

UNRBA Board of Directors January 17, 2007 Meeting Summary

Prepared January 25, 2007

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.

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

The Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors met at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at the Army Corps of Engineers Falls Lake Management Center on Falls of the Neuse Road in Raleigh. The meeting was hosted by the City of Raleigh.

UNRBA vice-chair Commissioner Ron Alligood welcomed attendees. Falls Lake Management Center Operations Manager Tom Freeman thanked the Board for their interest in the Neuse River.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
Tom Stevens*	Town of Hillsborough	mayortomstevens@ncrrbiz.com
Ron Alligood*	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Tom Altieri*	Orange County Planning Dept.	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Robert Rosenthal*	Soil & Water Conservation	rxr@mindspring.com
Vivian Jones*	Wake Forest	Mayor@wakeforestnc.gov
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Lindsay Mize*	South Granville Water & Sewer Authority	sgwasa@granvillecounty.org
Kenn Gardner*	Wake County	Citizens4kenn@aol.com
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning Dept.	planning@granvillecounty.org
George Rogers	Raleigh (UNRBA TAC chair)	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Mark Bailey	Wake County	mark.bailey@co.wake.nc.us
Kurt Smith	Wake County	kwsmith@co.wake.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Mgmt.	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Helen Youngblood	City of Durham Planning Dept.	Helen.Youngblood@durhamnc.gov
Robert Massengill	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Govts.	Spowell@kerrtarco.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

Meeting agenda:

- UNRBA Projects Status (Chris Dreps)
- Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (Chris Dreps)
- Implementation Planning (Sarah Bruce)
- UNRBA Financial Report (Chris Dreps)

UNRBA Projects Status

The Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan has been completed and is posted online at www.unrba.org/littlelick. Chris Dreps said that UNRBA will be receiving some funding from the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program to implement local watershed plans in the Upper Neuse Basin, but the amount is yet to be determined.

Chris Dreps reported that he has begun to put together the stakeholder team for the 319-funded Lick Creek local watershed planning process.

Chris Dreps gave the Board a handout showing progress toward paying for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process, which will get underway in March of 2008. All member governments have paid the contributions to which they committed for FY 2006-07. 2007-08 contributions will be collected next fiscal year.

Chris Dreps stated that the UNRBA's application for an EPA Targeted Watershed Grant to implement watershed restoration strategies in the Little River and East Durham is making its way through the approval process. Letters of support for UNRBA's proposal should be sent after January, once the application reaches EPA headquarters in Washington, DC.

Mayor Day announced that Stem is working with the Tar River Land Conservancy to preserve a tract of land in the Town's jurisdiction.

Helen Youngblood of Durham Planning announced that a draft East Durham Open Space Plan (covering the Lick, Little Lick, and Panther Creek watersheds) is now posted on the City's website (<http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/planning/plans.cfm>) under "Plans under consideration for adoption."

Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative

Chris Dreps passed around a draft letter of support from the UNRBA to Reid Wilson, Executive Director of the Conservation Trust for NC, expressing the UNRBA's support for the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative. Lindsay Mize moved to approve the letter and send it to CTNC. The motion was seconded by Jack Day and passed unanimously without further discussion.

Implementation Planning

Sarah Bruce gave the Board a printout of the Implementation Planning Process Timeline. She then presented the steps in the timeline, calling the Board's attention to the possible opportunities for local input shown (per guidance from the Implementation Steering Committee). (For more information on these steps, please see the document titled "Implementation Planning Process," sent by Sarah via email on January 12, 2007.)

- 1) Draft and approve recommendation sheets
- 2) Determine Focus Areas for each recommended strategy
- 3) Analyze how Focus Areas intersect jurisdictional boundaries
- 4) Present strategies and Focus Areas to Upper Neuse localities
- 5) Review local management strategies
- 6) Overlay Focus Areas with results of local management strategy reviews and write Gap Analysis
- 7) Communicate Gap Analysis findings to localities and get feedback

- 8) Determine implementation priorities and cost information needs
- 9) Communicate implementation priorities to localities and get feedback
- 10) Consider costs of implementing priority strategies and decide which alternatives to pursue
- 11) Write, review, and adopt the Implementation Plan
- 12) Disseminate the Implementation Plan

Comments from the Board:

Mr. Rosenthal asked how focus areas would be determined on recommendation sheets that deal with areas with no previous prioritization plans. Chris Dreps and Sarah Bruce indicated that we would rely heavily on data and information in the Upper Neuse WMP and additional GIS analysis.

Mr. Mize asked if there would be a checks and balances or feedback stage once we get to the implementation stage, as this would help find further gaps after implementation began. Mr. Bailey asked how, if priorities were to be done through the staff gap analysis, this would mesh with the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Chris stated that the gaps analysis is simply a result of reviewing the local codes and practices ("local management strategy review") against the specific steps recommended in each detailed recommendation sheet. The prioritization process takes information from the gap analysis to make decisions about how the UNRBA and local governments prioritize the management strategies. Sarah stated that we need to work more closely with the NMS, especially when considering public involvement opportunities.

Mr. Alligood asked Barry Baker where public input in Granville County would be appropriate. Mr. Baker stated that Granville County would want to take the recommendation sheets to the Planning Board to educate members and get comments prior to expecting them to implement something. Mr. Baker further stated that the UNRBA needs to educate local boards about the plan and planning process so they would be familiar with the goals of the plan before they were faced with implementing strategies.

The Board agreed that the Implementation Steering Committee should further discuss and recommend when and how to solicit input from localities. Mr. Craven (a member of the UNRBA Implementation Steering Committee, or ISC) stated that the ISC had spent much time discussing the role of the ISC and when/how to bring the public into the process.

TAC Statements of Concern:

Sarah Bruce stated that in response to the TAC's difficulty in "approving" recommendation sheets for forwarding to the Board of Directors, the Implementation Steering Committee recommended that the TAC members with non-technical concerns write "Statements of Concern" to summarize and catalog their reservations. Mr. Rosenthal moved to allow Statements of Concern to accompany recommendation sheets as they were forwarded to the Board, but not to post the Statements online automatically. Kenn Gardner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

UNRBA Financial Report

Chris Dreps presented a draft budget for fiscal year 2007-08. The draft budget proposes to continue operating the UNRBA at its current level of effort, finishing up the Watershed

Management Implementation Plan, and operating several grant-funded projects, including the Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder Process. The minimum operating costs are expected to be \$201,174 (this does not include one grant for which we do not have a contract, so the number will be higher. The local government dues necessary to support all the work will be \$126,797).

Chris discussed options for funding this level of effort and how each option will affect the UNRBA's existing contingency balance. Chris reminded the Board of its commitment, made last February, to maintain the contingency balance at its current level. Chris also provided handouts detailing local dues under the various funding options.

The UNRBA Executive Committee will meet within weeks to review the proposed budget and dues levels and will make a recommendation to the full Board. The Board will vote on the FY 2007-08 budget and dues at the March meeting.

Next Meeting

The next UNRBA Board of Directors' meeting will be hosted by Franklin County on March 21, 2007 at 11:30 am.