

UNRBA Board of Directors November 19, 2008 Meeting Summary

Prepared December 8, 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.

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, November 19, 2008 at the Oconneechee Steakhouse in Hillsborough. Orange County hosted the meeting.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
John Wimbush	Town of Butner	
Tim Karan*	City of Creedmoor	tkaran@cityofcreedmoor.org
Cora Cole-McFadden	City of Durham	cora.cole-mcfadden@durhamnc.gov
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Ron Alligood*	Granville County	grancomrs@granvillecounty.org
Tom Stevens*	Town of Hillsborough	tom.stevens@hillsboroughnc.org
Tom Davis*	Orange County	tdavis@co.orange.nc.us
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb60@embarqmail.com
Robert Rosenthal*	Soil and Water Conservation	rosenthall@mindspring.com
Jack Day*	Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest	mstinnett@wakeforestnc.gov
Glenn Bowles	Orange Co. Planning	gbowles@co.orange.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Mgmt.	Nancy.Newell@durhamnc.gov
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	Barry.baker@granvillecounty.org
Kenny Waldroup	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Kenneth.waldroup@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Alissa Bierma	Neuse River Foundation	alissa@neuseriver.org
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Jonathan Cooper	Kerr-Tar COG	jcooper@kerrtarco.org

Meeting agenda:

- Introductions, Welcome, Agenda, Announcements
- UNRBA Project Updates
- Recognition of UNRBA Board Member Participation
- Introduction of the New Upper Neuse Riverkeeper
- Orange County Site Evaluation Tool Case Studies and Transfer of Development Rights Feasibility Study
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Process Meetings*
- FY09 Budget Update
- FY10 Draft UNRBA Budget and Dues*

Introductions, Welcome, Agenda, and Announcements

Vice-Chair Ron Alligood called the meeting to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and Tom Davis said a brief welcome on behalf of Orange County. The agenda was deemed acceptable.

Sarah Bruce announced that the next UNRBA Board meeting would be January 21, 2009, hosted by Wake County [location will be Carino's Italian at Brier Creek].

The next Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder meeting will be January 15. There will be two segments that day: 1) a supplemental session starting at 10 am on the basics of water quality modeling at the North Durham Water Reclamation Facility and 2) a normal meeting starting at 1:00 pm on the DWQ watershed model at the Durham Water Management & Maintenance Facility. Directions to both facilities and other meeting details are available on the project website, www.fallslakestakeholder.org.

Updates

Sarah Bruce presented updates on several UNRBA projects:

- UNRBA is contracted with the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program to contact landowners and implement restoration projects in 4 Upper Neuse watersheds plus Swift Creek in Wake County. UNRBA is moving forward with recruiting stakeholders to advise the Project Team on local restoration opportunities.
- The Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Process is underway and Board members are encouraged to participate. The UNRBA newsletter will continue to feature updates on the stakeholder process. Sarah discussed the stakeholder process in greater detail later in the meeting. The Board requested more detailed updates at their bimonthly meetings on how the process is proceeding.
- Heather Saunders is overseeing the UNRBA project to plant trees in Lick and Little Lick Creeks with funding from the Home Depot Foundation via the Center for Watershed Protection. UNRBA hired an intern to coordinate volunteers and planting days, which are scheduled for November 22 and December 13. Many materials and supplies are being donated.
- Over 4,000 postcards were mailed to owners of lands in adjacent to streams with information on the importance of a forested buffer and how to plant trees. There are extra postcards and a flyer version available on the CWEP website at www.ncCleanWater.org under Outreach > Print.

Recognition of UNRBA Board Member Participation

Chair Heron said that Kenn Gardner would not be continuing with the Wake County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gardner served on the UNRBA Board of Directors since 2001 and has chaired and participated on numerous Wake County Task Forces addressing watershed management. Chair Heron said that we would present a certificate thanking Commissioner Gardner for his service to the UNRBA as Board member and Treasurer.

New Upper Neuse RiverKeeper

Alissa Bierma has recently been appointed to the post of Upper Neuse RIVERKEEPER® for the Neuse River Foundation (NRF). Alissa has a Masters' Degree in Energy and Environmental Policy, with a focus on water resources and environmental planning. She has worked on water resource policy and growth management for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Lee County Planning Department, and University of Delaware. She has also served on the board for a number of public service groups, including the Lee County Local Planning Agency, Land Development Code Advisory Committee, and Responsible Growth Management Coalition. Her preferred approach is pro-active and collaborative, and her door is always open.

Ways to help the Upper Neuse Riverkeeper:

- Alert her to issues you think may be of interest
- Refer citizens to her who want to know more about an issue or how to get involved
- Let her know about opportunities and desires for collaboration.

Ways the Upper Neuse Riverkeeper can help:

- Investigate issues or concerns expressed by staff, citizens or elected officials
- Disseminate information to and leverage support from a wide variety of Upper Neuse Basin citizens and volunteers
- Provide testimony (and sometimes even an audience) on issues that protect water quality or water quantity (NRF volunteers understand that hard financial decisions are sometimes the best in the long run)
- Help develop outside-the-box funding mechanisms/partnerships/alternatives for addressing stormwater/green development/water supply and protection measures, etc.

Alissa will oversee the Muddy Water Watch Program to train local volunteers on how to spot and report sediment and erosion control violations. There will be a new series of trainings starting in January; Alissa encouraged attendees to attend and support volunteers.

Alissa expressed that she was looking forward to working with Upper Neuse local governments to prevent and resolve environmental issues before they become problems. Alissa invited the Board to contact her by phone or email (919-856-1180 / 919-839-0767 / alissa@neuseriver.org).

Orange County Site Evaluation Tool Case Studies and Transfer of Development Rights Study

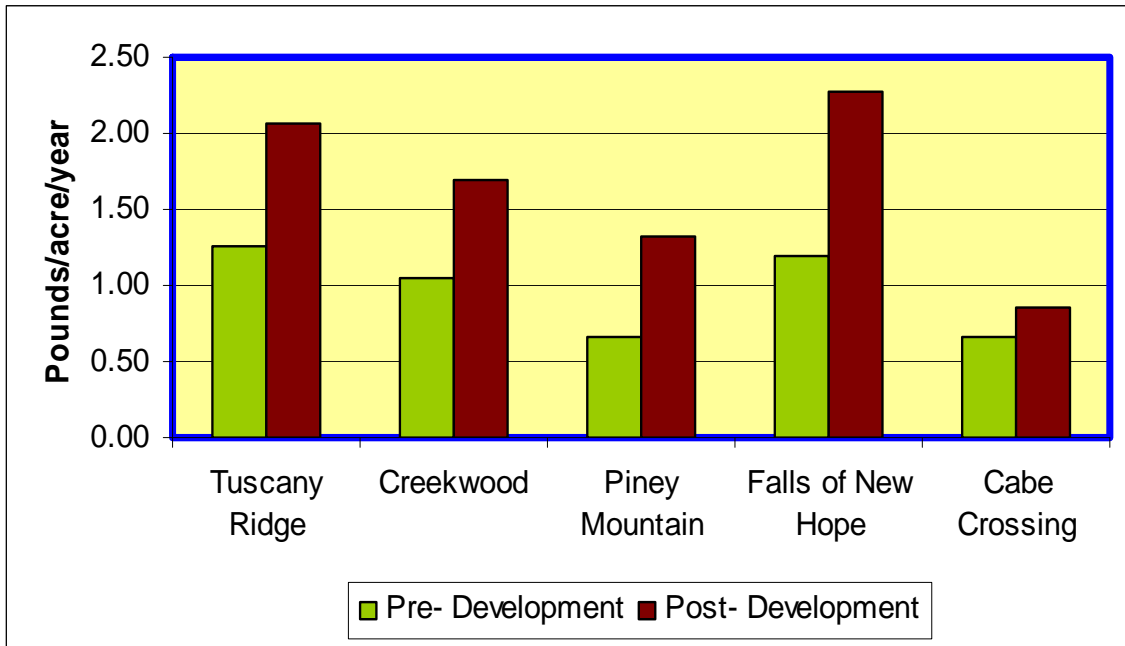
Glenn Bowles with the Orange County Planning Department gave two presentations.

Glenn first discussed 5 assessments they did of minor subdivisions in Orange County using the Site Evaluation Tool (the OWASA version was used because it accounts for nutrients from septic systems and because more of the developments were in the Cape Fear watershed).

Orange County found that most of its developments were meeting nutrient loading targets for the University Lake/Cane Creek reservoir (these targets are different from those established in the Upper Neuse basin). Cabe Crossing is the only subdivision in the Upper Neuse Basin, and this development meets the applicable targets in the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan for nitrogen and phosphorous loading in an urban/suburban zone.

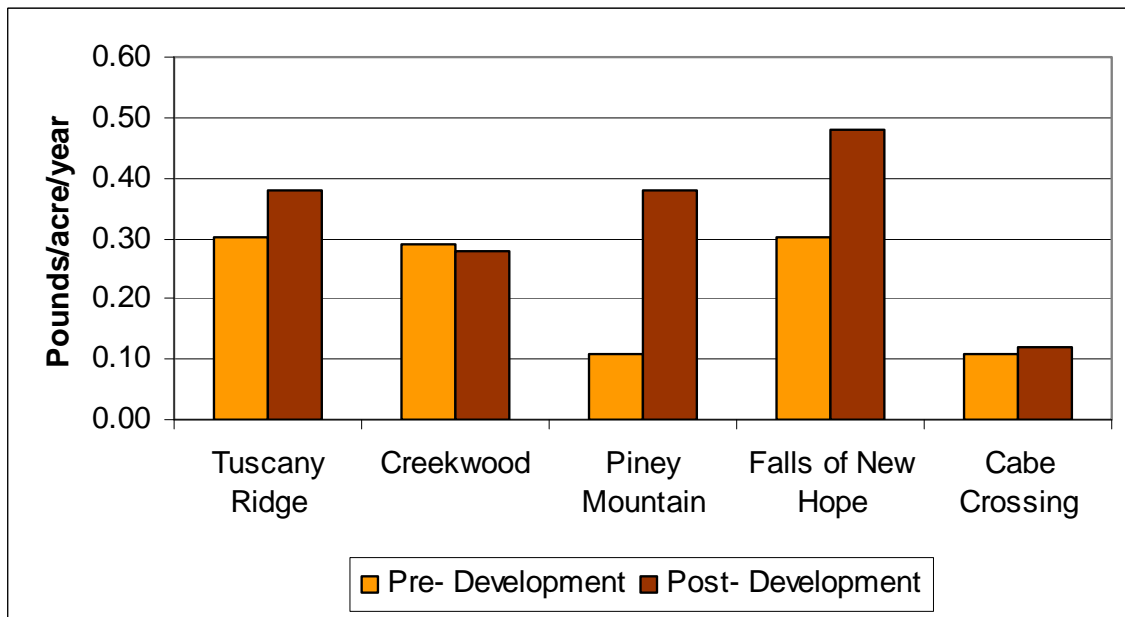
Nitrogen Loading

(Upper Neuse urban/suburban zone target is 3.6 lb/acre/year; conservation zone target is 1.7 lb/acre/year)



Phosphorous Loading

(Upper Neuse urban/suburban zone target: 0.6 lb/acre/year; conservation zone target: 0.3 lb/acre/year)



Glenn Bowles' second presentation was on the potential Orange County Transfer of Development Rights program. Orange County contracted with the Louis Berger Group & UNC Charlotte Urban Institute to conduct the study. As of June 2006, the first two phases, Background Research & Data Gathering and Feasibility Study & Concept Plan, were complete.

The third phase, Program Design & Implementation Plan, was extended until new Orange County Comprehensive Plan is adopted.

The Transfer of Development Rights program, if implemented, would designate sending areas and receiving areas within the county, but the County would not maintain a “bank” of development rights nor would it be a party to any agreement. The transfer of development rights would only be between a willing seller and a willing buyer.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Process

Sarah Bruce told the Board that the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process was proceeding with a robust discussion of sources and potential management strategies. However, it is apparent that some stakeholders are skeptical of the process, and the trust necessary for collaborative decisionmaking seemed lacking.

Sarah said that she **was** going to ask the Board to fund an additional meeting to address these shortcomings but that she had spoken with Sydney Miller, the TJCOG manager of the stakeholder process, about her concerns and that the meeting schedule had room to accommodate an extra meeting to handle these issues without supplemental funding. Sarah said that although this addressed the immediate need, she felt that an additional meeting might become necessary in the future and that she may not have time to request Board approval of supplemental funding to conduct it.

Sarah reported that she was closely monitoring her time on the stakeholder project (including a the possibility of needing to continue working on the NMS after the stakeholder project concludes) and felt that \$1000 could be spared from the approximately \$10k UNRBA had allocated toward the project for her time.

Sarah requested that the Board approve \$1,000 of UNRBA project match (out of a total allocated for the entire project of \$9,873) as able to be transferred to TJCOG to conduct an extra stakeholder meeting should she deem it necessary. Mayor Day moved to authorize Sarah to transfer the funds if necessary, seconded by Commissioner Alligood. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

FY09 Budget Update

Sarah presented the Board with a handout showing UNRBA expenses and revenues for the first quarter of FY09. Sarah summarized the handout by saying that UNRBA projects were proceeding commensurate with the resources allocated to complete them, although contractual projects are receiving priority in the overall workflow.

FY10 Draft Budget and Dues

Sarah gave the Board a handout showing a draft budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 (FY10). The draft budget includes \$9,625 for staff time toward the required nonfederal match on a FY09 Section 319 (nonpoint source) grant project, which UNRBA hopes to submit a proposal for in January 2009.

Sarah showed a second table with UNRBA dues information for FY10. The method of calculating the dues and the overall dues revenue target was the same as FY09; however, because updated land use information was available, the dues for individual members may be

slightly different from FY09. The table shows these differences. Sarah requested that Board members share the table with their local city or county manager as soon as possible to help ensure that UNRBA dues are included in local budgets for the coming fiscal year.

Mayor Day moved to approve the FY10 dues and draft budget, seconded by Mayor Stevens. The Board approved the motion unanimously.