

UNRBA Board of Directors: September 18, 2024, Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jane Harrison (Vice Chair)	City of Raleigh
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Russ May (Secretary)	Granville County
Meaghun Darab	Town of Hillsborough
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Vicky Daniels	Town of Butner
Carl Rist	City of Durham
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Jennifer Ganser	Town of Butner
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Jim Wrenn	Upper Jurisdictions
Chris Bowley	Person County
David Harris	Durham County Soil & Water
Robert Hornik	Upper Jurisdictions
Dan McLawhorn (web)	DFM Law Office
Scott Schroyer (phone)	SGWASA
James Bryan (web)	Orange County
Donna Meyers	American Rivers
Nancy Daly	Wake County
Donna Myers	American Rivers
Katie Cromwell	Upper Jurisdictions
Don Mial (web)	Wake County
Carolyn Bachi (web)	City of Raleigh
Aarin Miles (web)	City of Durham
Christopher Sandt (web)	Orange County
Jay Sauber (web)	Sauber Water Quality Consultant
Joey Hester (web)	DWR
Barry Baker (web)	Granville County
Steve Wall (web)	NC Collaboratory
Nancy McCormick (web)	Person County
Kathy Cooper (web)	City of Raleigh
Grace Messinger (web)	Piedmont Conservation Council
Samantha Krop (web)	Neuse River Keeper
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Lauren Strader	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic (web)	UNRBA

(web) – attending meeting via Teams

Welcome and Recognition -

The Chair, Wendy Jacobs, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance and those participating through remote access. Wendy asked if any of the Board Directors have any “conflict of interest” issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. The Chair called the roll and 11 of 14 members were present for a quorum. The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Being none, Russ May made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board.

Action Items -

Approval of Minutes, June 12, 2024 Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Meaghun Darab made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vicky Daniels, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer Report ~ September 2024 for the period ending September 6, 2024. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$474,253.80 and the savings account balance was \$1,028,929.09. Following review of the report, Carl Rist made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Ed Buchan, and approved by the Board.

Approval of the 2025 Meeting Dates – The Executive Director presented the proposed [meeting dates](#) for UNRBA Board Members and the Path Forward Committee for 2025. Following discussion, Russ May made the motion to approve the meeting dates proposed, Georgana Kicinski seconded, and the Board approved.

Appointment of the Officer Nominating Committee– The Executive Director provided suggestions for the Officer Nominating Committee to nominate UNRBA Board Officers for 2025 for consideration by the Board at their January 2025 Annual Meeting. He suggested Carl Rist, Terry Hackett, and Carolyn Bachl. Russ May nominated Georgana Kicinski to serve as well. Following discussion, Russ May made the motion to appoint the Officer Nominating Committee with those individuals nominated, Meaghun Darab seconded, and the Board approved.

Appointment of the Personnel Committee– The Executive Director provided suggestions for the Personnel Committee to evaluate the Executive Director and financial services support He suggested Wendy Jacobs, Aarin Miles, Jane Harrison, Russ May, Ryan Eaves, Reggie Hicks, Carolyn Bachl, and Jim Wrenn. Following discussion, Vicky Daniels made the motion to appoint the Personnel Committee with those nominated, Wesley Poole seconded, and the Board approved. The Chair noted that the review process would be open for input from all Board members, Alternates, and PFC members.

Appointment of the Audit Committee– The Executive Director provided suggestions for the Audit Committee to review the UNRBA Audit Report ahead of review by the full Board at the November 20, 2024 Board meeting. He suggested Wendy Jacobs, Jane Harrison, Russ May, and Ryan Eaves. Following discussion, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to appoint the Audit Committee with those nominated, Carl Rist seconded, and the Board approved.

Informational Items -

Concerns with Development and Opportunity to Collaborate with Stakeholders – Forrest Westall, Ryan Eaves, and Terry Hackett reviewed existing regulations that affect development, sediment, and erosion control; discussed the limitations, role, and approach of the UNRBA; reviewed practices employed on Triassic Basin soils to reduce sediment (that you can scoop with a shovel) and turbidity (colloidal particles suspended in water), discussed project sites (before and after) soil improvement practices have been implemented; and proposed to collaborate with public interest groups, environmental interests groups, developers, local governments, regulators, and subject matter experts to get the soil improvement practice

approved for application on new development.

IAIA Program, End of Year 3 – Alix noted the end of year 3 for the IAIA program was June 30th. She reminded the members that their annual reports are due to the Division by September 30th.

Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process – Forrest noted that the Falls Lake Rules Readoption process has been triggered by the documents the UNRBA submitted in November and the report provided by the NC Collaboratory in December. This process will be led by the Division of Water Resources (DRW). Forrest has hoped that DWR would begin rule making earlier in 2024. DWR has indicated that they believe rule readoption will not take place until 2027. Forrest noted that every effort will be made to coordinate and collaborate with DEQ, DWR, and EMC to get appropriate revisions to the rules in place using the UNRBA's recommendations. Efforts will continue to speed up this process in any reasonable way possible.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds – Forrest pointed out that the agenda and presentation materials provide information on the potential impacts of DWR's draft proposal for changes to new development requirements (post-construction stormwater controls) for the High Rock Lake Watershed and the rules readoption process for the Jordan Lake Watershed. He quickly went through he slides and noted that the UNRBA is concerned that these processes will impact the Falls Lake rules readoption process, both in timing and in "setting" an approach for nutrient management that could be inconsistent with the recommendations of the UNRBA. This concern has been communicated to DWR via email and through meetings and discussions with Division staff.

Modeling and Regulatory Support and Chlorophyll-a Update – Alix reported the WARMF watershed model, draft WARMF Lake model, and draft EFDC lake model reports have been submitted to DWR. She noted that Forrest has requested a formal statement from the Division that the watershed model has been reviewed and met quality assurance requirements of the Division as required in the Falls Lake Rule allowing a reexamination. DWR doesn't have specific quality assurance requirements but previously approved the UNRBA's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the modeling effort prior to the effort proceeding. It was stated that we have been informed DWR will use the QAPP to review our modeling submittals. DWR has issued an email concurring with the watershed model development effort. A formal letter of concurrence has been requested. The lake model has been reviewed by the PFC and it has been submitted to DWR. DWR has reviewed it and provided comments. The modeling team has responded to DWR and PFC comments on the draft lake model report; the PFC Co-Chairs and Executive Director are reviewing the changes. After their review, the revised report will be distributed to the PFC and DWR. Formal submittal by the PFC (as delegated by the Board) will follow final PFC review. Dr Marty Lebo will continue his work a specific Falls Lake 303(d) assessment methodology.

FY2026 Budget Discussion – Forrest noted that the UNRBA has moved into a period of supporting the use of the UNRBA's Concepts and Principles document and Consensus Principles II in the development of revised Falls Lake Rules. It will be essential for the UNRBA to have sufficient resources to support the ongoing activities of the UNRBA. While there will not be a heavy demand for extensive modeling support, there has to be a "team" to effectively support the UNRBA's engagement on the readoption process and to address any technical questions. Modeling support on any additional requests from DWR or stakeholders will need support. It is impossible to predict the requested support the Executive Director will need to keep the engagement, coordination, and collaboration of the UNRBA in the rule development/readoption process. It was indicated that the budget recommendation for FY 2026 will include contingency allocations to meet these demands. Forrest emphasized that it will be the Board's decision to determine if the requested contingency is properly described and supported.

Communication Support – Forrest reviewed the meetings with organizations in the Falls Lake watershed since the Board met in June 2024. He also discussed the meeting agenda for the forum for elected officials on the morning of November 20th (8:30 am to 10:30 am at the City of Durham, Department of Water

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Management, 1600 Mist Lake Drive, Durham, NC) to summarize the rules readoption process. A shortened, regular UNRBA Board meeting would follow at the same location (10:45 am to noon).

Other Items – Forrest listed other items the UNRBA is tracking including the DWR Neuse Watershed Model/Delivery Factors for WWTP - John Huisman indicated at the September PFC meeting that the model results will be reported out soon with stakeholder input to follow; the NC State University UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water research study; and the impacts of PFAS/PFOS on treatment costs and local governments.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be November 20, 2024, at 10:45 A.M. at the City of Durham, Department of Water Management, 1600 Mist Lake Drive, Durham, NC following the forum which will begin at 8:30. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.