

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee March 27, 2006 DRAFT Meeting Summary

Prepared March 28, 2006

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.

Introductions and Meeting Objectives

The Technical Advisory Committee of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2006 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. The meeting objectives were to:

- Hear updates on UNRBA projects;
- Go over the Implementation Planning process generally;
- Announce developments in Implementation Prioritization; and
- Discuss and possibly approve recommendations 1, 2, 6, and 11.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Wesley Poole	Orange Co. Sed. & Erosion Control	wpoole@co.orange.nc.us
Amy Hathaway	City of Raleigh Stormwater	Amy.Hathaway@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Mark Senior	City of Raleigh Stormwater	Mark.Senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us
George Rogers	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	george.rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	Planning@granvillecounty.org
Joe Albiston	Durham County Engineering	jalbiston@co.durham.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Management	nancy.newell@durhamnc.gov
Sarah Bruce	UNRBA	sbruce@tjcog.org
Kelly Williams	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program	kelly.williams@ncmail.net
Suzanne Harris	Homebuilders Association of Raleigh-Wake County	sharris04@hbawake.org
Kelly Johnson	NC Division of Water Quality	kelly.p.johnson@ncmail.net

Project Updates

Chris Dreps is in Mexico until June. Sarah Bruce and Sydney Miller of TJCOC are providing support to the UNRBA in Chris' absence. Sarah reported to the TAC some of the activities Chris has undertaken in Mexico.

Sarah Bruce reported that the Watershed Evaluation Tool has been received from USGS, but that the DVD is in need of some refinement before it can be duplicated and distributed.

UNRBA has developed a web page about the recently completed Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan where the plan summary will be available. Sarah showed two screen shots of the new web page.

Implementation Planning

Sarah Bruce showed the TAC an outline of the proposed Watershed Management Implementation Plan. She stated that the detailed recommendations the TAC is currently reviewing constitute an important component of the Implementation Plan. Shelby Powell is in the process of revising the gap analysis instrument, but this is contingent upon completion of recommendation sheets.

Sarah announced that she had received a CD from Tetra Tech with some of the data and ArcView projects that will be needed to produce maps of Priority Areas.

Implementation Prioritization

Sarah Bruce informed the TAC that she is participating in the Natural Resources Leadership Institute, a program administered by NC State to train environmental professionals to conduct and facilitate group decision-making processes. Her training requires a practicum, for which Sarah is proposing to facilitate the TAC's Implementation Prioritization process. Sarah explained that this method of facilitating discussions and group decisions would be slightly more structured than the TAC's usual methods, but would also likely be more participatory and more fun. The TAC agreed that a facilitated process would be helpful for the Prioritization phase of Implementation Planning.

Sarah will circulate her Practicum Proposal to the TAC for review and comment.

Discussion and Approval of Recommendations Sheets

Sarah Bruce presented **Recommendation 6, Enhanced Septic System Maintenance and Inspections Program**, to the TAC for consideration. The TAC had an in-depth discussion of the merits and details of the recommendation. Barry Baker stated that he felt the recommendation was overly burdensome. Mark Senior reminded the TAC that its role was to ensure that technical issues with regard to implementation of the Watershed Management Plan were adequately considered, not to critique the plan itself. The TAC agreed that without fixing failing systems, a strong local inspections program would not do a great deal of good.

The TAC discussed whether it was at all likely that a local government would take it upon itself to create and implement an installer certification program. The TAC decided it was highly unlikely, but elected ultimately to include the alternative anyway so as not to foreclose the possibility. The TAC desired to see the state take an active role in setting up and administering such a program, and expressed a desire the Board to consider the issue at their April meeting.

Next, the TAC discussed **Recommendation 11, LID Education**. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by George Rogers, to pass the recommendation sheet to the Board of Directors. The TAC requested that item 1 under Above & Beyond be moved to become item 6 under Basic Implementation, because conducting a review of barriers to LID would be ineffective without any subsequent action. The TAC approved the recommendation sheet as amended unanimously.

Finally, the TAC discussed **Recommendation 2, Riparian Buffers**. The TAC talked about mechanisms for implementing riparian buffers that differ from the state minimum. The TAC agreed that it was not necessary for the local government to obtain authority to enforce buffers from DWQ, but that it would make it simpler and streamline the process. The TAC requested that the Task Group provide additional clarification on this issue and on which uses should be allowed in which buffer zones based on the assumptions of the Upper Neuse water quality model used in the Plan.

The TAC agreed to change the title of the recommendation sheet to read simply “Riparian Buffers,” due to the fact that the term “ordinance revisions” was not inclusive of the alternatives included in the recommendation sheet.

Next TAC Meeting

Sarah Bruce will schedule the next TAC meeting via email for late April or early May.