

## UNRBA Board of Directors: September 20, 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, September 20, 2023 via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Wendy Jacobs (Secretary)	Durham County
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Carolyn Bachl	City of Raleigh
Jennifer Ganser	Town of Butner
Chris Bowley	Person County
Russ May	Granville County
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Michelle Woolfolk (virtual)	City of Durham
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Bill McKellar	Town of Butner
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
Jane Harrison (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Sandy Wilber (virtual)	City of Durham
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Jennifer Tavantvis	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Sally Greene (virtual)	Orange County
Jordan McMillan	Town of Butner
Katie Rhyne	Town of Butner
Kathy Cooper	City of Raleigh
Nancy Daly (virtual)	Wake County
Carlton Thornton	Orange County
Monica Sarna (virtual)	Town of Wake Forest
Scott Schroyer	SGWASA
Ann Coan (virtual)	NC Farm Bureau
Cy Stober	Orange County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
John Huisman	NC DWR
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Jim Wrenn	Representing SGWASA and SUDA
Barry Baker	Granville County
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic (virtual)	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 12 of 14 members were present for a quorum.

**Action Items -**

*Approval of Agenda* – The Chair asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Being none, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve as presented, seconded by Terry Hackett, and approved by the Board.

*2022 990 Tax Return* – Forrest reported to the Board that the 2022 990 Draft Tax Return has been distributed to the Board for review and comment. Forrest noted that if any member has comments or questions, please contact he or Haywood.

*Approval of Minutes, June 21, 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 Bill McKellar, and approved by the Board.

*Treasurer’s Report* – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending August 31, 2023. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$283,556.45 and the savings account balance was \$1,194,335.32. Following review of the report, Bill McKellar made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Terry Hackett, and approved by the Board.

*Request for Approval to proceed with Update of the UNRBA Technical Website* – Forrest reported that the technical website software is ending its service life (support) and requires updating. The current software version is Drupal 7 and will be updated to Drupal 10. River Delta Consulting has provided a not to exceed price of \$20,000 and the UNRBA has close to that amount in unspent funds accumulated over several budget cycles for website improvements. Forrest noted that the final update requirements and site improvements could exceed this amount. He requested that the Board allow the use of up to \$10,000 additional funds from contingency to assist with the negotiation of a final proposed contract to be presented at the November Board meeting. Following discussion, Russ May made the motion to authorize proceeding with negotiating with River Delta to bring a contract back to the board in November, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board.

*Approval of the Concepts and Principles Document and the Consensus Principles by Member Organizations* – Forrest presented the above listed documents to the Board for their consideration and approval to move forward with the UNRBA’s recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake. Final versions were provided to the Board on September 13<sup>th</sup>. These documents represents reviews by and input by the UNRBA PFC, NC DWR, NC DOT, agricultural representatives, and a representative of environmental advocacy groups. The identified goal, going forward, will be for all member jurisdictions to adopt (by resolution) the Consensus Principles II (and by reference the Concepts and Principles Document) before the November Board meeting (there is an additional, provisional, Board meeting date set for December 13<sup>th</sup> should it be needed). Following adoption of resolutions supporting Consensus Principles II by all of the member government organizations, these documents will be filed with NC DWR, the Environmental Management Commission, and the N.C. General Assembly (in December). Following discussion, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to approve these documents as presented, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by all Board member present is a roll call vote.

**Informational Items -**

*Evaluation of a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Standard* – Forrest reported to the Board that UNRBA

members met with DEQ and DWR leadership to discuss coordination efforts to finalize the UNRBA models, develop recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy, and continue work on a petition for site specific criteria. At this meeting on June 22, 2023, three priorities were established: work cooperatively on revised Falls Lake rules, coordinate an effort to establish a site-specific water quality assessment methodology for Falls Lake, and continue discussions aimed at considering a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The UNRBA's subject matter experts continue to evaluate lake data and information and to look at other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards in the country. The goal is to develop a petition for a Falls Lake site-specific standard, hopefully with support from DWR. The UNRBA continues to work with Dr. Marty Lebo to complete his work evaluating his assessment of Falls Lake and integrate his results into the site-specific standard evaluation, statistical modeling, and regulatory support efforts.

*Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS)* – Alix Matos with Brown and Caldwell reported the final draft of the Falls Lake Watershed Model has been distributed to the PFC and MRSW. This report will be finalized for submittal in December 2023 to DWR. The associated modeling files have already been submitted to DWR. The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian model) are being developed considering the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). Both WARMF Lake and EFDC have been calibrated for water quality in Falls Lake with approval by the MRSW and used to evaluate the scenarios identified by the MRSW and PFC. The lake model report (overall summary of all three lake models) is under development. An EFDC model training is being scheduled for October or November. The modeling effort has included extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR.

*Economic Analysis* – Forrest reminded the Board that an economic analysis is required for development of revised Falls Lake Rules. The UNRBA identified this as an objective to be included with the modeling efforts, however, scenarios run to date and evaluation of the current rules did not result in any situation where the standard would be met everywhere in the lake. Therefore a specific cost-benefit component of the UNRBA modeling will not be developed. That effort be a supplementary aspect of rules readoption. The UNRBA will coordinate with DWR to assist in that effort. This effort will have to be contingent on the final revised nutrient management strategy.

*Communications* – The UNRBA held a technical stakeholder workshop in August with approximately 70 people representing various organizations in attendance. Participants provided feedback on the prospective recommendations for the revised nutrient management strategy. This input has been incorporated into the final documents presented at today's meeting. Forrest noted he will be presenting at many of the member jurisdictions in the next month to summarize and seek approval of the resolution supporting Consensus Principles II.

If anyone would like more detailed information on this meeting please use this link to access the meeting presentation: [UNRBA Board Meeting September 20 2023](#)

The next scheduled Board meeting will be November 15, 2023, at 9:30 A.M face to face, with a remote access option available. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.