

Raleigh Review of Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan May 27, 2003 Meeting Summary

Prepared May 29, 2003

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.

On May 27, Chris Dreps of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met with staff from the City of Raleigh in the City Manager's conference room. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (the Plan);
- Discuss the management strategies proposed for Raleigh; and
- Receive staff guidance for proceeding with the introduction of the Plan.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Department/Program
Dale Crisp	Public Utilities
George Chapman	Planning
Mark Senior	Stormwater Engineering
Carl Dawson	Engineering
Russell Allen	City Manager
Janet Cowell	City Council

Presentation

Chris Dreps summarized the Plan's analysis and the general recommendations. He then presented the recommendations specific to the City of Raleigh.

The recommendations applying to Raleigh are:

- Enhanced peak flow management
- Upper Neuse long-term monitoring program
- Education for "Low-Impact Development" and buffer maintenance
- Targeted lands acquisition
- Adopt-a-stream program
- Stream and wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater retrofits

A general estimate of the costs of implementing the Plan in Raleigh is \$30,000 per year. The marginal costs are estimated to be \$1,700 per year.

Discussion

The group discussed the need for Raleigh to take the lead in implementing the Plan's recommendations. The entire group acknowledged the potential problems of how the plan is perceived in the "conservation zone", the upstream areas where the Plan recommends a higher

level of watershed protection. Raleigh has the potential to show good faith by adopting the recommendations.

Mark Senior expressed concern about the need for more certainty regarding the "low-impact development" recommendations. Raleigh is currently exploring potential pilot projects and supporting the adoption of a site evaluation tool for the Upper Neuse.

The group agreed that Raleigh is either prepared to adopt or has already adopted the recommendations. In the case of peak flow management, Raleigh is already requiring peak flow management for sites with more than 12% impervious cover. These sites must manage for the 2-year storm. The group feels that this level of management meets the Upper Neuse recommendation of a 10% threshold and managing for the 1-year, 24-hour storm. Mark Senior will research this issue further.

The group agreed that by complying with the Neuse nitrogen removal rules, Raleigh is likely removing enough phosphorous from runoff on newly developed sites to meet the phosphorous performance standard. Mark Senior will research this question and work with Chris Dreps. Based on his recommendations, the group will likely recommend to City Council that it consider adopting the phosphorous performance standard, which would not be required of Raleigh in the Plan.

Russell Allen will ask City Council to accept and commit to implementing the Plan's recommendations.

Next steps

Chris Dreps will make a 5-minute presentation to City Council on June 17. Dale Crisp will introduce Mr. Dreps and provide a brief background on the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. Mr. Dreps will as the issue be referred to Public Works Committee.

Dale Crisp will talk with Rick Rowe (Wake County Env. Services) regarding Wake County's actions on the Upper Neuse Plan.

The City will research the Wake County Watershed Management Plan proposal to use water fees for land protection.

Mark Senior and Watson Brown will help guide Chris regarding the presentation to City Council. Chris will contact Mr. Senior and Mr. Brown regarding this presentation.