

UNRBA Board of Directors March 19, 2008 Meeting Summary

Prepared March 20, 2008

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, May 21, 2008 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Butner at 11:30 am.

Introductions 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, March 19, 2008 at the Bennett Pointe Grill Restaurant in Durham.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
Thomas Marrow	Town of Butner	tmarrow@butnenc.org
Tim Karan*	City of Creedmoor	tkaran@cityofcreedmoor.org
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
John Cox	City of Durham	john.cox@durhamnc.gov
Dale Crisp	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh	dan.mclawhorn@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Nancy McFarlane	City of Raleigh	nancy.mcfarlane@ci.raleigh.nc.us
George Rogers	City of Raleigh	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Mgmt.	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Brenda Howerton	Durham Soil & Water Conservation	darmont@earthlink.net
Max Rogers	Franklin County Planning	mrogers@franklincountync.us
Barry Baker*	Granville County	Barry.baker@granvillecounty.org
Ronald Alligood	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Tom Altieri	Orange County	taltieri@co.orange.nc.us
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb31@juno.com
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Lindsay Mize*	SGWASA	LMize@sgwasa.org
Kenn Gardner*	Wake County	citizens4kenn@earthlink.net
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest	mstinnett@wakeforestnc.gov
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Heather Saunders	UNRBA	hsaunders@tjcog.org

Meeting agenda:

- Announcements
- UNRBA Signatories
- Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Update
- Prospective Fiscal Year 2009 Budget
- Final Fiscal Year 2009 Dues

(continued)

- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy and Stakeholder Process (John Huisman, NC Division of Water Quality)
- Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool
- Other Business

Announcements

Becky Heron announced the **next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 11:30 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Butner.**

Sarah Bruce announced that she would be on vacation from Thursday, March 20, 2008 through to Thursday, March 27, 2008.

UNRBA Signatories

Becky Heron said that the Executive Committee recommended that Sarah be given the authority to sign and execute internal/administrative documents (e.g. tax returns), and that Becky Heron would continue to be signatory on external documents (e.g., policy statements and invitations). Jack Day moved to give the Executive Director signatory authority; Cora-Cole McFadden seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

2008 Budget Update

Sarah provided an update on the 2008 budget and explained that the contingency fund was higher this year due to a short period in which the UNRBA only staffed one person after Chris Dreps left. Sarah mentioned that the higher contingency fund might enable UNRBA to conduct additional work complimentary to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Becky Heron noted that the Board of Directors had previously expressed a desire to increase the contingency fund.

Prospective 2009 Budget

Sarah passed around a copy of the 2009 proposed budget to the Board and noted that she had included a new computer for herself in the budget. Sarah also explained that she had budgeted approximately \$6,000 worth of match (in the form of staff hours) to enable UNRBA to apply for a 319 grant to conduct the Knap of Reeds Watershed Restoration Plan. A motion to approve the budget was made; Jack Day and Tim Karan seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.

Final 2009 Dues

Sarah handed out information on the proposed 2009 dues and explained that she had finished updating the dues. Sarah explained that the dues are calculated as follows: 10% is a basic participation fee (the same for all members); 40% is based on land area in the Upper Neuse; and 50% is based on water demand from the Upper Neuse. Sarah explained that as an organization, the dues fees remained the same as last year (with a slight adjustment made for the potential to add the City of Roxboro as a partner), but that individual members may have seen an increase or decrease in their membership dues because of changes in land area or

water demand. Sarah said that she would continue to review these changes annually and adjust the dues accordingly to avoid large changes.

Sarah also noted that an invitation to join the UNRBA had been extended once again to the City of Roxboro and Orange-Alamance Water System. Becky Heron encouraged all board members to actively solicit participation from these entities.

Cora Cole-McFadden motioned to approve the 2009 dues; Jack Day seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy and NMS Stakeholder Process

John Huisman of the NC Division of Water Quality joined the meeting and spoke on the Nutrient Management Strategy and NMS stakeholder process. John explained that the watershed model will look at inputs (e.g., sources of nutrients and sediment) and that the lake model will look at responses (nutrient response of the lake in terms of chlorophyll *a*). John said that a high level of stakeholder involvement and participation will be critical for a successful and well-received strategy.

John noted that the NCDWQ has made a request to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to extend the deadline to 2011. It was pointed out that this is the second extension requested and a question was raised about whether or not the NCDWQ had considered an interim strategy. John explained that an interim strategy was not a popular idea because it lacked targets and scientific bases. Despite the delay, John expressed optimism that a more thorough planning and stakeholder process would mean that implementation could happen rather quickly once the NMS was developed.

John explained that the NMS would not replace the Neuse Rules, but would act as an overlay (where more restrictive) to existing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and described implementation as a phased approach. A question was raised about statewide standards and John noted that although the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had proposed statewide standards, the NCDWQ was resisting this in lieu of local management strategies.

Margaret Stinnett raised concern about the damage to the lake that would occur during the time in which it will take to finish the NMS. John explained that the NMS will use forecasting to predict further degradation to the lake, and that while conditions may have worsened in the time it will take to finish the NMS, the target loads will be the same (it may just be harder to achieve them).

George Rogers asked if the NMS would include a financial process or budgetary analysis. John relayed that this is a standard NCDWQ requirement.

Barry Baker voiced concern that the requirements stemming from the NMS will impose expensive retrofit requirements on developments that are built between now and the end of the NMS process. Sarah noted that this was another reason to implement the strategies in the UNRBA Upper Neuse Management Plan, which advocate educating the development community on low-impact development techniques and controlling nutrient pollution, which will reduce future costs of retrofitting that must be borne by the local government.

Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool

Sarah provided a review of the Upper Neuse Site Evaluation Tool. Sarah explained that the development of the SET was funded through grant money, and described how the SET uses an Excel spreadsheet to analyze the anticipated water quality impacts of development based on land use and site design.

Sarah agreed to bring hard copies (on compact disc) of the SET, with an accompanying user manual, for distribution by the members to the next Board meeting. Sarah also explained that the SET is available online at: <http://www.unrba.org/set/index.shtml>.

The Board then provided feedback as to how to best implement and encourage the adoption of the SET in local planning departments. The Executive Committee had suggested that a pilot program be launched. The Board felt that approaching Planning Directors directly and in person would be the most effective way to promote the SET.

Some attendees raised concerns that the SET tool might not be consistent with local ordinances and regulations and in particular wondered about cases in which the SET might be less restrictive. Therefore, it was decided that Sarah would meet with Planning Directors at their home offices in order to identify the advantages and disadvantages of using the SET in their local government. The results of these interviews would be presented back to the Board and a decision made whether to hire a consultant to assess the SET's compatibility with local regulations. Overall, the board members agreed that the SET could become a useful tool during the planning process.

Other Business

Board of Director notebooks were distributed to Board members for their review and usage. The notebooks contain copies of UNRBA newsletters, the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan, completed Recommendation Sheets, and UNRBA participant contact info. Sarah can provide additional notebooks as needed, but requests that each jurisdiction maintain and pass on notebooks so they are up to date and always available to the jurisdiction's Director and Alternate.