

# UNRBA Board of Directors January 20, 2010 Meeting Summary

Prepared February 23, 2010

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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, January 20, 2010 at the Pergamon Restaurant in Butner. Granville County 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. Granville County Commissioner Ron Alligood said a brief welcome.

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

- Announcements & Project updates
- Officer elections
- Consideration of Reality Check Guiding Principles for Quality Growth
- Spring Local Government visits
- Update on State requirements for watershed management
- Mid-Year Budget Report
- Board Member Recognition

Sarah announced that the next UNRBA Board meeting would be March 17, 2010, hosted by the City of Durham at a location to be announced [Bennett Pointe Grill on Hillsborough Rd/US-70]. The next Falls Lake Stakeholder meeting would be Jan 21, 2010 at 1:00 pm.

### **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.
- 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. It was not funded originally, however Heather and Sarah will continue to pursue other funding sources for the proposal, including the DWQ Section 319 grants program.

### **Reality Check Guiding Principles for Quality Growth**

Sarah Bruce announced that the regional event Reality Check held in conjunction with the Urban Land Institute in February 2009 had resulted in "Guiding Principles for Quality Growth." Triangle Tomorrow is seeking local government and others' adoption of the "Guiding Principles." They are:

- TRANSIT: Improve regional transit, matching land use decisions with transit investments
- VIBRANT CENTERS: Reinvest in city and town centers, promote compact development, density and mixed use, including a balance of jobs and housing
- SUSTAINED GREEN SPACE: Define appropriate growth & preservation areas to protect open space, agricultural land and resources, especially water supply and quality

Barry Baker said that the 2009 event was well attended and that the Granville County Planning Board would be discussing the Guiding Principles the next day. There was some discussion about whether it was appropriate for UNRBA to adopt before all of its members had had a chance to do so, but the Board decided to move forward. Lindsay Mize moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Cora Cole-McFadden. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Heron abstaining because the Durham County board had not yet adopted the resolution.

There was a follow-up Reality Check event on February 24 and Sarah attended on UNRBA's behalf.

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

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 to serve. Cora Cole-McFadden indicated her willingness to continue to serve as Treasurer. Chair Heron said Pam Hemminger and Jimmy Clayton had indicated interest in serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, and asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There being none, Lindsay Mize moved to close the nominations and approve the slate, seconded by Ron Alligood. The motion passed unanimously.

Sarah said that officer elections were supposed to be held annually at the start of each fiscal year, so officer elections should be held again in July.

### **Board Member Recognition**

Becky Heron expressed appreciation for the participation Mayor Tom Stevens of Hillsborough. Hillsborough will be represented on the UNRBA Board by Town Commissioner Mike Gering henceforth. Mayor Stevens has generously offered to continue to advise Sarah on organizational development.

Various Board members also expressed appreciation to Becky Heron and Ron Alligood for their years of service as officers on the UNRBA Board of Directors.

### **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 January 15, 2011. The Division of Water Quality will submit draft rules to the EMC in March 2010. A public comment period will follow, and Sarah will ensure that UNRBA members are apprised of the procedures for submitting comments.

The online Wiki (<http://fallslakestakeholder.wikispaces.com/>) is still available for discussing 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.

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

Sarah said that DWQ had reviewed 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. DWQ recommended all but Stem to the EMC for Phase II designation.

#### ***Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Criteria***

Sarah said that the NC Division of Water Quality was developing criteria for chlorophyll-*a* for NC water bodies in answer to EPA's push for regulation of nutrients (revisions proposed to **15A NCAC 02B .0611**: Water Quality Management Plans for Impairment Prevention and Protection of Waters Downstream of Receiving Waters).

These criteria would increase watershed management standards for nutrients and buffers in much of NC with the goal of PREVENTING impairments. The criteria would NOT increase regulation in Upper Neuse (NSW waters are already covered).

Sarah asked if the UNRBA should express support for the revisions since they would help make the playing field for development more level between the Upper Neuse Basin and outside the watershed. Mr. Baker pointed out that not all jurisdictions in the Upper Neuse were entirely within the Basin, and recommended Sarah speak with Jim Wrenn, legal counsel for Granville County. No further action was decided.

### **UNRBA FY10 Mid-Year Budget Report**

Sarah gave the Board a handout showing current UNRBA financial balances. Overall, resources remaining were about 50% for the year, which is appropriate since we are halfway through the year.