

Path Forward Committee Meeting Butner Town Hall, October 3, 2023



Agenda

- Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions
- NC State University Research Presentation
- Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
- Developing Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard
- Communications Support
- Other Status Items
- Closing

Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions

NC State University Research Presentation

Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

WARMF Watershed Model Report

- The [watershed modeling report and appendices](#) have been revised
 - Address MRSW and DWR comments
 - Include results of the watershed model sensitivity analyses and scenarios
- The redline/responses-to-comments version have been distributed to the MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts
- Clean versions have been distributed to these groups as well as the PFC, the Board, and the participants in the UNRBA Technical Stakeholders Workshop
- **Final comments are requested by October 15th**
- The report will be finalized, and the PFC may approve the final document at the November 7th meeting to be submitted to the Board for approval at the November 15th meeting
- The report will be formally submitted to DWR in December 2023
- The WARMF model executable, input files, and output files have been provided to DWR

Lake Model Report and EFDC Model Training

- The lake model report is under development and will address all three UNRBA lake models
- This report will include the results of the lake sensitivity and scenario evaluations.
- Model-specific appendices are also under development
- The technical appendix for EFDC has been drafted and reviewed by the Executive Director and Chair of the MRSW.
- Once the main lake report has been drafted and reviewed by them, the main report and EFDC appendix will be provided to MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts for review.
- The training for the EFDC model is being scheduled

UNRBA Statistical/Bayesian Modeling

- The third lake model is the Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model which is based on an extensive data base dating back to the 1990s.
- Developing the linkages between the model variables to build the network with “parents” and “children”
- Building tables of probabilities (conditional probability tables) to explain how the variables relate to one another
- Will work with subject matter experts and Technical Advisors Workgroup to fill in gaps where we have too little data

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

Development of Concepts and Principles for a Revised Strategy / Revised Rules

- 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.
- After the local approvals have been executed, the UNRBA Board will approve submittal of these documents to DWR at the November 15, 2023, Board meeting; submittal will occur in December 2023.
- Local governments should have these documents approved before November 15th to allow the UNRBA vote to occur at that meeting.
- We have scheduled, if necessary, a virtual meeting for December 13, 2023, to consider approval of these documents.

Schedule to Submit Recommendations

- **October/November 2023**
 - Local government commissions & councils approve CPII
 - Meetings with the Chairs of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and its Water Quality Committee
 - UNRBA Board to approve package for submittal to DWR and the EMC including Concepts and Principles Document and CPII at November 15th meeting (tentative, virtual Board meeting scheduled December 13th if needed)
- **December 2023 - Legislative requirements for Submittals**
 - NC Collaboratory final Falls Lake report
 - Submittals from other groups (UNRBA)

Schedule for Rules Readoption

- **January to March 2024**
 - UNRBA/DWR meeting to discuss process for rule making and approval of UNRBA products
 - Regulatory Forum to present rule making process to UNRBA members and other stakeholders
 - UNRBA annotate existing rule language to mark for potential changes and review with DWR
- DWR to begin rule making within 6 months of submittals and no later than **December 2024**
 - DWR to begin their stakeholder process
- DWR anticipates rules readoption by **2026/2027**
- The key moving forward: the UNRBA and members must engage on the readoption process,
- We hope to achieve rules readoption earlier

Coordination on Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Standard

- 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.
- The UNRBA will coordinate with DWR, Collaboratory researchers, and other stakeholders throughout this process

Communications Support

Coordination with DWR and EPA

- The UNRBA continues to coordinate with DWR
 - Preparations for the rules review process
 - Potential modifications to the water quality assessment methods
 - Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake
- Staff from EPA Region 4 from the 303(d) TMDL unit and modeling unit attended the UNRBA Technical Stakeholders Workshop
 - Provided encouraging feedback regarding the need for a site-specific standard for Falls Lake
 - We will schedule a follow up call to discuss

Coordination with Governing Bodies

- The Executive Director will continue scheduling and conducting presentations at the meetings of UNRBA member governing bodies to discuss the Concepts and Principles and CPlI under their consideration.
- Earlier this year he, or a member representative, presented to
 - City of Durham Environmental Affairs Board
 - City of Creedmoor Board of Commissioners
 - Granville County Board of Commissioners
 - Wake County Growth & Sustainability Committee
 - Town of Stem Board of Commissioners
 - Durham County Board of Commissioners
 - Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Presentations by member representative or the Executive Director are scheduled as follows:
 - October 3rd - Town of Wake Forest Board of Commissioners
 - October 5th - City of Raleigh Stormwater Committee
 - Town of Butner Council
 - October 10th - SGWASA Board of Directors
 - October 16th - Person County Board of Commissioners
 - October 19th - Durham City Council
 - November 2nd - Orange County Board of Commissioners

Upcoming IAIA Submittals

- The Executive Director will continue to reach out to local government staff to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program
- Year 2 of the IAIA ended June 30th, and annual reports to DWR were due September 30th with a copy to UNRBA.

Upcoming Regulatory Forum

- A regulatory forum is being planned for spring 2024 to discuss the next steps in the rules readoption process.
- Following submittal of the UNRBA and NC Collaboratory reports and recommendations in December 2023, we anticipate that DWR will begin to formulate a plan for readoption of the rules.
- We continue to seek engagement with DWR on that process and, as already mentioned to DWR, work cooperatively with them as the new rules are drafted.
- DWR has been very positive in their feedback.

Coordination on River of Year Event

- 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 note the efforts to provide 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.

Coordination with Stakeholders and SMEs

- The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we move through rules readoption.
- 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.

Other Status Items

Other Status Items

- Neuse Watershed Model Information Session –
Delivery Factors for WWTP—Update provided by John Huisman

Future Meetings as Currently Scheduled:

Next PFC Meeting: November 7, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

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

Closing Comments

Additional Discussion