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**Annual Report
2002-2003**

UPPER NEUSE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2002 - 2003

UNRBA mission: To preserve and protect the water quality in the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative, cost effective and environmentally sound strategies and to create a coalition of local governments and stakeholders in a water resources partnership.

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UPPER NEUSE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION FACTS

Date Established:

March 22, 1996 (By-laws approved)
(Non-profit status gained in 1999)

Geographical Area:	771-square mile watershed above the Falls Lake Dam
Organizational Partners:	13 Local Governments With Local Planning and Zoning Control and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) (See list of UNRBA members below)
Board of Directors:	13 Directors appointed to represent each organization partner with planning and zoning control; 1 Director appointed to represent all six SWCDs; Each partner also appoints one Alternate Director.

GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association is to preserve the water quality of the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative and cost-effective strategies, and to constitute a forum to cooperate on water supply issues within the Upper Neuse River Basin by:

- 1. Forming a coalition of units of local government, public and private agencies, and other interested and affected communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals to secure and pool financial resources and expertise;**
- 2. Collecting and analyzing information and data and developing, evaluating and implementing strategies to reduce, control and manage pollutant discharge and to manage water resources; and,**
- 3. Providing accurate technical, management, regulatory and legal recommendations regarding the implementation of strategies and appropriate effluent limitations on discharges into the upper portion of the Neuse River.**

UNRBA MEMBERSHIP

The UNRBA Board of Directors is comprised of one Director and one Alternate Director from each of the thirteen jurisdictions in the watershed. Additionally, the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts elect one Director and Alternate Director to the UNRBA Board. The Directors and Alternates are listed below:

Corporate Members	Director	Alternate Director
Town of Butner	Tom McGee	(no alternate)
City of Creedmoor	Joel Cross	Tony Hammond
City of Durham	William Bell	Cora Cole-McFadden
Durham County	<i>Becky Heron, Chair</i>	Ellen Reckhow
Franklin County	Dr. John Ball	Kevin Martin
Granville County	<i>Ronald R. Alligood, Vice Chair</i>	Dudley Watts
Town of Hillsborough	Joe Phelps	Margaret Hauth
Orange County	Barry Jacobs	Paul Thames
Person County	Jimmy Clayton	Steve Carpenter
City of Raleigh	Janet Cowell	Dale Crisp
Town of Stem	Jack Day	(no alternate)
Wake County	<i>Kenn Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Herb Council
Town of Wake Forest	Vivian Jones	Mark Williams
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Tom Davidson (Durham County)	Donnie Woodlief (Wake County)

** Italics denotes Executive Officer*

FY 2002 - 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The year 2002 - 2003 was a successful one for the Association. In April, the UNRBA Board of Directors accepted the first Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan for review by the member local governments. This is an exciting step in the Upper Neuse because it means that, for the first time in North Carolina, local governments have worked together in a voluntary association to create a comprehensive watershed management plan. In many cases, the strategies go beyond state and federal requirements. We are proud of this accomplishment, and we look forward to implementing the management strategies in the year ahead.

Below is a brief list of the major accomplishments of the Association for this year:

Finalization of first Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan

- **UNRBA Board of Directors accepted the Plan for local government review (April 29, 2003).**
- **Plan acceptance accomplished with a minimum of additional UNRBA funds (over \$71,000 balance in funds for continued work on Plan).**

Implementation of key components of the Management Plan

Plan recommendations to local governments (present recommendations to each member local government)--The UNRBA began presenting the findings and recommendations from the Plan to local government staff and decision-making bodies. Thus far, the UNRBA has:

- **Presented to staff in Durham City, Durham County, Granville County, Franklin County, Orange County, Person County, Raleigh, Wake County, and Wake Forest.**
- **Presented to Councils/Commissions/Planning Boards in Raleigh, Wake Forest, Franklin County, and Person County. Of note, Raleigh is now considering the adoption of several recommendations, most notably a performance standard for limiting phosphorous in runoff from new developments in the Upper Neuse.**
- **Presented to the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the NC Homebuilder's Association.**

Appendix A includes meeting summaries from staff meetings.

Basinwide monitoring planning (demonstrate progress toward establishing a water quality monitoring network)

--The UNRBA negotiated a contract between the USGS and the NC Wetlands Restoration Program to create a "watershed evaluation tool" for local governments. This tool will be based on nationally standardized data and will facilitate several facets of watershed planning. A deliverable of the project, to be completed by the USGS, is a guidance document for creating a water quality-monitoring network in the Upper Neuse. The project will begin this fall.

Critical land protection efforts (assist local governments with identifying critical sites and securing funding, and document UNRBA involvement)

--The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan includes an analysis of potential wetland and riparian protection and restoration sites in the Upper Neuse. The NC Wetlands Restoration Program helped to develop this analysis. The UNRBA has been encouraging local governments to use the analysis to support their restoration efforts.

LID model sites in urban areas, including retrofits

--The UNRBA has been working with the Wake County Public School System to encourage funding for a stormwater LID retrofit project.

Fundraising efforts to support implementation

USGS "watershed evaluation tool"

--\$150,000 of work to be done by USGS, funding from USGS and NCWRP

Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool

--The UNRBA has received a grant of \$39,750 from the State of NC Division of Water Quality Nonpoint Source (Section 319, Clean Water Act) Program to support the Upper Neuse Watershed Site Evaluation Tool.

Ellerbe Creek Watershed Management Plan

The UNRBA was a stakeholder in the Ellerbe Creek Local Watershed Management Plan. The Draft Plan was finished by stakeholder group in April, and the UNRBA will support the City of Durham in its efforts to adopt specific recommendations.

UNRBA budget

The UNRBA has made several strides toward improving financial stability and accountability. These include:

- **Unanimously passing a FY 2004 budget of \$104,582 with local**

government dues of \$86,242 (the highest amount of dues yet committed by the UNRBA members). The budget is summarized on page 11.

- **Working with TJCOG Finance staff to establish a spreadsheet for managing the UNRBA budget**
- **Receiving regular, end-of-month reports from the TJCOG financial department regarding revenues and expenses. In addition, the financial department has agreed to itemize separate projects in the UNRBA budget.**
- **For the second time, filing with the Internal Revenue Service on time.**

Improved marketing of Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan

Eno River Festival

--An estimated 350 people visited the booth, receiving information about local government efforts to protect the watershed. The "Know your watershed" map and handouts were a great success, and the UNRBA will host a booth again next year.

March Association of Environmental Professionals meeting

--The UNRBA Coordinator presented "Watershed Planning and Water Conservation", focusing on opportunities to clean up our streams and conserve water.

Improved community outreach

The UNRBA Coordinator was a member of the group that planned the statewide LID Summit, hosted by the Water Resources Research Institute in Pinehurst in early 2003. The Summit is an early step in establishing statewide guidance for Low-Impact Development.

Internship to support watershed protection efforts

**The UNRBA hired an intern, Ben Bearden, for the summer (June-August).
Ben:**

- **Supported local government presentations;**
- **Coordinated the Eno River Festival booth;**
- **Completed a local government ordinance review; and,**
- **Supported the Watershed Evaluation Tool by completing an analysis of**

subwatersheds in the Upper Neuse.

FY 2003 - 2004 GOALS

In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the UNRBA hopes to provide more and better assistance to the local communities that it serves. The primary goal is adoption of recommendations in the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan. However, meeting the overall challenge of protecting water quality will require improved technical support, more community outreach, and more direct grants writing assistance to local communities. Below is a list of some of the UNRBA goals for the coming year:

Goal 1: Implement recommendations from the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan

--Work with key staff members from local governments to implement specific recommendations in the Plan. Work with these staff members to complete the necessary research and recommendations, and propose specific recommendations to the appropriate decision-makers in each community. Some specific objectives of this goal are:

- **Make progress on implementing phosphorous and nitrogen performance standards**
- **Begin developing a basinwide monitoring plan for the Upper Neuse**
- **Facilitate pilot stormwater low-impact development projects (focus on Wake County School System and the NC Museum of Life and Science)**
- **Team with local stakeholders to win grants toward specific recommendations in the Plan**
- **Adoption of Ellerbe Creek Local Watershed Plan in Durham**
- **Team with local stakeholders to begin other local watershed plans in the Upper Neuse**

Goal 2: More frequent and effective direct technical assistance to local governments

--In presenting recommendations to the local governments, I have been challenged to answer a host of detailed questions and provide information to local government staff. The site evaluation tool and watershed evaluation tool projects are efforts to both implement plan recommendations and provide a high level of technical support to local governments. In addition, I will attend the Center for Watershed Protection's Watershed Restoration Institute in

Reiserstown, Maryland in September and will share this information with local stormwater managers in a meeting.

Goal 3: Support land protection efforts that will have beneficial effects on water in the Upper Neuse

--Partly as a result of UNRBA efforts, the NC Natural Heritage Program is proposing to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund to complete Natural Heritage Inventories for Person and Granville Counties. The UNRBA will support this effort whenever possible and to use the results from the inventories to encourage the protection of any land that will have positive water resource effects.

Goal 4: Support local watershed plans

--Work with local governments to encourage the NC Wetlands Restoration Program to fund more local watershed plans in the Upper Neuse. Eight local watersheds in the Upper Neuse are "targeted" for local watershed plans.

Goal 5: Better bookkeeping and finances

--As previously mentioned, the UNRBA worked with TJCOG finance to create a spreadsheet for our budget and receive regular reports from the Finance Department. The following are additional objectives to improve finance practices:

- **Make regular reports to the UNRBA's Treasurer (Kenn Gardner of Wake County), and,**
- **Seek opportunities to offset UNRBA member government costs (for example, work done for TJCOG's Water Resources Advisory Committee).**

Goal 6: Improve Marketing of the UNRBA and Plan

--The UNRBA will take the following efforts to increase awareness of the effort:

- **Eno Festival 2004**
- **Increase media coverage of the effort**
- **Present to the NC House Committee on the Environment**
- **Team with the Eno River State Park and the City of Durham to hold**

another of the successful "Living Water Workshops" for educators in the area.

Goal 7: Improve Organizational Effectiveness

--The UNRBA will continue to seek the most efficient approaches for maximizing our effectiveness and minimizing the work asked of our members. This year, the UNRBA will continue to:

- **Strengthen Partners Network;**
- **Use task groups on issues for which full TAC involvement is not necessary; and,**
- **Use the website wherever possible to communicate with members.**

FY 2003 - 2004 BUDGET

	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004
Salary	\$33,057	\$36,363
+ Fringe (80% time)	+ \$9,917	+ \$10,909
Water Resources Mgr. (5% time)	\$3,407	\$3,407
Information Systems Mgr. (5% time for regular support)	\$3,963	\$3,963
Indirect Cost (56% salary & fringe)	\$28,193	\$30,599
Travel (workshops, conferences)	\$0	\$1,000
Subtotal Costs	\$78,537	\$86,242
Paid from dues	\$70,961	\$86,242*

Implementation Activities

Expenses

(travel, presentation materials, web support, copies of plan, additional time, intern)

\$7,370 \$18,340

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$78,537 \$104,582

Total Increase = \$26,045

Option chosen for meeting expenses increase:

1. Increase dues to \$86,242 and meet additional implementation costs with up to \$18,500 from State Appropriation (from \$90,000 remaining in State Appropriation). \$71,500 of Appropriation available for consultant support.

**Board of Directors accepted this budget and new dues schedule on April 29, 2003*

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