

Path Forward Committee Meeting
11:30 AM on May 4, 2021
Remote Access Only (see next slides)



Remote Access Options

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, and dial the toll-free number through your phone and enter the passcode
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode

Remote Access Guidelines

- This meeting will open 10 minutes prior to the first meeting start time (e.g., MRSW) to allow users to **test equipment** and ensure communication methods are working
- 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 or device microphone and phone microphone to **minimize background noise**

Agenda

- Opening comments
- Implementation of the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)
- Status of the Draft DWR 2021 Falls Lake Status Report
- Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
- Development of a Statistical Model and Evaluation of Regulatory Options Relative to the Water Quality Standard
- Communications Support
- Other Status Items
- Closing Comments

**Implementation of the UNRBA
Stage I Existing Development
Interim Alternative
Implementation Approach (IAIA)**

Implementation of the IAIA Program

- Board approved the IAIA Program Document and the Revised UNRBA Bylaws on March 17, 2021
- Board formed the Compliance Group Committee (CGC) comprised of Board Directors to represent the local governments participating in the Program
- CGC to meet on June 16, 2021 to finalize resolution for the IAIA participants to submit the IAIA for group compliance to DWR and the EMC at the end of June 2021
- Program to formally start in July 2021
- A press release has been distributed to celebrate this accomplishment and posted to upperneuse.org
- Local government planning continues
- The template for reporting will be used to develop an Excel-based tool for use by the members

Status of the Draft 2021 Falls Lake Status Report

Status of the Draft 2021 Falls Lake Status Report

- John Huisman (DWR) provided an overview of the draft report, and the PFC provided comments during the April 6, 2021 PFC meeting.
- John is revising the draft report to respond to UNRBA comments and has reached out to the Executive Director for clarification
- DWR will provide a revised draft for review by the UNRBA in May
- DWR will present to the water quality committee and full EMC at the July meetings

Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria

Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake (HRL) Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria

- At the January 2021 Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director and the UNRBA subject matter experts to comment on the proposed HRL site specific chlorophyll-a criteria
- DWR's HRL proposal has been delayed likely until the May EMC Water Quality Committee (WQC) meeting
 - Stated reason is to consider comments made on material presented to the Criteria Implementation Committee
 - We have asked that DWR's comments review includes the UNRBA comments
- UNRBA comments on the May WQC proposal will be drafted as soon as possible after the proposal is available
- DWR made a presentation on the proposal at the [Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Association](#) meeting on April 9th
- The NC Water Quality Association filed comments on April 19th

Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status

Modeling Status

- Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model
 - Water quality calibration in the rivers and streams has been finalized and a summary presented to the MRSW this morning
 - WARMF Lake model component is under development
- Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) Falls Lake Model (more complex than WARMF Lake model)
 - Modelers are refining the calibration of water levels and temperatures in Falls Lake
 - Water quality calibration will begin when the watershed model has been calibrated for water quality
- Planning for development of the statistical model with input from the Technical Advisors Workgroup are ongoing

Status of Two Scenario Workgroups

- The MRSW and PFC have formed two workgroups to provide input to the modeling team on
- The Model Scenario Output Workgroup
 - Discussing reporting formats for comparing scenario descriptions and model output
 - The 6th meeting for this workgroup was held April 12th
- The Scenario Screening Workgroup
 - Developing a selection process for choosing scenarios and a preliminary list of scenarios to evaluate
 - The 4th meeting for workgroup was held April 13th
- A status update from workgroup members will be provided during the PFC meeting including discussions of recommendations for the PFC

Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for Water Quality Standards

Planning for Development of a Petition for Site Specific Criteria

- A primary task for the legal team is to begin consideration of a petition for site specific criteria for Falls Lake
- The UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake will be used to support this effort
- Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.
- The legal team and the statistical modeling team are coordinating on this effort
- The Technical Advisors Workgroup was formed at the January 2021 PFC meeting; kickoff meeting has been scheduled
- This workgroup will report back to the MRSW and PFC

Communications Support

Planning for Spring Symposium with the UNC Collaboratory (May 19, 2021)

- Planning continues and the agenda has been finalized
- Save the date has been distributed for May 19, 2021 (the May Board meeting has been cancelled)
 - Virtual meeting
 - 10 AM to 3 PM with a 30-minute lunch break
 - Register by [clicking here](#)
- Over 90 people have registered and the UNRBA will be well represented
- Presentations by the Collaboratory researchers and the UNRBA
 - Summarize the research underway and how the UNRBA plans to incorporate it into the re-examination
 - Review the schedule for completion of the Collaboratory's assessment of Falls Lake and the UNRBA's Re-examination of the Falls Lake Rules
 - Engage attendees to get needed input related to the issues important to stakeholders.

UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop

- The UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop has been postponed until FY2022 due to COVID-19 and the Collaboratory/UNRBA Symposium.
- Anticipate first half of meeting to provide an update on model calibration for WARMF and EFDC and loading summaries to Falls Lake
- Second half is typically small group sessions; potential topics include review and stakeholder input of
 - Discussion of scenarios under consideration
 - Data sources for the statistical model
 - Output metrics for the statistical model

External Stakeholder Communication Needs

- Objectives continue to be reviewed relative to communication opportunities with stakeholders.
- To support the re-examination process and achieve broad support for the UNRBA recommendations, additional outreach to external stakeholders including DWR, DEQ, and other interested stakeholders is needed;
- Coordination with local leaders to convey messages and facilitate outreach will be necessary.
- This effort will require the support of the UNRBA membership, staff and Board representatives.
- As a reminder, the [Infographic](#) and [Fast Facts](#) are available online <https://upperneuse.org/resource-library>
- An [Overview of the Work of the UNRBA](#) provided to the UNC Collaboratory for inclusion in their reporting is available online <https://nutrients.web.unc.edu/resources/>

Other Status Items

Ongoing Items

- Importance of communication outreach efforts: IAIA press release, upcoming workshops and meetings
- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Leadership and organizational changes at DEQ and EPA
- Coordination with UNC Collaboratory on Falls Lake studies
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items
 - MOA
 - 2019 UNRBA Final Monitoring Report meeting
 - Schedule for face to face when possible
 - Neuse Watershed Model Information Session – Delivery Factors for WWTP

Future Meetings as Currently Scheduled:

**Falls Lake Symposium: May 19, 2021, 10:00 AM to 2:15 PM,
Remote Access**

**Next MRSW Meeting: June 1, 2021, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM,
Remote Access**

**Next PFC Meeting: June 1, 2021, 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM,
Remote Access**

**Next BOD Meeting: June 16, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon,
Remote Access**

Closing Comments Additional Discussion