

**Tennessee Valley Authority
Regional Resource Stewardship Council
September 20-21, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC or Council) convened for the first meeting of the ninth term at 8:30 a.m. EST on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at Holiday Inn World’s Fair Park, 525 Henley Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Council members attending:

Avis Kennedy, Chair	Lee Brown	Robert Englert*
Brock Hill	Richard Holland	Mark Iverson
Kim Klinker	Tom Littlepage	Gary Myers
Jack Simmons	Gerald Taylor	Pat Thomasson
Catherine Via		

* by phone

Designated Federal Officer: Dr. Joseph Hoagland
Facilitator: Lee Matthews

Appendix A identifies the TVA employees, members of the public, and others who attended.
Appendix B is the agenda for the meeting.
Appendix C is the Formal Council Advice provided by the Council.

Copies of the presentations given at the meeting can be found at <http://www.tva.gov/rrsc/>.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to presentations by TVA staff about the current status of the Seven States Partnership, stewardship activities on TVA reservoir property and the Comprehensive Land Plan, and answering questions asked by Council. Council members asked clarifying questions about and offered individual suggestions to the information sought by TVA. Formal Council advice was also provided by the Council at this meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a) Mr. Matthews, Facilitator, welcomed the Council and reviewed meeting protocols and provided a safety moment.
- b) Dr. Hoagland, Designated Federal Official (DFO), welcomed the Council and new members, provided a safety moment, and summarized the purpose of the meeting which was to reflect upon and provide advice to TVA about the Comprehensive Land Plan and Seven States Partnership.
- c) Avis Kennedy, Chair, welcomed the Council and new members. Ms. Kennedy provided biographical information about the new members. Council members and TVA staff introduced themselves. Ms. Kennedy also provided an overview of the questions the Council will be addressing.

2. Designated Federal Officer's Report and RRSC Meeting Protocols

a) DFO Report

Dr. Joseph Hoagland thanked the Council for its advice and stated that TVA will be discussing TVA's Comprehensive Land Plan. He explained that the Council has been very instrumental in TVA's river operations, the River Operations Study (ROS) and guidance. The Council reviewed the ROS about a year and a half ago. TVA has discussed a wide range of issues with this Council including trout fisheries, encroachments, Section 26a issues and floating homes. TVA reviews the Council's advice carefully, Mr. Hoagland commented. TVA has also discussed Boone Dam and the associated issues. The repairs are going well, and there is an extensive time frame for repairs to made. Mr. Hoagland stated that we expect the repairs to take about five to seven years. TVA has installed new courtesy docks both at Pickens Bridge and Boone Beach to the help the community access the reservoir. TVA also collaborated with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to increase stabilization and fish habitat. TVA also has been working to hydro seed native wildflowers and have local volunteers involved. Dr. Hoagland also mentioned that TVA balances a host of issues at Boone Dam including recreational needs, environmental issues given the lake levels, river management, etc., and the Council's input has been helpful for TVA when considering the balancing objectives. For more information about the Boone Dam Project, please go to <https://www.tva.com/Newsroom/Boone-Dam-Project>.

Dr. Hoagland informed the Council that TVA is contemplating closing all of its coal combustion residual impoundment sites. TVA completed its environmental impact assessment (EIS) and the recommendation is that TVA would perform closure in place, which basically means dewatering, stabilizing, placing monitors, capping, and sealing them. Dr. Hoagland noted a couple of items of importance from the process. Additionally, Mr. Hoagland provided an update on Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. He remarked that Unit 2 is almost completed and is actually online and running; TVA has been performing a number of tests and preparing for actual operation. For more information about Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, please go to <https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Nuclear/Watts-Bar-Nuclear-Plant>.

Mr. Hoagland informed the Council that today's presentations will encompass the Seven States Water Partnership, Natural Resources Issues, and the Comprehensive Land Plan.

b) RRSC Protocols (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Kendra Mansur, attorney from TVA's Office of General Counsel, highlighted the importance of this first meeting of the ninth term and she thanked the Council, on behalf of TVA, for its participation on past terms and for its participation in this current term. She reiterated that the Council complies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and regulations. She remarked the recommendations of the Council are greatly appreciated by TVA. She discussed voting protocols and quorum issues, and complemented the Council on its balanced membership and achievements.

3. Seven States Water Partnership (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Amanda Bowen/Gary Springston

Amanda Bowen is a civil engineer in Water Resources, TVA Water Supply and River Management. Ms. Bowen explained that in 2003, the Council requested TVA start this partnership, and TVA is providing an update to discuss the importance and background of the partnership from the past 12 years. The quality of life in the Tennessee Valley is dependent on water. Ms. Bowen remarked that we use water for thermoelectric cooling, municipal supply, industrial supply, and irrigation outside of the water and streams. There are many other additional uses, Ms. Bowen commented. TVA has navigational, recreational and hydropower needs. Dependable water is essential to economic growth, and water is a limited resource. TVA must identify and balance the conflicting and competing needs for that water. TVA must find ways to collaborate and cooperate effectively to manage the water resource.

Ms. Bowen stated that TVA listened to the RRSC and formed the partnership. The first meeting was held in October 2004 and all participating partners were present. Two objectives developed: improve regional cooperation and provide a framework for coordination and information exchange across the states.

Gary Springston, TVA's Water Supply Program Manager in River Management, discussed data sharing and information exchange. He noted that there is a lot of data out there, but in the past, interested individuals would have to go to different websites. The Seven States Partnership decided to develop a comprehensive website that can pull the data together in one format at one location. Mr. Springston also discussed interbasin transfers and protocols.

The Council was supportive of TVA's efforts. Several members indicated appreciation for the work of the partnership and the work of TVA. Members also asked questions relating to water quality and quantity issues and interbasin transfers.

4. TVA's Natural Resources Update (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Rebecca Tolene, Deputy General Counsel and Vice President of Natural Resources, discussed natural resources updates. Ms. Tolene focused on a few projects in water resources, cultural resources, ecotourism, and recreation. Some of the partnerships she discussed were: the former Warden residence and clinic in Triana, Alabama, Alabama Department of Conversation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Effort, and Little Tennessee River Basin projects. She stated that TVA completed about 23 major projects around the Valley this year and about 50 clean-ups, which TVA sponsored or participated in. Ms. Tolene commented that the trail at Loyston Point was one of our biggest outreach events this year. TVA has also spent a lot of time educating people across the Valley about our natural resources, and that TVA presented water quality information in 400 classrooms this past fiscal year.

Ms. Tolene also discussed the Interpretive Rule for Section 26a permits. Ms. Tolene advised that TVA issued an Interpretive Rule so that people who are in a narrow box of activities can proceed without TVA completing a full permit review in the upper tributaries. Ms. Tolene also stated that floating home issues continue to be investigated and that Natural Resources is talking with the floating home owners concerning standards, economic impact, proposed regulations, and fees.

Ms. Tolene also discussed several projects planned for fiscal year 2017. She commented that the Dam Explorer Program will be important work and TVA will work with communities that have these dam facilities to encourage folks to come and enjoy the facilities.

Council asked questions about Natural Resources programs and complimented Natural Resources in the work it is doing and for incorporating the RRSC's past advice on partnership and outreach opportunities.

5. Comprehensive Land Plan Overview (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)
Rebecca Hayden-Morgan is the Manager of Policy and Project Management within Natural Resources. Ms. Hayden-Morgan provided a detailed presentation about TVA's Comprehensive Land Plan. Ms. Hayden-Morgan began the presentation with an overview. She stated that TVA is responsible for the proper stewardship of the public lands entrusted in its care. Natural Resources staff are tasked to manage approximately 293,000 acres of reservoir lands.

Ms. Hayden-Morgan then discussed what a land plan is: Reservoir Land Management Plans (RLMPs) establish, through a systematic method, how the 293,000 acres of land may be used. Each RLMP allocates TVA-managed land for specific uses consistent with TVA policy and guidelines and applicable laws and regulations. Each RLMP guides land use approvals, private water use facility permitting, and resource management decisions, and TVA considers comments from the public; local, state, and federal agencies; stakeholder groups; public officials; and distributors of TVA power to assist in development of a preferred alternative for the uses of TVA land. Ms. Hayden-Morgan remarked that all the Land Planning actions must be consistent with the TVA Act and other policies.

Ms. Hayden-Morgan indicated that a reservoir plan is basically a road map. She stated that it is a framework that identifies a particular parcel of land and what can be done on that parcel. RLMPs allow for specific land uses, guide our decisions, and inform us on where some uses can be permanent and what types of use are allowed. And these plans incorporate a public process. Ms. Hayden-Morgan remarked that we offer these plans and ask for feedback on how the land should best be managed.

Ms. Hayden-Morgan discussed TVA's history with forecast plans, multiple use zone allocations, single use allocations, and the rapid land assessment. She discussed what each single use allocation represents. She also informed the Council about TVA policies which affect the land plans. Land Planning decisions are to be consistent with the: TVA Act of 1933, as amended, 1999 Shoreline Management Policy, 2006 TVA Land Policy, 2008 Environmental Policy, and 2011 Natural Resource Plan and Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan. Ms. Hayden-Morgan stated she was open for input and guidance from the Council on how best to plan a reservoir and obtain diverse stakeholder opinions.

Council asked multiple questions about how TVA promotes its work and seeks input. Council members thoughtfully provided advice to help TVA obtain diverse opinions. Council will work toward clarifying this advice on Day 2.

TVA then adjourned for lunch and to hear about Norris Dam's 80th Anniversary Year celebration and for the field trip to tour Norris Dam and Loyston Point.

6. Day 2 Welcome and Discussion of Advice Questions

Dr. Hoagland and Mr. Matthews welcomed the Council to the second day of the first meeting of the ninth term. TVA stated that it looked forward to hearing from the Council. Council commented that it appreciated the wealth of valuable information provided yesterday and that it really enjoyed the tour of Norris Dam and Loyston Point. Council was also impressed with the 80th year anniversary celebration of Norris Dam. The Council participated in discussions to formulate its advice and asked further clarifying questions about the Comprehensive Land Plan and the Seven States Partnership.

Mr. Matthews reviewed the advice questions with the Council, and the Council asked many questions. Natural Resources and TVA staff provided responses to the various questions of the Council.

8. Public Comment Period

A member of public, Kat Dierson, from Defenders of Wildlife provided comments. She explained that her organization recently expanded in the southeast and that there are over 19,000 members in the southeast and over 250,000 nationally who care about conservation and some of the same issues that TVA addresses. She informed the Council that her organization is happy to assist TVA in reaching the public and can be a resource to TVA.

9. Council Formal Advice Questions

The Council deliberated and finalized its advice. The Council formally moved to adopt the Formal Advice attached herein as Exhibit C. The Council unanimously approved the Formal Advice at approximately 11:45am EST.

10. Closing Comments

Dr. Hoagland thanked the Council for its efforts and advice. He said that the meeting was very productive and generated great ideas. TVA will finalize the minutes for the meeting and submit it for Chair approval. (The next meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2017, and the date and location will be determined in the near future.) The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m. EST.

Minutes Approved:  Date: 9 Jan 2017
Avis Kennedy, RRSC Chair

**Appendix A
Non-Council Meeting Attendees**

TVA

Dr. Joseph Hoagland, DFO	Lee Matthews, Facilitator
Rebecca Tolene, Deputy General Counsel and Vice President Natural Resources	
James Adams	Kelly Baxter
Nikki Berger	Amanda Bowen
David Bowling	Tony Cody
Jessica Coleman	Tim Dilbeck
Bucky Edmondson	Pat Ezell
David Forster	Kelie Hammond
Rebecca Hayden-Morgan	Brad Johnson
Randall Johnson	Holly LeGrand
Kendra Mansur	Barbie Perdue
Roy Rogers	Michael Scalf
Gary Springston	Liz Upchurch

Members of the Public

Kat Diersen	
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Others

Jennifer Torregiano, TVA Office of the Inspector General
Jennifer Short, Elite Reporting

Appendix B
Meeting Agenda
9th Term Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC)
Sept 20-21, 2016
Holiday Inn World's Fair Park, Medallion Room
525 Henley St, Knoxville, TN, 37902

Day 1 – September 20

8:30 – 8:40	Welcome (<i>Designated Federal Officer (DFO) - Joe Hoagland</i>)
8:40 – 8:50	Introductions and Agenda Review (<i>RRSC Chair – Avis Kennedy, Facilitator – Lee Matthews</i>)
8:50 – 9:00	FACA Briefing (<i>OGC – Kendra Mansur</i>)
9:00 – 9:10	DFO Briefing (<i>Hoagland</i>)
9:10 – 10:00	Seven States Water Partnership (<i>Amanda Bowen / Gary Springston</i>) Discussion / Q&A
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15–10:30	Natural Resources Update (<i>Rebecca Tolene</i>)
10:30 – 11:30	Comprehensive Land Plan Overview (<i>Rebecca Hayden-Morgan</i>)
11:30	Adjoin and Lunch for Council Members

Day 2 – Sept 21

8:00 - 8:15	Recap
8:15 - 9:00	Discussion and Initial Advice from the Council
9:00 - 10:00	Public Comment Session
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:30	Council Discussion and Advice (continued)
11:30 – 11:45	Wrap up and Adjourn
11:45	Lunch for Council Members

Appendix C
Formal Council Advice
Regional Resource Stewardship Council
Advice Statement, September 21, 2016
Approved unanimously by RRSC

Seven States Partnership

What ideas do you have for the Seven States Water Partnership to build on its effectiveness in dealing with water quantity issues throughout the Tennessee Valley?

- Each State has primacy on managing water. The partnership helps provide a forum for states to work together to share data and information. This group helps to build common understanding before things get political and that we have the correct information to keep things in perspective. The RRSC supports TVA's leadership in this role in regards to water availability. It is important that data is consistent across the States.
- Funding is a challenge for this partnership. The RRSC encourages TVA and the States to seek sustainable funding, including federal sources and state natural resource agencies. The partnership has a real need for funding the system to maintain sustainability. The RRSC encourages TVA's participation in the partnership through its continued support.
- The RRSC encourages the partnership to work at the national level to share data.
- The RRSC encourages TVA to use the partnership as a core effort in the drought early warning system sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).
- The RRSC encourages the partnership to share state drought planning efforts with TVA's drought planning efforts to coordinate to the maximum extent possible.

Comprehensive Land Plan

1. Given TVA's balanced mission in energy, environment and economic development, how can TVA hear from a greater diversity of users and stakeholders affected by TVA's resource decisions?

- The RRSC encourages the Natural Resources staff to interact with the other lines of service within TVA (e.g., Economic Development, Power Operations, etc.) to explain processes and input needs from their respective audiences.
- The RRSC encourages TVA to reach out to young people through educational resources and social media, enabling them to engage their parents.
- The RRSC encourages TVA to identify all stakeholders and resource users who may not attend traditional public meetings. Reach out to them with other "go-to" mechanisms—such as surveys, online, etc.
- Local Power Companies may have better communication networks than TVA to the local stakeholders and might be willing to communicate to them through magazines, bill stuffers, online, social media, Customer Connections, etc.

- The RRSC encourages TVA to engage college students with on-campus activities (such as classroom credits, competition between classes/colleges, social media, etc.).
 - The RRSC encourages TVA to think outside the box to reach a diverse cross-section of stakeholders such as conducting input sessions at large athletic events (such as asking one question and receiving responses by text).
 - Engage campgrounds and marinas to help share and collect information, which builds partnerships
 - If conducting surveys – make them short (e.g., 3 questions).
 - This provides access to people from many locations – to obtain diverse opinions.
 - Make it fun – do trivia – hashtag TVA with trivia and get on Instagram. Reach many people.
 - The RRSC encourages TVA to connect through local governments, community organizations and environmental non-profit groups.
 - Neighborhood e-mail list-serves may help TVA reach a group that is unaware of TVA, or don't see themselves as stakeholders.
 - Utilize opportunities to piggyback on other meetings.
 - Attend resource conventions/annual meetings to share about TVA's natural resources work.
 - Silence is sometimes considered approval; the lack of input may indicate general agreement.
 - Utilize your experience and subject matter expertise to consider the interests of those not there to provide their opinions.
 - Utilize publications for hunters, fishers and boaters. Advertise meetings at places where resource users congregate, such as trail heads, boat ramps, and fishing piers.
2. How can TVA encourage increased overall engagement from stakeholders at public meetings and during public comment periods?
- If planning to make a major decision, communicate your plans before the meeting.
 - Consider other options for meetings such as:
 - Nominal group technique (divide into smaller groups typically randomly to generate ideas/prioritize); record and vote
 - “Disney” method (envision ideal situation and work backwards).
 - Game type set up (e.g., The New York Times Company (NYT) balance the federal budget game with consequences and weights -- applies to water management) could be in person or virtual.
 - Improve the advertising of TVA meetings (beyond Federal Register) to include website, newspapers, and customer newsletters.
 - Consider holding congressional hearing type framework (large panel with presentations, then Question & Answer) to help the policy maker work through and understand

controversial issues (e.g., Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Board /Regional Energy Resource Council (RERC) Joint meeting).

- TVA is doing a good job with the website. Be consistent in process across all messaging in your objectives and input needs.
 - To help bring in more opinions, use #TVA – put up billboard with a question and #TVA to get responses. (Use geography to target specific groups.) Also very inexpensive. Opens up a conversation for comments.
3. From the available options that TVA has in implementing future lands planning efforts, what methods should TVA consider to engage diverse stakeholders following the completion of the current efforts? (options: segment of reservoir, one reservoir, grouping of reservoirs)
- Group locally to maximize audience of interest, and emphasize it is a broad based planning approach.
 - Continue to coordinate with the Landscape Conservation Cooperative.
 - Conduct annual workshops in the off-season to provide updates and changes and take input from attendees (i.e., interests, what they would like to see differently).
 - Utilize chat groups (e.g., marina chat groups). These are people who are intensely interested in the lakes and reservoirs
 - For recreational users, “Meetup.com” groups with common interests and have many types of users. Each group has an organizer and may be able to reach specific groups.
4. How can TVA best explain the constraints that exist for allowable uses of TVA shoreline and land during the lands planning process?
- Make it as simple as possible and accessible (not have to dig around on website). Provide online chat for questions.
 - Management needs to integrate communications and outreach into day to day activities, including employee ideas.
 - Establish educational materials and frequently asked questions (FAQs).
 - Use the TVA available resources and add directional information to direct the public to find out more (e.g., kiosk at bike trail add TVA info).
 - Convey the constraints at the beginning of a meeting – let them know up front. Also point out land uses that preclude other types of land uses, other constraints such as cost to the rate payer and cost of use related to number of users.
 - Allow those with an opinion to discuss how they can address your constraints – put these questions in front of people before the meeting so they can be prepared (similar to a request for proposal (RFP) process which identifies information sought).