

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
February 6, 2024, 9:30 AM
Virtual Meeting

Materials related to the PFC Meeting will be placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise: [UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

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

II. Falls Lake Watershed Oversight Committee 2023 Annual Report

Item Summary (Allie Dinwiddie): This presentation covers highlights from the Crop Year 2022 annual progress report on the Falls Lake Agriculture Rule. Collective progress made by the Falls Lake agricultural community in Crop Year 2022 and since baseline to reduce nutrient losses toward compliance with Stage I and Stage II goals in the watershed's Agriculture Rule is summarized. Background information about the reporting and rule compliance process and nitrogen and phosphorus accounting methodologies agriculture follows is also provided.

III. Falls Lake Data Evaluation Of Existing Conditions Considerations for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll Standard

Item Summary (Marty Lebo): Investigation of environmental conditions in Falls Lake has been extensive, particularly over the past two decades. Data from the studies completed provide a sound foundation for the evaluation of whether designated uses for the waterbody are currently being achieved and whether conditions within the reservoir indicate trends of degrading conditions. This presentation will summarize available data associated with algal growth in the reservoir and utilize observations from the data review as a basis for the development of a recommended approach for a site-specific chlorophyll a standard for Falls Lake.

REMAINING ITEMS FOR REFERENNCE ONLY—STATUS ITEMS WILL ONLY BE NOTED

IV. DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At the December 1, 2023, meeting of the Nutrient Scientific Advisory Board (NSAB), the Division of Water Resources (DWR) provided a status update regarding a draft proposal for changes to new development rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed. Stakeholders in the High Rock Lake watershed have not yet come to consensus on this proposal. One of the new components in the proposal would require some volume reduction depending on the intensity of the development. The Executive Director distributed the draft proposal to the PFC on December 8, 2023. DWR is revising the draft now and anticipates distribution by February 20nd. Comments should be focused on the updated draft. Since this draft has potential to impact the components of the revised Falls Lake Rules, our input is important. [Following UNRBA review and we will provide comments on the proposal.](#)

V. Inquiries and Issues Regarding Nutrient Credits Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues to work with DWR to expand the list of eligible nutrient credit practices. Two practices were discussed by the PFC at the January meeting: conventional failing onsite wastewater systems and soil improvement for new development projects. The Executive Director is planning a follow up meeting with DWR to discuss these practices in February/March.

VI. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA has submitted the final watershed modeling report and watershed modeling files to DWR and EMC. The UNRBA is also developing three lake models for Falls Lake. Two of the three are completed (WARMF and EFDC). The third (statistical/Bayesian) is under development. Preliminary results of the statistical/Bayesian model will be reviewed at the March PFC meeting.

A draft lake model report summarizing the three models was distributed to the PFC, Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW), DWR, and subject matter experts/third-party model reviewers for review and comment. Some comments have already been received and are being addressed. DWR indicates their comments will be submitted in late February/early March. The UNRBA will submit the lake report and appendices to DWR for review and approval under Falls Lake Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0275 after comments from reviewers have been addressed.

VII. Updating the UNRBA Technical Website

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the Association's technical website where data, documents, and meeting history are provided. The technical website and public facing website will be merged during this process. The Executive Director, PFC Co-Chairs, and support staff are working on a preliminary layout for the website to provide to the contractor. The current contract for website updates is \$20,000. After the contractor has reviewed the draft material developed by UNRBA, he will assess if additional funds will be needed. At their September 2023 meeting, the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. If an amendment to the contract is needed, the Board will consider this at their March meeting.

VIII. Budget Considerations for FY2025

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At the January 2024 PFC meeting, the PFC reviewed potential scope items for FY2025. Supporting the rules readoption process will require significant effort and technical support throughout the process. The UNRBA will remain committed to working through rules readoption with DWR and the staff responsible for developing revised rules. In addition, the UNRBA will proceed with working on getting a specific 303(d) assessment methodology for Falls Lake and for continuing the development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. The PFC will have a special, virtual meeting to discuss the budget for FY2025. This meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2024.

IX. Board Changes and Appointments to the Board

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At the January 17, 2024 meeting, the UNRBA Board of Directors elected the following officers: Wendy Jacobs, Durham County (Chair); Jane Harrison, City of Raleigh (Vice Chair); Russ May, Granville County (Secretary); Ryan Eaves, Durham County (Treasurer). Each UNRBA member appoints their Board member and two Alternates. Most jurisdictions have appointed these positions. Please provide updated information to Forrest Westall when available.

X. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues to coordinate with DWR on preparations for the rules review process, potential modifications to the water quality assessment methods, and development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake. The work with DWR will intensify greatly in 2024. Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned. Jurisdictions should identify additional meetings where support from the UNRBA team is needed.

Additional information and activities:

- Responded to questions about development in Durham from a student at the UNC-Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media; planning a follow-up call to discuss
- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process
- Planning for meetings/workshop with UNRBA and NC Collaboratory regarding the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy
- Planning for a Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference March 20 and 21, 2024
- A public-facing, two-page summary was developed and distributed to expand outreach and invite additional feedback on the final Concepts and Principles document.
- A question-and-answer style document was developed and distributed to respond to questions from Preserve Rural Durham regarding developments near Falls Lake and their impacts on lake water quality
- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.

The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about ideas and opportunities to communicate our work and the importance of our recommendations on a revised strategy and a site-specific standard.

XI. Other Status Items

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

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.

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

Next PFC Meeting: February 6, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next BOD Meeting: March 20, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

This schedule may be revised, and notices will be provided about any change.

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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.

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