

UNRBA Board of Directors
October 19, 2005 DRAFT Meeting Summary

Prepared October 20, 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 Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at Downhome Steakhouse in Granville County. The Town of Stem hosted the meeting.

Becky Heron, UNRBA Chair, convened the meeting at 11:50 A.M. Jack Day, Mayor of Stem and UNRBA Board Member, welcomed everyone to southern Granville County.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting agenda:

1. UNRBA Projects Update (Chris Dreps)
 - Watershed Restoration Projects
 - Reducing Impacts of New Development
 - Critical Lands Protection Projects
2. Upper Neuse Watershed Implementation Plan (Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar COG)
3. South Granville Water and Sewer Authority (Lindsay Mize, SGWASA Director)
4. Coordinating Watershed Management Efforts in the Upper Neuse (Chris Dreps)
 - Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy
 - Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	Contact
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Tom McGee*	Town of Butner	Tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Kurt W. Smith	Wake County	856-6555 or kurt.smith@co.wake.nc.us
Tom Altieri*	Orange County	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Lindsay Mize	South Granville Water and Sewer Authority	Sgwasa@granvillecounty.org
Bob Jones	City of Creedmoor	boss_28540@yahoo.com
Mike Giles	Durham County	Mike.Giles@durhamnc.gov
Paula Murphy	Person County	Pmurphy@personcounty.net
Barry Baker	Granville County	planning@granvillecounty.org
Jimmy B. Clayton*	Person County	Jimmyb31@juno.com
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Govts.	Spowell@kerrtarco.org
Ron Alligood*	Granville County	Grancoms@granvillecounty.org
Dale Crisp*	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham	Cocomac27@hotmail.com
George Rogers	Raleigh (and UNRBA TAC chair)	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

*denotes UNRBA Director or Alternate Director

UNRBA Projects Update

Chris Dreps updated the Board on UNRBA projects. The UNRBA is focusing on four major areas of watershed management: restoring function to impaired and degraded watersheds; reducing impacts from new development; planning for the protection of lands critical to water quality and aquatic habitat; and supporting watershed planning. For details about specific projects, see the UNRBA "Projects and Activities" web page at www.unrba.org.

Watershed Restoration (Impaired and Degraded Watersheds)

There are 5 streams in the Upper Neuse currently listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act. These are Ellerbe Creek, Little Lick Creek, Lick Creek, Knap of Reeds Creek, and the Flat River downstream of Lake Michie. The UNRBA has prioritized restoration efforts in these watersheds.

The UNRBA and partners are within months of completing the Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan. See project webpage (www.unrba.org/littlelick) for more details.

The City of Durham has proposed several innovative projects implementing the Ellerbe Creek Local Watershed Plan.

The NC Division of Water Quality 319 grants program has granted \$145,000 to the UNRBA and partners to create a watershed restoration plan for Lick Creek, adjacent to Little Lick Creek in Durham County.

The Falls Lake Initiative Partners proposed a restoration plan for Knap of Reeds Creek; however, that proposal was not funded. Chris Dreps would like to approach Granville County, Butner, the Tar River Land Conservancy and other partners in Knap of Reeds to re-propose this project using our methodologies.

The North Carolina Division of Water Quality has begun the process of developing a nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake, which may soon be declared impaired. A nutrient management strategy or a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), either of which would limit the amount of allowable nutrients in the lake, is very possible. The DWQ's Technical Advisory Committee, a small group that includes some local government staff, has met 3 times. No stakeholder process is planned for this very crucial process. This issue was discussed later in the meeting (1:30 agenda item).

Reducing Impacts from New Development

The UNRBA focuses on reducing the impacts of new development through advocating and supporting sound land use practices and stormwater management. In particular, nutrient performance standards are currently a strong focus.

The UNRBA and Tetra Tech have developed the Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool (SET). We conducted a training workshop at NCSU's McKimmon Center for interested UNRBA TAC members and SET Task Group members in August.

In early December, we will host a second workshop. The training location has yet to be determined. For more information, see the UNRBA website (www.unrba.org).

Planning for the Protection of Critical Lands

The goal of UNRBA critical lands protection planning is to prioritize lands for protection in the Upper Neuse.

The UNRBA has completed the draft Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan.

The UNRBA is a partner in the Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative, which seeks to identify and protect lands critical to water quality throughout the Basin. The Falls Lake Initiative presents a unique opportunity for public-private partnership in the Basin. The kickoff and goals-setting meeting is scheduled for October 26, 10–12 at the Butner Advisory Council Meeting Facility, 205-C West E Street, Butner. Call (919) 575-3033 or 575-3032 for more directions.

Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan

Shelby Powell of the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments, presented a general outline of the implementation plan and the process for how the TAC is writing and reviewing detailed implementation descriptions for the 19 recommendations in the plan. Each recommendation goes through a thorough writing and revision process by the UNRBA and COG staff and one or more task groups made up of local government staff and other experts. After this review, the UNRBA TAC reviews the recommendation and either approves a provisional copy for Board approval or returns the draft to the task groups for revisions.

Thus far, there are 7 recommendations under review. One (recommendation #12: Targeted Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements) has made it through review. Shelby provided copies of this recommendation to the Board and guided them through the recommendation section by section.

The Board debated the appropriate method for review and final approval of the recommendations. Review of all 19 individual recommendations may be time-consuming, but the Board feels that understanding the details of each recommendation is important. The Board is not interested in a one-time “blanket” review of the recommendations.

Shelby also advised that Board members may want to review recommendations of interest as part of a task group, as Mayor Jones of Wake Forest is doing. If you are interested in helping to develop a particular recommendation, please contact Sarah Bruce (sbruce@tjcog.org/(919)558-9343).

Decision: the UNRBA, upon TAC review and provisional approval of each recommendation, will provide the recommendation to all UNRBA Board members via e-mail. We will eventually post the recommendations to the UNRBA website.

South Granville Water and Sewer Authority (SGWASA)

Lindsay Mize, SGWASA Director, presented a brief history of water and sewer in southern Granville County, SGWASA's current objectives, and some discussion of the future of the Authority.

SGWASA members are Department of Health and Human Services (Butner), Stem, Creedmoor, and Granville County. The Board members include Commissioners Alligood (Chair) and Currin from Granville County, Advisory Council members Lane and Smoak from Butner, Commissioners Ray and Karan from Creedmoor, and Mayor Day of Stem.

SGWASA members hope that the Authority will become viable in January 2006. SGWASA is currently advisory only, advising the Department of Health and Human Services (Butner) on rates, capital improvements, major repairs, etc. Eventually, SGWASA would manage the allocations of water and sewer for existing Granville County and Butner operations.

The effort will get the state out of the business of providing water and sewer. Mr. Mize also said that the effort will take state property and put it under private authority. Another challenging detail is moving employees out of state employment.

Ron Alligood said that after January 1, SGWASA will come to the table with other discharging communities and work on vital issues. UNRBA would like to hear an update on SGWASA. Chris Dreps suggested that the Board consider SGWASA as a potential member of the UNRBA.

Linking Major Upper Neuse Management Efforts

Chris Dreps presented a timeline of major watershed management efforts occurring in the Upper Neuse and led a discussion on the appropriate UNRBA involvement.

The efforts currently underway are:

- NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy;
- Upper Neuse Watershed Implementation Plan and Management Plan #2;
- Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative; and
- Neuse Basinwide Plan.

Chris presented what he feels are the UNRBA member government interests in this complex and potentially confusing array of projects. These are listed below.

1. To be involved and influence the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy—currently, there is no stakeholder process planned, and the TJCOG proposal to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for funding such a process was denied.
2. To ensure that the state's data and modeling are sound and that necessary information are collected and included.
3. To ensure that the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan is consistent with and complementary to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. The Falls Lake NMS will model the Upper Neuse Watershed, but it will model nutrient response only in Falls Lake, not in the other reservoirs. The Falls NMS will not necessarily model future scenarios or explore multiple management approaches.
4. The Falls Lake Initiative (land protection partnership) should focus on all water resources in the Upper Neuse.

The UNRBA can ensure that these things happen by taking the following steps:

1. Fund a Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process;
2. Meet additional data needs for the Falls Lake modeling;
3. Fund the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan, and fund consultant modeling support to ensure consistency with NC DENR's modeling; and
4. Participate fully in the Falls Lake Initiative (starting with the kickoff meeting on Oct. 26 in Butner).

Cora Cole-McFadden and others asked Chris to provide a more detailed proposal for the first 3 steps, including cost estimates by jurisdiction. This topic will be a focus of the next UNRBA BoD meeting.

The Board briefly discussed how the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan could best include and build upon the various management efforts. This will be part of the proposal for the plan.

Dale Crisp commented that water capacity should be studied, and that we should focus on that issue. Ron Alligood agreed. The UNRBA will invite community water supply directors and others to present at a future meeting, possibly the December meeting.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 21, 11:30 A.M., most likely in Hillsborough.