

## UNRBA Board of Directors: March 15, 2023 Board Minutes

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The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 15, 2022 via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Wendy Jacobs (Secretary)(virtual)	Durham County
Bill McKellar	Town of Butner
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Russ May	Granville County
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Barry Baker (virtual)	Granville County
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Whit Wheeler	City of Raleigh
Carolyn Bachl (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Ed Buchan (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Kathy Cooper (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Jim Wrenn	Representing Granville Co., Person Co., Butner, and Creedmoor
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Ashley Rodgers (virtual)	Wake County
Jerry Ayscue	Town of Butner
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Monica Sarna (virtual)	Town of Wake Forest
Scott Schroyer	SGWASA
Dan McLawhorn	McLawhorn Law
Robert Hornik	Town of Hillsborough
John Huisman	NCDWR
Jay Sauber	Sauber Water Quality Consulting
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic	UNRBA

### Welcome and Recognition -

The Chair, Sig Hutchinson, called the meeting of the UNRBA Board to order and welcomed all those in attendance and those participating through remote access. The Chair 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.

**Action Items -**

*Approval of Minutes January 18, 2023 Board Meeting* – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

*Treasurer's Report* – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 28, 2023. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$124,666.84 and the savings account balance was \$1,082,047.08. Following review of the report, Jenn Weaver made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Bill McKellar, and approved by the Board.

*Request for Approval of Contract Amendment #1 for Modeling and Regulatory Support for FY 2023* – Forrest provided an update on the progress of the modeling work and additional work has been completed due to the third-party review. The overall review process includes researchers supported by the NC Collaboratory, DWR modeling staff, UNRBA representatives and other stakeholders. This additional work has pressed the current contract budget, resulting in the need for reallocation of resources. As this review is critical for the successful completion of the UNRBA's modeling, Forrest asked the Board for authorization to commit \$180,000 from the UNRBA's fund balance to pay for the increased modeling effort. Following discussion, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the \$180,000 requested budget increase for the current year and reduce the FY 2023-24 by the same amount, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board. The Board authorized the Chair to sign the amendment on behalf of the UNRBA.

*FY 2024 Budget Recommendation and Approval* – Forrest discussed the FY 2024 budget and stated he did not recommend any reduction in membership fees for FY 2024. While the modeling and regulatory support effort is moving toward completion of its work and the UNRBA is developing a set of recommendation for a revised nutrient management strategy for release in December of this year, additional efforts will be required to promote and coordinate the recommendations with DWR and the EMC. We also still have the process of evaluating a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. The ongoing efforts of completing the recommendations and working on a site-specific standard will intensify through the first half of FY 2024, continued support will be needed during the last half of the fiscal year. As a result, the recommended budget for FY 2023-24 is \$1,204,940 (\$235,440, E. D. Services—as approved in January; \$620,000 Modeling contract with \$180,000 in reserve; Communications, \$60,000; Legal, \$100,000; Administrative and Website Cost, \$9,500). The PFC reviewed and approved on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The contract and scope of work will be presented in June. Following discussion Bill McKellar made the motion to approve, seconded by Wesley Poole, and approved by the Board.

**Informational Items -**

*Modeling and Regulatory Support Status* – Alix Matos with Brown and Caldwell updated the Board on the modeling progress to date. For detailed information please review meeting presentation:

[March 15 Meeting Presentation](#) .

*Developing Recommendations for Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard* - Forrest reported efforts continue to coordinate with DWR. This includes plans to meet again with DEQ and DWR leadership to describe the UNRBA's general objectives to a revised strategy and the importance of a site-specific standard. Efforts continue to extensively discuss and vet the models developed, review and bring forward a set of recommendations for a revised strategy and to secure support for an appropriate site specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake. Plans are under development on how to coordinate with DEQ and EPA on these objectives. DWR has now hired a standards coordinator that replaces the former coordinator who retired. As a result, we anticipate the Division will identify a contact for us to work with on developing the site-specific standard recommendation/petition.

*Communications* – Forrest reported there are several items of outreach that are underway including the

continued engagement with DWR just noted. The UNRBA is doing a session at WRI's Annual Conference next week; conducting a joint symposium with NC Collaboratory and UNC Institute for the Environment in April 2023; a workshop with DWR/NC Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management strategy planned for summer 2023; a Technical Stakeholder Workshop in fall 2023; and a Stakeholder workshop to discussed the final recommendations for draft strategy in the spring of 2024. Expansion of outreach efforts with our members and their elected and leadership representatives remains a priority.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be May 17, 2023, at 9:30 A.M face to face, with a remote access option. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved