



# Meeting Notes

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group**

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Thursday, April 18, 2024

Hybrid: Zoom and R.A. Thomas WTP, Winston-Salem

## AGENDA

- Welcome
- Presentations and Updates
- Business Items
- Roundtable Discussion
- Next Steps & Adjournment

## WELCOME

A meeting of the Yadkin Pee-Dee Water Management Group was held at the R.A. Thomas Water Treatment Plant, 1201 S Martin Luther King Jr Dr., Winston-Salem, NC, 27107 on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Jim Behmer called the meeting to order at 12:01; attendees introduced themselves by name and organization.

Alan Fowler welcomed attendees to Winston-Salem and reviewed onsite housekeeping and safety items. R. A. Thomas is one of three water treatment plants operating in Winston-Salem since 2011.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

The following representatives and guests were present either in person or via Zoom. A quorum was confirmed with 15 representatives from 10 member organizations in attendance.

Member Organization	Member Representative	Alternate	Other
Charlotte Water	David Czerr	Ron Hargrove	
City of Albemarle		Bryan Hinson	Jon Morgan
City of Concord	Kevin Plemmons		
City of Kannapolis	Alex Anderson		
City of Monroe	David Rankin		
City of Statesville			
Cube Yadkin Generation		Joyce Foster	
Davidson County			
Davidson Water, Inc.	Ron Sink		
Davie County			
Duke Energy			
Montgomery County			
Rowan County			
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities	Jim Behmer	Jason Wilson	
Town of Wilkesboro			
Union County Water	Aubrey Lofton	Hyong Yi	
WSACC			
WS/FC Utility Commission	Alan Fowler	Bill Brewer	

## Non-Member Attendees

Duke Energy: Brett Hartis, Eryn Molloy

Yadkin Riverkeeper: Edgar Miller

HDR: Sara Yeh, Nicola Hill, David Saunders, Audri Baker

### CHARLOTTE WATER IBT MODIFICATIONS

Charlotte Water is in the beginning stages of an interbasin transfer (IBT) modification request. Ron Hargrove reviewed the concept of IBT and the details of Charlotte's Water process and need. Highlights included:

- Charlotte Water currently has two discharge points to the Yadkin-Pee Dee Basin: the Mallard Creek plant and the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County's Rocky River plant. The existing IBT has a limit of 33M gallons per day (mgd) at peak; Charlotte Water hit 28mgd in 2022.
- The modification process requires extensive time and public involvement. Charlotte Water's aims to be very transparent regarding the purpose, need, and alternatives considered. Five public meetings are scheduled throughout the basin along with outreach through multiple newspaper and media platforms.
- Mr. Hargrove reviewed the development and required Environmental Impact Statement processes.

KEY MESSAGE: Be informed. Attend meetings, get educated, provide feedback. [CharlotteWaterIBT.org](https://CharlotteWaterIBT.org).

### WATER RESOURCES PLAN PHASE 4B

Sara Yeh reviewed the proposed scope for Phase 4B of the Water Resources Plan. Work for Phase 4B is two pronged:

- Activity 1 – Strategic Communications Support. Primarily reengaging stakeholder advisory committee members and holding quarterly meetings.
- Activity 2 – Future Planning Scenarios. Scenarios deemed high priority scenarios were addressed in Phase 4A and focused mainly on incoming water supply; Phase 4B will model the impact of additional future alternative planning scenarios including via outgoing IBTs.

### SC RIVER BASIN COUNCIL UPDATE

Aubrey Lofton reported that South Carolina River Basin Council members are continuing to meet monthly.

- The March meeting featured presentations on water management strategies and groundwater information. Jeff Lineberger gave a presentation on collaboration and consensus building.
- Groundwater modeling work is underway and planned to be completed in September.
- Details and presentations are available at: <https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/peedee-basin-planning.html>
- The next meeting is April 23 and will include updates on the groundwater modeling and current policies.

### CATAWBA-WATEREE WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP – 7TH ANNUAL WATER FOR ALL SUMMIT

Mr. Behmer attended the CWWMG Annual Summit on March 28 in Tega Cay, South Carolina. He distributed copies of the day's program and the CWWMG Annual Report and shared the following comments.

- The event was very professional and well attended with great speakers, positive atmosphere, and good discussions. The event is CWWMG's annual showcase, focused on bringing people together, particularly elected officials, to hear experts talk about water subjects. The Annual Summit location rotates between states, next year's event will be in North Carolina.
- Mr. Behmer and the YPDWWMG were highlighted during opening remarks and commended on their activities to develop a basinwide water resources plan with regional collaboration.
- YPDWWMG items to consider:
  - Expand participation in South Carolina to support basin-wide efforts both regionally and financially.
  - Consider partnering with the CWWMG on a future event.

### LYNGBYA PRESENTATION

Brett Hartis, Lead Scientist with Duke Energy, addressed the emerging issue of lyngbya management in North Carolina.

- Duke Energy runs an Aquatic Plant Management program to identify and address invasive species in the Basin. They work in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and the South Carolina Division of Natural Resources through cost sharing agreements to address invasive species. A species must be a state recognized plant of concern to qualify for funding. Lyngbya does not qualify, so all costs are the responsibility of local organizations & entities.

- Mr. Hartis shared a presentation highlighting the characteristics and management challenges with lynghya and its prevalence across North and South Carolina.
  - Roanoke Basin: Lake Gaston, over 100 acres. Management protocol has been hit or miss; methods don't always work the same across different watersheds.
  - Yadkin Pee-Dee Basin: Central reservoirs such as Badin Lake have populations.
  - Catawba-Wateree Basin: Lake Norman, Lake Wylie, and Mountain Island Lake each has 5-20 acres. Treatment plans are underway in each. Lake Wateree does not currently have a treatment plan in place.
- Marine commissions and NC State University experts play a critical role in determining and managing treatment approaches. Collaboration between stakeholders is key.
- Successful treatment is expensive and requires professional applicator firms to handle.
- A new online reporting tool is available at: [duke-energy.com/Aquatic Plant Management](https://duke-energy.com/Aquatic-Plant-Management)

## BUSINESS ITEMS

### CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board met virtually on April 4.

#### IRS Request for Information

- The Board responded to a request from the IRS confirming the groups intent to receive 501(c)(3) status.

#### Virtual Platform

- The Board recommended moving from Zoom to Teams for the preferred virtual meeting platform.
  - **ACTION:** HDR to send survey to members suggesting the move to Teams platform to confirm any restrictions, requirements, or preferences before making the change.
- Next meeting – tentatively June 20.

#### Change of Chairman (July 2024)

- Mr. Behmer announced his retirement effective July 1. He will step down as Chair of the YPDWMG at that time as well. Current Vice-Chair, Alan Fowler, will step in as Chair for the remainder of the 2024 term.
- Jason Wilson, Assistant Director will continue as YPDWMG Primary Representative for Salisbury; Jim Amaral will resume active engagement as Alternate Representative.
- Nominations were officially opened to fill the Vice-Chair role through the remainder of the 2024 term.
  - **ACTION:** HDR to send announcement to members announcing the upcoming change and nomination period to fill the Vice-Chair role for the rest of 2024. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

### APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Draft minutes were distributed to all members prior to the meeting.

- **MOTION:** Approve Thursday, February 15, 2024, minutes as written; motion carried.

### SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT

#### Bimonthly Financial Summary

David Czerr reviewed the current profit/loss, financial summary, and transaction reports and highlighted the following:

- Total funds in bank accounts = \$329,931
- The Board agreed to require approval from two Board members for all accounts payable invoices.

#### Banking Update

- The bank account is currently still with Fountainworks; the Board anticipates moving funds to the Civic FCU.

#### Water Resources Plan

- A grant application was submitted to the North Carolina Land and Water Fund to support water quality aspects of the Water Resources Plan. The project team will continue to look for other sources of funding or partnerships. All suggestions are welcome.
- Members discussed the proposed Phase 4B scope discussion on moving forward. Funds are available and no concerns with proceeding were raised.

- MOTION: Approve proceeding with HDR’s proposed Phase 4B scope at a not-to-exceed fee of \$104,230; motion carried.

### Membership update and dues status

- Attendees expressed a need to review active membership and encourage greater participation by all members.
  - **ACTION:** HDR to compile attendance, dues, and other member in good standing status information.

### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Attendees shared current research and operating activities at their utility including anticipated rate increases.
- EPA PFAS Rule: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) data already being collected can be used as part of the sampling data required under the new PFAS rule finalized by the EPA.
- Yadkin-Pee Dee Drought Management Advisory Group: The group will meet April 25 for their annual meeting. There is a light amount of abnormally dry area in the lower basin and a very active hurricane season anticipated.
- Union County: The new Yadkin Water Treatment Plant has been in operation for two months now and is running well. They are operating a split system because the County Commissioners voted to not include fluoride at the new plant. Union County volunteered to host an upcoming meeting and plant tour.
- Albemarle: The City is reviewing Requests for Qualifications to replace a 1939 cast iron 30-inch water main and an arterial transmission line.
- High Rock Lake Nutrient Management: David Saunders provided highlights of the High Rock Lake (HRL) Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) efforts underway at the state level and its potential impact for YPDWGMG members. North Carolina has undertaken three NMPs; however, HRL is the first under the new site specific adaptive management criteria. Although site specific criteria will apply for the reservoir, state standards will still apply for waters below HRL.
  - Point source entities have been preparing. They have promoted a phosphorus first approach and agreed to a 0.75 mg/L limit for larger facilities.
  - The State draft plan call for a 0.5 mg/L phosphorus limit and did not address non-point sources in spite of the stakeholder process stating the importance of including those sources.
  - Opinion: It will take public comments to achieve changes in the plan. Reductions by point sources alone will not be enough; must find a way to involve non-point sources.
- Winston-Salem: Mr. Fowler summarized recent studies at their facilities.

### CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting: The next meeting will be in June; date and location to be announced. Members were encouraged to share ideas for topics or presentations.
- Tour: Members were invited to tour the R. A. Thomas Plant following the meeting.
- MOTION: Motion to adjourn; motion carried. Mr. Behmer adjourned the meeting at 1:46 PM.

### SUMMARY OF MOTIONS & ACTION ITEMS

- MOTION: Approve Thursday, February 15, 2024, minutes as written; motion carried.
- MOTION: Approve proceeding with HDR’s proposed Phase 4B scope at a not-to-exceed fee of \$104,230; motion carried.
- MOTION: Motion to adjourn; motion carried. Mr. Behmer adjourned the meeting at 1:46 PM
- ACTION: HDR to send survey to members suggesting the move to Teams platform to confirm any restrictions, requirements, or preferences before making the change.
- ACTION: HDR to send announcement to members announcing the upcoming change and nomination period to fill the Vice-Chair role for the rest of 2014. Voting will take place at the June meeting.
- ACTION: HDR to compile attendance, dues, and other member in good standing status information.