

UNRBA Board of Directors November 28, 2007 Meeting Summary

Prepared November 29, 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.

The next meeting of the UNRBA Board of Directors will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Creedmoor at 11:30 am.

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

The Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors met at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at the Rollingview Community Center on Falls Lake. Durham County hosted the meeting.

UNRBA Chair Durham County Commissioner Becky Heron welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves. Durham County Commissioner Cora Cole-McFadden welcomed everyone to the facility.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
Tom McGee*	Town of Butner	Tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
Kent Ray*	City of Creedmoor	klasics1@verizon.net
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Mgmt.	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Max Rogers	Franklin County Planning	mrogers@franklincountync.us
Barry Baker*	Granville County	Barry.baker@granvillecounty.org
Tom Altieri*	Orange County Planning	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
George Rogers	City of Raleigh	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Ellen Wilkins*	Town of Stem	rejwilkins@aol.com
Lindsay Mize*	SGWASA	sgwasa@granvillecounty.org
Robert Rosenthal*	Soil & Water Conservation	rosenthal@mindspring.com
Kenn Gardner*	Wake County	citizens4kenn@earthlink.net
Jason Doll	Stantec Consulting	jason.doll@stantec.com
Jonathan Cooper	Kerr-Tar COG	jcooper@kerrtarcog.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar COG	spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org

Not represented: Town of Hillsborough, Town of Wake Forest

Meeting agenda:

- Announcements
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Update
- Upper Neuse "Stewardship Development" Proposal (decision item)
- Housekeeping
- UNRBA Project Status Update

Announcements

Kent Ray announced that Creedmoor Commissioner Tim Karan would join the UNRBA Board to replace Commissioner Ray starting at the January 2008 meeting.

Sarah Bruce announced the Neuse River Foundation had created a “Muddy Water Watch” program to educate citizens about sediment control so they could recognize and report violations and poor practices in local construction projects. This should improve enforcement of the state Sediment Pollution Control law by supplementing Division of Land Resources field staff. UNRBA members can contact Sarah if they would like more information about this program. **Becky Heron asked if Sarah could distribute more information about the program at the next meeting so that Board members could share the information with their staffs. Sarah agreed to do this, and to put a brief item in the next newsletter about the program as well.**

Sarah Bruce announced **the next meeting will be held at the Pergamon Restaurant in Creedmoor on January 16, 2008**, hosted by the Town of Stem.

Nutrient Management Strategy Update

The UNRBA/TJCOG staff met with Division of Water Quality (DWQ) staff and other environmental groups regarding the timeline for this project. DWQ lost a summer’s worth of monitoring data and had to collect new chlorophyll *a* data this past summer, causing a one-year delay. DWQ will ask the legislature for an extension of the timeline, and plans to propose the summer of 2010 as a possible new deadline. The extension of the deadline will need legislative approval.

Sydney Miller of TJCOG is amending the proposed stakeholder process timeline to mesh with this new course of events and will likely propose an **August 2008** start date. The drafting of the rule will likely get started before the end of the stakeholder process because of the tight timetable. Because the schedule will be tight, stakeholders need to remain engaged throughout the process.

Sarah reminded the group that controlling runoff from existing development (retrofitting) is likely to be required under the Nutrient Management Strategy, and that development being approved right now will be considered existing development when the new rule becomes effective. The cost of retrofitting “existing development” will fall to the local governments (taxpayers), so it will probably be to the local government’s benefit to enact more stringent runoff controls sooner rather than later.

Becky Heron asked how often the Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool (SET) is being used. Sarah responded that the SET is being used in some studies, but she is not aware of any local governments that use the SET to review development plans. **Commissioner Heron asked that Sarah present the SET at the next Board meeting to remind current members of its capabilities and to educate new Board members about its usefulness.**

Kenn Gardner mentioned that the Wake County Stormwater Task Force recommended developing a hydrologic model and that the SET might be applied to that work. Wake County is going to develop a hydrologic model for a rapidly developing watershed to analyze development impacts. **Sarah agreed to contact Environmental Services in Wake County to discuss the possibility of using both models to assess the study area or subset thereof and comparing outputs.**

“Stewardship Development” Recognition Program

Jason Doll of Stantec Consulting presented an overview of the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Recognition Program. This program is one way to encourage developers, realtors, and consumers to support environmentally responsible development. Jason is proposing a similar program for the Triangle area, which could include Upper Neuse counties and Chatham County.

An advisory panel of technical staff, to be chaired by Bill Hunt at NCSU, will provide oversight and judge applicants. Applicants (developments submitted by developers) would be evaluated on several criteria, including water quality. Developments meeting criteria would be recognized at an annual banquet as well as through publicity.

Jason requested the UNRBA Board allow Sarah Bruce to spend approximately 5% of her time under UNRBA to help set up and administer the project through its initial stages. The Board agreed that the program was much-needed in this area. A motion was made by Kent Ray, and a second offered by Lindsay Mize, to allow UNRBA Director Sarah Bruce to devote 5% of her time to the development of the Triangle Area Stewardship Development Recognition Program.

Sarah indicated that she could find time to get the program going, and that she will keep the Board updated as the program develops and solicit their input at appropriate intervals. Jason Doll indicated that he would visit the UNRBA to ask for full formal support of the program once the details are worked out. His goal is to have the first recognition banquet in January 2009. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

UNRBA Housekeeping

Becky Heron announced that the UNRBA would regret losing two **Board members** due to outcomes of recent municipal elections. Commissioner Kent Ray and Councilman Tommy Craven are being awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board for their participation.

Sarah Bruce asked if the Board members were receiving **newsletters** via local channels. Some Board members indicated they were not receiving the newsletter, and that Sarah should send the newsletters via Clerks so they would reach all elected officials and staff people. **Sarah agreed to revisit the list of contacts for the newsletter and to CC clerks on future postings.** Points of contact for each local government had already agreed to disseminate newsletters to elected officials, planning staff and boards, environmental staff and boards, and Soil and Water Conservation District staff and boards.

Sarah Bruce stated that she was in the process of compiling **notebooks** for Board members that would include copies of the Watershed Management Plan and implementation planning items. **Board members asked that Sarah include copies of minutes from the past several meetings as well.**

Sarah Bruce and Sydney Miller are interviewing candidates for the Water Resources Planner position at Triangle J COG that will support many UNRBA projects. Sarah reported that several good candidates have applied, and she is confident a new staff person will be selected soon. The position was advertised via traditional channels, including listservs, the COG website, and newspapers. The qualifications for the position include experience in monitoring, stream assessments and environmental management. The position salary will begin at \$41,000, and the closing date was November 14, 2007.

Project Updates

Lick Creek Watershed Restoration Plan

Chris Dreps will be phasing out of this planning effort due to an upcoming trip. This plan will likely be taken on by the new staff person when he/she is hired.

NC EEP Phase IV Watershed Restoration

Outreach in search of landowners willing to implement restoration projects in the Lick, Little Lick, Ellerbe, and Swift Creeks and Lake Rogers watersheds will begin in 2008.

Home Depot Tree Planting Grant

The Center for Watershed Protection assisted with getting a grant to plant trees in Lick and Little Lick Creek watersheds and to educate land owners and help select sites for targeted tree planting. Sarah hopes the UNRBA can leverage these resources to include some private sector resources and donations. Publicity and partnerships will be key to the success of this effort.

Meeting Times

The meetings will continue to happen at 11:30 a.m. to facilitate the lunch meeting format. Sarah Bruce will try to adjourn meetings by 1:30. **Sarah will send an updated meeting schedule to all Board members soon.** The Board agreed to receive this schedule via email. **The next meeting of the UNRBA Board of Directors will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Creedmoor at 11:30 am.**