

# UNRBA Board of Directors November 18, 2009 Meeting Summary

Prepared November 27, 2009

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*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 Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) held a lunch meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Brigs Restaurant in Wake Forest. The Town of Wake Forest hosted the meeting.

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

Name	Organization
Melissa Hodges	Town of Butner Planning
Tom Mercer*	City of Creedmoor
Cora Cole-McFadden*	City of Durham
Becky Heron*	Durham County
Ron Alligood*	Granville County
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning
Pam Hemminger*	Orange County
Jimmy Clayton*	Person County
Lindsay Mize*	South Granville Water and Sewer Authority
Stan Norwalk*	Wake County
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA

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

Chair Becky Heron called the meeting to order. Town of Wake Forest Engineer Scott Miles said a brief welcome.

Sarah Bruce went over the agenda and participants introduced themselves. Meeting agenda:

- Announcements & Project updates
- Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards Memorandum of Participation
- Bylaws & Officer elections
- Board member recognition
- Presentation from Reid Wilson of CTNC on land conservation activities
- Letter of Support for Conservation Trust of NC forestry grant proposal
- Update on State requirements for watershed management
- FY11 UNRBA Member Dues

Sarah announced that the next UNRBA Board meeting would be January 20, 2010, hosted by Granville County at the Pergamon Restaurant in Creedmoor.

Sarah announced that the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholders were meeting in subcommittees until the next large stakeholder meeting in January. Kerr-Tar COG planner Mike Ciriello is attending the agriculture subcommittee meetings on behalf of the UNRBA.

### **UNRBA Project Updates**

- UNRBA is contracted with the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) to contact landowners and shepherd restoration projects in 4 Upper Neuse watersheds plus Swift Creek in Wake County. UNRBA is helping EEP find projects/willing landowners and also to help find ways to implement the projects that EEP cannot undertake.
- The Lick Creek Watershed Restoration Plan is complete. 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.
- Heather Saunders and Sarah Bruce developed a grant proposal to create a basinwide water quality monitoring plan for the Upper Neuse Basin. Triangle J Council of Governments applied for the grant from a the 205(j) grant program of the NC Division of Water Quality.
- Heather and Sarah are also planning to apply for a Section 319 grant for UNRBA next Spring. Sarah said that the Division of Water Quality wanted to see us doing more implementation, and asked anyone with ideas about projects that would make a good 319 project to get in touch.
- Becky Heron announced that the Durham County Farmland Preservation program had been having great success in conserving farmland. Pam Hemminger added that Orange County's farmland protection efforts and other activities to support agriculture (e.g., continuing education) were also being very successful and appear to be in high demand.

### **Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards**

Sarah Bruce reminded the Board that UNRBA had agreed to help get the Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Award program started, and said that the program was developing nicely. The banquet to recognize award winners was being planned for Feb. 2011. We are at the point of needing to formalize relationships so that we can work with local governments, TJCOG, and other entities.

Cora Cole-McFadden moved to have UNRBA sign the Memorandum of Partnership allowing us to partner with other entities to administer the award program. Stan Norwalk seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **UNRBA Bylaws and Officer Elections**

Copies of the UNRBA Bylaws were distributed. Bylaws are available online under "About the UNRBA."

Becky Heron and Ron Alligood indicated their desire to retire as Chair and Vice-Chair (respectively) of the UNRBA Board of Directors to allow others a chance. Cora Cole-McFadden indicated her willingness to continue to serve as Treasurer. Chair Heron said that nominations were being sought for Chair and Vice-Chair, and asked if anyone was interested. Pam Hemminger indicated interest in serving.

Any other Board members interested in serving as Chair or Vice-Chair should email Sarah Bruce, Becky Heron, Cora Cole-McFadden, and Ron Alligood (the Executive Committee consists of the latter three) by the end of December. Officer elections will be held at the January Board meeting.

### **Board Member Recognition**

Becky Heron expressed appreciation for the participation and steadfast leadership of Mayor Jack Day of the Town of Stem, who is retiring and moving to Alabama. UNRBA will provide Mayor Day with a certificate of appreciation.

### **Update on State Watershed Management Requirements**

#### ***Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy***

Sarah Bruce gave a brief update on the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. The deadline for adoption of the rules by the Environmental Management Commission is now January 15, 2011 (incorrectly reported as July 2010 at the meeting). The Division of Water Quality will submit draft rules to the EMC in March 2010.

DWQ and the stakeholders are using the online Wiki (<http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com/>) to discuss the strategy.

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 announced that the City of Raleigh had contracted CH2MHill to review the DWQ lake model and released a report detailing ways that DWQ could improve the model and its documentation. Also, the City of Durham has done some investigating of the effects of lake level management on chlorophyll-a in Falls Lake. Sarah will supply the Board with documents via email [Raleigh has already supplied the report and their letter to DWQ to the UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee via email].

#### ***NPDES Phase II Designations***

Sarah said that DWQ was reviewing jurisdictions in the Neuse River Basin for candidacy under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program of the Clean Water Act, which would name local governments meeting certain criteria as "Phase II communities" and entail implementation of additional stormwater management.

Candidate local governments in the Upper Neuse include Stem, Creedmoor, Butner, and Roxboro. The comment period is open until Nov. 30; Sarah distributed the DWQ press release with contact information for public comment.

Stan Norwalk mentioned Senator Clodfelter's bill to require permits for large water users. The bill is [Senate Bill 907](#) and referred to as the Water Resource Policy Act.

### **Update on Land Conservation Activities**

Reid Wilson of the Conservation Trust of NC presented the Board an update of land conservation activities in the Upper Neuse Basin related to the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative, a land conservation plan developed based on best available science through a stakeholder process and with the direction of a technical advisory team.

The process identified 24,000 acres as high priority for conservation in the Upper Neuse, just under 5% of the Basin. Between December 2005 and June 30, 2009, land trusts working with landowners, and local, state and federal government have protected 7% of the high-priority acres noted in the conservation plan. 11 of 39 projects received funding from the City of Raleigh.

The UNRBA Board agreed to send a letter of support for the CTNC grant proposal to the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, which would promote forestry practices that protect water quality and help keep forested lands in production.

**UNRBA FY11 Member Dues**

Sarah reported that the UNRBA Executive Committee had met on September 16 and had decided to keep the overall dues target the same for FY11. Sarah updated jurisdictional acreages and water usage to calculate the dues, emailed to the Board in advance for their consideration. Lindsay Mize moved to approve the dues calculation for FY11. Cora Cole-McFadden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.