

Agenda Item: 14-01 **Annual Progress Reports on the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Falls Lake Agriculture Rules**

Explanation:

The Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Falls Agriculture Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0238, .0256, and .0280 respectively) require their respective Basin and Watershed Oversight Committees to report to the Division and Commission on their annual implementation progress. For crop year 2012, the Oversight Committees approved reports from the 17 Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in the Neuse basin, the 14 LACs in the Tar-Pamlico basin, and 6 LACs in the Falls watershed. The reports showed cumulative nitrogen loss reductions of 45%, 46%, and 31% from baseline through 2011 from agriculture in the respective watersheds. Relative to reductions reported last year, this equates to a 3% increase in reduction in the Tar-Pamlico basin with reductions in the Neuse and Falls watershed remaining unchanged. Reductions in nitrogen loss have been achieved through decreases in cropland production, reduced nitrogen application rates, crop shifts, and implementation of best management practices. The Tar-Pamlico and Falls agriculture rules also have an added phosphorus requirement and qualitative indicators for crop year 2012 demonstrate that there is no increased risk in phosphorus loss in either watershed.