

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
December 6, 2022, **9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon**
In Person Meeting with Option for Remote Access Via Teams (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 December 6, 2022, meeting is provided here: [PFC December 6, 2022 PowerPoint Presentation](#).

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

II. Modeling 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 and the draft modeling report submitted to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) for review. The modeling team is compiling and responding to comments to prepare a draft for review by the PFC followed by formal submittal to DWR.

The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model) are being developed considering the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). Final calibration of the WARMF Lake model was approved by the MRSW during the November 1st meeting. Because the WARMF lake model is embedded in the watershed model, both have to be run five times (25 years) to stabilize the soils in the watershed by land use. This has the effect of “washing” out the lake sediments as well because the amount of detritus simulated is not sufficient to maintain the balance in the sediments. Thus, the initial lake sediment conditions based on the UNRBA sediment quality studies that were collected during the study period are “lost.” To provide a more accurate starting point for the lake sediments for the 5th model run, a code modification is required to set lake sediments to initial conditions rather than using the warm start file generated by the 4th run. The Chair of the MRSW and Executive Director discussed this need and approved this scope modification. This should not significantly affect model calibration or performance but should be addressed. The modeling team is planning a workshop with DWR and UNRBA members interested in running the WARMF model to train users on the new model interface and the set up for Falls Lake. The model team has also been working with the SMEs and DWR to continue to develop the EFDC model, and another meeting was held November 17th. There are some additional responses to comments made during the last SME meeting. Because of this ongoing effort, final calibration of the EFDC model will be presented at the January 3, 2023 meeting. The lake modeling report is under development, and the modeling team is working with the SMEs and DWR to develop graphical output formats that visualize the uncertainty associated with the lake water quality data. 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 has included extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward. Development of the scope of sensitivity analysis of the models is underway and will proceed independent of the decision of calibration. Sensitivity evaluation is always done relative to the finally calibrated model.

III. Developing Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The PFC will continue their discussion on concepts and principles under consideration for inclusion in the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised Falls Lake Strategy/Revised Falls Lake Rules. At the November PFC meeting, the discussion focused on potential cooperative opportunities with agriculture. While additional discussion with all potential partners will continue, today's discussion will include State and Federal facilities. As a reminder, the UNRBA has been meeting with DEQ and DWR leadership to discuss coordination efforts to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. We have continued to remind DWR that they would identify a contact for standards development. We do understand that they have filled their vacant standards management position. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well. The subject matter experts continue to evaluate other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards. The UNRBA continues to coordinate with and engage Dr. Marty Lebo to integrate his work into the statistical modeling and regulatory support efforts.

The UNRBA has compiled preliminary concepts for developing the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy by December 2023. During the November meeting, the PFC discussed the preliminary concepts and principles developed to date, timeline for developing a draft concepts document, engaging an expanded list of stakeholders, and addressing administration of a revised strategy. We spent much of this time discussing the interface of the current rules with the agricultural community and how we can interact with that community under a revised strategy. We appreciate Anne Coan's engagement. We also touched on other regulated entities in the watershed, like DOT. We appreciate Andy McDaniel's engagement. This discussion will continue at the December meeting.

IV. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): There are several items of outreach that are underway including the continued engagement with DWR. The UNRBA is also planning for the WARMF Model Training with DWR in late winter 2022, the Technical Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for early winter 2023, a workshop with local government communications staff scheduled for spring 2023, a workshop with DWR/NC Policy Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management strategy planned for spring 2023, potential session at WRRRI's Annual Conference in March 2023, a joint symposium with NC Policy Collaboratory planned for early summer 2023, and a Stakeholder workshop to discussed the final recommendations for draft strategy in the fall of 2023. Expansion of outreach efforts with our members and their elected and leadership representatives will be a priority.

Recent staff changes at member local governments highlight the need for UNRBA engagement across multiple staff levels. The Executive Director will continue to reach out to local government staff to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program and participation in developing the revised nutrient management strategy. During the November 16, 2022, meeting, Compliance Group Committee (CGC) members approved the Year 1 annual report for the IAIA program. Members suggested development of a follow up media release to provide additional information about the number and types of projects for which funds were allocated in Year 1 of the IAIA. A request to post this information to the UNRBA website was also made by environmental advocates that partnered on development of the program.

Coordination with the NC Policy Collaboratory and their Falls Lake researchers is very important and will need to expand during 2023. The Collaboratory's report on their Falls Lake work is due at the end of 2023.

The "open" nature of all of the UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking member input to help identify needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

V. Other Status Items

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

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations at the end of 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

VI. Closing Comments and January Meeting Decisions— Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

Next PFC Meeting: January 3, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next BOD Meeting: January 18, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

Subjection to Revision

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