

## UNRBA Board of Directors July 15, 2009 Meeting Summary

Prepared July 15, 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, July 15, 2009 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Butner, Granville County. South Granville Water & Sewer Authority (SGWASA) hosted the meeting.

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

Name	Organization	Contact
John Wimbush*	Town of Butner	919-525-3032
Tommy Marrow*	Town of Butner	tmarrow@butnenc.org
Tom Mercer*	City of Creedmoor	tmercercityofcreedmoor.org
Reggie Hicks*	City of Durham	Reginald.Hicks@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
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County	jimmyb60@embarqmail.com
Nancy McFarlane*	City of Raleigh	nancy.mcfarlane@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Jack Day*	Town of Stem	jackielday@aol.com
Ellen Wilkins*	Town of Stem	Rejwilkins@aol.com
Lindsay Mize*	South Granville WASA	LMize@sgwasa.org
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest	mstinnett@wakeforestnc.gov
Melissa Hodges	Town of Butner Planning	mhodges@butnenc.org
Chris Roberts	Durham County Erosion Control	croberts@co.durham.nc.us
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	barry.baker@granvillecounty.org
Dave Stancil	Orange County	dstancil@co.orange.nc.us
Paula Murphy	Person County Planning	pmurphy@personcounty.net
Jay Jennings	Person Co. Land Surveyor	336-599-8742
Neal Hamlett	Person Co. Land Surveyor	336-599-8742
Ernie Wood	Person Co. Citizen	339-599-3900
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Edward.Buchan@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Kenny Waldroup	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Kenneth.Waldroup@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh Attorney's Office	Dan.McLawhorn@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Dale Crisp	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Dale.Crisp@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Britt Stoddard	Wake Co. Environmental Services	bstoddard@co.wake.nc.us
Derek Day	NC Cooperative Extension	derek_day@ncsu.edu
Nora Deamer	NC Division of Water Quality	nora.deamer@ncdenr.gov
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org

### **Introductions, Welcome, Agenda, and Announcements**

Vice-Chair Ron Alligood called the meeting to order and said a brief welcome on behalf of SGWASA.

Sarah Bruce went over the agenda, first announcing that the main agenda item, Interim Management Measures for Falls Lake, had been substantially scaled back due to concerns voiced by Raleigh Assistant City Attorney Dan McLawhorn that the prohibition in UNRBA bylaws against attempting to influence legislation would be violated and that the UNRBA's exemption from income tax provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code was at risk.

Meeting agenda:

- Announcements
- Order lunch
- Project updates
- ExCom Meeting
- FY10 Work Plan
- Grant projects

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

Sarah Bruce announced that the next UNRBA Board meeting would be September 16, 2009, hosted by Franklin County [location to be determined].

Sarah also announced that the next Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder meeting will be July 16 (the following day) at 1 pm at the Durham Water Management & Maintenance Facility. Directions are available on the project website, [www.fallslakestakeholder.org](http://www.fallslakestakeholder.org).

### **UNRBA Project Updates**

Sarah Bruce presented updates on two UNRBA projects:

- UNRBA is contracted with the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program to contact landowners and shepherd restoration projects in 4 Upper Neuse watersheds plus Swift Creek in Wake County. UNRBA is starting to convene local stakeholders into "Implementation Teams" to help find projects/willing landowners and implement the projects that the Ecosystem Enhancement Program cannot undertake.
- UNRBA and TJCOG's aquatic biologist Heather Saunders is wrapping up the Lick Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The Plan includes a comprehensive suite of management recommendations to restore and improve surface water quality in the Lick Creek watershed (located in East Durham County and Western Wake County). Lick Creek project opportunities are being fed into and coordinate with the EEP project mentioned above.

### **UNRBA Executive Committee Meeting and FY10 Work Plan**

Sarah Bruce reported that she met with Cora Cole-McFadden (UNRBA Treasurer) and Becky Heron (Board Chair) of the UNRBA Executive Committee on May 20, 2009 to discuss budget and administrative issues. As discussed at the 3/18/09 Board meeting, FY10 dues would be constant and adjusted only for changes in jurisdictional acreage. Roxboro has been invited to participate in FY10.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the FY10 Work Plan, which was included in the handouts for the present Board of Directors meeting. Sarah invited anyone with feedback on the work plan to contact her to discuss.

### **Grant Projects**

Sarah said that UNRBA was considering pursuing a grant to do a stormwater retrofit project identified through the Lick Creek planning process. The site is one of the busiest intersections in Durham County and a retrofit could provide substantial water quality benefits (which UNRBA is using the Site Evaluation Tool to assess). Sarah reported that the 319 Program has expressed interest in seeing UNRBA submit applications to do on-the-ground water quality projects, expanding beyond our traditional planning and stakeholder management roles in watershed restoration efforts, and that this grant could allow UNRBA to gain experience in project implementation.

Sarah said that another project the UNRBA could consider seeking grant funding for would be to develop a basinwide water quality monitoring plan. It makes a great deal of sense to coordinate ambient water quality monitoring efforts because variations in protocols hinder data comparability. Data limitations have been identified as a challenge to developing a Nutrient Management Strategy for Falls Lake, and additional data could be used to inform and improve watershed management efforts.

Lastly, Sarah reported that TJCOG was to receive grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that would pay for some trainings for local governments subject to the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Rules and some analysis of water and wastewater hydrology in the Neuse Basin. The latter project will help offset some of Sarah's time but the project will be administered under TJCOG, not UNRBA.

### **Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Process**

Sarah Bruce told the Board that the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Group had met last June to discuss the results of the lake model showing the reductions of nutrients that will be necessary to bring Falls Lake into compliance with state standards for chlorophyll-a.

At that meeting in June, Ed Buchan and Kenneth Waldroup with the City of Raleigh gave a brief presentation of a study done by the City of Raleigh on chlorophyll-*a*, an algae that is used as an indicator of algal biomass in the water column. Ed reported that the study's findings are consistent with the Division of Water Quality data showing recent increases in chlorophyll-*a* levels. The report is available on the Falls Lake Stakeholder Project Online Wiki at [http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com/Chlorophyll-a\\_Study](http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com/Chlorophyll-a_Study).

Also at the June meeting, the Division of Water Quality presented the results of the lake nutrient response model, which indicate that substantial reductions of nitrogen and phosphorous will be necessary to reach water quality standards. The management measures that may be used to bring about these reductions will be a primary topic of discussion at the July 16 meeting at Durham Water Management (see Announcements, above).

DWQ is operating under the assumption that the deadline for Environmental Management Commission adoption of the draft Nutrient Management Strategy rules will be July 2010, which means that draft rules will need to be submitted to the EMC's Water Quality Committee in approximately 3 months. DWQ and the stakeholders are therefore heavily emphasizing the

online Wiki (<http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com/>) to obtain and process stakeholder input.

The group briefly discussed stakeholder involvement scenarios and the EMC adoption deadline. Resources to conduct stakeholder meetings have been drawn down, and only three meetings remain in the budget. Sarah reminded the Board that UNRBA had approved allocation of \$1000 at their November 2008 meeting to fund TJCOG to conduct an additional meeting. Sarah said that she had discussed the need for additional funding with TJCOG and that she had requested that other stakeholders be solicited for any additional contributions, at least in addition to local governments. Becky Heron requested that Sarah approach TJCOG about contributing some additional funds. Sarah said that this might be difficult since the TJCOG budget was already approved, but that she would ask.

### **Recent Upper Neuse Discussions**

Sarah said that two meetings of Upper Neuse local governments were held at TJCOG the previous week in response to a proposal from the City of Raleigh to conduct an audit to assess performance of watershed management regulations in the Upper Neuse. Because of concerns about lobbying, tax exemption, and use of staff resources, UNRBA will not be attempting to influence legislation regarding interm management measures for Falls Lake. Dan McLawhorn emphasized that these restrictions do not apply to local governments. Sarah invited folks with questions/concerns about legislation to contact their staff attorneys, local staff, and staff of neighboring jurisdictions.

A brief summary of current legislation was provided by meeting attendees. Dan McLawhorn reported that both bills had crossed houses, but that HB1099 had not been assigned to a House Committee. Jimmy Clayton reported that SB1020 was in the environment committee of the House.

Sarah reiterated that UNRBA bylaws prevent us from attempting to influence legislation, and that she is educating herself on what that means in practice since the legislature is involved in Upper Neuse watershed management issues. Board members Clayton and Alligood expressed the importance and value of UNRBA's perspective on watershed management questions.

### **UNRBA Implementation Planning**

Sarah gave a brief status report on Implementation Planning. She explained that most of the Recommendation Sheets describing basic and above & beyond implementation steps were completed. She is conducting Local Management Strategy Reviews (LMSRs) based on these steps of the implementation status of these strategies in Upper Neuse localities and hopes to complete by approximately the end of August (localities may require additional time to review and verify the information).

To complete the remaining Recommendation Sheets and review Local Management Strategy Review findings, Sarah intends to re-convene the UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee in August.

### **Housekeeping**

Chair Heron requested hard copies of meeting materials because so much email is received by Board members. Sarah agreed to work on non-email-based Board communications.