

UNRBA Board of Directors: November 17, 2021 Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 15, 2021 via conference call/webinar due to the COVID-19 issues. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Bill McKellar (Vice Chair)	Town of Butner
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Secretary)	Town of Hillsborough
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Russ May	Granville County
Whit Wheeler	City of Raleigh
Neena Nowell	City of Creedmoor
Barry Baker	Granville County
Jamezetta Bedford	Orange County
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
David Harris	Durham Soil & Water Conservation
Emily Bateman	Durham Soil & Water Conservation
Kathy Cooper	City of Raleigh
McKenzie Myers	Durham County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Nancy Daly	Wake County
Carolyn Bachl	City of Raleigh
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh
Lori Oakley	Person County
Jennifer Tavantzis	Representing Granville & Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Javiera Caballero	City of Durham
Patricia Gentry	Person County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville & Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
John Huisman	DWR Planning
Wendy Jacobs	Durham County
Carrie Mitchell	Town of Wake Forest
Bob Hornick	Town of Hillsborough
Peter Raabe	American Rivers
Carleen Evans	Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co.
Jessica Sheffield	Eno River Association
Simon Warren	
Jay Sauber	Water Quality Consultant
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 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 13 members were present for a quorum. The Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda and, if not, was there a motion to approve the agenda. No changes or additions were requested and Bill McKeller made the motion to approve as presented, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

Action Items -

Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2021 Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Neena Nowell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Wendy Jacobs, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending October 31, 2021. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$991,386.14 and the savings account balance was \$571,117.06. 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.

2022 UNRBA Meeting Dates – Forrest Westall, Executive Director, presented the meeting date schedule for the Board and Path Forward Committee. Following discussion, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to approve the meeting dates, seconded by Neena Nowell, and approved by the Board.

Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee – Forrest reported to the Board that the meeting in January will be the annual meeting in which the officers are elected. Forrest recommended the following to be on the Nominating Committee: Carolyn Bachl, Terry Hackett, and Wendy Jacobs. Following discussion, Jamezette Bedford made the motion to approve the committee members, seconded by Javiera Caballero, and approved by the Board.

Appointment of Personnel Committee – Forrest identified for the Board the members of the 2020 Personnel Committee, Don O’Toole, Chair, the UNRBA Executive Committee (Officers), Reggie Hicks, Jim Wrenn, Dan McLawhorn, and Carolyn Bachl. He noted that the Committee Chair had always invited other UNRBA members to participate in the committee meeting. He asked the Board to consider reappointment of the members identified. Following discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to reauthorize the committee. Jamezette Bedford made the motion to approve the members as presented, seconded by Wendy Jacobs, and approved by the Board.

Forrest noted the Path Forward Committee has had co-chairs to support its work. Currently there is only one in that role, Michelle Woolfolk. Forrest put forward Terry Hackett for consideration to be appointed to fill the vacant co-chair position. Following discussion, Bill McKeller made the motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Wendy Jacobs, and approved by the Board.

Informational Items -

UNRBA Audit for FY 2020-21 – Carleen Evans with Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co., LLP of Oxford, N.C., presented the audit for the UNRBA for FY 2020-21. Ms. Evans reported the UNRBA had an unqualified report or opinion which is the most favorable the UNRBA could receive. To review the audit details please click on the link: [UNRBA FY 2020-21 Audit](#)

Revisions to UNRBA Policies and Procedures Manual – Forrest reported that revisions to the “Policy and Procedures Policy” have been drafted based on comments received during the completion of the 990 tax return for 2020. The revision recommended is the addition of a Whistleblower policy. Forrest circulated a

draft to the Legal Group and based on comments from the Group, the draft was revised. The updated draft was provided to the Board prior to today's meeting. Forrest requested comments from the Board and stated that he planned to present a final draft revision of the Manual to Board at the January 19, 2022 meeting.

Status of the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA): Forrest reported to the Board a reporting tool has been developed and reviewed by the IAIA Reporting Workgroup to assist the IAIA participants in tracking eligible projects and providing information to document compliance with the Program and provide required information to DWR each year of the IAIA. This tool was discussed by the PFC in November, and DWR provided some additional recommendations for clarification that have been incorporated. Action for approving the reporting template will be brought forward at the January 19, 2022, meeting.

Status of Proposed Chlorophyll a Site-Specific Standards for High Rock Lake – Forrest reminded the Board, as reported previously, that the NC Environmental Management Commission (EMC) voted at their July meeting to send the proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Water Quality Standard out to public notice and hearing. The public notice was issued in the September 1st edition of the NC Register. The hearing was held virtually on October 28th and the comment period ended on November 15th. This proposal has potential precedent setting implications for site specific chlorophyll-a criteria in other NC reservoirs and will likely affect the process for establishing a site-specific standard for Falls Lake. At the September 15, 2021 Board meeting, the Board reaffirmed authorization of the Executive Director to comment on this rule-making precedent, and comments were submitted on October 26, 2021, ahead of the hearing. Forrest also noted that the UNRBA has commented on DWR's High Rock Lake site-specific chlorophyll-a proposal since it was first released for a Compliance Implementation Committee (a committee of NC's Nutrient Criteria Development Plan) in December 2020 and to the EMC before their May 2021 meeting.

EPA Approval of Ambient Water Quality Criteria Recommendation for Lakes and Reservoirs – Forrest noted the US EPA had noticed for public comment a new water quality criteria guidance proposal in May of 2020. The UNRBA submitted comments on August 4, 2020. On August 13, 2021 EPA issued final approval of this criteria. States are not required to adopt these criteria, but to consider them in developing their standards for lakes and reservoirs.

Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard – Forrest reviewed the status of the UNRBA's development of a statistical/Bayesian model for Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup is assisting on this effort. The membership of the workgroup was selected based on MRSW and PFC recommendations of local subject matter 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 will be coordinating virtual meetings with these experts to understand the types of data and information that are tracked with respect to designated uses to inform development of the statistical/Bayesian modeling. Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard represents an important consideration for a revised Falls Lake management strategy and is linked to this modeling effort. 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 and coordinating with the Environmental Finance Center on their Year 3 effort funded by the UNC Collaboratory.

Modeling & Regulatory Support (MRS) Status – Alix Matos reviewed the status of the MRS efforts and noted that the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. This information will provide the best available picture of what sources in the watershed fall into the "controllable" category and lay the foundation on the feasibility and potential effectiveness of management actions to reduce nutrient input. The modeling team plans to reach out to Collaboratory funded researchers and other subject matter experts to review modeling as it progresses. Calibration of WARMF Lake and EFDC are also proceeding. The modeling team is working on the watershed model calibration report and the EFDC model calibration report. The scenario screening workgroup is continuing its process to select scenarios to evaluate with the models.

Communications – Forrest reported that the Falls Lake researchers have been presenting their studies to the UNRBA Path Forward Committee (PFC) and the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW). In July, Dr. Rick Luettich presented his study on water circulation and physical properties of Falls Lake. In August, Dr. Nathan Hall presented his study on nitrogen fixation and denitrification in Falls Lake; he also presented Dr. Mike Piehler’s study on quantifying nutrient processing in Falls Lake. In September, Dr. Brent McKee presented his study of suspended sediment inputs and associated organic carbon to Falls Lake, and the amount of sediment mixing and accumulation impacting nutrient fluxes and carbon Falls Lake. In October, Dr. Michael O’Driscoll presented his on estimating the influence of onsite wastewater treatment systems on nutrient loading to Falls Lake Watershed. Each of these studies provide important information relevant to the watershed and lake models being developed by the UNRBA. The modeling team will continue to coordinate with these researchers as the models are developed and calibrated to ensure the models reflect the latest science and information. The UNRBA is also planning a technical stakeholders’ workshop for Spring 2022 to discuss the status of the modeling efforts. Planning has also begun for a joint symposium with the Collaboratory to be held in Spring 2022. The Executive Director and the UNRBA Chair will be heading up a group to meet with Secretary Elizabeth Biser tomorrow to review the work of the UNRBA with the Department of Environmental Quality’s leadership.

Ongoing Discussions/Issues - Forrest summarized a couple of items and activities in progress: Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023; and ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be January 19, 2022 at 9:30 A.M via remote access. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.