

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee September 8, 2006 Meeting Summary

Prepared September 12, 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 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 8, 2006 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room.

Meeting agenda:

- UNRBA updates
- Discuss creation of an Implementation Steering Committee;
- Discuss the recommendation sheet for the Water Quality Monitoring Program recommended strategy (#5); and
- Discuss the recommendation sheet for the Forestry BMPs recommended strategy (#14).

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address
John Cox	City of Durham Stormwater Services	john.cox@durhamnc.gov
Joe Pearce	Durham County Engineering	jpearce@co.durham.nc.us
Nancy Newell	City of Durham Water Management	nancy.newell@durhamnc.gov
Terry Hackett	Orange Co. Sed. & Erosion Control	thackett@co.orange.nc.us
Melinda Clark	Wake County Environmental Services	melinda.clark@co.wake.nc.us
Chris Outlaw	City of Durham Stormwater Services	Chris.Outlaw@durhamnc.gov
Bobby Louque	City of Durham Stormwater Services	robert.louque@durhamnc.gov
Mary Giorgino	US Geological Survey	giorgino@usgs.gov
JoAnn Burkholder	NCSU CALS Center for Applied Aquatic Ecology	joann_burkholder@ncsu.edu
Tom Colson	NCSU Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources	tpcolson@ncsu.edu
Debbie Hamrick	NC Farm Bureau Federation	dhamrick@ncfb.net
Bob Slocum	NC Forestry Association	rwslocum@ncforestry.org
Tom Gerow, Jr.	NC Division of Forest Resources	tom.a.gerow@ncmail.net
Chris Dreps	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	dreps@tjcog.org
Sydney Miller	Triangle J Council of Governments	smiller@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	sbruce@tjcog.org
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Governments	spowell@kerrtarco.org

Announcements

Chris Dreps reviewed the agenda and asked for announcements.

- Mary Giorgino announced that the WET, which was a project of the UNRBA and USGS, had been completed and was now available on DVD. Requests for copies can be made on the UNRBA website or through UNRBA staff.

- Chris Dreps announced that there was an RFP out for an Ellerbe Creek Restoration Plan in Durham.
- Chris Dreps also mentioned that the Annual Report for the UNRBA is complete. It is available on the UNRBA website; members should contact Chris if they would like a hard copy.

UNRBA Updates

Chris Dreps spoke about an EPA grant opportunity for a “capacity building” project in the region. There will be some brainstorming sessions between UNRBA staff and others in the region to discuss possible grant proposals.

The UNRBA website has a web page for Implementation Planning now. Sarah Bruce will send an announcement when the page is fully functional. The web page will allow TAC members and stakeholders to view the latest versions of any recommendation sheets for which drafts are under review.

Chris Dreps updated the group on UNRBA’s attempts to set up a stakeholder process for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (originally, no stakeholder process, outside of the hearings required by law, had been included). The UNRBA had proposed a \$50,000 stakeholder process and requested money from DENR to facilitate the process. In response, DENR allocated \$15,000 for a stakeholder process, which must be spent in the current fiscal year. This must be matched with local money in the amount of \$15,000. That leaves another \$20,000 gap in necessary funding to run an adequate stakeholder process. TAC members pointed out that some of the stakeholder process should occur during the rulemaking period and cautioned against using all the stakeholder funds before that time. Chris Dreps said that modeling is underway in the study and that he hopes to start a stakeholder process by February 2007.

Recommendation 14: Forestry BMPs

Sarah Bruce asked the group to look at the recommendation sheet for Forestry BMPs. The TAC and partners gave a lot of feedback, which will be passed back to the Task Group reviewing the document for their consideration. TAC and partner feedback included the following:

- The strategy should apply to all local governments, not just counties
- Emphasize the availability of County Rangers
- There is too much detail contained in the current practices sections; this should be more general in case details change
- Mention landowners who need education about forestry practices and guidelines
- Unaware landowners can be a potential pitfall in implementing this recommendation. Many people are claiming forestry exemptions for tax purposes but don't realize there are laws associated with forestry practices
- Put together packets of information from the Forestry Association, along with information about local government regulations to send to forestry landowners. Use GIS data to determine who the forestry landowners are. (Sarah will follow up on this issue with Tom Colson.)
- Include SWCS and sedimentation and erosion control staff in the step to educate staff on forestry practices and encourage them to report problems.

- This is an opportunity for University Extension, NC Forestry Association, Farm Bureau to all get involved in education and outreach – they can be used for specific training or educational purposes.
- Orange County has an MOU with their County Ranger office and SWCS office to report problems.
- Include federal agencies, state agencies (e.g., NCDOT), etc. as resources for education or funding

Recommendation #5: Water Quality Monitoring Program

Chris Dreps asked the group to look at the recommendation sheet for the water quality monitoring program strategy. The TAC and partners gave a lot of feedback, which was incorporated immediately. The TAC gave provisional approval to the recommendation sheet (pending approval of the version Sarah will send with the meeting summary). Specific feedback on the draft presented at the meeting included the following:

- Coordinated data sharing and data interoperability is an “impossible” task for local governments
- Consider the usefulness of existing programs and data
- Clarify that Basic Step 1 A, B, and C are OPTIONS; all three do not need to be completed
- Under Basic Step 6, clarify wording by stating we will “select” or “choose” an option, not design a new one, as is currently stated
- It is unclear where data would be stored so all users have access
- Under Basic Step 1, who is the actor of the action? Will the UNRBA WQ monitoring task group establish this?
- Add wording to include biological monitoring (e.g. benthic microinvertebrates, microbial pathogens)
- DWQ’s program is not addressed as existing in the recommendation
- Address the frequency of sampling in Basic Steps 4 and 5

Implementation Planning

Sarah Bruce presented a diagram of the process that is currently being followed for Implementation Planning. She suggested that the UNRBA establish a steering committee to guide implementation planning and reduce the need for the TAC to discuss process-oriented issues at TAC meetings. The Implementation Steering Committee would consist of TAC members, BOD members, and possibly others. The TAC generally agreed this would be a good way to continue planning for implementation.

Standing Meeting Time

Sarah Bruce asked members to place a sticker on a calendar in the back of the room to note when they had existing standing meetings so the TAC could find a suitable time to schedule its standing meeting. It is currently envisioned that the TAC will meet every other month. Given a choice between shorter, more frequent meetings or longer, less frequent meetings, the TAC expressed a preference for the latter. Sarah will contact TAC members not in attendance to determine a good standing meeting time for the TAC, and will notify the TAC via email when a date has been established.