

**Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda**  
February 7, 2023, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Butner Town Hall**

Materials related to the PFC Meeting will be placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett**
- II. **DWR Request for Information from Falls Lake Local Governments Regarding SNAP Submission Process**  
Item Summary (Forrest Westall, Trish D’Arconte): DWR has received input on the proposed revised SNAP tool from an engineer that indicates DWR should consider local governments stormwater application submission processes and requirements. There is concern that the proposed SNAP tool revisions could make things more complicated. One of the changes is the removal of the print function to provide hard copies for submittal, which the engineer indicates is required (perhaps for placement of the PE license stamp or seal). [DWR will request feedback on this issue during the meeting.](#)
- III. **Modeling Status and Project Budget Amendment for FY2023**  
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 held a training for DWR staff and UNRBA members interested in running the WARMF model on February 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 next version of the report will include results of watershed model sensitivity analyses and scenarios that have been evaluated with the watershed model. This version will likely be reviewed by the MRSW in February and the PFC in March. [The PFC will review the preliminary results of the watershed scenarios and sensitivity analyses during the meeting.](#)

Two of the three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake and Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC)) have been calibrated for water quality and approved by the MRSW. Finalizing the models required extensive reviews and discussions with the subject matter experts and DWR modeling staff. In addition, code modifications were required for the WARMF Lake model to accurately simulate nutrient releases from the sediments in the lake. These code modifications also require a training of DWR modeling staff to expedite their model review. The modeling team held a workshop on February 6, 2023, 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. As a result of these additional efforts and to maintain the necessary project schedule, the modeling team has requested, and the Board has approved a contract amendment for FY2023 up to \$180,000. This amendment (which is under development and will be reviewed by the PFC in March for consideration by the Board in March) will provide sufficient funds to run scenarios with the lake models and provide documentation of the development, calibration, and scenario results. The amount of this amendment will be subtracted from the contracted budget for FY2024 so the total amount of funds allocated to modeling and regulatory support will remain the same.

The third lake model is the Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model which is based on an extensive data base dating back to the 1990s. The Technical Advisors Workgroup met on January 31<sup>st</sup> to review several datasets that have been compiled and merged for Falls Lake. The remaining datasets will be reviewed by the TAW in February, and correlations and relationships among the data sets will be discussed by the TAW in March. We will share these preliminary results with the PFC in April and May.

The lake modeling report is under development, and the MRSW approved the figure formats for comparing simulated lake water quality to measurements conducted in Falls Lake. The approach was also discussed with the subject matter experts after the MRSW meeting and slightly revised. [The approach for developing these figures will be summarized during the meeting.](#)

**IV. Gathering Data from Local Governments to Support the Cost Benefit Analysis**

Item Summary (Alix Matos, Ashley Abernethy): An important component of the re-examination is understanding the costs of past and possible future actions in the watershed as well as the benefit in terms of nutrient load reductions and improvements in lake water quality. To support this cost-benefit analysis, will be requesting information from the PFC. [We will review the types of data requests during the meeting.](#)

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

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): During the November, December, and January PFC meetings, the PFC discussed concepts and principles under consideration for inclusion in the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised Falls Lake Strategy/Revised Falls Lake Rules. These discussions are being used to develop a preliminary draft of a document that describes the concepts and principles. This document will be provided to the PFC in February for discussion at their meeting in March.

As a reminder, the UNRBA has met 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 site-specific chlorophyll-a standard development, and they have filled their vacant standards management position, but have not yet identified a specific staff member as the main point contact. John Huisman remains the primary DWR contact for work on an updated strategy. Forrest has discussed this with John recently and offered to meet with the leadership of the Water Planning Section to emphasize the importance of engaging the DWR standards program in the work of the UNRBA. This engagement will allow DWR staff that will review a request for a revision to the standard to understand the work of the UNRBA that has occurred and how it relates to the need for a revised standard. The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we move through this development process. The subject matter experts continue to evaluate other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards. The UNRBA continues to work with Dr. Marty Lebo to complete his work and integrate his results into the site-specific standard evaluation, statistical modeling, and regulatory support efforts.

**VI. 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 a session at WRRRI's Annual Conference in March 2023; a Technical Stakeholder Workshop in summer 2023; a workshop with DWR/NC Policy Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management

strategy is still under consideration for spring 2023; a joint symposium with NC Policy Collaboratory planned for April 19, 2023 (notices will go out the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>), and a Stakeholder workshop to discuss the final draft recommendations for a revised management strategy in the fall of 2023. Expansion of outreach efforts through our Board Directors, PFC members and their elected and leadership representatives remains a priority. We continue to seek input from our membership, including the locally elected officials, on opportunities to reach out to important local stakeholders, including the public living in the jurisdictions. 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. The UNRBA website has been updated to include a separate tab for IAIA which includes a copy of the UNRBA Bylaws, IAIA Program Document, IAIA press releases, and the Year 1 annual report.

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 UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We encourage member representatives and interested individuals attending/participating in these meetings to speak up about ideas and opportunities to get the word out on our work and the importance of our recommendations on a revised strategy and a site-specific standard.

**VII. Other Status Items**

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

- Intensive work and coming deadlines make it important to manage expectations and resources— Recommendations are due at the end of 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.

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

**Next PFC Meeting: March 7, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon**  
**(Start time may be adjusted; no MRSW is planned for March)**  
**Next BOD Meeting: March 15, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon**

This schedule may be revised, and notices will be provided about any change

**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
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Computers with microphones and speakers	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> <b>Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.</b>	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	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	Follow instructions above. <b>Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone,</b> 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. <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>

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- 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