

UNRBA Board of Directors
December 21, 2005 DRAFT Meeting Summary

Prepared December 27, 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, December 21, 2005 at Kelsey's Café at Occoneechee in Hillsborough. The Town of Hillsborough hosted the meeting.

Becky Heron, UNRBA Chair, was absent, recovering from a recent eye surgery. Jack Day, Mayor of Stem and UNRBA Board Member, welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting agenda:

1. UNRBA Projects Update and Board Business (Chris Dreps)
2. Upper Neuse Watershed Implementation Plan (Chris Dreps)
3. Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (Syd Miller, Triangle J COG)

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	Contact
Kent Ray*	Town of Creedmoor	kray@cityofcreedmoor.org
Tom Altieri*	Orange County	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackieday@aol.com
Tom Davidson*	Durham Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	tcdavidson@nc.rr.com
Tom Stevens*	Town of Hillsborough	mayortomstevens@ncrrbiz.com
Dale Crisp*	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Mark Bailey	Wake County	Mark.bailey@co.wake.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Barry Baker	Granville County	planning@granvillecounty.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Govts.	Spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Donna Wood	Franklin County	dwood@co.franklin.nc.us
George Rogers	Raleigh (and UNRBA TAC chair)	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Sally Boesch	Flat River (resident)	477-5514
Sydney Miller	TJCOG	smiller@tjcog.org
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

*denotes UNRBA Director or Alternate Director

UNRBA Projects Update

Chris Dreps updated the Board on UNRBA projects.

Site Evaluation Tool

The UNRBA and Tetra Tech have developed the Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool (SET). We have finished the trainings (NCSU's McKimmon Center in August and UNC's Friday Center on Dec. 6). We have also developed a SET website: www.unrba.org/set. The project will finish at the end of December, but the SET is now available for download on the website, and

UNRBA/TJCOG staff are available to assist local governments using the SET. Kent Ray expressed interest in having new Creedmoor staff members trained in the use of the SET.

Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

The goal of UNRBA critical lands protection planning is to prioritize lands for protection in the Upper Neuse. To this end, the UNRBA has completed the Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan. The plan has been delivered to the client, the Eno River Association. The Summary Report version is available to anyone interested. Contact Chris Dreps.

UNRBA Board Business

Elections:

The Board agreed that we will hold elections for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer at our February meeting. Currently, the officers are:

Chair—Becky Heron (Durham County)

Vice Chair—Ron Alligood (Granville County)

Secretary-Treasurer—Kenn Gardner (Wake County)

Chris will contact all executive officers to ascertain their intentions for continuing in office. If any board members are interested in an office, please contact Chris.

Kent Ray suggested that we consider inviting the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority to join the UNRBA. This could be a topic of the next UNRBA meeting on February 15, 2006.

Leave of Absence:

Chris Dreps has requested a leave of absence from late February through late June, 2006. Chris delivered a memo to the Board. Chris has already worked out a plan with Syd Miller and Sarah Bruce at TJCOG for handling all UNRBA work in his absence. Chris has discussed the leave and TJCOG coverage of UNRBA responsibilities by TJCOG with Becky Heron, who was supportive. After taking a few minutes to read the letter, Board members expressed support and asked Chris to forward the letter to the remaining members of the Board. Barring any opposition to the leave and TJCOG coverage of UNRBA responsibilities, the UNRBA Board supports the leave.

Next Meeting:

The next UNRBA Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15 at a location to be determined in the Kerr-Tar COG region. Chris will follow-up with the location and will share a schedule for the entire year 2006 with the Board.

Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan: Review Process

Chris Dreps checked in with the Board on the process to date for reviewing the 19 detailed recommendations for inclusion in the Implementation Plan. Each recommendation goes through a thorough writing and revision process by the UNRBA and COG staff, 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.

Background:

Thus far, 4 recommendations have been approved by the TAC for consideration by the Board. One recommendation (#12: Targeted Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements) has made

it through review. The others (recommendations #4, #7, and #13) were sent to the Board via e-mail on December 14. Chris provided copies of these recommendations. The Board decided, at its October 19 meeting, to review all 19 individual recommendations via e-mail. A non-response on the part of a board member indicates approval for inclusion of the recommendation in the Draft Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan. The Board also decided to post the recommendations to the UNRBA website.

Chris asked the Board how much time is enough for review. The Board decided that 2 weeks is sufficient. The UNRBA and COG staff will, therefore, attempt to send 2 recommendations every 2 weeks to the UNRBA Board of Directors. At this pace, review will be done in approximately 3 months, although it is recognized that getting recommendations through the TAC process is time consuming and could delay passage of recommendations to the Board.

The Board also decided that the names of reviewers and the approval date from the TAC shall be listed at the top of each recommendation that comes before them. Once the recommendation has received Board approval, this information will be removed before inclusion in the *Draft Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan*.

Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan: Prioritization

Chris Dreps presented a concept for prioritizing watersheds of the Upper Neuse Basin for implementation. Prioritization gives the UNRBA members confidence that we are measuring performance with standard criteria, that we're focusing on the right places, and that we're implementing in a timely manner.

The approach identifies priority areas and milestones for each of the 19 recommendations. Priority areas are those areas that are relatively important in the implementation of a given strategy. The criteria for defining priority areas may be based on measurable environmental criteria. For example, recommendation #1 (Nutrient Performance Standards) is based on a model of nutrient loading to the water supply reservoirs. In some cases, the criteria are based on best professional judgement. For example, the UNRBA TAC recommends that all stormwater BMP's must be accompanied by a yearly inspections program (recommendation #4— Stormwater Control Inspections) because inspections are the only way to insure that the devices are functioning.

Milestones show the relative immediacy of need for a given recommendation in a watershed/jurisdiction. Timelines will be set in the following way:

Short-term (0-5 years): assess during next planning cycle to see if recommendation has been met

Mid-term (5-10 years): assess during next planning cycle to decide if any should become short-term or if any have been met.

Long-term (beyond 10 years): at next cycle, determine which should become mid or short-term or if any have been met.

Milestones will be assessed as part of the Implementation Plan's gap analysis.

The Board feels that it is important to conduct an annual progress report on implementation as part of the UNRBA's Annual Report. Mark Bailey suggested that this is burdensome, and the UNRBA should place some of the reporting burden on local staff. Chris Dreps said that he will try an annual report next year and that he and Sarah Bruce will rely heavily upon local staff for the first Gap Analysis conducted in 2006 as part of the Implementation Plan.

Chris showed examples of setting priority areas and milestones for recommendations #4 (Stormwater Controls Inspections) and #12 (Targeted Lands Acquisition and Conservation Easements). Stormwater Controls Inspections (rec. #4) would be prioritized everywhere that BMP's are installed. However, short-term milestones would be those areas over 10% impervious cover, mid-term milestones would be those areas that we expect exceed 10% impervious cover by 2025, and long term milestones would be those watersheds that would exceed 10% ultimately. The UNRBA will assess whether short-term milestones have been met at the time of the next Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (likely 2007-2008).

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Background: The Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy is the State's process for determining the nutrient loading and carrying capacity of Falls Lake. The product will be a strategy for managing nutrients in the entire basin, and may possibly include a federally-required cap, or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limit for nutrients flowing to the reservoir. At the UNRBA's October meeting, Chris Dreps alerted the Board to several issues, focusing on the following UNRBA member government interests concerning the strategy:

1. To be involved and influence the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy—currently, there is no stakeholder process planned.
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.

At the October meeting, the Board asked Chris to write a letter to Bill Ross, Secretary of NC DENR, expressing our concern about the lack of a stakeholder process to guide the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Chris presented a draft letter to the Board. Tom Stevens suggested that we use stationary with Board Members' titles and electronic signatures. Chris will work with Board members to finalize the letter and have it ready to send by the time of the February 15 Board meeting.

The Board also asked Chris to provide a more detailed proposal for funding a stakeholder process. Syd Miller (TJCOG) attended today's meeting to address this issue. Syd Miller facilitated the Jordan Lake stakeholder process.

Syd shared that the NC Senate Bill 981 set a July 1, 2008 deadline for developing the management strategy and for the EMC to adopt permanent rules. This deadline is impossible to meet with an adequate model considering that the state's lab lost 4 months of crucial chlorophyll *a* data and that an extra year of monitoring will be necessary to ensure an adequate model. Technical Stakeholders, including the Neuse River Foundation, support extending the deadline.

Syd addressed possible stakeholder process costs, asking the UNRBA board to consider several process design variables such as:

1. What is Chris Dreps' role?
2. How broad is the stakeholder representation? (if UNRBA pays, does it want to include a full stakeholder process)
3. How many full-group meetings? (Jordan Lake stakeholders held 21)
4. When do we start? (Syd suggests after model done—early 2008)
5. Do we perform outreach activities? (to groups where need/opportunity exists)
6. Do we allow for subgroup meetings? (sometimes necessary for working out details or differences of opinion)

Syd made a cost estimate assuming a 12-meeting, 12-month stakeholder process beginning in March 2008, with the first stakeholder meeting held in July 2008. He also assumed the meetings are held at TJCOG; that the facilitation team includes Syd, Sarah Bruce, Shelby Powell, Chris Dreps, and NC DWQ staff; and that no subgroup meetings are held. The total cost would be on the order of \$50,000.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 15, 2006 in the Kerr-Tarr Region. Meeting objectives include:

- Review final copy of letter to NC DENR
- Review draft budget for FY 2006-2007
- Implementation Planning progress report