms. Jennie Hauser: WAC by-laws do not require formal recommendation be made to move forward to full EMC for action (not a rule-making matter). Mr. Solomon would like to see a brief presentation (3-5 minutes) to the WAC again before moving forward to full EMC, to ensure the WAC is not by-passed and due process is given. Vice-Chairman Anderson agreed, given it does not slow the process down.

III. Concluding Remarks:

Vice-Chairman Anderson asked if there was anything else that needed to be discussed or other comments. There were no additional comments by the committee members or staff. Vice-Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting.