

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
November 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: [UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett**
- II. **Town of Hillsborough Presentation - Odie Street Green Infrastructure: Benefits for Falls Lake and the Local Community**
Item Summary (Heather Fisher): In 2016, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County (Habitat) began redeveloping Odie Street, located in the underserved Fairview Community in the Town of Hillsborough. As part of the redevelopment, Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC) partnered with Habitat, the Town, Fairview Community Watch, and Orange County Soil and Water to construct bioswale retrofits and other green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) with the goal of achieving social, economic, and environmental benefits that directly benefit the Odie Street residents. This project serves as an example of how the Falls Lake Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) can result in a nutrient reduction project that provides ecosystem services directly to the community.
- III. **Updating the UNRBA Technical Website**
Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the Association’s technical website where data, documents, and meeting history are provided. The software used to develop the website (Druptle) is in version 7 and cannot be upgraded. The new version is 10, and the website will have to be updated using this version. The technical website and public facing website will be merged during this process. The Executive Director and support staff are working on a preliminary layout for the website to provide to the contractor. At their September meeting, the Board was briefed and notified that \$20,000 has been accumulated to support this work. The Executive Director requested, and the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. The plan outlined was to negotiate a contract and bring it to the Board at the November 15th meeting ([BOD Meeting Agenda for 2023 09 20 0.pdf \(unrba.org\)](#), item II.C.). Progress on the contract is proceeding and the team is working with the contractor to develop the scope of work and a contract. One issue that will have to be addressed is access to the UNRBA monitoring database used for the Re-Examination effort. We are recommending the use of a simple file access from the UNRBA website with no data base sign-in or data analysis capabilities. Input from the PFC will be requested.
- IV. **Budget Considerations for FY2025**
Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA is moving into support of the rules readoption process. This will change the focus of the organization but will require significant effort and technical support throughout the process. The UNRBA will need to forge a strong relationship between DWR, EMC, and the General Assembly to support an effective readoption process. Working closely with DWR, the UNRBA should strongly engage on redrafting of the rules and provide technical support and public input to stakeholders and DWR. We hope this process will go smoothly, but it is already clear that the UNRBA will need to work diligently to keep Consensus Principles II and the technical data analysis and modeling before the agencies and the stakeholders. The recommendations developed lay out a path that is unique for Falls Lake and a

departure from previous nutrient management efforts. This new approach will need significant support to develop rules that make sense and are effective in maintaining uses in Falls Lake. The UNRBA will remain committed to working through this with DWR and the staff responsible for developing revised rules. In addition, the UNRBA will proceed with working on getting a specific 303(d) assessment methodology for Falls Lake and for continuing the development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. At this point, we do not have a specific budget proposal, however, FY 2024's Modeling and Regulatory Support was reduced to create replacement of the \$180,000 fund balance allocated to respond to extensive input received in the model development efforts in FY 2023. We anticipate that the budget will be reduced but will need to get a better feel for this following submittal of our recommendations for a revised strategy.

V. Board Changes

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The Board will meet on November 15th and to conduct its normal business. However, the Board will deal with submittal of the recommendations and set up two processes to configure the UNRBA for the future. The Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee will be authorized to do their work in December and make reports at the January meeting. Two Board officers, Sig Hutchinson and Jenn Weaver will be stepping down as Board members. Officer recommendations from the Nominating Committee will be made in January.

VI. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The final draft Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) modeling report was distributed to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW), Path Forward Committee (PFC), Board of Directors, Division of Water Resources (DWR), subject matter experts, third-party model reviewers, and the UNRBA Technical Stakeholders. Final reviews and comments were requested October 15, 2023. We have received review comments from DWR on the pre-submittal WARMF Watershed Modeling report. We are following up with DWR. The report is being finalized for review and consideration of approval at the December 5th meeting by the PFC. We will confirm with the Board on November 15th that the PFC may approve modeling products and reports for submittal to DWR. The final report will be formally submitted to DWR in December. The final set of WARMF model files was previously submitted to DWR for review.

The lake model report addresses all three UNRBA lake models as well as lake model sensitivity and scenario evaluations. Technical details are described in model-specific appendices. The EFDC model training has been scheduled for Thursday November 9th. To support the training, the main lake report and EFDC model appendix were distributed to trainees in mid-October. These files have also been provided as draft to the PFC, MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts/third-party model reviewers for review and comment. The WARMF Lake appendix has been reviewed by the Executive Director and is being reviewed by the Co-Chairs. It will be distributed to the PFC, MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts for review and comment in November. The statistical model appendix is under development; model input for the statistical model is summarized in the main lake report. Segment boundaries for the statistical model have been revised to align with available data and analysis by Marty Lebo. The Executive Director and Co-Chairs reviewed and approved this modification to the statistical model.

VII. Approval of Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Developing a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard and Falls Lake Assessment Methodology

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA Board of Directors approved the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#) at the September 20, 2023, meeting. The UNRBA provided a template resolution for local governments to use to approve Consensus Principles II at the local level. Presentations to local governments and utilities have been completed, and each has signed or indicates they plan to sign the resolution. The UNRBA will compile these resolutions and draft a cover letter for consideration by the UNRBA Board. As of November 2nd, signed resolutions have been received from the Town of Butner, SGWASA, Hillsborough, Franklin County, Person County, Raleigh, Creedmoor, Wake Forest, and Town of Stem. The UNRBA Board will consider approval to submit these documents to DWR at the November 15, 2023, Board meeting; submittal will occur in December 2023. The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we begin coordinating, collaborating, and supporting DWR in the rules review process. The UNRBA continues to develop information to support a petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake and is working with Dr. Marty Lebo to integrate his results into the site-specific standard evaluation, statistical modeling, and regulatory support efforts. We are also using this information and other information to develop a specific Falls Lake 303(d) methodology with the current standard.

VIII. Review UNRBA FY2022-2023 Summary Report for Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Implementation of the IAIA began July 1, 2021. Year two of the program ended June 30, 2023. Participants submitted annual reports to DWR to assess individual compliance. Local government annual reports reflect the FY2022-23 investment commitments as well as FY2021-22 rollover amounts that exceeded the minimum requirement. Copies were provided to the UNRBA for summary reporting. The PFC will review the draft UNRBA FY2022-23 summary tables on November 7th. The Executive Director will provide a cover letter and final summary report to the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee for review and approval of submittal to DWR and the Environmental Management Commission at the November 15th Board meeting.

IX. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues to coordinate with DWR on preparations for the rules review process, potential modifications to the water quality assessment methods, and development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake. Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned. Jurisdictions should identify additional meetings where support from the UNRBA team is needed.

A public-facing, two-page summary was developed and distributed to expand outreach and invite additional feedback on the final draft Concepts and Principles document. This document can be used by the local governments to distribute information to their mailing lists and to post to social media accounts. Printed copies are available for those jurisdictions requesting them. Feedback from the PFC on how it has been used to date will be requested.

American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin. The UNRBA is planning a press release to coincide with the timing of the event. This press release will also

reference the successes of the IAIA and the efforts to develop consensus principles for a revised set of rules. Plans to develop videos and messaging for UNRBA members to distribute on their social media accounts is being planned to coincide with this event to streamline videography.

The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about ideas and opportunities to communicate our work and the importance of our recommendations on a revised strategy and a site-specific standard.

X. Other Status Items

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

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

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

Next BOD Meeting: November 15, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next PFC Meeting: December 5, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

Optional Virtual Meeting of the Board is set for December 13, 2023, 9:30 AM

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

Remote Access Instructions for PFC Meetings

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.