

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
September 6, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon
Remote Meeting: (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the PFC Meeting has been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [UNRBA Meetings Page](#). A direct link to the meeting presentation for the September 6, 2022, meeting is provided here: [PFC September 6, 2022 PowerPoint Presentation](#).

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

II. PFC / MRSW Meeting Time

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): A PFC member has recently been assigned to a local government meeting that is in conflict with the PFC meeting time. The member request consideration of moving the day (or time). The PFC will discuss.

III. City of Durham Algal Flow-way Project

Item Summary (Jonathan Baker and Forrest Westall): The City of Durham has been evaluating the use of enhanced algal growth flow-way technology for reduction of nutrients within Falls Lake. This effort is being considered as an additional action address nutrient reduction rules. Durham will present background about the City's Algal Flow-way Project, update challenges on site location efforts, and the next steps for the project. Durham has identified a site adjacent to Falls Lake in Durham County on USACE land as the proposed site. Durham would like to discuss potential partnering with one or more UNRBA members to build the project. The City is also seeking an endorsement of the project by the UNRBA as it proceeds with project planning and development. The PFC will consider this request and provide a recommendation to the Board at their September 21st meeting.

IV. Status of Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Implementation of the IAIA began July 1, 2021, and year one of the program ended June 30, 2022. Annual reports reflecting first-year investment commitments are due to DWR and the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee (CGC) by September 30, 2022. The CGC will submit a joint-compliance report to DWR by November 30, 2022. DWR is presenting the Town of Roxboro local program and the IAIA joint compliance program to the Water Quality Committee and Environmental Management Commission at the September 2022 meetings. DWR provided draft slides to the Executive Director for review prior to the presentations.

V. Modeling Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality and the draft modeling report submitted to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) for review. The modeling team is compiling and responding to comments to prepare a draft for review by the PFC followed by formal submittal to DWR.

The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model) are being developed considering the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). At the August 2, 2022, MRSW meeting, draft calibration of the WARMF Lake model was presented and a potential list of sensitivity analyses were presented. The model is in the final stages of calibration and revised

calibration statistics will be presented during the next MRSW meeting. The modeling team is planning a workshop with DWR and UNRBA members interested in running the WARMF model to train users on the new model GUI and the set up for Falls Lake. The model team is also working with the SMEs and DWR to continue to develop the EFDC model. The lake modeling report is under development, and the modeling team is working with the SMEs and DWR to develop graphical output formats that visualize the uncertainty associated with the lake water quality data. The modeling team will continue to reach out to Collaboratory-funded researchers to consider and supplement the extensive database developed by the UNRBA, our members, and DWR. The modeling effort has included extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward.

VI. Status of Proposed Chlorophyll a Site-Specific Standards for High Rock Lake

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): On July 14, 2022, the Environmental Management Commission adopted final High Rock Lake Site-specific chlorophyll-a standards. During the January 19, 2022, meeting, the UNRBA Board authorized the Executive Director to submit letters of objection to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) should the EMC adopt a final site-specific standard for High Rock Lake that fails to adequately address the concerns raised in the UNRBA's comments. Some of the UNRBA concerns were addressed and others were not. The organizations with members directly affected by the High Rock Lake proposal decided to accept the revised language and not file objection letters. DWR staff has informally said that the High Rock Lake site-specific standard does not directly affect the opportunities for a Falls Lake site-specific standard. For these reasons, the Executive Director did not file an objection letter on behalf of the UNRBA.

VII. Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support Model Development

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Alix Matos): The UNRBA continues developing a statistical/Bayesian model to link the water quality in Falls Lake to its designated uses. This is a critical support effort to develop a petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup (TAW), MRSW, and PFC have identified local experts to provide data and information regarding satisfaction with the designated uses of Falls Lake (drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and flooding). The modeling team is continuing to compile data for use in the statistical/Bayesian/decision support tool. The TAW met on July 8, 2022, to review some of the data compiled and to discuss potential categories to classify data and evaluate changes. The modeling team will take the input from the TAW and discuss with the topic experts (DWR staff, Collaboratory researchers, etc.) to continue building the model. The TAW discussion will be summarized.

VIII. Ongoing Development of the Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Development of an appropriate chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake represents an important consideration for an effective revised Falls Lake management strategy. This effort is linked to the statistical modeling effort because this model will have the ability to simultaneously evaluate chlorophyll-a levels and potential impacts to designated uses in the lake. The modeling team and the legal team are also coordinating with Dr. Marty Lebo who has been identified as a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA for evaluating site-specific criteria for Falls Lake. The UNRBA is also coordinating with the Environmental Finance Center on their Year 3 effort funded by the UNC Collaboratory and continues to evaluate site-specific chlorophyll-a standards from other States.

The Executive Director met with the DWR Director on June 17th. The Executive Director and UNRBA subject

matter experts met with the DWR Director and the DWR leadership team on July 25th. Both meetings discussed a collaborative approach for DWR and UNRBA to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well.

IX. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): There are several items of outreach that are underway including the continued engagement with DWR. The UNRBA is also planning for the Technical Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for this fall, the workshop with local government communications staff scheduled for this winter, a workshop with DWR/NC Policy Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management strategy planned for spring, and a joint symposium with NC Policy Collaboratory planned for early summer. We will discuss potential discussion topics for the Technical Stakeholder Workshop during the meeting.

Recent staff changes at member local governments highlight the need for UNRBA engagement from multiple staff across the levels of each local government. The Executive Director will continue to reach out to local government staff to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program and participation in developing the revised nutrient management strategy.

The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings is a key component of a transparent communications approach. We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking member input to help identify needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

X. Other Status Items

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Brief statements on ongoing activities:

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.—we plan to address in our follow-up meetings with DEQ/DWR

XI. Closing Comments— Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

Next BOD Meeting: September 16, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next PFC or MRSW Meeting: October 4, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Remote Access Instructions for the MRSW and PFC Meetings

This meeting will open 10 minutes prior to the official meeting start time to allow for users to test equipment and ensure communication methods are functioning.

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	Press control and click on this link to bring up Microsoft Teams through the internet. You can view the screen share and communicate through your computer's speakers and microphone.
Computers without audio capabilities, or audio that is not working	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Follow instructions above. Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone , dial the number through your phone and enter the passcode.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961#	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.

Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your microphone, and turn down your speakers to avoid feedback
- Unless you are speaking, please mute your computer/device microphone or phone microphone to minimize background noise