

UNRBA Board of Directors February 15, 2006 Meeting Summary

Prepared February 15, 2006

UNRBA 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.

Welcome 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, February 15, 2006 at the Clarksville Station Restaurant in Roxboro.

Becky Heron, UNRBA Chair, expressed gratitude to Steve Carpenter, Jimmy Clayton, and Paula Murphy for hosting this meeting. Jimmy Clayton then said a few words about the history of Clarksville Station and current conditions in Person County.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting agenda:

- UNRBA Update/Housekeeping
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy
- FY2006-07 UNRBA Budget (Decision Item)

Meeting attendees are listed below (* denotes UNRBA Director or Alternate Director).

Name	Organization	Contact
Kent Ray*	Town of Creedmoor	kray@cityofcreedmoor.org
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Ron Alligood*	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Vivian Jones*	Town of Wake Forest	Mayor@wakeforestnc.gov
Steve Carpenter	Person County Planning Dept.	scarpenter@personcounty.net
Paula Murphy	Person County Planning Dept.	PMurphy@personcounty.net
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning Dept.	planning@granvillecounty.org
George Rogers	Raleigh (UNRBA TAC chair)	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Lindsay Mize	South Granville Water and Sewer Authority	Lindsay_Mize@person.net
Mary Giorgino	US Geological Survey	giorgino@usgs.gov
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Govts.	Spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Sydney Miller	Triangle J Council of Govts.	smiller@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

UNRBA Projects Update

Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

The Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan has been completed and delivered to the Eno River Association. This plan identifies critical lands for protection in the Little River watershed, and the Falls Lake Initiative is using a similar approach throughout the Upper

Neuse Basin. The Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan Summary Report is available on request (email Sarah Bruce at sbruce@tjcog.org or call 919-558-9343).

Site Evaluation Tool

The UNRBA and Tetra Tech have developed the Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool (SET). Two trainings have been held for local government staff and a website has been developed where the tool and supporting documentation can be downloaded: www.unrba.org/set.

Ms. Heron asked when it would be ready to be brought to the elected officials for them to determine its utility in terms of policy. Chris Dreps said that presentations can be made to local boards on the potential utility of the SET to manage nutrients and will be used in the Falls Lake Initiative to assess pollutant reductions associated with protection of critical lands. Ms. Heron recommended that the SET be a major agenda item for the BOD this fall.

Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool

The Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool has also been completed. The WET was a joint project between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program, with in-kind support from the UNRBA. The WET is both a tool and a dataset. As a tool, the WET enables local planning departments to conduct watershed planning tasks easily using ArcView 3.2. As a dataset, it provides base data that can be used to manage stormwater, identify potential pollution sources, and analyze land uses at the catchment level, regardless of the geographic information system in use.

Mary Giorgino of USGS gave a presentation on the Upper Neuse WET. Ms. Giorgino said that the project partners have authored an article to be published in the journal "Impact," along with several other articles on new applications of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). The NHD provides digital hydrographic information for the entire United States. The Upper Neuse Basin was one of the first areas to be completed.

Ms. Giorgino stated that it is critical to update the data associated with the WET on a regular basis. In the future, online mapping applications may make real-time updated data use possible. The WET currently enables users to obtain any information that is available online about the data; for example, clicking on a stream gage will bring up that stream gage's readings on the USGS website.

Ms. Giorgino said that the USGS is very interested to hear about projects and applications of the NHD and the WET. She emphasized that the WET is a very unique project, partly because it involved local, regional, state, and national entities, and it has generated national interest.

The WET will be available once the DVDs that will be used to distribute it are ready. Due to its large size, it will not be available online. Contact Sarah Bruce (sbruce@tjcog.org / 919-558-9343) for a copy of the DVD, or Mary Giorgino (giorgino@usgs.gov / 919-571-4087) or Silvia Terziotti (seterzio@usgs.gov / 919-571-4090) for technical questions.

Next Meeting

Chris Dreps passed around the proposed BOD meeting schedule. The BOD will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month.

Leave of Absence

Chris Dreps will be on a leave of absence from late February through late June 2006. Sydney Miller and Sarah Bruce at TJCOG will handle all UNRBA work in his absence, including the April meeting of the UNRBA Board of Directors. During Chris Dreps' absence, contact Sarah Bruce for questions about general UNRBA matters (sbruce@tjcog.org / 919-558-9343) or Sydney Miller for questions regarding budget, Falls Lake Initiative, or Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy issues (smiller@tjcog.org / 919-558-9392).

Letter to DENR regarding the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

The UNRBA proposed to send a letter to DENR Secretary Bill Ross about importance of a stakeholder process for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Cora Cole-McFadden moved that the UNRBA Board of Directors sign and submit the letter. Tommy Craven seconded the motion. Jimmy Clayton said it was a good idea to send the letter, even if it were ignored. The Board generally expressed displeasure that such a process would be undertaken without local government input.

The motion to sign and send the letter to DENR passed unanimously. Letter was passed around for local government representatives to sign; Sarah Bruce and Shelby Powell will track down those Board members not present to obtain their signatures and send the letter once all signatures have been obtained.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Chris Dreps spoke briefly on the importance of a stakeholder process for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS). Local governments in the watershed have several interests in this process:

- ensure that data and modeling are sound and include all the available information
- have a say in the Nutrient Management Strategy itself
- ensure that the next version of the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan is consistent with and complementary to the Nutrient Management Strategy

Currently, there is no stakeholder process planned for the Nutrient Management Strategy.

Sydney Miller facilitated the Jordan Lake stakeholder process and helped develop a rough proposal for stakeholder process for the Falls Lake NMS. Syd's proposal assumed a 12-meeting, 12-month stakeholder process beginning in March 2008, with the first stakeholder meeting in July 2008. The proposal also assumed that the meetings are held at TJCOG; that the facilitation team includes himself, Sarah Bruce, Shelby Powell, Chris Dreps, and NC DWQ staff; and that no subgroup meetings are held. The proposal's total cost is approximately \$50,000.

FY 2006–2007 UNRBA Budget

Chris Dreps examined income from grants in relation to level of effort and projects, and found that funding needs for base operations, implementation planning, and grant matches are \$123,004. Income from grants that are funded by an agency is \$46,785. Therefore, the total operating budget for FY 2007 is \$169,789 and the revenue target is \$123,004.

Chris said that the original appropriation for the UNRBA has been subsidizing operating expenses over the lifetime of the association. It is now down to about \$50,000, and Chris

projects that, at this rate, it will be gone in two years. Having a contingency fund is important because it enables the UNRBA to win grants and projects by leveraging UNRBA funds as a match to grant funds, and it helps UNRBA respond rapidly to needs (e.g., a Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process, which is unlikely to be funded by another entity). To date, this money has helped attract approximately \$500,000 in Upper Neuse projects.

Chris Dreps proposed three future budget options that were developed with the UNRBA Executive Committee (Becky Heron, chair; Ron Alligood, vice-chair; and Kenn Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer) to maintain \$50,000 in a contingency fund. All options assume that the UNRBA continues to operate at its current level of effort. The options were:

- 1) Maintain the same total dues revenue as were set for FY 2005-2006, but adjust each member's dues in accordance with current conditions. Member dues are based on a participation fee, public water supply use, and land area of the jurisdiction in the basin. Note that this option would continue to erode the dwindling contingency fund.
- 2) Meet the revenue target by increasing dues to the full level needed to cover base costs. This option would preserve the contingency balance at \$50,000.
- 3) Increase dues in 20% increments annually to eventually cover costs in the long run. This option is a compromise between options 1 and 2 that would help maintain a small contingency balance in the short run and would eventually achieve a \$50,000 contingency balance.

Chris showed a chart that illustrated how these three options would affect the contingency fund over time. The following table shows the dues under each scenario.

UNRBA FY2006-2007 Dues Scenarios

Jurisdiction	FY 2005-2006 Dues	FY 2005-2006 Adjusted ^a	Cover Costs ^b	20% Increase ^c
Butner	\$3,027	\$2,995	\$4,271	\$3,594
Creedmoor	\$915	\$894	\$1,274	\$1,072
Durham (City)	\$18,729	\$16,855	\$24,040	\$20,266
Durham County	\$9,483	\$9,503	\$13,553	\$11,403
Franklin County	\$1,020	\$1,020	\$1,455	\$1,224
Granville County	\$5,259	\$5,269	\$7,515	\$6,323
Hillsborough	\$1,475	\$1,291	\$1,841	\$1,549
Orange County	\$9,105	\$9,123	\$13,012	\$10,948
Person County	\$6,235	\$6,172	\$8,803	\$7,406
Raleigh	\$24,676	\$26,794	\$38,215	\$32,152
S & W Districts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stem	\$698	\$698	\$995	\$837
Wake County	\$4,955	\$4,964	\$7,080	\$5,957
Wake Forest	\$665	\$665	\$948	\$798
TOTAL:	\$86,242	\$86,243	\$123,002	\$103,529

^a Adjusted = total stays constant, dues adjusted for changing relative water demands

^b Cover costs = dues increased to meet current level of effort

^c 20% increase = dues increased by 20% over FY2005-2006 Adjusted figures

Becky Heron stated that UNRBA has not increased dues since FY 2003-2004 and said that she feels that \$50,000 is a small contingency in light of the scope of UNRBA's activities. Ms. Heron stressed the value and importance of membership in the UNRBA, which helps local governments act collectively and as an organization that is respected across the state.

Sydney Miller echoed Ms. Heron's sentiments. He said that the UNRBA has been very adept at obtaining innovative projects that benefit Upper Neuse local governments and the basin. For example, conducting local watershed planning efforts enables DOT mitigation monies to be spent on mitigation projects (stream and buffer restorations) in the UNRBA jurisdictions. Syd also emphasized that the investment is cost-effective and demonstrates the commitment of local governments to protecting water resources in the basin.

Tommy Craven expressed a desire to see more details on the budget (the information the Executive Committee used to arrive at these conclusions). Chris Dreps said that he would send an itemized budget with the meeting summary.

Cora Cole-McFadden commended Chris Dreps for his management of the budget and for obtaining funding from outside sources.

Becky Heron stated that her work on the Water 2030 project has convinced her that water needs in the future are great and that there is a great deal of work to be done. She said that she strongly favored the "covering costs" option (option #2).

George Rogers, UNRBA TAC chair, advised the Board also to cover costs. He said that the UNRBA approach needs to be "pay as you go" and that \$50,000 does not go far to retain consultants or match grants.

Cora Cole-McFadden moved, seconded by Ron Alligood, to recommend option #3, a 20% increase over adjusted dues levels, for consideration to Upper Neuse local governments for their approval. The motion passed 5 to 2, with those opposed favoring the "cover costs" option (option #2).

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006 in Orange County. Meeting objectives include:

- Determination of FY 2007 member dues
- Implementation Planning progress report
- Presentation from Chris Mankoff of the Ecosystem Enhancement Program