

**UNRBA Board of Directors**  
**November 15, 2006 Meeting Summary**

Prepared November 15, 2006

*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.*

**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, November 15, 2006 at Camp Barham in Butner.

Ron Alligood, UNRBA Vice-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Tom McGee spoke briefly about the meeting facility, and welcomed attendees to Butner.

Chris Dreps presented the meeting agenda:

- UNRBA Project Update
- UNRBA Bylaws and Membership Update
- UNRBA Financial Report
- Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative Support
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Kent Ray*	Town of Creedmoor	kray@cityofcreedmoor.org
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
Mark Bailey	Wake County	mark.bailey@co.wake.nc.us
Ron Alligood*	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Patrick Young*	Franklin County Planning Dept	pyoung@co.franklin.nc.us
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Tom Altieri	Orange County Planning Dept	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Moses Carey*	Orange County	Mcarey1@mindspring.com
Robert Rosenthal*	Soil & Water Conservation	rxr@mindspring.com
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning Dept.	planning@granvillecounty.org
Tom McGee*	Town of Butner	Tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Tom Stevens*	Town of Hillsborough	mayortomstevens@ncrrbiz.com
Pauline High	Franklin County Planning Dept	phigh@co.franklin.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham	nancy.newell@durhamnc.gov
Dale Crisp	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
George Rogers	Raleigh (UNRBA TAC chair)	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Kenn Gardner*	Wake County	Citizens4kenn@aol.com
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Govts.	Spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

## **UNRBA Projects Update**

### Implementation Steering Committee (ISC)

The Implementation Steering Committee is comprised of UNRBA staff, TAC members and Board members. The group met for the first time in November to discuss the current status of implementation. It will take another meeting of the ISC to determine specific recommendations as to how future recommendation and implementation items will be handled.

### Recommendation Sheet Update

The UNRBA website now has a page devoted to the nineteen recommendation sheets comprising the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan. This makes the latest version of the recommendations available to member government staff, Board members, and the general public. The page is at [www.unrba.org/mgmtplan.htm](http://www.unrba.org/mgmtplan.htm)

### November 16 Public Information Meeting

On November 16, there will be a public meeting in Durham to discuss the Little Lick Creek and Lick Creek Watershed Plans. Board Member Cora Cole-McFadden will be present to speak, and several other TAC members will attend.

### Grant Proposals

Ellerbe Creek Watershed Management Implementation Plan – The City of Durham is taking the lead on applying for funds to do this plan. It is expected the UNRBA will play a role in the plan's development.

EPA Targeted Watershed Grant – The UNRBA and various public and private partners submitted a proposal for this nationally competitive grant. The grant would implement two pieces of the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan in pilot areas. First, grant would double the amount of fieldwork and implementation effort towards protecting critical lands (UNWMP Rec. #12) in the Little River Watershed in northern Durham and Orange Counties. This would result in a greater pace of land protection, innovative partnerships between multiple funders, and a cost/benefit analysis of land protection as related to water quality in the Little River Basin. The second pilot effort would implement watershed restoration efforts (UNWMP Recs. # 16 &17) in the Little Lick Creek, Lick Creek, and Ellerbe Creek watersheds. Local restoration plans are developed (or in the process) in these watersheds, and this effort would implement the detailed recommendations from these plans.

The Governor has forwarded this grant application to EPA with a recommendation for funding. Board members were asked for other ideas on who to contact to keep this grant as a front-runner as EPA reviews the proposals. Kenn Gardner asked Chris Dreps to forward a grant synopsis to all Board members so they could mention it during contact with US Representatives. Cora Cole-McFadden mentioned that Reps Price, Miller and Etheridge had all helped Durham with environmental issues in the past. She also stated that Chris Dreps should contact the Durham lobbyist, Elizabeth Stoeber at 919/560-4222 for further assistance and ideas. The only other project in the area to receive these funds in the past was in the Cape Fear Basin, and they have not successfully developed a nutrient trading strategy yet.

## **UNRBA Bylaws and Membership Update**

Chris Dreps stated that South Granville Water and Sewer Authority (SGWASA) formed in early 2006, and reviewed a brief history of the group. SGWASA's Board of Directors voted at their last meeting to join the UNRBA. In order to allow this, the UNRBA Bylaws must be updated to reflect a water and sewer authority as an eligible member. Chris Dreps proposed the following change:

*Article II, Definitions, C: Units of Local Government shall include towns, cities, counties, and water and sewer authorities with jurisdiction in the Upper Neuse basin.*

He also proposed striking some language in the first sentence under Field of Membership to remove the land use authority provision. A motion was made by Cora Cole-McFadden to amend the Bylaws as proposed, with a second made by Robert Rosenthal. After no further discussion, the vote carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Cora Cole-McFadden to invite SGWASA to become a dues-paying member of the UNRBA. A second was offered by Tom Stevens. Three UNRBA Board members, who are also SGWASA Board members, abstained from the vote. The vote carried unanimously, with Ron Alligood, Kent Ray and Jack Day abstaining.

Ron Alligood gave an update on SGWASA, stating that it will assume debts of the former Butner-owned operations this year. In early 2007 SGWASA will look at updating wastewater treatment facilities. He stated that SGWASA is pleased to be a member of UNRBA. Chris Dreps stated that the only remaining municipality in the Basin that is not a member is Roxboro. He is still working with City staff to encourage membership, and several Board members recommended that the UNRBA make a presentation to the Roxboro City Council.

### **Financial Report**

In preparing the UNRBA Board to make budget decisions at the January 17 meeting in Raleigh, Chris Dreps provided an informational report to the Board. In February 2006, the board set a revenue target of \$123,004 that, based on the FY 2006-2007 budgeting needs, will operate the UNRBA at its current level with no losses and enable the Association to maintain a contingency balance.

The 2006-2007 member dues amounted to \$103,529, which was a 20% increase from the 2005-2006 dues. Chris Dreps reminded the Board that they had set a revenue target of \$123,004 in order to maintain a contingency fund balance. The Board reviewed the scenarios that were discussed at the February 2006 meeting, including those that would allow the depletion of the contingency fund balance. Kenn Gardner stated that he thought it prudent to maintain some level of that reserve account, and would like to focus the discussions on what level of contingency fund is needed, not whether or not it was needed at all. Tom Stevens mentioned that more members would lower dues for everyone, and that was more incentive to approach Roxboro for membership. Chris Dreps stated that UNRBA dues are calculated by a formula with variables of population inside the watershed, land area inside the watershed, and water usage. SGWASA would simply take over Butner's current water usage portion of the dues, so SGWASA's membership has a zero net effect on the total dues amounts. Nancy Newell stated that the quicker the Board decides on these budget numbers, the easier it is for staff to plan out their work program for the coming year.

Chris will share the draft budget with the Board at the January 17 meeting.

### **Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI)**

At the last Board meeting, members agreed to take the UNCWI Conservation Plan back to their planning and development staffs to determine consistency with local plans and priorities. Kenn Gardner stated that he had done that with his staff, and it appeared that the plan would be a complimentary document to the policies and plans currently in place. Not all board members had shared the UNCWI Conservation Plan with planning staff. Moses Carey suggested that Chris Dreps send an email to member government planning staffs to remind them to look at those plans.

The Conservation Trust for NC, which managed the project, is hoping for UNRBA “support” for the Conservation Plan.

### **Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy**

This is the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) effort to create a management strategy for managing pollutant levels in Falls Lake. The strategy will include allocations to point-source contributors and local governments. These rules will become state law in July 2009. Local governments in the basin will have to abide by this law.

Chris reviewed the latest modeling data from the project. At the three most upstream sites in the Lake, it appears that Dissolved Oxygen levels, turbidity levels, and chlorophyll *a* levels exceed the standards set for Falls Lake in the federal Clean Water Act. This means the lake, or portions of it, will likely be designated as impaired for chlorophyll *a* and/or turbidity. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL, a federal designation) would make regulations for erosion control more stringent. A chlorophyll *a* TMDL is likely to require nitrogen reductions, with resulting regulations for wastewater treatment. Dale Crisp stated that if the state finds the lake to be impaired, it will develop a TMDL for the source of impairment. Further, EPA does not generally like the idea of a chlorophyll *a* standard without phosphorous or nitrogen standards, so they may try to get NC to develop TMDLs for these nutrients as well.

Also, a recent lawsuit in DC led to a literal interpretation for the TMDL to be actual daily loads instead of annual summations as is commonly done. This may make the rules a little harder to follow, and may cause additional expense for those expected to follow them. Local impacts will be felt across the basin in the form of wider stream buffers, stricter stormwater treatment measures, and similar items.

The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan recommendations will give member governments a good head start implementing the types of strategies that could be needed. Chris Dreps stated that the Implementation Steering Committee has recommended that the UNRBA finish the Implementation Plan by the time the stakeholder process starts for this, probably by Fall 2007. The Board will need to make decisions on priorities of recommendations because the TAC can not be expected to advise the Board about political issues. The Implementation Steering Committee is still looking at how to address the issue of prioritization.

Chris Dreps stated that the stakeholder process is not expected to start until March 2008. The cost will still be \$51,252 with UNRBA members covering \$31,252 and DENR contributing \$15,000. The process will consist of 13 meetings held over one year, and will be facilitated by Triangle J COG.

### **Next Meeting**

Ron Alligood stated that the next meeting will be held January 17, 2007, and will be hosted by Raleigh. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.