

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
December 5, 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. 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 website is being updated to Drupal version 10. 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 November meeting, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a contract to begin this work for an amount up to \$20,000. At their September meeting, the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. The UNRBA monitoring database will be available online using simple file access with no data base sign-in or data analysis capabilities.

III. 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. [At their November meeting, the Board indicated that it made sense to maintain the current funding level to support the rules readoption process.](#)

IV. Board Changes

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At their November meeting, the Board appointed the Nominating Committee and authorized them make recommendations for Board officers. Officer recommendations from the Nominating Committee will be made at the January Board meeting.

V. Personnel Committee

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At their November meeting, the Board appointed the Personnel Committee to review the Executive Director services. One component of that discussion will deal with future activities of the UNRBA.

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 and third-party model reviewers. The report was finalized and distributed to the PFC ahead of this meeting. At their November meeting, the Board confirmed that the PFC can review and approve for submittal the technical work products to DWR. [The PFC will discuss the final revisions \(redline\) to the watershed modeling report and vote on approval to finalize and submit to DWR.](#) The final set of WARMF model files for the watershed and lake was previously submitted to DWR.

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. In mid-October, the main lake report and EFDC model appendix were distributed to the PFC, MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts/third-party model reviewers for review and comment. The WARMF Lake appendix will be distributed after this meeting for review and comment. 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 PFC discussed this change at their November meeting. The revised draft of the main lake report will summarize the lake data using the revised segments. We are targeting February or March to finalize the lake modeling report pending completion of the statistical modeling. The EFDC lake model training was held on November 9th.

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. All local governments and the utility have unanimously approved and signed resolutions to approve Consensus Principles II at the local level. At their November meeting, the Board approved submittal of the signed resolutions, a cover letter, and Consensus Principles II to DWR and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). On November 22, 2023, the UNRBA submitted both of these documents to DWR and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). On November 27, 2023, the American Rivers Southeast Regional Director submitted a letter of support for the UNRBA recommendations. The next phase of work is the readoption of the Falls Lake Rules. 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. Board Approval of the 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. At their November meeting, the Compliance Group Committee approved submittal of the summary report and cover letter to DWR and the EMC. Submittal occurred on November 22, 2023.

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. The work with DWR will intensify greatly following submittal of the UNRBA's and NC Collaboratory's recommendations in December 2023. 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.

The UNRBA passed along the response developed for the City of Durham relative to the email to the City Council from Preserve Rural Durham. At the request of the Board at their November meeting, the UNRBA developed a question-and-answer style document to respond to recent questions regarding developments near Falls Lake and their impacts on lake water quality.

Additional information and activities:

- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process
- Planning for a joint symposium with UNRBA and NC Collaboratory regarding the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy
- Planning for a Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference March 20 and 21, 2024
- A public-facing, two-page summary was developed and distributed to expand outreach and invite additional feedback on the final Concepts and Principles document.
- American Rivers is still planning a "Neuse River of the Year" event for the upper part of the basin.

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:

- DWR proposed changes to new development rules/Nutrient Scientific Advisory Board discussion on December 1st

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.—stakeholder meeting December 5th (virtual meeting from 2 PM to 4 PM)

XI. Discuss January and February Meeting Dates

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Discuss January 2, 2024 and February 6, 2024 meeting dates to determine if they need to be rescheduled or other action taken.

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

Next PFC Meeting as currently scheduled: January 2, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next BOD Meeting: January 17, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

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.