

website: [www.unrba.org](http://www.unrba.org)

## Neuse River Foundation's Muddy Water Watch Program: NC Riverkeepers Working With Citizens To Protect Our Local Waterways

The Neuse River has been designated as one of the top ten most endangered rivers in the nation and is expected to be included on the state and federal list of impaired waters for 2008. However, continued pressure on the watershed is inevitable as the area continues to grow. Recognizing this, and in response to complaints from concerned citizens about sediment and stormwater runoff, the Neuse River Foundation has developed the Muddy Water Watch program (MWW) to train local citizens to properly identify and report sedimentation and erosion control violations from active construction sites. In addition, the MWW aims to raise public awareness, evaluate the effectiveness of current Best Management Practices at construction sites, and study the overall effectiveness of local government sediment programs. This effort is consistent with the UNRBA's Upper Neuse Watershed Management Implementation Plan (Recommendation Sheet #7) which advocates frequent site inspections and consistent enforcement measures. Arming local constituents with the tools to properly identify legitimate violations will not only improve the efficiency of our efforts, but will also make developers more accountable for properly installing and maintaining sediment and erosion control measures. For more information, please visit <http://www.muddywaterwatch.org/home.html>.

### UNRBA Staffing

In December, TJCOG hired Heather Saunders to fill the position of Water Resources Planner and staff several UNRBA watershed management projects. Heather has an MSc in Aquatic Resource Management from Kings College London (UK) and a BS in Natural Resources (Ecosystem Assessment) from NCSU. She will support the UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee, conduct analyses for the Upper Neuse Implementation Plan, and facilitate UNRBA's watershed-level restoration planning and activities. [hsaunders@tjcog.org](mailto:hsaunders@tjcog.org) / (919) 558-9319

### Chatham County Approves Stricter Buffer Requirements

Chatham County has approved revisions made to Section 304 of the Watershed Protection Ordinance with an effective start date of January 23, 2008. The revised ordinance will require a 100-foot buffer around perennial streams, a 50-foot buffer around wetlands, a 50-foot buffer around intermittent streams, a 30-foot buffer around ephemeral streams, and a 30-foot buffer around springs and seeps. Field delineations shall continue to follow the guidelines set out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more information on the revised ordinance, visit Chatham County's website at <http://www.chathamnc.org/>.

### Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy

UNRBA and TJCOG continue to liaison with NCDWQ to develop a timeline for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) stakeholder process. Based on the current strategy, the stakeholder process has a potential start date of August 2008. If you wish to be kept apprised, please contact Sydney Miller at [smiller@tjcog.org](mailto:smiller@tjcog.org) or (919) 558-9392.

The NMS will likely require that existing development meet targets for nutrient pollution. Developments approved before the NMS takes effect would be considered existing development and would be subject to these NMS pollutant targets. Meeting these targets will likely require that the local government retrofit existing developments with BMPs. This cost will be borne by taxpayers and is avoidable if local governments require that developments incorporate adequate stormwater treatment when they are constructed.

The UNRBA has a Site Evaluation Tool, an Excel-based spreadsheet, that can help staff and developers calculate runoff, pollutants, and the benefits of various BMPs. It is available with a users' manual online at [www.unrba.org/set](http://www.unrba.org/set).

**Upper Neuse River Basin Association**

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[www.unrba.org](http://www.unrba.org)



**Upcoming Meetings**

UNRBA Board of Directors:  
January 16, 2008, Creedmoor, 11:30 am

**Upcoming Trainings**

**Jan. 15, 2008: Muddy Water Watch Citizen Monitoring Project Orientation**

Dean Naujoks, Upper Neuse Riverkeeper, will be conducting an information orientation on the Muddy Water Watch Citizen Monitoring Project. The MWW project will help participants learn how to recognize legitimate sedimentation and erosion control violations from active construction sites. The orientation takes place on January 15, 2008 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Duke University School of Law. This will be the final MWW orientation before official trainings begin on January 22nd.

Registration: Free

Website: <http://www.muddywaterwatch.org/workshops.html>

**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.

**March 18-20, 2008: NCSU Stream Restoration Program River Course 1**

An overview of stream processes related to channel formation, biological function, bankfull identification, regional curves, Rosgen classification system, stream stability, and channel evolution. Addresses techniques for assessments of stream condition, stream stability, and evaluation of stream restoration. Field exercises demonstrate techniques for measuring bank erosion, cross-sections, longitudinal profiles, substrate, and channel stability.

Registration: \$475

Website: <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/wqg/srp/rivercourse.html>

**Upper Neuse River Basin Association Participants**

Jurisdiction	UNRBA Board of Directors Contact (Policy and Process Issues)		UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee Contact (Technical Issues)	
	Butner	Tom McGee	<a href="mailto:tom.mcgee@ncmail.net">tom.mcgee@ncmail.net</a>	Tom McGee
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