

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon
Remote Access Only (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the PFC Meeting has been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [UNRBA Meetings Page](#). A direct link to the meeting presentation for the February 1, 2022, meeting is provided here: [PFC February 1, 2022 PowerPoint Presentation](#).

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chair Michelle Woolfolk

II. Change in Staff of MRS Project Team

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA contract with Brown and Caldwell (BC) requires notification of changes to the Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) project team. Matthew Van de Bogert (BC) has resigned to pursue an alternate career pathway. Matthew's roles on the MRS project will be covered by other staff at BC and supplemented by subject matter experts and third-party reviewers of the modeling. Options for developing the online portal for sharing WARMF model scenario results are being discussed with the Digital Water group at BC.

III. Transfer of Asset Purchased for UNRBA Monitoring Program

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA purchased an inflatable boat during the UNRBA Monitoring Program to assist with collection of bathymetric data along the lake shoreline and lake arms. The purchase was made when the contract was with Cardno, Inc. and the boat was transferred to the care of BC when the contract was executed with that firm. Since the monitoring program is no longer active, the boat is no longer needed. The PFC will discuss options for transferring the property to another organization and develop recommendations to present to the Board in March.

IV. Status of the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) — Informational Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): During the January 19, 2022, meeting, the UNRBA Board of Directors approved the Town of Stem's request to rejoin the UNRBA. The Board decided that further revisions to the Bylaws are needed to allow Stem to join the Compliance Group Committee (CGC) for the IAIA during the first year of the program. The Board will review the revised Bylaws in March. The minimum annual investment levels for other IAIA participants will not be altered with the addition of the Town of Stem. The CGC approved the reporting tool developed to assist the IAIA participants in tracking eligible projects and compliance with the Program. The tool had been previously reviewed by the IAIA Reporting Workgroup and the PFC.

V. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The calibrated model has been evaluated over the UNRBA's monitoring period (2014 to 2018) to identify the distribution of loading to the lake by source (land uses, wastewater treatment plants, etc.). This information has been reviewed by subject matter experts and third-party reviewers of the modeling effort (SMEs). Two special meetings were held to provide the opportunity for SMEs and third-party reviewers to discuss and comment on the output of the model. The Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup also dedicated its entire meeting agenda to this item on January 4th. This information provides the best available picture of nutrient balance from the

watershed into the lake and what sources in the watershed fall into what can be characterized as “controllable.” This information lays the foundation for the development of an updated management strategy for Falls Lake that takes into realistic account the feasibility and potential effectiveness of management actions to reduce nutrient input to the lake. Contributions from nutrient sources in the watershed have been categorized into major land use activities (urban land, agricultural land) and land conditions that reflect more natural, undeveloped and unmanaged lands in the watershed. Major sources of delivered loading of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total organic carbon to Falls Lake will be discussed.

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). The modeling team will continue to reach out to Collaboratory funded researchers to consider and supplement the extensive database developed by the UNRBA, our members and DWR. The modeling effort will also include extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward. The modeling team is working on the watershed model calibration report and the EFDC model hydrologic calibration report. The scenario screening workgroup met on January 24th to continue its process to select scenarios to evaluate with the models.

VI. Re-examination Schedule

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): For several years, the UNRBA has been working toward development of a re-examination package to support a revised nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake. The schedule will be discussed during the meeting.

VII. Status of Proposed Chlorophyll a Site-Specific Standards for High Rock Lake — Informational Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Jay Sauber): During the January 19, 2022 meeting, the UNRBA Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to submit letters on behalf of the Association to encourage consideration of the comments offered to the EMC and, if necessary, develop and send a letter of objection to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) should the EMC adopt a final site-specific standard for High Rock Lake that fails to adequately address the substantial and valid concerns raised in the UNRBA’s comments. This authorization also includes contact and coordination with the individual UNRBA member jurisdictions for the consideration of formal objection letters from these jurisdictions should a UNRBA letter be needed.

VIII. DWR 2022 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessments

Item Summary (Jay Sauber): The DWR draft Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report and the draft 303(d) list for 2022 have been posted to the DWR website. Final submitted to EPA prior to April 1, 2022.

IX. News Report - How to Keep Pets Safe from Toxic Algae

Item Summary (Jay Sauber): A citizen reported to DWR on December 6, 2021, that her dog had drunk water from Falls Lake and died three days later. DWR monitored the lake water quality following the report and indicated that algae were below bloom levels and algal toxin concentrations were below detection limits. The lake samples collected by DWR in November were all within normal ranges. The dog was taken to a veterinarian for symptoms of lethargy and euthanized. No samples were analyzed and no lab work or autopsy were conducted. There has been no confirmation that the symptoms were related to algal toxins or other water quality issues. No other pet owners filed complaints with the State or raised concerns when surveyed by the media.

- X. **Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard**
Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Alix Matos): The UNRBA continues developing a statistical/Bayesian model to link the water quality in Falls Lake to its designated uses. This is a critical support effort to developing a petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup, MRSW, and PFC have identified 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 an appropriate chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake represents an important consideration for an effective revised Falls Lake management strategy. This effort is linked to the statistical modeling effort because this model will have the ability to simultaneously evaluate chlorophyll-a levels and potential impacts to designated uses in the lake. 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. The UNRBA is also coordinating with the Environmental Finance Center on their Year 3 effort funded by the UNC Collaboratory.

XI. **Communications Support – Information Item**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Planning has also begun for a **joint symposium with the Collaboratory to be held in Spring 2022**; UNRBA and Collaboratory discussing potential date
- We have also worked with the Collaboratory-funded researchers to develop a specific session on Falls Lake that has been accepted for inclusion at the upcoming **Water Resources Research Institute’s Annual Meeting in March 2022 (March 23rd from 3 PM to 4:20 PM)**.
- The UNRBA is planning a **technical stakeholders’ workshop for Spring 2022** to discuss the status of the modeling efforts; PFC to discuss potential date
- The Executive Director and the UNRBA Chair along with members of the legal group met with Secretary Elizabeth Biser on December 13, 2021, to review the work of the UNRBA with the Department of Environmental Quality’s leadership.
- The UNRBA is planning meetings with DWR to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. We continue to engage DWR in the meetings of the MRSW and PFC and to seek the input of the agency on the model development work.
- The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings is a key component of a transparent communications approach.
- We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking Board member input to help identify their needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

XII. **Other Status Items—Information Item**

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

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.—we plan to address in our follow-up meetings with DEQ/DWR

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

Next PFC or MRSW Meeting: March 1, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next BOD Meeting: March 16, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Remote Access Instructions for the MRSW and PFC Meetings

This meeting will open 10 minutes prior to the official meeting start time to allow for users to test equipment and ensure communication methods are functioning.

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	Press control and click on this link to bring up Microsoft Teams through the internet. You can view the screen share and communicate through your computer’s speakers and microphone.
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.

Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your microphone, and turn down your speakers to avoid feedback
- Unless you are speaking, please mute your computer/device microphone or phone microphone to minimize background noise