

## UNRBA Board of Directors June 9, 2010 Meeting Summary

Summary Prepared June 9, 2010 · Meeting Location: Triangle J Council of Governments

*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 next UNRBA Board meeting will be September 15, 2010, at a location to be announced. The July Board meeting will be cancelled.**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) held a lunch meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at Triangle J Council of Governments.

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

Name	Affiliation
Bill McKellar*	Town of Butner
Tim Karan*	City of Creedmoor
Reginald Hicks*	City of Durham
	Durham County
	Franklin County
Ron Alligood*	Granville County
Mike Gering*	Town of Hillsborough
Pam Hemminger*	Orange County
	Person County
Lindsay Mize*	South Granville Water and Sewer Authority
Nancy McFarlane*	City of Raleigh
Danielle Adams*	Soil & Water Conservation Districts (Durham)
	Town of Stem
Margaret Stinnett*	Town of Wake Forest
Stan Norwalk*	Wake County
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh Attorney's Office
Dale Threatt-Taylor	Wake County Soil & Water Conservation
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning
Kenny Waldroup	City of Raleigh Public Utilities
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh Attorney's Office
David Gordon	Duke University Nicholas Institute
Heather Saunders	UNRBA
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA

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

Chair Pam Hemminger called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves, gave their affiliation, and mentioned one thing they were currently working on to the group.

Sarah Bruce went over the agenda (Decision Items = \*):

- Housekeeping, Updates & Announcements
- Fiscal Year 2010-2011 UNRBA Budget\*
- Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards
- Eno River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan Update\*
- Upper Neuse Watershed Restoration (Heather Saunders)\*
- Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy
- 2010-2011 UNRBA Board Meetings (preceded Falls NMS topic in meeting)

## **Housekeeping, Updates & Announcements**

- Sarah will be on vacation June 11-21, attending a conference June 24-25, and visiting the Delaware River Basin Commission July 14-16.
- Sarah is updating the contract between Triangle J Council of Governments and the Upper Neuse River Basin Association for administrative and support services. Board members may request a draft of the contract.
- A handout was provided on the Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 UNRBA Staff Work Plan. Input on the Work Plan is welcome at any time.
- The IRS Audit of the UNRBA went well; a few minor issues regarding past tax returns were discovered but in general the process was productive and Sarah is working to ensure that the new TJCOG-UNRBA contract addresses issues that can be clarified there. TJCOG has a new "auditor" (i.e., accountant) that has experience working with Associations operating under a Council of Governments.
- UNRBA is now a member of the NC Center for Nonprofits, which provides guidance and resources to nonprofits on administrative issues.
- Several TJCOG committees are discussing Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), a tool that helps manage growth equitably by compensating landowners who are willing to give up development potential of their properties. TJCOG Mayors and Chairs have discussed TDRs at their past two meetings and will discuss it again on August 10. Also, the annual joint TJCOG Water Resources Advisory Committee and Smart Growth Committee meeting (July 21) will feature a discussion on TDRs and nutrient trading. Sarah is tracking and participating in these discussions and emphasized that such a program could benefit Upper Neuse local governments and water quality. Dale Threatt-Taylor suggested involving local Soil & Water Districts involved in any discussions on the actual mechanics of TDRs.
- Sarah announced that the Technical Advisory Committee meeting on Low-Impact Development had been productive and generated good input for the Upper Neuse LID Strategy Recommendation Sheet.

- Dan McLawhorn suggested that the TAC discuss ordinance revisions to reduce loading from development that will be considered “existing” according to the Falls Rules (that is, built before the New Development rule is implemented).
- Heather Saunders announced that the project Triangle J Council of Governments submitted for a 205(j) grant from the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to create a basinwide water quality monitoring plan for the Upper Neuse Basin would be getting underway shortly.
- UNRBA will have a booth at the Eno River Festival near the main Eno big top tent. Staff are encouraged to volunteer and showcase local efforts, and Board members and partners are invited to stop by and visit the booth any of the three days of the Festival.

### **Fiscal Year 2010-2011 UNRBA Budget**

The UNRBA is funded through dues that are assessed based on 1) land area in the Upper Neuse and 2) raw water demand from the Upper Neuse (water bodies above or including Falls of the Neuse Reservoir).

Sarah noted that the handout she had provided the Board needed to be adjusted to include revenue and costs for the reimbursible (contract-funded) project to update the Eno River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan for the Eno River Association (\$12,887). Stan Norwalk moved to amend the budget to address this revision. Nancy McFarlane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. [The Amended FY11 UNRBA Budget is included as a separate attachment with this meeting summary.]

There was some further discussion about budget components. Nancy McFarlane moved to approve the budget as amended. Bill McKellar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Pam Hemminger requested that any member unable to fund UNRBA dues in FY11 to please let Sarah or her know as soon as possible.

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

Sarah announced that the Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards Program was kicking off this summer. The Program was begun with UNRBA as a founding partner to recognize land developments that go above and beyond compliance in respecting natural features and functions and provide additional community amenities. The Program is in the process of obtaining resolutions of support or partnership from various organizations, including local governments. TJCOG will be the fiscal agent for the program since UNRBA cannot accept more than 15% of its revenues from private sources.

A kickoff social will take place June 10 to promote the program among the development professional community. Applications will be independently judged by an impartial panel of experts. A banquet will be held in February to recognize award recipients.

### **Eno River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan Update**

The Eno River Association asked the UNRBA to update their Eno River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan. Lindsay Mize moved to approve the contract to undertake the work. Reggie Hicks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Upper Neuse Watershed Restoration**

Heather Saunders gave a presentation and provided the Board with a handout on the “Phase IV” project UNRBA is concluding on behalf of the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP). The project is to promote water quality improvement projects identified through local watershed planning and field efforts in Ledge Creek, Ellerbe Creek, Lick Creek, Little Lick Creek and Upper Swift Creek.

UNRBA worked with many local staff and constituents to develop Action Strategies in “Implementation Teams.” The teams met for intensive work sessions to assess the projects identified in the local watershed plans for feasibility and water quality benefit. Staff and local watershed groups met and discussed where project interests overlapped and partnership opportunities exist.

Heather described the Phase IV Project and the resulting Implementation Strategy. The project:

- updated local watershed plans through GIS analysis and fieldwork;
- developed a geospatial database that maps project locations in a Google Earth layer that can be easily maintained and updated with project over time. The Google Earth file is available via email on request.
- developed and disseminated educational materials such as websites, brochures, and inserts;
- developed “action strategies” with local staff and watershed groups that assess project history; feasibility; potential cost; restoration, enhancement and/or preservation (functional uplift) potential; agency interest; potential partnership opportunities; and landowner interest;
- contacted landowners and visited properties of those who were interested; and
- connected potential projects with interested groups that may want to implement the projects.

UNRBA’s contract work with the Ecosystem Enhancement Program is drawing to a close. Many projects have been identified in local watersheds with water quality improvement benefits. Local staff have met and discussed these projects and landowners have been identified and contacted.

Implementing projects would help local governments with the nutrient reductions that will be necessary to comply with the Falls Lake Existing Development Rule. UNRBA currently maintains a database that houses project information and notes on landowner interest (“Action Strategies”).

#### ***Next steps for Local Governments where projects were identified:***

- Obtain a list and a map of projects in your planning jurisdiction from UNRBA or Google Earth;
- Meet with staff to discuss projects;
- Contact local land trusts and partner with them to continue discussions on how these projects;
- Protect land areas that have been identified for restoration opportunities from development impacts through the plan review process and enforcement;
- Consider having development proposals for sites with potential restoration projects implement the project as a “committed element” or other condition of the proposed use;
- Work with UNRBA to ensure that the lists of projects and accompanying information are kept up to date and relevant.

***Discussion on Watershed Restoration:***

Active participation and involvement of the local Soil & Water Conservation District is essential to undertaking restoration projects. Sarah will coordinate with SWCDs on her presentations of this project to local governments.

The Board discussed the merits of restoration generally. It is a new body of practice that is evolving; restoration of urban streams in particular is challenging. Good implementation of watershed restoration projects requires a very context-sensitive approach, rigorous scientific analysis, prioritized implementation based on costs and benefits, and highly coordinated planning.

**2010-2011 UNRBA Board Meetings**

Attendees discussed the Board meeting format and meeting locations. The Board agreed that having a layout and a meeting space conducive to discussion was more important than meeting in each individual member jurisdiction. Sarah will work to find a few locations that are more conducive to discussion. The Board leaned toward picking a few centrally located places, even if brownbagging lunch is then required. The Board confirmed that lunchtime on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays was the preferred time.

**Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy**

Sarah gave the Board a quick update on the public comment process for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Rules. The Rules will be published in the June 15 [NC Register](#) (Issue 24). In the meantime, [official draft rules are available online](#). The public comment period will run until June 15 to August 16. Two public hearings will be held:

- 1) June 30, 2010, 7:00pm - Neal Middle School - 201 Baptist Church Rd - Durham, NC 27704
- 2) July 1, 2010, 7:00pm - Campbell Lodge - Durant Nature Park - 3237 Spottswood St - Raleigh, NC 27615

Written comments may be submitted on the proposed rule to:

John Huisman (john.huisman@ncdenr.gov) or Rich Gannon (rich.gannon@ncdenr.gov)  
DENR/Division of Water Quality, Planning Section  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617  
Fax: (919) 807-6497

The Board expressed interest in discussing future UNRBA roles with regard to assisting with implementation of the Falls Lake NMS. Board members felt it was important to involve other people in the local government in addition to Board and TAC members (e.g., senior staff, staff involved in implementation), and that a more intensive process for deciding future UNRBA roles would be appropriate to undertake. The Board will discuss options for a strategic planning process in September.

**Additional Discussion**

Hillsborough decided not to adopt the Consensus Principles. Mr. Gering expressed that the requirement for the Town's WWTP would be nearly impossible both technologically and economically and that good water quality in the Eno River was not accounted for. Several attendees expressed interest in following up regarding the Town's concerns. Other attendees stated that the rules did not adequately account for past good deeds.