

# Butner Staff Review of Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan September 11, 2003 Meeting Summary

Prepared September 15, 2003

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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.*

On September 15, 2003, Chris Dreps of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met with staff from the Town of Butner and the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS's Division of Property and Construction manages new State development and infrastructure within Butner). The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (the Plan);
- Discuss the management strategies proposed for Butner; and
- Receive guidance for proceeding with the introduction of the Plan to the Secretary of DHHS and to Butner's advisory committee.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Department/Program
Tom McGee	Butner Town Manager
Terry Hatcher	Director, DHHS Div. of Property and Construction

## **Presentation**

Chris Dreps summarized the Plan's analysis and the general recommendations. He then presented the recommendations specific to the Town of Butner.

The recommendations applying to Butner are:

- Performance Standards for Nitrogen (3.6 lbs./acre/yr. in urban area & 1.7 lbs./acre/yr. in Lake Holt watershed)
- Performance Standards for Phosphorous (0.6 lbs./acre/yr. in urban area & 0.3 lbs./acre/yr. in Lake Holt watershed)
- Enhanced peak flow management (meet pre-development peak flow for 1-yr., 24-hr. storm.)
- Upper Neuse long-term monitoring program
- Enhanced construction site inspection/enforcement
- Stormwater quality BMP inspection/enforcement
- Education for "Low-Impact Development" design guidelines
- Buffer maintenance education for homeowners
- Targeted lands acquisition/conservation easements
- Adopt-a-stream program
- Stream and wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater retrofits

A general estimate of the new costs of implementing the Plan in Butner is \$13,811 per year in year one. Additional grant proposal writing would necessitate staff time; however, some of this time could be offset through working with the UNRBA on grant proposals.

Note: Butner depends upon the State for stormwater oversight, inspections and enforcement. The cost estimate above is for time expected on specific projects (assumes that there is a staff member already in place to meet the requirement).

### **Discussion**

Major issues discussed included the fact that the city and county are not coordinating together on issues of development, and this could affect progress on recommendations.

Mr. Hatcher and Mr. McGee mentioned a Lower Neuse River Basin Association study of chlorophyll a as an indicator for reservoir water quality.

Mr. Hatcher mentioned that as Butner grows, there is pressure on the town to release property for residential and commercial development. At the same time, the state is interested in placing large institutional development in the area (ie, State Highway Patrol Training Center). Tom McGee mentioned the importance of protecting the water resources while allowing flexibility for the State to continue to use the land.

Chris Dreps stressed that, due to the nature of institutional development in Butner, there is an opportunity to pursue innovative stormwater management techniques like those recommended in the Upper Neuse Plan.

Chris also stressed that there are opportunities to work with the State Division of Soil and Water Conservation (Director--David Vogel) to address the following questions:

- Could the Division use its local conservationists to do stormwater oversight, inspection, or enforcement in Granville County and Butner?
- Are there training programs in place to train these people how to oversee stormwater management on urban/suburban development?

### **Next steps**

Mr. Hatcher stated that he likes the intent of the plan and will look more closely at its recommendations. Once this is done, Chris Dreps might be called to present the recommendations to Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary of DHHS.

Mr. McGee and Mr. Hatcher agreed that the recommendations should be presented to the Butner Town Commission (an advisory commission) once a strategy for implementation is more detailed.