

UNRBA Board of Directors February 12, 2009 Meeting Summary

Prepared February 13, 2009

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, February 12, 2009 at Johnny Carino's Italian Grill in Brier Creek. Wake County hosted the meeting.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
John Wimbush*	Town of Butner	councilmemberwimbush@butnenc.org
Thomas Marrow*	Town of Butner	tmarrow@butnenc.org
Melissa Hodges	Town of Butner	mhodges@butnenc.org
Tom Mercer*	City of Creedmoor	tmercercityofcreedmoor.org
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham	Reginald.Hicks@durhamnc.gov
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
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	Barry.Baker@granvillecounty.org
Tom Davis*	Orange County	tdavis@co.orange.nc.us
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb60@embarqmail.com
Paula Murphy	Person County	pmurphy@personcounty.net
Dale Crisp*	City of Raleigh	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh	Edward.Buchan@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Lindsay Mize*	SGWASA	LMize@sgwasa.org
Donnie Woodlief*	Soil and Water Conservation	woodliefdl@aol.com
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest	mstinnett@wakeforestnc.gov
Stan Norwalk*	Wake County	Stan.Norwalk@co.wake.nc.us
Andy McDaniel	NCDOT	amcdaniel@ncdot.gov
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar COG	spowell@kerrtarcog.org

Meeting agenda:

- Introductions, Welcome, Agenda, Announcements
- UNRBA Project Updates
- UNRBA Treasurer Position
- DWQ Basinwide Planning Process
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS)

Introductions, Welcome, Agenda, and Announcements

Chair Becky Heron called the meeting to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and Stan Norwalk, Wake County Commissioner, said a brief welcome on behalf of Wake County. The agenda was deemed acceptable.

Sarah Bruce announced that the next Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder Meetings would be February 19, 2009 in Durham (directions were provided at meeting and are available on the project website – www.fallslakestakeholder.org – under “Meetings”). There will be a 10 a.m. pre-meeting session to discuss lessons learned from Jordan Lake at the North Durham Water Reclamation Facility (1900 E. Club Blvd) and 2) a normal meeting starting at 1:00 pm at the Durham Water Management & Maintenance Facility (1600 Mist Lake Drive) to discuss Interests and Objectives.

The next UNRBA Board meeting will be March 18, 2009, hosted by Person County (location will be announced shortly).

Updates

Sarah Bruce presented updates on two UNRBA projects:

- Project Implementation with NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NC EEP) is underway, staffed by UNRBA biologist Heather Saunders. Local Implementation Teams will begin work this Spring to identify and implement restoration projects to reduce nutrients in targeted watersheds.
- Heather Saunders is also in the process of drafting and vetting recommendations for the Lick Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The plan will include recommendations for restoration projects and other improvements that could be made to help restore water quality to impaired Lick Creek. A draft plan can be expected in late Spring or early Summer.

UNRBA Treasurer Position

Chair Heron announced that there was a vacancy on the Executive Committee, and asked for volunteers for the Treasurer position. Board Member Cora Cole-McFadden volunteered to serve as Treasurer. Hearing no objections, Chair Heron called for a vote. The Board unanimously elected Board Member Cole-McFadden as Treasurer.

DWQ Neuse Basinwide Planning

Sarah Bruce briefly reviewed the purposes of the Neuse Basinwide Plan being prepared by DWQ. DWQ updates its basinwide plans for all the river basins in North Carolina on 5-year cycles. The Plans identify water quality problems and recommend ways to restore impaired waters and protect high quality waters.

Sarah summarized the comments she submitted during both comment periods for the the 2009 draft Neuse basinwide plan as 1) editorial comments, 2) recommending a more balanced management approach that did not rely so heavily on post-hoc restoration, and 3)

recommending explanation of sections where data do not support conclusions. Dale Crisp presented some of the concerns the City of Raleigh and the Lower Neuse Basin Association had expressed, which had mainly to do with data conflicts and lack of stakeholder involvement, in general and compared to past basinwide plans.

Sarah requested that the Board send a letter to DWQ expressing these concerns and offering UNRBA assistance in the transition to their proposed online basinwide planning framework.

Upon motion made by L. Mize and Second by R. Alligood, the UNRBA Board of Directors voted unanimously to allow Chairman Heron and Sarah Bruce to work on a letter to DWQ staff to note UNRBA concerns with the basinwide planning process and suggesting additional stakeholder input opportunities.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Update and Timeline

Sarah Bruce updated the Board on the current NMS timeline. Three meetings have been held to date, and another stakeholder meeting to discuss Interests and Objectives is scheduled for Feb 19. DWQ is going to request an extension of the deadline for rule adoption from the legislature. Sarah said that the extension was necessary because DWQ now has a better idea of how long rulemaking actually takes and also to allow for adequate stakeholder involvement in the stakeholder process and modeling technical reviews.

Also, Mike Schlegel, TJCOG NMS Stakeholder Process facilitator, has set up an online Wiki discussion tool that will allow anyone to provide input into the stakeholder process. Participants can register by visiting <http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com>; click on "Join this Wiki."

Technical Model Review

DWQ's Modeling Unit is in the process of vetting the water quality models within the Technical Advisory Committee. Andy McDaniel, NCDOT, provided some explanation of technical aspects of the model, and noted that NCDOT is paying for a third-party independent review of the Lake model to be performed by Tetra Tech. UNRBA may consider funding additional work if the DOT scope is seen as insufficient. Several members noted the importance of the third-party review and expressed desire to be kept apprised of recommendations contained in the review. Sarah agreed to invite Tetra Tech staff to a future Board meeting to discuss review findings.

Interests and Objectives

Local governments are encouraged to meet and discuss their interests and objectives for the Nutrient Management Strategy and to complete the "homework" NMS stakeholders were asked to complete at their September meeting. Interests might be categorized as relating to technical issues (modeling), the stakeholder process, the rule itself, monitoring/enforcement/implementation, or the outcome of the NMS. Sarah and TJCOG NMS facilitator Mike Schlegel offer their assistance to support any local discussions.

To ascertain UNRBA members' interests for the NMS, Sarah conducted a brainstorming session. Members provided input regarding their interests, and interests of the UNRBA as a whole. Sarah will consider these interests as she participates on behalf of the UNRBA in the NMS stakeholder process and works to carry out UNRBA's mission in general. The interests were transcribed as follows:

UNRBA Board of Directors Discussion: UNRBA Interests and Objectives in the Falls NMS Stakeholder Process

Modeling/technical foundation

Fair and equitable implementation (reductions proportional to contribution)

We know where pollution is coming from (effectiveness): we get bang for the buck

Understand that model can only be as good as its inputs

Transparency in matching science to potential rules

Modeling demonstrates that NMS will meet goals

Stakeholder process

What is fair, equitable, and reasonable in Falls?

What is achievable?

Recognition for past watershed protection efforts

NMS/Rule itself

Implementation/Monitoring/Enforcement

Enabling local governments to charge a fee(s) – impact fees? Authority needs to be CLEAR (NCACC work?)

Low cost of implementation (taxpayer \$)

Uniform application of rules so development is not pushed to least-regulated areas (due to economic disadvantage of regulation)

Fair and equitable implementation (reductions proportional to contribution)

Don't increase pressure on property taxes

Most effective tactics are chosen

Trading allowed among all sectors (eg agriculture, developers, homeowners)

UNRBA checks measurements (monitoring)

UNRBA helps monitor any trading

Outcome

Let's not be making things worse

Protect water quality in Falls Lake

Protect water quality for future generations

Miscellaneous

Match implementation to EPA schedule (TMDL)

Communicate benefits to public so they understand need for this

Education for local governments on how to implement