

## Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Stakeholder Process Update

The Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) Stakeholder group will meet next on January 15th, 2009. Two separate meetings will take place on that day:

- a supplemental meeting to discuss the basics of water quality modeling will be held from 10 am to 12 pm at the North Durham Water Reclamation Facility (1900 E. Club Blvd), and
- a regular stakeholder meeting at 1 pm at the Durham Water Management & Maintenance Facility (1600 Mist Lake Drive) to hear about the DWQ watershed model.

The stakeholder meetings to date have had robust attendance and participation. There have been three meetings so far, laying groundwork for the NMS:

Aug. 21, 2008: Basics on the NMS requirements, the role of stakeholders, the stakeholder meeting schedule, and the monitoring and modeling work DWQ is doing to support NMS development, including the Technical Advisory Committee of stakeholders that are giving technical input to DWQ on monitoring and modeling.

Sep. 18, 2008: Steve Smutko with Cooperative Extension on concepts of principled negotiation and a stakeholder brainstorming session on interests (values that the stakeholder process would ideally optimize). (*Stakeholders have been given homework on these topics, which needs to be completed by the February 19, 2009 stakeholder meeting.*)

Oct. 16, 2008: Existing nutrient management strategies and regulatory frameworks, a brainstorming session on potential sources of nutrients in the Upper Neuse Basin, and a brainstorming session on potential strategies to manage nutrient inputs into Falls Lake.

**Please see the project website, [www.fallslakestakeholder.org](http://www.fallslakestakeholder.org), for more details.**

## Watershed Restoration and You

The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan recommends that local governments implement watershed restoration practices such as stream stabilization and stormwater retrofits to reduce impacts from historic land use changes and insufficiently controlled stormwater runoff. A local government may not have the ability to undertake a watershed restoration project, but there are other things that can be done at the local level to support watershed restoration.

The Upper Neuse River Basin Association is working with the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program to identify and implement stream and buffer restoration projects in Ellerbe Creek, Lick Creek, Little Lick Creek, Ledge Creek, and Swift Creek. All of these except Ledge Creek are listed by DWQ as having impaired biological integrity, and the first three are slated for development of a Total Maximum Daily Load to address the impairment.

Opportunities to implement restoration projects in the Upper Neuse are disappearing with greenfield development takes place and rising land costs. Many of the areas suitable for stream and buffer enhancement or restoration fall on lands classified as agricultural, which in the Upper Neuse means cropland or timber that is either fallow or in active cultivation.

If a parcel containing a potential restoration project is developed, the space needed to do the restoration project may not be conserved and the opportunity will be lost. In order for the restoration project to remain viable, the protection of areas where restoration would take place must be negotiated during the development review process. Often, these include areas such as floodplains that are inappropriate for development anyway.

UNRBA will be contacting member governments in the coming months and providing information on the locations and types of mitigation opportunities in their areas. Local governments are encouraged to keep an eye out within for similar sites within their jurisdiction as well. With this information, it is possible to take steps to ensure that remaining potential restoration opportunities stay viable until they can be implemented.

Restoration is a key piece of the watershed management puzzle, and champions are needed at all levels for mitigation to succeed and to help improve local water quality.

## 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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**Upcoming Meetings**

UNRBA Board of Directors:  
January 21, 2009

11:30 a.m., Brier Creek, North Raleigh

**Upcoming Events**

**January 21 & 22, 2009: Implementing Sustainable Development in Your Community: A Workshop for Local Public Officials**

The Urban Land Institute is sponsoring a new workshop for public officials on implementing sustainable development in their communities. The workshop includes definitions, measurements, case studies and group exercises, which focus on best practices and the most effective role that public officials can play in creating more sustainable communities while enhancing quality of life for citizens. One of these two-day workshops will be offered in Charlotte, NC (Jan. 21 & 22).

For more information, contact Marta Goldsmith at [marta.goldsmith@uli.org](mailto:marta.goldsmith@uli.org), or visit the ULI website ([www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)), click "Professional Development and Education," then click "Workshops." Cost: \$100 (\$75 for day 1 only.)

**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.

**February 9-10, 2009: Emerging Issues Forum Changing Landscapes: Building the Good Growth State?**

The 2009 Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) Forum series challenges participants to think about how we build in a whole new way. This year's Forum will feature David Brooks, New York Times columnist, on the topic of economic and social transformation through infrastructure investment and community design. Are our plans for infrastructure investment and development consistent with the rapid changes in the world around us? What will be the impact of technological and economic change on our choices?

Raleigh Convention Center. Individuals - \$350. Nonprofit, Government & Higher Education - \$225.

To register and for more information, please visit <http://ncsu.edu/iei/forum/2009/>

**Upper Neuse River Basin Association Participants**

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