

# UNRBA Board of Directors May 16, 2007 Meeting Summary

Prepared May 17, 2007

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*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, May 16, 2007 at Hill Ridge Farms in Youngsville. Franklin County hosted the meeting.

UNRBA Chair Durham County Commissioner Becky Heron welcomed attendees, who then introduced themselves. Franklin County Commissioner Lyn Buffaloe welcomed everyone to Franklin County.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Tom McGee*	Town of Butner	tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Kent Ray*	City of Creedmoor	klasics1@verizon.net
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Pat Young*	Franklin County Planning	pyoung@co.franklin.nc.us
Lyn Buffaloe*	Franklin County	buffaloe@earthlink.net
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Tommy Craven*	City of Raleigh	TFCRAVEN@nc.rr.com
Robert Rosenthal*	Soil & Water Conservation	rxr@mindspring.com
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Ellen Wilkins*	Town of Stem	rejwilkins@aol.com
Vivian Jones*	Wake Forest	Mayor@wakeforestnc.gov
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
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

Meeting agenda:

- Announcements
- Housekeeping\*
- UNRBA Projects Status
- UNRBA Financial Report
- Legislative Update\*
- Implementation Planning Progress Report and Discussion
- Next Meeting: Wake Forest (Falls Lake Dam Operations Center, July 25 (note that this date is a change), 2007

### **Announcements**

Ellen Wilkins, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Stem, is Stem's new Alternate UNRBA Director. The Board welcomed Ms. Wilkins.

Shelby Powell gave birth to Chuck Elliot Powell on April 29. Both mom and baby are doing well.

American Rivers, a national nonprofit rivers advocacy group, has named the Neuse River to the "top 10 most endangered rivers" for this year. This designation means that the Neuse faces decisions about development and agriculture that threaten to degrade the river.

The board briefly discussed the overall condition of the river and the importance of good, reliable monitoring networks. The Board requested that the Upper Neuse monitoring network recommendation be made a topic for an upcoming meeting.

### **UNRBA Housekeeping**

The Board received a copy of the 2007-08 meeting schedule. The Board changed the date of the July 2007 meeting (the next meeting) to July 25 to avoid a conflict with a statewide Association of County Commissioners meeting. The revised meeting schedule is available on the web site (click on the "Schedule of 2007-08 Board meetings" link at <http://www.unrba.org/aunrba.htm#bods> ).

Tom Bellinger, a Ph.D. Candidate from the University of Phoenix, wants to conduct a survey with the UNRBA—his nation-wide study examines the leadership style and culture and their correlation with our organizational effectiveness. The survey takes 15 minutes. Three Board members agreed to take the survey (Vivian Jones, Becky Heron, and Jack Day), and Chris Dreps will ask for TAC members and partners to take the survey. The condition is that Mr. Bellinger provide the UNRBA with a copy of the study and a summary of our group results.

### **UNRBA Projects Status**

Chris Dreps reported that partners for Lick Creek local watershed planning process conducted fieldwork in late February and presenting findings to the stakeholders. Chris shared with the group that, although Lick Creek is a relatively undeveloped watershed, the partners found significant impacts from existing developments. Tommy Craven shared that his firm provided design services for one of the Lick Creek developments, Brightleaf. Tommy Craven will meet with Chris to share information.

Chris shared with the Board that NC DENR will declare the entire Falls Lake Reservoir "impaired" on the draft 2008 303(d) list of impaired waters. George Rogers (Raleigh, UNRBA TAC Chair) shared with the group that consensus on the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan's implementation process will put local governments in a strong position to negotiate management strategies within the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process. Chris announced that the stakeholder process is underway, and TJCOG has begun developing the stakeholder list and draft project website. Chris asked the UNRBA Directors if they prefer the UNRBA presence to be high-profile (e.g., web page linked to UNRBA website). The Board of Directors instructed that the UNRBA should take a high-profile approach to explaining our central role in bringing the stakeholder process together, hosting the website and

putting the organization's name front and center. At the same time, we should make clear that the Falls Lake NMS is ultimately the State Environmental Management Commission and Department of Environment and Natural Resource's decision.

The NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program wants the UNRBA to lead implementation of local watershed plans in Swift, Lick, Little Lick, Ellerbe, and Lake Rogers watersheds. This EEP "Phase IV" implementation work would fund one-half of a position for approximately 1½ years. Work should begin by the end of the summer.

Chris Dreps stated that the UNRBA has not received word about our application for an EPA Targeted Watershed Grant to implement watershed restoration strategies in East Durham and land protection in the Little River watersheds.

### **UNRBA Financial Report**

Chris Dreps gave a handout showing the FY 2007-08 Dues and Falls Lake NMS Special Assessment amounts for UNRBA members. Chris will send out invoices for these amounts within the week.

### **Legislative Report**

The Board of Directors approved a letter to House Speaker Joe Hackney requesting full funding for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Chris will send the letter. Several Board members said that they will send their own letters, including Jack Day (Stem has received CWMTF funding) and Kent Ray (Creedmoor has also received CWMTF funding).

Chris reported on the Jordan Lake Total Maximum Daily Load and Nutrient Management Strategy proposed rules (15A NCAC 2B). Chris compared these rules to the Neuse Nitrogen reduction. The rules generally differ from the Neuse rules in the following ways:

- .0262 Goals—the goals include management strategies for phosphorous and sediment, while the Neuse Rules only require nitrogen management;
- .0266 Stormwater (existing development)—the rules require percent nitrogen and phosphorous from baseline conditions (year 2001). This is a major change, and the state estimates that this will represent 2/3 of the total costs (\$400M of the total \$600M);
- .0267 Riparian Buffers (protection)—buffer regulation would be delegated to local governments, while the State regulates in the Neuse; and
- .0271 Stormwater (state and federal entities)—entities would be required to meet the same stormwater rules that local governments would meet.

For more information on the Jordan Lake NMS, see <http://www.cfra-nc.org/project.html> or contact:

- Richard Gannon, 733-5083 ext. 356, rich.gannon@ncmail.net
- Sydney Miller, 558-9392, smiller@tjcog.org

The NC Environmental Management Commission is considering a reclassification of Deep Creek (in the Flat River) to the designation of "Outstanding Resource Waters." The ORW designation

is intended to protect unique and special waters having excellent water quality and being of exceptional state or national ecological or recreational significance. NC DWQ will host a public hearing on the matter in Timberlake on May 31. The announcement is available at <http://www.ncwaterquality.org/admin/pubinfo/pubinfo.html>

Chris shared with the Board that the reclassification is not likely to affect land use in the Deep Creek Watershed. ORW classification will not change point sources, current zoning, or stream buffers, but it will require stronger erosion control and stormwater rules, specifically for one planned NC DOT road project. Chris asked the Directors if Person or Durham County will take positions on the Deep Creek Reclassification. There are no positions taken at this time. Chris asked if UNRBA should take a position regarding the reclassification. The UNRBA Board encouraged Chris to attend the meeting and write a letter supporting the reclassification.

### **Implementation Planning Progress and Discussion**

Chris reported on progress regarding the approved implementation planning timeline (<ftp://ftp.tjcgog.org/pub/unrba/unwmp/imptimeline.pdf>). Nine recommendations have been approved, six are under way, and three remain in the drafting process. We have held 10 informational meetings about the Plan and implementation process, and 2 meetings are scheduled for May and June.

The Board held a discussion, addressing the following questions (comments included):

Did the UNRBA Communicate well? Don't assume local board members know UNRBA; provide some education beforehand (some weren't clear as to who we are, may confuse us with other groups); include the planning board in the meetings (Creedmoor and Wake Forest will do this); provide more statistics and information to frame the problem; give a basic "watershed 101" introduction; "hook" the board with the first 2 minutes of the presentation (Tommy Craven suggested that UNRBA has a success story to tell about "regionalism that is working"—use the map of the basin when doing this).

Were the correct people in the room? Invite Planning Boards; invite Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors to county (or town) meetings.

Did the UNRBA get commitments from local governments? Put the onus on the Board member to define who the appropriate staff are.

Does the Board feel comfortable with its UNRBA roles? UNRBA Board members should follow up with their boards to make sure the message was received; the UNRBA staff should e-mail a short message to each individual (no lists) on the local board saying a short thank you, providing contact information, website link, and the name of the UNRBA Board members and key staff.

### **Next Meeting**

The next UNRBA Board of Directors' meeting will be hosted by Wake Forest on July 25, 2007 at 11:30 am at the Falls Lake Operations Center on Falls of the Neuse Rd. in Raleigh. Please note that this is a change from the original July meeting date..