

website: www.unrba.org

Durham County Deals a Blow to Sediment Pollution

Durham County recently instituted several changes in its Sediment and Erosion (S&E) Control program, including raising the fees for large (>10 acre) development sites, which will help pay for additional inspections. They simplified the method for calculating the sureties, or bonds posted by developers to guarantee performance of S&E controls. The County also has new forms that they require developers to use for certifying the installation of S&E controls and for certifying that a development site is stable.

In addition, Durham County adopted additional erosion control measures. All sediment trap slopes and diversion ditches are now required to be seeded and mulched within three days of their installation. The County is now also requiring that skimmers be used on all sediment traps and basins. Skimmers discharge water from the *top* of the sediment basin, where it is far less turbid, instead of from the bottom of the basin.

Hillsborough Beefs Up Buffers

The Town of Hillsborough recently amended their zoning ordinance regarding stream buffers outside designated water supply watersheds. Previously, only perennial, USGS "solid blue line" streams were buffered. The new regulations now provide for a 50-foot buffer on all USGS mapped streams, NRCS Soil Survey mapped streams, and those identified in the field by persons trained in NCDWQ's surface water identification (SWID) methods. Orange County Erosion Control staff has delegated authority from NCDWQ to conduct SWIDs and will do so for the Town of Hillsborough.

Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Local governments in the Upper Neuse River Basin should follow the development of rules for the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (affecting the Cape Fear River Basin headwaters) because DWQ is likely to propose something similar for the Falls Lake watershed a few years from now.

The rules proposed for Jordan Lake nutrient management were published in the June 15, 2007 NC Register (Volume 21, Issue 24). The public comment period will close on September 14, 2007.

Well-attended public hearings took place on July 12 and July 17, 2007, in Carrboro and Elon, respectively.

Some concerns voiced about the proposed rules were:

- The nonpoint source strategy may be undermined by the agriculture rule and provisions for offset payments to the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program.
- The fiscal analysis developed by DWQ estimates the total local government cost of implementation at \$611,598,000, which may well be an underestimate.
- The cost and feasibility of implementing the rule that requires local governments to retrofit existing development with BMPs for nutrient management will not be known until local governments complete the studies required by the rule.

Of particular relevance is the rule requiring local governments to retrofit existing development with BMPs for nutrient management. If such a rule were to be passed for the Upper Neuse River Basin, it would be to the advantage of affected local governments to have implemented more stringent nutrient management for new development so that fewer retrofits will be necessary to meet the jurisdiction's nutrient loading targets.

Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

Field collection of data to develop models and determine the extent of the lake's impairment is ongoing through Fall 2007. The NC Division of Water Quality is currently developing a watershed model to quantify loading from different land uses, wastewater, and other inputs, to be completed in Fall 2008. North Carolina State University is developing the in-lake nutrient response model to show the response of algae levels in Falls Lake to these inputs, to be completed in Fall 2009.

DWQ is currently revising their timeline for commencing the Falls Lake NMS development process. The October UNRBA newsletter will describe when DWQ plans to proceed and how the stakeholder process will commence. If you wish to be kept apprised of the Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder Process, please contact Sydney Miller at smiller@tjcog.org or (919) 558-9392.

Upper Neuse River Basin Association

PO Box 12276
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www.unrba.org



Who Is the UNRBA?

The Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) formed in 1996 to provide an ongoing forum for voluntary regional cooperation on water quality protection and water resource planning and management within the 770-square-mile Upper Neuse Basin (Falls Lake watershed). We are a coalition of public entities in the watershed, including municipalities, counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and South Granville Water and Sewer Authority. (See UNRBA Participants, below.)

What Is the UNRBA's Mission?

Our mission is to preserve the water quality of the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative and cost-effective pollution reduction strategies and to constitute a forum to cooperate on water supply issues within the Upper Neuse River Basin.

Upcoming Meetings
 UNRBA Board of Directors:
 September 19, Creedmoor, 11:30 am

Upcoming Trainings

Sept. 12-14, 2007: Introduction to the Taxonomy and Pollution Ecology of Aquatic Insects, Surry Community College, Dobson, NC

Aquatic insects, or benthic macroinvertebrates can be used to measure water pollution, classify streams, and measure success of stream restoration projects. This workshop introduces basic ecology and taxonomy of aquatic insects, especially mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies (EPT).

Website: http://www.ncsu.edu/waterquality/taxonomy_workshop.html

Registration Fee: \$250 (includes meals, materials, and transportation to field sites). Limited scholarships available (email Dave Penrose at dave_penrose@ncsu.edu)

Nov. 13-15, 2007: Watershed Academy, Kimbel Lodge, Georgetown, SC (just south of Myrtle Beach)

Natural resource professionals, decision-makers, and educators are invited to this diverse workshop to learn about watershed assessments and tools for watershed monitoring, planning, and restoration. Seminars and hands-on field trips will be offered.

Website:

<http://www.aces.edu/waterquality/streams/academy8.htm>

Early Registration (before October 19, 2007)

\$195 General / \$145 Non-Profits

Regular Registration (until November 2, 2007)

\$245 General / \$195 Non-Profit

Upper Neuse River Basin Association Participants

Jurisdiction	UNRBA Board of Directors Contact (Policy and Process Issues)		UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee Contact (Technical Issues)	
	Name	Contact	Name	Contact
Butner	Tom McGee	tom.mcgee@ncmail.net	Tom McGee	tom.mcgee@ncmail.net
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Durham County	Becky Heron (chair)	beckymheron@nc.rr.com	Joe Pearce	jpearce@co.durham.nc.us
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Upper Neuse River Basin Association Staff

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