

UNRBA Board of Directors
April 8, 2005 DRAFT Meeting Summary

Prepared April 11, 2005

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) held a lunch meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Friday, April 11, 2005 at the Down Home Steak House in Creedmoor.

Becky Heron, Chair, convened the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting objectives:

- UNRBA Projects Update
 - Upper Neuse Implementation Plan
 - Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool
 - Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan
 - Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan
- Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool: additional example site
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Cora Cole-McFadden	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
Bob Schaumleffel	City of Creedmoor	citymanager@cityofcreedmoor.org
Becky Heron	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Matthew Winslow	Franklin County	mwinslow@co.franklin.nc.us
Lyn Buffaloe	Franklin County	buffaloe@earthlink.net
Ron Alligood	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Joe Phelps	Town of Hillsborough	mayorjoephelps@mindspring.com
Jimmy Clayton	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Dale Crisp	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Tommy Craven	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Jack Day	Town of Stem	jackieday@aol.com
Vivian Jones	Town of Wake Forest	joyce.wilson@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar COG	spowell@kerr-tarcog.org
Trevor Clements	Tetra Tech	trevor.clements@tetrattech.com
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sarah@tjcog.org
Mary Giorgino	USGS	giorgino@usgs.gov
Sydney Miller	Triangle J COG	smiller@tjcog.org

UNRBA Projects Update (For details about specific projects, see the "Projects and Activities" page at www.unrba.org.)

Upper Neuse Implementation Plan

Shelby Powell gave an update on implementation planning progress. The UNRBA, TJCOC and KTCOG are working on a plan to guide implementation of -the general recommendations in the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan. Ms. Powell informed

the Board that we have developed jurisdiction-specific analyses of “gaps” between the Plan’s recommendations and current practices. The UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee will discuss prioritizing regional recommendations for implementation at their next meeting.

Becky Heron asked how UNRBA is keeping up with changes in local ordinances and land use (e.g., land acquisitions). [Shelby Ms. Powell](#) replied that UNRBA and KTCOG are in close contact with staff. Bob Schaumleffel mentioned that he is about to make some recommendations to Creedmoor about how the city handles development, and will keep us posted.

Watershed Evaluation Tool (WET)

Mary Giorgino of the US Geological Survey (USGS) updated the Board on progress with the WET. The WET is an ArcView GIS-based watershed analysis tool that UNRBA is developing in conjunction with USGS and the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NC EEP). The WET ties together the USGS’s National Hydrography Database with other spatial data.

USGS presented draft monitoring strategies to the UNRBA’s WET Task Group on March 15. The UNRBA Watershed Management Plan recommends a regional monitoring strategy, which would enable us to document the link between development and water quality. A summary of the meeting will be available on the UNRBA website (www.unrba.org).

On May 3, the USGS will provide a training on the WET for local and state government staff at the USGS Raleigh office. There will also be a demonstration of the National Hydrography database at the same location on May 4. Mary Giorgino is coordinating the trainings.

Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

Chris Dreps gave an update on the Plan, which is funded by the Eno River Association (ERA). The GIS landscape analysis is complete, and priority tracts for preservation are now being identified using a combination of criteria. Chris Dreps stated that the ERA is going to ask Durham and Orange Counties to partner to implement its recommendations. UNRBA is proposing a similar study for lower Falls Lake.

Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan

Chris Dreps discussed progress on the plan. Field work and the subwatershed analyses are complete; next, potential projects will be identified and prioritized. The City of Durham also has begun a series of educational programs in the watershed.

Chris showed photographs from the field work that exemplified some of the problems the field staff encountered in the watershed. For example, in areas where development was more intense or the buffer had been severely disturbed, areas directly downstream were more eroded and degraded. Several failing septic systems and erosion control practices were also found. Because the field team included staff from Durham Stormwater Services, some of these problems are already being addressed.

Bob Schaumleffel mentioned that problems like these are another good reason to do good watershed planning. Becky Heron pointed out that rural wastewater problems are often a function of poverty. Chris Dreps ~~responded~~ ~~responded~~ that UNRBA is investigating the possibility of obtaining NC EEP funding for sewer system hookups.

Bob Schaumleffel asked whether the team saw a lot of newer systems failing. Chris Dreps responded that he was not sure about septic systems (new sand filters are no longer an option), but that stormwater management and sediment and erosion control practices were often installed incorrectly and/or failing due to poor maintenance.

Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool (SET)

Chris Dreps followed up presentations at the prior two UNRBA Board meetings on the SET (September 30, 2004 and January 30, 2005 — meeting summaries are available on the UNRBA website). Chris presented another site example to the Board of Directors. The SET is a Microsoft Excel-based spreadsheet tool that UNRBA is developing with Tetra Tech. The SET can be used to estimate impacts of development on water quality, predict the effectiveness of BMPs, and estimate costs of stormwater management. The SET is a multi-objective tool that can help local governments implement the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan and evaluate compliance with Neuse nitrogen reduction rules, water supply watershed rules, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and NPDES Phase II requirements.

The example presented at this meeting was the East Branch Durham County Library and Fire Station on NC Highway 98 between Durham and Wake Forest. The SET showed that the innovative configuration exhibited significant reductions in loadings compared to a conventional configuration based on a wet pond and curbs/gutters. The innovative configuration featured a cistern for use in fireman trainings and bioretention areas in addition to an on-site wet pond.

Chris Dreps is working with Butner to obtain site information for another example case. Trainings on the SET will be held in the summer of this year.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

The North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NC DWQ) is undertaking a 22-month intensive monitoring study of Falls Lake to determine the use support status of the reservoir (possible designation of impairment). The study will model both watershed loads and nutrient responses in the reservoir.

The state will use the study to answer two questions: 1) Is the lake currently supporting its designated uses? 2) Can it tolerate an increase in nutrient loading?

Becky Heron asked what the state would consider the baseline condition. Chris responded that this was being debated; despite the large amount of historic data, much of the data are insufficient for NC DWQ's purposes (e.g., sampling was not done frequently enough).

Sydney Miller with TJCOG spoke on the possibility of TJCOG and UNRBA assisting NC DWQ with their stakeholder process for study and impairment determination. NC DWQ currently seems to view the stakeholder process in limited and technical terms (e.g., review of data for QA/QC), and they do not appear to have resources to run a larger process that might include other stakeholders.

UNRBA has planned to produce a second version of the Watershed Management Plan prior to the new NC DWQ Neuse Basinwide Plan. Sydney Miller presented three alternative courses of action that the Board might direct the UNRBA to take: 1) Don't get involved with the DWQ planning process, and create our own Watershed Management Plan. 2) |

-) Wait until the DWQ plan is complete, and react to it in our Watershed Management Plan.
3) -Attempt to collaborate with DWQ and create a joint plan.

The TJCOG and UNRBA staff recommend option #3. Sydney Miller said he was seeking outside grant funding to support option #3, which may also create opportunities to do models of smaller Upper Neuse reservoirs and enhance Falls Lake watershed models. Funding for Falls Lake projects is complicated by the fact that NC DWQ has stated that this study is being undertaken pursuant to the potential development of a ~~total maximum daily load~~ (TMDL), which would identify the reservoir's capacity to assimilate nutrient loads and allocate loading among the various sources of pollution in the watershed. However, Falls Lake has not yet been declared impaired.

Jack Day suggested that TJCOG investigate funding from the NC Rural Center.

Becky Heron emphasized how important it is to have knowledgeable stakeholders involved in this process.

Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed that future UNRBA Board meetings should be held on the third Wednesday of every second month. The Board also agreed that the meetings should alternate between TJCOG and KTCOG locations, with a different jurisdiction hosting each meeting. Chris Dreps agreed to contact Board members who were not present to ascertain their availabilities for a standing bi-monthly meeting time and to announce the result. Based on this schedule, the upcoming UNRBA Board meetings would be held at lunch (11:30 – 2:00) on the following dates.

- Wednesday, June 15 (location in the TJCOG region)
- Wednesday, August 17 (location in the KTCOG region)
- Wednesday, October 19 (TJCOG region)
- Wednesday, December 21 (KTCOG region)

Budget

Guests were excused for a closed-door session on setting the UNRBA FY 2006 budget. The Board of Directors decided to maintain UNRBA dues at current levels, \$86,242. The UNRBA will send invoices to member governments soon.