

AUDIT PROPOSAL FOR FALLS LAKE WATERSHED

An audit for the Falls Lake Watershed will identify opportunities to improve implementation of the multiple programs which now protect the Lake's water quality. The audit would be overseen by the Division of Water Quality. The funding would come from local governments. The audit would be conducted by a retained consultant and completed in six months. The audit can use as its foundation the survey material collected by the Upper Neuse River Basin Association six years ago.

The audit results should provide an inventory of the current programs being implemented to protect water quality; a status of program success, at least in broad generic terms; a list of opportunities for improvement of programs; and a list of program omissions or gaps.

The audit would examine:

1. Non point sources, especially sedimentation and erosion control, with an emphasis on troublesome locations for sediment and turbidity by examining the plan approval, construction compliance and post construction compliance;
2. Septic tanks with an emphasis on the areas with the most problematic soils for successful operations and other compliance problems as documented by the counties and municipalities; and
3. Point sources, with a more detailed explanation of facilities that are having performance problems for nutrient removal, and with DWQ taking the lead based on its DMRs and other reporting information.

Local governments in the basin as well as Raleigh as the water supply user will fund the audit in an amount equal to 25 cents per resident, or by some other means agreeable to the local governments. An alternative could be to build on the voluntary fee structure used by the Upper Neuse River Basin Association and expand its allocation to include the non-member local governments.

The contracting entity for the audit should be the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. While some local governments in the Basin have not opted to join, this is a non-profit not subject to bid laws and it could act promptly to retain the consultant. Also, the UNRBA will also be a valuable asset in providing current status information to the retained consultant. Because it is likely impossible to find a knowledgeable consultant capable of meeting the time demand, it will be necessary to agree to waive conflict of interest problems. That may be addressed by selecting a consultant employed by several local governments, and it would bring the added benefit of general program familiarity.

