

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee

August 23, 2004 Meeting Summary

Prepared August 27, 2004

Our 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 1:00 P.M. on Monday, August 23, 2004 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. Chris Dreps began the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves to the person next to them; each person then introduced his or her partner to the group. The meeting objectives were:

- UNRBA projects update;
- name a new TAC chairperson;
- receive guidance regarding hiring additional TJCOG water resources staff; and
- receive guidance on Upper Neuse detailed implementation planning process.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	planning@granvillecounty.org
Paula Murphy	Person County	Pmurphy@personcounty.net
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	URRBA	sarah@tjcog.org
Mary Giorgino	USGS	giorgino@usgs.gov
Katie Ertmer	Franklin County Planning	Kertmer@co.franklin.nc.us
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest	Scott.miles@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Deborah Amaral	NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program	Deborah.Amaral@ncmail.net
Nancy Newell	Durham Env. Services	nnewell@ci.durham.nc.us
John Cox	City of Durham Stormwater	jcox@ci.durham.nc.us
Chuck Armbrust	Durham County	carmbrust@co.durham.nc.us
Cam McNutt	NC DWQ	Cam.McNutt@ncmail.net
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar COG	spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Tara Williams	US Army Corps of Engineers	tara.a.williams@saw02.usace.army.mil
Will Autry	Orange Co. Sed. & Erosion	wautry@co.orange.nc.us
Mitch Hall	US Army Corps of Engineers	Mitch@saw02.usace.army.mil
Mike Jennings	Wake County	mjennings@co.wake.nc.us
Jim Blose	NC DWQ	Jim.blose@ncmail.net
Kevin Lindley	Orange County	Klindley@co.orange.nc.us
Marti Gibson	City of Raleigh	Marti.gibson@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Mark Senior	City of Raleigh	Mark.senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Margaret Hauth	Town of Hillsborough	Margaret.Hauth@hillsboroughnc.org

UNRBA Projects Update (For details about specific projects, see the "Projects and Activities" page at www.unrba.org.)

Watershed Evaluation Tool (WET)

Chris Dreps and Mary Giorgino updated the TAC on progress with the WET. USGS is in the process of compiling the WET data. They have had some delays because National Hydrography Dataset (the basis for the WET) was not originally compatible with ArcView. Ms. Giorgino anticipates release of the WET in September of 2005. UNRBA will begin using the WET on the Little River and Little Lick Creek Projects this year.

Site Evaluation Tool (SET)

Chris Dreps gave a brief description of the SET. (For details on the SET, see the notes from 3-12-03 TAC meeting.) The SET is a Microsoft Excel-based tool that can help planners and developers assess site BMP configurations, effectiveness, and costs early in the planning process. The assumptions for land use-related pollutant loadings and BMP pollutant removal efficiencies have been incorporated into the model. Tasks remaining are to 1) release a draft version of the SET in late August; 2) create a user manual; and 3) train local government staff and developers on the SET.

Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan

Chris Dreps gave a brief overview of the Plan. The project is funded by Clean Water Management Trust through the Eno River Association (ERA). The goal of the Plan is to prioritize lands for protection in the Little River Watershed. Currently, UNRBA is reviewing watershed conditions and developing prioritization criteria using criteria from the ERA and the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NC EEP), which are oriented toward improving aquatic habitat and water quality. The project is due to be completed next spring.

Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan

Chris Dreps gave a brief overview of the Plan's objectives and its participants, which include NC EEP. Deborah Amaral is the project's manager within NC EEP.

Project objectives are:

1. Perform a baseline watershed assessment (current watershed conditions, possible causes of stream impairment & potential future degradation)
2. Identify potential watershed management strategies
3. Prioritize on-the-ground restoration, BMP, and land protection projects for implementation by NC EEP (and others)
4. Assemble the assessment, strategies, and projects into a watershed management plan
5. Implement highest-ranked projects (NC EEP)
6. Assist local project partners in implementing the plan (UNRBA; where appropriate).

(continued...)

Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan (continued)

Funding will be provided by the NC EEP (80%) and in-kind services (20%) from the project's partners (Durham City/County Planning, Durham Stormwater Services, Triangle J Council of Governments, US Geological Survey, Center for Watershed Protection, and NC Division of Water Quality).

The project will begin in September, 2004 and is estimated to be completed in one year.

Eno River Festival

Chris Dreps reported that our two booths at the 2004 Festival for the Eno River were a great success. Approximately 300 individuals stopped by to ask questions or just to find out more about the watersheds in the Upper Neuse. Wake County's educational displays attracted youths and adults alike. People who volunteered to staff the booths came from Wake County, Orange County, Kerr-Tar COG, and UNRBA. John Cox mentioned that Laura Smith has filled the stormwater educator position, and so Durham will be able to participate in next year's booth.

UNRBA TAC Chairperson

Chris Dreps described the responsibilities of the position to be filled, which mainly are to lead quarterly TAC meetings and to represent the TAC on the Board of Directors. There are two options for filling the position: 1) the TAC can go through the standard nomination and vote process, or 2) it can ask Orange County to nominate a replacement to finish the "term" vacated by Perry Sugg. No one was nominated at the meeting, however TAC members were encouraged to contact Chris Dreps if they wished to nominate someone, find out more about the responsibilities of the position, or to propose other potential means of identifying a chairperson.

TJCOG Additional Staff

TJCOG is considering hiring another water resources staff person. Chris Dreps discussed the need for additional staff assistance for UNRBA projects, of which almost all are slated for completion this fiscal year. The proposed TJCOG staffperson would support the UNRBA with 20–25% of his or her time. The position would cost \$25,000 of UNRBA funds, which are available.

Chris proposed that the UNRBA should release \$25,000 to support the position. No objections to this proposal were made; therefore, Chris will convey TAC support and ask the Board of Directors for its approval.

Upper Neuse Detailed Implementation Planning

Chris Dreps gave a brief overview of the process by which the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan has begun to be implemented. Since the Plan was accepted by the

Board of Directors in May of 2003, Chris has been presenting it to staff and governing bodies of member jurisdictions, who have already given some feedback.

Chris requested guidance from the TAC concerning the following detailed implementation planning process:

1. Introduce Upper Neuse Plan recommendations to local government staff and boards (underway)
2. Conduct watershed program reviews (underway)
3. Identify gaps between current practice and recommended strategies (underway)
4. Prioritize strategies, identify objectives and milestones, and set target dates
5. Determine responsibility for implementing strategies
6. Identify costs
7. Explore alternatives for implementing complex recommendations
8. Include monitoring strategies / adaptive management in the implementation plan
9. Board adopts and releases Implementation Plan
10. Revise UNWMP by late 2006 (to coincide with the NC DWQ Neuse basinwide plan update)

John Cox commented that it is critical that cost estimates not be provided without the context of possible funding mechanisms. The group agreed to change the "Identify costs" item to "Identify costs and potential funding mechanisms."

Steps 1–3 are already underway and should be completed by December, at which time the TAC would meet again to review findings and discuss prioritization (step 4) and next steps. The TAC agreed that a December deadline is appropriate, assuming TJCOG staff have been hired.

Next TAC Meeting

The TAC agreed to a possible meeting on December 1, 2, 7, or 9. Chris will email these dates to TAC members to solicit responses regarding their availabilities.

The Board of Directors should meet before the next TAC meeting. Chris has contacted Becky Heron, Chair, to schedule the meeting.