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**Board of Directors
October 17, 2002**

Prepared October 22, 2002

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 10:00 A.M. on October 17, 2002 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Present to the Directors a summary of local staff responses to the Draft Plan;
- Receive comment and recommendations on proceeding toward Board approval of the Draft Plan;
- Review UNRBA accomplishments over the Summer; and
- Agree on committing to projects in the EPA Watershed Initiative Proposal (including an action item).

Meeting attendees are listed below:

Name	Organization	E-mail Address or Phone
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Becky Heron	Durham County Commission	
Vivian Jones	Wake Forest	joyce.wilson@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Tom Davidson	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	tdavidson@nc.rr.com
Ellen Reckhow	Durham County	ereckhow@aol.com
Jimmy B. Clayton	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Joe Phelps	Town of Hillsborough	orangerealty@mindspring.com
Joel Cross	City of Creedmoor	jcross4620@aol.com
Tom McGee	Town of Butner	tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Jack Day	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Ron Alligood	Granville County Commission	(919) 693-4761

Craig Benedict	Orange County Planning	pthames@co.orange.nc.us
Steve Carpenter	Person County	scarpenter@personcounty.nc.us
TAC AND OTHERS		
William Noyes	Durham County Engineering	wnoyes@co.durham.nc.us
Ken Krulik	Kerr-Tar COG	kkrulik@kerrtarcog.org
Cam McNutt	NC Division of Water Quality	cam.mcnutt@ncmail.net
Scott Miles	Wake Forest Engineering	scott.miles@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

Becky Heron, Chair of the UNRBA Board, began the meeting by reviewing the agenda, and directors introduced themselves. The meeting objectives were:

- UNRBA Update
- Summary of Staff Responses to the Draft Plan
- Discussion about Sticking Points and Next Steps
- Supplemental Funding & Task Group
- EPA Watershed Initiative

Chris Dreps made an announcement about the sad news of Tom Tempia's passing. Tom was the Comprehensive Planning Supervisor in Orange County and a member of the UNRBA's Technical Advisory Committee. Tom passed away, apparently of heart failure, on Tuesday night during a county planning meeting. We are all very saddened to lose Tom, who was a very positive person to work with and to be around. We are sending a sympathy letter to his wife.

Summary of UNRBA Activities

Chris Dreps briefly discussed the UNRBA's achievements over the summer. This presentation lasted approximately five minutes. However, the more detailed project descriptions are listed below for review.

1. *Environmental Education and Public Outreach Website:*

The interactive website has a new look and functionality. The home page has been changed. The website address is www.unrba.org. The UNRBA, with assistance from the TJCOG, has been updating the site throughout the summer.

Conservation Easement Workshops

The UNRBA and the NCWRP, in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension (NCSU, Wake County, and Person County) and the Triangle Land Conservancy, held 2 workshops in June (in Wake and Person Counties) for landowners in the Upper Neuse River Basin. The day-long workshops presented information on land trusts, monitoring and stewardship, legal aspects, rights and responsibilities, appraisal of conservation easements, and estate planning. The Wake County workshop attracted twenty-one landowners, local government staff, and organization staff. Twenty-five people attended the Person County workshop.

Reducing Development's Impacts on Water Resources Workshop (LID Workshop)
On July 23 and 24, the UNRBA, NCWRP, and TJCOG successfully completed a 2-day workshop relating to the use of "Low Impact Development" (LID) techniques for reducing the hydrologic and ecological effects of stormwater runoff. Larry Coffman (Associate Director of Programs and Planning Division, Department of Environmental Resources, Prince George's County, Maryland), a nationally-recognized expert on LID, was the keynote speaker and technical presenter. About 80 local and state government staff, local elected officials, private developers and consultants, university researchers, and citizens from watershed/environmental groups attended the two-day workshop. A detailed summary of the workshop is available on the UNRBA website (www.unrba.org).

The response from the workshop was extremely positive, and the UNRBA is now partnering on a LID Summit to be held in January.

Living Water and Beyond Workshops

The UNRBA, in partnership with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation (Eno River State Park and Falls Lake Recreation Area), and the City of Durham Stormwater Services, held 2 two-day Environmental Education Learning Experience (ELEE) workshops in Durham. The workshops provided local teachers and others working with school-aged children the opportunity to learn about natural river systems, water quality monitoring, and the use of benthic macroinvertebrates species as indicators of stream health.

The overall response to the workshop was excellent. About 50 educators attended the workshops, and several mentioned that this was the best ELEE workshop they had attended. The Eno River State Park and the UNRBA have committed to conducting another Living Water and Beyond workshop next spring.

Collaborative Nonpoint Source Education Campaign

The UNRBA is a founding partner of the Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) initiative to establish a collaborative mass media nonpoint source

education and awareness campaign throughout the Neuse River Basin and part of the Cape Fear River Basin. The program includes television and radio spots, newspaper ads and articles, related print materials, and a program website. The television spots began in April and have been running regularly on WRAL (Raleigh) and WCTI-TV (New Bern).

2. Detailed Local Watershed Assessments and Plans:

The UNRBA is currently assisting the NCWRP to develop detailed watershed assessments for the Lake Rogers (Granville County) and Ellerbe Creek (Durham) watersheds. This process will create local watershed plans and identify priority locations for stream and wetland restoration projects. The UNRBA supports the assessment effort by providing mapping and geographic data analysis, assistance in the field verification of maps, input at stakeholder meetings, and preparation of the final assessment.

3. Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan:

The Draft WSMP is available on the UNRBA's website (www.unrba.org)

Local government staff and officials from several communities have met with the UNRBA coordinator and reviewed the Draft Plan. The governments that have met to date: Raleigh, Durham (City and County), Person County, Orange County, Hillsborough, Granville County and Creedmoor. Those yet to meet include Wake County, Wake Forest, Franklin County, Butner, and Stem. 11 of the 14 jurisdictions have submitted staff responses.

Staff Review of Draft Watershed Management Plan and Recommended Strategies Chris Dreps summarized the responses that the UNRBA has received to date from local government staff (the summaries are attached in an Excel matrix and a word document). Over the summer, Mr. Dreps met with most of the UNRBA member governments to present the Draft Plan and recommended watershed management strategies. The UNRBA Board of Directors requested that local government staff would review the Draft Plan and offer responses.

Reviewers were asked to comment on general aspects of the Draft Plan (the document, the analysis, the management priorities, etc.) and the specific watershed management recommendations, which are grouped into the categories below.

1. New Development Site Management
2. Monitoring and Enforcement
3. Education/Citizen Stewards
4. Point Source Controls
5. Stream Restoration Projects

Table 9 (p.41) from the Draft Plan, 'Management Plan Components', summarizes the recommended strategies. This table was handed out (yellow copy) at each of the local government staff review meetings.

The attached summary matrix, titled "Staff Comments: Draft Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan" is a matrix of the local government staff responses. This matrix follows the same order as the Management Plan Components table. This table is the latest revision dated October 23, 2002. The attached Word document titled "Summary of Staff Comments" adds more details to the Excel matrix.

Discussion

Several Board members feel that it is important for local policy makers to have more input on the recommendations at this point in the process. Chris Dreps will follow up with board members to begin the process of introducing the Draft Plan to local policy makers.

The matrix shows that most recommendations from the plan are supported, with conditions, by the appropriate local government staff.

Substantial obstacles exist to implementing density limits in many jurisdictions. However, the recommendation allows a local government to opt for the nitrogen and phosphorous performance standards as an alternative to a strict density limit on new development.

In addition, some reviewers feel that substantial obstacles exist to the implementation of long-term monitoring and regular (5-year) mandatory septic tank inspections. Most opposition is based on the substantial costs (staff support and training) required to implement these approaches. Several Directors expressed concern that recommending inspections for all systems may unnecessarily burden the great majority of septic system owners. Ellen Reckhow recommended an alternative "septic maintenance program" that would require pump-outs, send reminders, and maintain records. The reminders could include educational materials. Chris Dreps agreed to research this issue with the possible outcome of changing the recommendation. If necessary, this could be an issue for the next Technical Advisory Committee Meeting.

Overall, the Education and Citizen Stewardship recommendations are supported. There is no substantial opposition to any of these recommendations. The major concern is funding such approaches. The UNRBA should consider the need for enhancement of education programs as criteria for supplemental funding proposals.

In general, local staff fully support stream and wetland restoration projects. These projects should be sought out, and funding sources should be located. Chris Dreps will be working this month to update the Draft Plan's wetlands analysis to better identify restoration opportunities and areas prioritized for preservation. This update will be included in the final plan. Identifying and prioritizing these opportunities will give us a tool with which to approach funding sources like the

Wetlands Restoration Program and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Finally, Chris Dreps reminded the Directors of the process for releasing the Draft Plan for review by local staff. The steps should be:

1. Local staff review and informal discussions (finishing up now);
2. Local staff (TAC) recommendations to the UNRBA Board;
3. UNRBA Board adopts final version of plan and UNRBA begins presenting the Plan to local councils and committees.

Supplemental Funding Task Group

Chris Dreps reported the first meeting of the Supplemental Funding Task Group, created to guide the UNRBA as it searches for opportunities to fund various projects recommended in the Draft Plan. To date, members of this task group are George Norris, Danny Johnson, Terry Rolan, Becky Heron, Janet Cowell.

Chris presented a table showing potential 2-year projects that can be accomplished toward implementing the Draft Plan recommendations. The task group is using these potential projects as guidance for grant proposals, such as the EPA Watershed Initiative proposal.

The Directors discussed the EPA Watershed Initiative proposal on which Chris is currently working. Chris explained the four proposed projects that the grant would fund, listed below.

1. Implementation of nitrogen and phosphorous performance standards and Low-Impact Development Techniques to support developing communities in safeguarding water quality.
2. Development of a comprehensive, watershed-wide stream monitoring program to measure results and provide a basis for stronger enforcement.
3. Protection and restoration of critical lands, and community education to support the effort.
4. Creation of Local watershed management plans in three high priority sub-watersheds where more immediate action is needed.

Chris explained that the funding would commit the UNRBA member governments to at least two more years of local funding commitment. The group agreed that this is not a problem, and many expressed a commitment to continuing support of the UNRBA through dues paying. Action Item: Jack Day (Stem) motioned that the Board approve the UNRBA application for EPA Watershed Initiative Funding. Ronald Alligood (Granville County) seconded the motion. The Board of Directors voted in favor of the motion with no opposition.

Craig Benedict, Orange County Planning Director, informed Chris Dreps that Orange County will add a member to this task group.

Next steps

Chris Dreps will finalize the staff comments matrix, add explanations, and send this to the Board and TAC. Chris will contact Directors and staff about any areas still in question and begin planning presentations of the Draft Plan and recommendations to local commissions and councils. The UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee will meet next month to update the Draft Plan and recommendations, addressing existing concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45.