



Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder Process Gets Underway!

The stakeholders for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy stakeholder process met for the first time on August 23, 2008 at Triangle J Council of Governments. Nearly 60 people from a diverse assortment of organizations and interests attended.

Sarah Bruce attended on behalf of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. UNRBA members Raleigh, Wake Forest, Wake County, Butner, Franklin County, Granville County, Hillsborough, Orange County, Durham, Durham County, and SGWASA were represented as well.

Sydney Miller, TJCOG Water Resources Program Manager and facilitator of the stakeholder process, presented on meeting logistics first. Stakeholders are expected to review meeting materials for any meetings they missed, and issues that have been decided previously will not be re-opened because stakeholders did not participate in the meeting where they were decided.

John Huisman with the NC Division of Water Quality Nonpoint Source Planning Unit spoke next on how the stakeholder process will fit in with the rulemaking process. The stakeholder group is charged with recommending a strategy to DWQ, which will take the lead in drafting a rule to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 981 (SL 2005-190 / SL 2006-259).

An advisory committee of DWQ and local government staff has been meeting since 2005 to develop the watershed and lake response models; modeling work to establish in-lake targets will wrap up in Fall 2008. DWQ Intensive Survey Unit Supervisor Peter Caldwell presented the findings of the scientific studies and discussed how violations of water quality standards were determined.

John Huisman then discussed related regulations. Most notably, the 1972 U.S. Clean Water Act mandates development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for impaired water bodies. Since DWQ deemed Falls Lake impaired due to excessive levels of chlorophyll *a*, which can promote excessive algal growth, a TMDL must be developed to control the nutrients causing algal growth. The recent water quality study of Falls Lake was designed to support TMDL development as well as the Nutrient Management Strategy.

Meetings will generally be held the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Please check the website for the Stakeholder Process for details on meetings, including meeting summaries and presentations: www.FallsLakeStakeholder.org.

If you would like additional information or to be kept apprised, please contact Sydney Miller at smiller@tjcog.org or (919) 558-9392. We will continue to include regular updates in this newsletter.

New Property Tax Breaks for "Conservation Lands"

Two new state laws have been adopted that will provide economic incentives for the conservation of natural lands. The first new law makes a special designation for conservation lands that has been traditionally reserved for commercial farming and silviculture uses. The law will allow landowners to enroll 20 to 100 acres of land under a new "wildlife" use value classification. In exchange for managing property for wildlife and conservation benefits, landowners will get a break in property taxes. Each enrolled property is required to develop a wildlife management plan. According to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC), North Carolina loses more than 100,000 acres of farm and forest land every year and it is hoped that the new law will make it more affordable for property owners to keep their land undeveloped.

According to the CTNC, the second new law provides land trusts and historic preservation groups an option that will help finance their efforts to protect North Carolina's "natural and cultural treasures". The law will allow non-profits to include stipulations in their conservation easements that will allow them to collect a fee when a conservation property is conveyed to a new landowner. This provision is conditional upon the agreement of the first landowner who places the property under an easement. Money from the fee would be used for long-term monitoring and maintenance of the property.

Looking for Past Issues of the UNRBA Newsletter?

Past issues of the UNRBA newsletter are available on the UNRBA website at <http://www.unrba.org/downloads.htm>. In addition, you can find descriptions of UNRBA projects with supporting documents, technical reports, annual reports, maps and images, and meeting materials. Visit the website to see how we're working with you to protect your local watersheds!

Upper Neuse River Basin Association

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www.unrba.org



Upcoming Meetings

UNRBA Board of Directors:
September 23, 2008
11:30 am in Creedmoor

Upcoming Events

Sept 16: Green Design and Dev Workshop (Winston-Salem)

Designed to provide an overview of green planning, construction, building, and development. Learn techniques associated with green planning and low-impact development and the LEED certification.

<http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/lid/WinstonSalem.htm> \$75 or \$125 if Professional Development Hours requested.

Sept 17-19: 2008 Watershed Symposium & Drinking Water Technology Forum (Concord) Panel discussion that covers various impacts and perspectives on water and watersheds. The primary goals are to foster communication and resource sharing among three states (GA, NC, & SC) and discuss emerging issues and key regulatory programs.

http://www.ncsafewater.org/images/stories/Training/WSSymposium_DWTechology/dwtech&wssymp_final.pdf; \$335

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.

Oct 8-9: WRRI Annual Conference & NCWRA Symposium (Raleigh)

NC water resources to be addressed by university and corporate researchers, students, local, state, and federal government agency rep's, and env. professionals with a focus on drought management and water conservation. Become informed, as well as network and discuss water-related issues.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/conference/index.html>; Prices vary from \$25-\$150

Oct 8-9: Collaboration and Tools for Handling Contentious Stakeholder Groups (Chapel Hill)

Improve individual negotiation skills and responses to conflict and strengthen group facilitation, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. Attendees practice meeting facilitation and apply negotiation skills to managing committees, stakeholder groups and task forces more effectively. Includes an exercise of a simulated interagency collaboration.

<http://www.ncpdr.unc.edu>; \$240

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	Thomas Marrow	tmarrow@butnenc.org	Thomas Marrow	tmarrow@butnenc.org
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