

UNRBA Board of Directors September 30, 2004 Meeting Summary

Prepared October 6, 2004

Our 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.

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, September 30, 2004 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room.

Becky Heron, Chair, convened the meeting after lunch at 12:00 P.M.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting objectives (decision items marked with *):

- UNRBA Projects Update
 - UNRBA Priority Projects
 - Progress on the Watershed Evaluation Tool
 - Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan
 - Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan
 - Local Government Booths at the Eno River Festival
- Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool: part 1 of a two-part report
- Additional Staffing Needs*
- Upper Neuse Detailed Implementation Planning*

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Tom McGee	Butner	tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Kent Ray	Creedmoor	kray@cityofcreedmoor.org
Cora Cole-McFadden	Durham	cocomac27@cs.com
Becky Heron	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Ellen Reckhow	Durham County	ereckhow@aol.com
Matthew Winslow	Franklin County	mwinslow@co.franklin.nc.us
Ron Alligood	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Barry Baker	Granville County	planning@granvillecounty.org
Dudley Watts	Granville County	gcmanager@granvillecounty.org
Joe Phelps	Hillsborough	mayorjoephelps@mindspring.com
Tom Altieri	Orange County	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Steve Carpenter	Person County	scarpenter@personcounty.net
Jimmy Clayton	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Paula Murphy	Person County	pmurphy@personcounty.net
Dale Crisp	Raleigh	dale.crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Tom Davidson	Soil and Water Conservation Districts	tcdavidson@nc.rr.com
Jack Day	Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Kenn Gardner	Wake County	citizens4kenn@aol.com
Britt Stoddard	Wake County	bstoddard@co.wake.nc.us
Vivian Jones	Wake Forest	joyce.wilson@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Deborah Amaral	NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program	deborah_amaral@ncmail.net
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sarah@tjcog.org

UNRBA Projects Update

Chris Dreps provided an update of the UNRBA projects and activities currently underway.

UNRBA Priority Projects for FY 2004-2005

Chris presented the priority projects for this year. The top priority is to complete the draft Upper Neuse Watershed Implementation Plan. This will be the major guidance for all UNRBA projects, including the four other priority projects listed here.

Monitoring—Upper Neuse Watershed Monitoring Plan

Management—Performance standards and Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool\

Restoration—Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan

Protection—Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool

USGS is in the process of compiling the WET data. They have had some delays because National Hydrography Dataset (the basis for the WET) was not originally compatible with ArcView. UNRBA will use the WET on the Little River and Little Lick Creek Projects.

Chris will meet next week with Mary Giorgino, USGS's WET project manager, to discuss progress on the Upper Neuse watershed-wide monitoring plan strategies.

Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

This plan's goal is to identify lands critical for the protection of aquatic and riparian habitat and water quality in the Little River Watershed in Orange and Durham Counties. The Eno River is our client, and the Clean Water Management Trust provided funding through Conservation Trust for NC. We have completed Task 1, an overview of watershed conditions. The next task, prioritizing areas for conservation, will use criteria from the Eno River Association and North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NC EEP). The project is due to be completed next spring.

Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan

This watershed plan is restoration-oriented. Project objectives are to analyze creek impairments, conduct extensive fieldwork to find restoration opportunities, identify potential watershed management strategies, and prioritize projects for implementation by the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (and possibly other sources).

Project partners include Durham City/County Planning, Durham Stormwater Services, Triangle J Council of Governments, the Center for Watershed Protection, and the NC Division of Water Quality. NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program is providing 80% of the project funding (\$114,000), and 20% is from project partner in-kind contribution. The project is due to be completed by September of 2005.

Chris Dreps said that the plan will also identify strategies other than restoration to protect the watershed, such as stormwater projects. Deborah Amaral commented that NC EEP will be looking for other project opportunities in addition to highly ranked restoration projects that NC EEP can implement for mitigation credit. Restoration activities are expected to count toward TMDL and NPDES Phase II requirements.

Deborah added that this project will use and refine a Center for Watershed Protection approach that has potential to be less costly and more effective than the expensive modeling approaches used by consultants.

Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool: Part 1 of a two-part report

The Site Evaluation Tool (SET) is a Microsoft Excel-based pre-design evaluation and screening tool that helps a site developer consider BMP configurations, effectiveness, and costs early in the process. The SET can also help community planners evaluate development impacts. The next Board meeting include a presentation on how the SET can be used on real-world examples.

This was the first of a two-part presentation on the SET. This presentation was a brief introduction to the user interfaces and methodology behind the tool. Chris Dreps showed photographs of some of the BMPs that the SET can account for and discussed their pollutant removal capabilities.

A recurrent concern among those present was that innovative stormwater management may create challenges for management, inspections, and education because the approach relies on multiple small practices. It was also noted that wet ponds also have complicating factors, such as landowner liability and long-term maintenance.

The Board also said that SET should emphasize how effective preserving existing trees and vegetation can be.

Part 2 of this presentation will apply the SET to several example site plans of existing developments in the Upper Neuse. Board members also wanted to be sure that the cost estimation subroutine was explained at the next presentation. It was generally agreed that most of the next Board of Directors meeting should be devoted to understanding the SET.

Additional TJCOG staff

Chris Dreps informed the Board that TJCOG is in the process of hiring a new water resources staff person. UNRBA has won a number of projects, which afford the organization the opportunity to retain part of the new staff person's time. Chair Becky Heron called the motion to approve UNRBA's participation with the new hire. Cora Cole-MacFadden so moved, seconded by Jack Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Becky Heron requested an outline of the new staff person's anticipated responsibilities.

Detailed Implementation Planning

Chris Dreps presented a sample implementation plan and asked the Board's approval to move forward with the general proposed approach. The plan will identify issues of regional concern

and opportunities for cooperative efforts, costs of implementing recommendations, etc. Chris presented the major steps as listed below.

- 1 – Presentation of Watershed Management Plan recommendations to local governments (ongoing)
- 2 – Review of local government watershed programs (underway, complete by December)
- 3 – Gap analysis of where recommendations are being met; identify needs for further technical study (October 2004 to January 2005)
- 4 – Priorities, objectives and milestones set (October 2004 to April 2005)
- 5 – Estimate costs and identify potential funding sources (February 2005 to June 2005)
- 6 – Flesh out complex recommendations, e.g., those requiring detailed study, regional cooperation, alternative approaches, additional resources, etc. (February 2005 to June 2005)
- 7 – Adopt Detailed Implementation Plan (May 2005 to July 2005)
- 8 – Local governments adopt appropriate strategies (ongoing)

This process is designed to be completed by the time the UNRBA Watershed Management Plan is to be revised in late 2006, in time to help inform the new DWQ Basinwide Planning Process for the Neuse River Basin.

The Board voiced no objection to this proposed detailed implementation planning process.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the UNRBA Board will be scheduled after the next Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. The Board agreed to hold a lunch meeting in early January. Chris will send a list of possible dates from which the Board can select.