

## UNRBA Board of Directors: *March 17, 2021 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 17, 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
Jenn Weaver (Secretary)	Town of Hillsborough
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Russ May	Granville County
James Bryan	Orange County
Neena Nowell	City of Creedmoor
Barry Baker	Granville County
Jamezetta Bedford	Orange County
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Jim Wrenn	Representing Granville Co., Person Co., Butner, Creedmoor & SGWASA
McKenzie Myers	Durham County
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh
Nancy Daly	Wake County
Carolyn Bachl	City of Raleigh
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Sandy Wilber	City of Durham
Michael Frangos	City of Creedmoor
Kenny Waldroup	City of Raleigh
Lori Oakley	Person County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Jennifer Tavantzis	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Javiera Caballero	City of Durham
Wendy Jacobs	Durham County
Carrie Mitchell	Town of Wake Forest
Emily Bateman	Durham Soil & Water Conservation
Bob Hornick	Town of Hillsborough
John Huisman	NC DEQ DWR
Ashley Rodgers	Wake County
Amy Shahar	HDR
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 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.

**Action Items -**

*Cancellation of the May 19, 2021 Board Meeting* – Forrest noted that the UNC Policy Collaboratory and the UNRBA have been working to develop a joint symposium on the ongoing research and evaluation of Falls Lake and its watershed. This symposium has been tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2021. This date coincides with the scheduled UNRBA Board meeting for May. This date was identified to make it easier for Board members to participate. Forrest previously notified the Executive Committee (officers of the UNRBA) of this opportunity, and they supported using this date for the symposium. As a result, Forrest recommended the cancellation of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Following discussion, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to cancel the upcoming Board meeting, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

*Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2021 Board Meeting* - The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Bill McKellar 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 February 28, 2021. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$58,139.81 and the savings account balance was \$1,017,760.52. 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.

*Recommended Budget for FY 2021-22* – Forrest presented the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (beginning July 1, 2021). The recommended expenditures for FY 2021-22 are: Executive Director Services, \$213,517; administrative cost of \$6,000; Modeling & Regulatory Support, \$800,000; Communication Support, \$40,000; Legal Support, \$100,000; and Website Improvements, \$3,500 for a total of \$1,165,517. Following discussion, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to approve the recommended budget as presented, seconded by Neena Nowell, and approved unanimously by the Board in a roll call vote.

*Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program* – Forrest presented the IAIA Program Document to the Board for its consideration. Forrest noted the significant amount of time committed to the development of this program and producing this document. He cited the excellent support of the UNRBA members and their representatives and the input of the NGO community as critical to this effort. He also noted the collaboration and input provided by DWR. The Stage I Existing Development Model Program, which included the IAIA approach as a joint compliance option, was presented to the Environmental Management Commission on January 14, 2021 and approved. The IAIA is an alternate path for members of the UNRBA to meet the requirements of the Model Program based on a minimum investment level by each participant. This information and the operation of the program is included in the IAIA Program Document ([IAIA Program Document](#)). Forrest requested approval of the Program Document and confirmation of member participation in the IAIA program. Following discussion, Neena Nowell made the motion to approve the Final IAIA Program Document as provided, including the minimum investment levels and participating local governments listed in the document, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved unanimously by roll call vote of the Board.

Forrest presented the revised UNRBA bylaws ([Revised UNRBA Bylaws Allowing the IAIA Program](#)) allowing the IAIA Program. He recommended that the Board approve the revised Bylaws. Following discussion, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to approve the revised UNRBA Bylaws as proposed, including Attachment B -Final IAIA Program Document as approved in the previous motion, seconded by Javiera Caballero and

approved by the Board in a unanimous roll call vote.

Forrest presented the recommended provisions for the formation of the Compliance Group Committee (CGC) under the revised UNRBA Bylaws. He proposed that the CGC be composed of the Board of Directors of the participating jurisdictions. The Board Chair and Vice Chair will serve in those same roles on the CGC. He further recommended that the appointed member Alternates could serve on the CGC consistent with the operational provisions in the UNRBA Bylaws. Following discussion, Jenn Weaver made the motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Neena Nowell, and approved by the Board with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Informational Items -**

*Communication Efforts and Future Planning* – Forrest reported on the past communication efforts and plans moving forward. Forrest noted there are many organizations interested in the outcome of the work the UNRBA. He also pointed out that water quality in Falls Lake has improved since rule adoption, Stage I nutrient reduction targets have been met, and the UNRBA continues to cooperate in efforts to improve water quality in the lake. He stated that the Association seeks a revised strategy that will be science-based, directed toward practical solutions that balance financial investment with identified improvement, and directed a well-developed policy that is equitable, innovative and cooperative.

*Comments on Proposed Chlorophyll-a Site Specific Standards for High Rock Lake* – Jay Sauber, water quality consultant, reported that the proposal for High Rock Lake has not been release for public comment. When DWR releases their proposal comments will be developed and filed on behalf of the UNRBA (action approved previously by the Board).

*DWR 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessments* – Jay Sauber reported on the release of the 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessment. Jay discussed the segment data (for further review please go to the Meeting Presentation, [303\(d\) and Integrated Report Data](#) slides 43 - 48). Jay reported comments are due April 2, 2021 for the 2020 assessments. John Huisman noted Planning Staff members will speak at the April PFC meeting.

*Statistical Model Development & Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard* – Forrest reported that work continues on this effort through the UNRBA Legal Group, the work of Barnes and Thornburg under their scope and with the modeling team.. He noted that we are using the statistical modeling effort to support the development of relationships between the water quality parameters and use support. As been discussed previously, development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard represents an important consideration for a revised Falls Lake management strategy. A technical advisors workgroup to support these efforts will provide input to the statistical modelers, the legal group and report to the MRSW and PFC.

*Modeling & Regulatory Support (MRS) Status* – Alix Matos reviewed the status of the MRS efforts and noted the following: the WARMF watershed model has been calibrated for flow, temperature, and sediment; the EFDC lake model has been calibrated for water level and temperature; the WARMF lake model is being developed; the statistical model is under development; the Final Transition Monitoring technical memorandum has been finalized; the 319 Final Report has been finalized, and model documentation is under development.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be June 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.