

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 27, 2002 MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, February 27, 2002, at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Mark Owens, Chairman  
Tom Johnson, Commissioner  
Eugene James, Commissioner  
Tom Coulson, Commissioner  
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner  
Beth Ward, Vice-Chairwomen

Commissioners absent:

David Hammond, Commissioner  
Randy Royal, Commissioner  
Terry Shank, Commissioner

Staff present:

Kimberly Woodard, Deputy Clerk  
Phil Dickerson, Interim County Manager  
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney  
John Bulow, Assistant County Manager  
James Rhodes, Planning Director  
Eli Johnson, Planning  
Arlen Holt, PIO and Cable Coordinator  
Thomas Lynch, PIO and Cable Coordinator

**Call to Order**

Summary of Information

Chairman Owens welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Invocation and Pledge**

Summary of Information

The invocation was offered by Vice Chairwoman Beth Ward.  
Commissioner Tom Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.**  
**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Vote Record:**

<b>Mark Owens, Jr.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Coulson</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 6**

**Total No Votes: 0**

**Motion Passed.**

**Items for Report**

Water Resources Report- Gary McGill Associates

Planning Objectives

The focus of the study is to quantify the water resources and develop a water management plan that addresses the water supply needs of the County while protecting the water resources from over-development. McGill Associates evaluated the surface water resources and contracted GMA to evaluate the groundwater resources. Together, McGill Associates and GMA developed a strategy for conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater as a solution to the water resource issues faced by the Count.

Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA)

The CCPUCA encompasses fifteen counties (Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenior, Martin, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Washington, Wayne, Wilson). The rules adopted to implement the provisions of the CCPCUA are intended to protect the long-term productivity of the groundwater at rates which do not exceed the recharge capabilities of the aquifer within the designated fifteen county area. Permits from the NCDENR-DWR for the groundwater withdrawals are required under these rules when the withdrawal will be in excess of 100,000 gallons per day by a single well or group of wells operated as a system. Each permittee will also be required to adopt and implement a water conservation plan. Groundwater withdrawals of more than 10,000 gallon per day, but less than 100,000 gallons per day, will not require a water use permit as described above, but must register the withdrawal with the NCDENR-DWR. Groundwater withdrawals of less than 10,000 gallons per day do not require specific action by the user under the proposed CCPCUA rules. The rules also do not impact the use of surface water (river and streams) in any manner.

Surface Water Supply Resources

There are three major river basins feasible to consider as future, long-term water supply resources for Pitt County; the Tar River, the Neuse River, and the Roanoke River. Consideration has also been given to the Contentnes Creek, which is a sub-basin of the Neuse River.

The geographical size of each watershed area upstream from the future point of withdrawal is one of the primary considerations. The Tar River drains 3,168 square miles upstream from its confluence with the Pamlico River at Washington. The Neuse River drains

3,800 square miles upstream from its confluence with Contentnea Creek east of Grifton. The Roanoke River drains 9,070 square miles upstream from Williamston. Contentnea Creek drains 1,024 square miles upstream from its confluence with the Neuse River.

McGill Associates believes that the concept of withdrawing significant quantities of water from available resources during higher river flows is the conceptual approach to pursue for the water service providers in Pitt County. There is more than sufficient surface water available to support this concept with the challenge being to develop a plan for storing this for use during low flow periods when sufficient water withdrawal from the river will be undesirable or impossible. This concept will require cooperation among the existing water service providers in Pitt County in order to provide the best service to the public at the lowest possible cost.

#### Conjunctive Use Strategy

The concept of conjunctive use development in Pitt County involves treatment of surface water from the Tar River and delivery of treated water to existing public water systems. Treated water can be used by existing water systems for direct consumption. Surplus water not directly consumed will be stored underground in the Cretaceous Aquifer System through a series of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells. When withdrawals from the Tar River are limited by low flow conditions, stored water will be recovered from the ASR well system.

#### Summary of Significant Findings

The imposition of the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area Rules will have significant impact on the long-term use of groundwater in Pitt County. The increased use of surface water will be necessary to offset the likely reduction in the use of groundwater.

The Tar River and Neuse River are viable surface water resources for long-term use for Pitt County. Both rivers contain sufficient water to serve the needs projected for the fifty year planning period. However, the water must be withdrawn when available and stored for use during periods of low flow in the rivers.

Contentnea Creek, which is a sub-basin of the Neuse River, will not yield sufficient water for withdrawal to support the long-term needs of Pitt County. Any withdrawal of surface water upstream from the wastewater discharge of the Contentnea Metropolitan Sewerage District will have a negative impact on the CMSD discharge permit, particularly since the lower reaches of Contentnea Creek actually lose flow into the swamps and sloughs that characterizes this area.

#### Summary of Recommendations

Develop a public education program to present facts about the water resource issues facing Pitt County and the leadership approach being followed to address them.

Disseminate information regarding the surface water and groundwater resources in the County, current and future water resource needs, the role and benefits of water resource needs, the role and benefits of water resource conservation and reuse and the current status of water resource rules and regulations.

Review the delineation of the "reduction zone" as defined in the CCPUCA Rule for northern Pitt County where the information contained herein demonstrates that over-draft of the Black Creek and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers may not be a serious concern.

Evaluate the resource potential of other aquifer systems in Pitt County such as the Pee Dee and the Castle Hayne Aquifers. Develop comprehensive exploration and testing programs based on the hydrologic system defined.

Systematically evaluate the ability of the Cretaceous Aquifer System to serve as storage aquifers for the storage surface water as a component of the conjunctive use resource management strategy presented.

Explore the water quality of the Black Creek and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers in the eastern portion of Pitt County where the chloride and fluoride concentrations are already at elevated levels and appear to be increasing.

Do not pursue the use of water supply from PCS in Beaufort County as proposed by the Eagle Water Company as a solution for Pitt County due to the public risks regarding the long-term sustainability of the water source and the financial feasibility of utilizing this source. Monitor the efforts by Eagle Water Company in potential development of the PCS depressurization wells for any changes in approach to public interest in this groundwater resource.

Due to its centralized location, develop the Tar River as the primary surface water resource to be utilized in meeting the long-term water supply needs of Pitt County. Develop a cooperative utilization program with Greenville utilities Commission for the most effective use of the Tar River.

Due to its decentralized location relative to the water service providers in Pitt County, do not pursue the use of the Neuse River as a surface water resource for Pitt County.

Due to the inadequacy and/or unreliability of either surface water quantity or quality, do not utilize the Roanoke River or Contentnea Creek as a surface water resource for Pitt County.

Develop a conjunctive use strategy for the surface water and groundwater resources in Pitt County.

Consider three management alternatives (Water Authority, Joint Management Agency, Interlocal Contract) for the ownership and management of only the physical facilities directly associated with the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater in the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) concept.

Phil Dickerson, Interim County Manager suggested reconvene a group of water suppliers to work on organizational structure to take this Water process further. Come back with recommendations at a later date.

## **Adjourn**

### **Motion:**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion seconded by Vice-Chairwomen Beth Ward.**

### **Vote Record:**

<b>Tom Coulson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mark Owens</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 6**

**Total No Votes: 0**

**Motion Passed**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Woodard  
Deputy Clerk