

UNRBA Board of Directors — March 18, 2009 Meeting Summary

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, March 18, 2009, at Clarksville Station Restaurant in Roxboro. Person County hosted the meeting.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
Melissa Hodges	Town of Butner Planning	mhodges@butnenc.org
Tom Mercer*	City of Creedmoor Manager	tmercercityofcreedmoor.org
Reggie Hicks*	City of Durham Water Mgmt.	Reginald.Hicks@durhamnc.gov
Becky Heron*	Durham County	beckymheron@nc.rr.com
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	Barry.Baker@granvillecounty.org
Pam Hemminger*	Orange County	phemminger@bellsouth.net
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb60@embarqmail.com
Paula Murphy	Person County Planning	pmurphy@personcounty.net
Cinnamon Williams	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Cinnamon.Williams@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Harry Foy	Franklin County	harryfoy@bellsouth.net
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham Stormwater	Michelle.Woolfolk@durhamnc.gov
Jack Day	Town of Stem	jackieday@aol.com
Ellen Wilkins	Town of Stem	rejwilkins@aol.com
Elliott Cornell	Wake County Water Quality	Elliott.Cornell@co.wake.nc.us
Lindsay Mize*	SGWASA	LMize@sgwasa.org
Robert Rosenthal	Soil and Water Conservation	rosenthall@mindspring.com
Lori Brinn	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program	lori.brinn@ncmail.net
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar COG	spowell@kerrtarcog.org

Becky Heron, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jimmy Clayton, Board Member, welcomed everyone to Person County, and briefly discussed some of the economic challenges facing the County. Paula Murphy noted that Person County may be getting a solar farm, pending a vote next week.

Sarah Bruce presented the meeting agenda:

- UNRBA Project Update
- Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program Update
- UNRBA Budget
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy
- Implementation Planning

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Announcements

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

The Stakeholder Process is on hiatus until their May 21 to allow more time for the Falls Lake Technical Advisory Committee to review the lake (nutrient response) model. The documents related to the NMS are online (www.fallslakestakeholder.org). An online wiki has been created (www.fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com) and is open to all stakeholders for discussion and document review.

UNRBA Executive Committee Meeting

Sarah will be meeting with the Executive Committee in April to review the budget, and reminded the Board that the Executive Committee consists of Becky Heron, Chair; Ron Alligood, Vice-Chair; and Cora Cole-McFadden, Treasurer. She further announced that the May 20 UNRBA Board meeting would likely consist of a field trip for members to review stormwater practices and other issues of interest around the region. More information will be forthcoming.

Project 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.

Becky Heron asked how the recommendations from the local plans gets filtered to the local planning staff. Sarah responded that the local staff is almost always involved in the creation of the plans, and that UNRBA staff typically makes a presentation to the governing board after the completion of a plan, but that the UNRBA is not in a position to advocate locally for the policy decisions related to the plan recommendations. Ms. Heron stated that the Board Members should be more active locally, and advocate on behalf of the work being done by the UNRBA since the local governments are paying for it and should benefit from it.

- Heather Saunders is also in the process of finalizing 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. Sarah offered to work with the local staffs or Board members as requested in order to move recommendations from the plans forward.

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)

Lori Brinn from APNEP offered a brief overview of the program, and distributed information related to some projects the APNEP has worked on recently. The program is funded by EPA and is housed in the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It covers 35 counties in northeastern NC and southeastern VA, including Wake and Durham Counties. They have established a Citizens

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Monitoring Network that has citizens at neighborhood or school levels collect water quality data, and the data is housed at East Carolina University. APNEP staff can train the citizens to collect the samples. UNRBA member governments should feel free to call upon the APNEP if they would like to partner on projects.

Draft UNRBA FY10 Budget

Sarah announced that the funding target for FY10 will remain the same, but that member dues would change slightly due to annexations. The UNRBA may need to dip into contingency funds next year in order to maintain staffing levels. Sarah and TJCOG staff will be working on project development in the coming months to establish some new contract work. Some project funds may come through TJCOG and not UNRBA in the form of some stimulus money via section 205(j) grants.

Overhead is lower this year due to some high-level TJCOG leaving, but overhead is still an issue. TJCOG is getting a new Executive Director in April, so that will present an opportunity to discuss lowering overhead. Becky Heron requested that the UNRBA Executive Committee or entire Board meet with the new Executive Director to make sure he understands the mission and work of the UNRBA.

Becky Heron invited all Board Members to attend the Executive Committee meeting to look more closely at the budget if they wished. Sarah will alert the entire Board when the meeting has been scheduled and invited any Board member to contact her or the Executive Committee with questions.

Nutrient Management Strategy

Update on process and timeline

Sarah reviewed the process that the NMS had taken thus far, thanking the Board for their active participation in the Stakeholder process. Sarah reminded the Board that the DWQ has created a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for reviewing the modeling, and the modeling is almost complete. There have been four stakeholder meetings thus far, and the last meeting was dedicated to exploring the various interests and objectives of Stakeholders. Some themes are beginning to emerge from the Stakeholder process.

Third-party review of DWQ lake model

Sarah reviewed briefly the differences between the lake response model and the watershed model. NCDOT has hired an outside consultant to act as a third-party reviewer on both models and is sharing the results of the review with Sarah so that she can inform the Board of the results. The group briefly discussed the process for incorporating recommended changes from the review into the model. Sarah advised that a reason DWQ wanted to delay the model report was so they could include adjustments made to the model in response to TAC review. Michelle Woolfolk added that Durham had reviewed the watershed model and pointed out several shortcomings to DWQ. Some of those issues are being addressed by DWQ's modeling unit, but not all.

Public outreach

At the last NMS Stakeholder meeting, Sarah had volunteered to convene a public outreach subcommittee, since the public outreach had been identified as a shortcoming of the Jordan Lake process. Sarah advised that several UNRBA members and others had volunteered to assist her in this effort. She requested Board input on what the message should be, how it should be disseminated, and to whom the message should be targeted.

Cinnamon Williams advised that the message should center around why is water quality important; what the public uses water for; why the public should care about water quality. She further advised that the message should come with a clear timeline so that the public does not have unrealistic expectations. Tom Mercer suggested mailings that are already happening, such as water bills, be utilized. He also suggested that local governments and UNRBA partner with local schools because teachers are always looking for projects and because communication through students is another way to reach out to the community. Sarah suggested a partnership with Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) to develop and communicate a clear message. Sarah will prepare alternatives for the Board to consider at a future meeting.

Implementation Planning

In the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan, there are 19 recommendations in five categories: New Development Site Management; Monitoring and Enforcement; Education and Watershed Stewardship; Watershed Restoration; and Point Source Management. The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan specifies which recommendations apply to which local governments, but the Implementation Plan is meant to give more details on how, where, and when local governments need to implement the strategies.

Recommendation Sheets detailing each strategy have been prepared for each recommendation and are available on the website. Maps of Focus Areas are under development using GIS. Sarah has created a blog for stakeholder input on Focus Areas (www.unrba.wordpress.com), and encouraged local governments to review the maps there. Staff are going to attempt to do a Gap Analysis of what is already being done to implement recommendations in the plan versus what areas need to be focused on. She asked the Board for a directive for staff to assist her in completing the Local Management Strategy Reviews (LMSRs) so that she will have the most accurate information. The Board agreed to encourage staff to do it and to allow Sarah to consider it a Board directive that she request local staff assistance on filling out LMSR sheets. Sarah advised that she will begin scheduling time to talk on the phone to the appropriate staff to fill out the LMSRs. Tom Mercer advised this would be the best method, since municipalities especially have a lot going on right now, and can not devote a lot of extra time or attention to other requests.

Mr. Mercer further announced that the dredging of Lake Rogers is 70% complete, and that 30,000 cubic yards of sediment had been collected. Dredging should be completed by May 15. However, since the Governor had cut conservation funding, Creedmoor is not getting access to \$2.1 million they were counting on to conserve land around the lake.

Next Meeting

Becky Heron announced the next meeting date of May 20, 2009. The next Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder meeting will be May 21, 2009. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.