

UNRBA Implementation Steering Committee November 2, 2006 Meeting Summary

Prepared November 7, 2006

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.

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

The Implementation Steering Committee of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2006 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room.

Meeting agenda:

- Meeting ground rules for discussions
- ISC inception and objectives
- Implementation planning process design
- Housekeeping/Homework

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Management	nancy.newell@durhamnc.gov
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	planning@granvillecounty.org
George Rogers	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	george.rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Tommy Craven	City of Raleigh, City Council	tfcraven@nc.rr.com
Kent Ray	City of Creedmoor, City Council	
Melinda Clark	Wake County Environmental Services	melinda.clark@co.wake.nc.us
Pat Young	Franklin County Planning Dept.	
Sarah Bruce	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	sbruce@tjcog.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Governments	spowell@kerrtarco.org
Chris Dreps	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	dreps@tjcog.org

Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and said a couple of words about their personal interest in implementation planning.

Ground Rules for UNRBA ISC Meeting Discussions

Sarah Bruce showed attendees a draft list of meeting ground rules, listed here:

- Keep an open mind
- Listen when others are speaking
- Put cell phones on vibrate
- Be succinct
- During brainstorming, don't criticize or evaluate ideas

No amendments were requested, so these ground rules will guide discussions until modified.

ISC Inception and Objectives

The ISC was established to include members of both the UNRBA Board of Directors and the Technical Advisory Committee to provide guidance regarding implementation of the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan and to discuss policy issues and formulate recommendations to the TAC, the Board, and staff as appropriate.

To hone these objectives, meeting participants reviewed a summary prepared by Sarah Bruce of an implementation planning discussion held at the June 16 TAC meeting. A more comprehensive handling is needed for some of the thorny issues the TAC is encountering as they attempt to approve recommendation sheets, especially costs. The group discussed whether the Board should be provided information on costs before they were asked to prioritize strategies and/or implement the strategy (no decision reached).

The group also discussed whether the ISC could function as a core group within the TAC, but a tentative consensus was reached that objectives would be better achieved as an independent group. The ISC could be seen as helping the TAC and the Board understand, take ownership of, and make progress on their implementation and implementation planning responsibilities. The ISC asked **Sarah to prepare a description of some alternative organizational scenarios/options for group roles** (i.e., who does what).

Sarah proposed to use time at **the next ISC meeting** to discuss **internal communication and education**, as these are critical to UNRBA achieving its objectives.

Implementation Planning Process Design

Sarah Bruce showed the group the Implementation Planning Process Diagram, which lays out the steps as staff currently conceive of them to get from planning to implementation.

The ISC discussed TAC impasses: the ISC could work to get the strategy to the point where either a) the TAC could approve the recommendation sheet or b) the Board could provide guidance to the TAC. If the TAC has concerns with a strategy, they could also “flag” the issues in such a way that their concerns will be presented to the Board along with the recommendation sheet.

The ISC discussed how the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy will affect UNRBA and plan implementation. The group agreed that the prospect of a TMDL, the NMS planning timeline, and probable NMS/TMDL implementation requirements need to be kept front and center in our work and our outreach; for example, the Board should receive updates at every Board meeting.

Housekeeping/Homework

The group decided that information presented to the Board of Directors regarding the work of the ISC should be framed as much as possible under specific strategies and issues, such as the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy.

Sarah Bruce handed out a glossary of Implementation Planning Terminology (available online at <http://www.unrba.org/mgmtplan.htm> under Related Documents) and asked ISC members to review it before the next meeting.

Sarah Bruce will solicit dates for the next ISC meeting from the group via email.