

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee October 2, 2003 Meeting Summary

Prepared October 6, 2003

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 1:30 P.M. on Thursday, October 2, 2003 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. Perry Sugg, TAC Chair, began the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves. Chris Dreps presented the meeting objectives:

- UNRBA Update;
- Site Evaluation Tool Project; and
- Watershed Management Plan Implementation Strategy.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	planning@granvillecounty.org
Mike Coughlin	Wake Co. Env. Services	jcoughlin@co.wake.nc.us
Cam McNutt	NCDWQ	Cam.mcnutt@ncmail.net
George Norris	NCWRP	George.norris@ncmail.net
Paula Murphy	Person County	Pmurphy@personcounty.net
Margaret Hauth	Town of Hillsborough	Margaret.Hauth@hillsboroughnc.org
Perry Sugg	Orange County	Psugg@co.orange.nc.us
Kimberly Brewer	Tetra Tech	Kimberly.Brewer@tetrattech.com
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjco.org
Mary Giorgino	USGS	giorgino@usgs.gov
Ben Hitchings	TJCOG	benh@tjco.org
Wright Lowery	Wake County GIS	wlowery@co.wake.nc.us
Tom Hill	Wake Co. Env. Services	thill@co.wake.nc.us
Rick Rowe	Wake Co. Env. Services	rrowe@co.wake.nc.us
Mitch Woodward	Coop Extension	Mitchell_woodward@ncsu.edu
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest	Scott.miles@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Terry Rolan	Durham Env. Services	Trolan@ci.durham.nc.us
Nancy Newell	Durham Env. Services	

UNRBA Update

USGS Watershed Evaluation Tool

Mary Giorgino updated the TAC on the agreement between US Geological Survey, NC Wetlands Restoration Program, and UNRBA to develop a watershed evaluation tool (WET). This will be a GIS based tool that can be used by local governments, UNRBA, and resource agencies. The WET will automate many important watershed analyses using the USGS National Hydrography Dataset for the Upper Neuse (Mary called this "smart streams"). Applications include TMDL planning, Phase II planning, local

watershed planning (e.g., NC Wetlands Restoration Program), and evaluation of subwatersheds for monitoring and restoration potential.

Some possible functions of the tool:

- ArcView-based
- User-defined, automated watershed delineation
- Consistency of data throughout watershed
- Capability to update – data acquisition/management
- Tracking land use change and impacts in a timely manner
- Capability to use local data
- User-friendly for citizens, local government, other agencies
- Prioritize areas/ Compare
- Automated LU/LC analysis
- Automated impervious cover analysis
- Better identification of potential sources of WQ impairment/degradation and communication of that information between agencies.
- Data Documentation
- Outputs that are transferable (to other ESRI software)
- Crude modeling, (of point-sources, non-point sources)

Natural Heritage Inventories

National Heritage Program hired person to oversee natural heritage inventories and will hire staff member to conduct inventories in Person and Granville Counties. This effort will be an important basis for critical land protection programs.

Watershed Restoration Institute

Chris attended the Center for Watershed Protection Institute in September. The CWP has nationally recognized guidance on watershed restoration planning and implementation. Chris now has access to a website created just for Institute attendees. This site is www.cwp.org/wri.htm. Soon, the CWP's draft Watershed Restoration Manual will be on the site.

LID Pilot Project

Wake County School – Wetlands restoration examining possibility of funding Martin Middle School as potential site in design next year. The UNRBA could use the site as a pilot to test the SET if the tool is in place on time.

Code and Ordinance Review

Over the last year, 10 local governments have completed assessments of their development codes using the Center for Watershed Protection's "Code and Ordinance Review." This review compares ordinances to a list of model development principles for the protection of water resources. Ben Bearden (UNRBA intern) and Chris Dreps have completed a draft paper on the results of these assessments. The paper is under review and will be out soon. For a copy of the draft paper, please contact Chris.

Site Evaluation Tool (SET)

The UNRBA has received notice that we will receive a \$40,000 grant from the State Nonpoint Source Grant Program (319 Program) to create a "Site Evaluation Tool" for use by developers and local governments in the Upper Neuse. The main purpose of the SET is to help the development community and local governments to meet performance standards for new development in the watershed.

Kimberly Brewer summarized the SET (for more details on the SET, see notes from 3-12-03 TAC meeting on www.unrba.org). The SET is a pre-design evaluation and screening, helps a site developer to consider site BMP requirements early in the process, and can facilitate stormwater "low-impact development" and retrofits. However, the SET is not a tool that will determine stormwater design for the site designer. Tetra Tech has worked with Mecklenburg County on development of their SET and is currently working with Cary using the SET to create a town stormwater plan.

Ms. Brewer discussed the project tasks (provided in a handout). Although the grant award will not arrive until 2004, we can get started completing the following tasks.

Task 2: Determine removal efficiency assumptions for a range of possible best management practices using Mecklenburg County and Cary information to start the discussion of our assumptions.

Task 3: UNRBA to decide whether the SET will utilize a hydrology target or will simply use the hydrology output of the tool as an educational tool.

Chris Dreps requested that several UNRBA TAC members be involved in a "SET Task Group" to help guide these and future project tasks as described in the handout. The SET Task Group would communicate primarily by phone and e-mail with Tetra Tech, but would likely be asked to meet when it becomes sensible to do so.

TAC members volunteered themselves and mentioned others who should be involved. These are listed below.

Set Task Group

Bradley Bennett (NCDWQ)

Steve Zoufaly (NCDWQ)

Rich Gannon (NCDWQ)

John Cox (Durham)

Mike Coughlin (Wake County)

Bill Hunt (NCSU WQ group)--for review only

Possible members (not at meeting)-Mark Senior(Raleigh), Betsy Pearce (Cary)

Several members of the development community (later task-Chris Dreps will meet with Raleigh-Wake Co. Homebuilders on Oct. 8 and request participation)

Watershed Management Plan Implementation Strategy

Chris Dreps led a discussion on strategies for implementing the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan.

What is an implementation plan?

- Details how the watershed plan will be put into action.
- Is a means for measuring the plan's success (milestones)
- Is a means of measuring the effectiveness of management strategies
- Holds us to a schedule
- Estimates costs & explores funding mechanisms
- Meets EPA funding guidelines

Chris handed out two draft implementation matrices, one showing the possible components of an Upper Neuse Implementation Planning Process and one showing the possible components of a local government watershed management plan implementation strategy. Chris asked the attendees to look at the matrices and comment on this approach.

In response to the general Upper Neuse Implementation matrix, there were several comments. Terry Rolan stressed that there is lots of monitoring going on (Triangle Water Supply Monitoring Project, NPDES monitoring by surface water dischargers, stormwater monitoring in Durham & Raleigh). These efforts should be included to avoid duplication. To this end, add a column showing what communities are already doing.

Chris stressed that we have the opportunity to develop implementation plans at the local and/or regional level. We should explore this possibility seriously.

Local watershed plans can be used to define implementation strategies. Wetlands Restoration Program has targeted 8 local watersheds in the Upper Neuse for local plans. This can add up to a significant investment in implementing the Upper Neuse Plan, and we should work hard to make sure plans are begun in the coming year. The Wetlands Restoration Program's investment in the Upper Neuse Watershed Evaluation Tool is a significant first step in this direction. We may need to approach Ron Ferrell (NCWRP director) with proposals.

Chris suggested that we go to board with proposal to allow use of remaining state appropriation funds for a detailed implementation plan. If the UNRBA Board agrees, release \$50,000 and create a request for proposals.

Terry Rolan suggested that we look at Treyburn (Flat River watershed) for long term (trend) monitoring as part of the monitoring plan and possibly for a local watershed plan.

Monitoring program – don't try to cover entire basin, develop criteria, and monitor small watershed areas (this is part of the purpose behind the Watershed Evaluation Tool, described earlier).

DWQ has 22 monitoring sites on UNBRA area that could be counted as monitoring. No one is looking at those data on an annual basis.

Chris has already organized some volunteers for a "Watershed Evaluation Tool/Monitoring Plan Task Group". This group will meet about 6-8 times over 1.5 years, guide GIS tool development and data inputs, assist in setting up local training, and assist in analysis of possible monitoring sites. The WET Task Group will begin meeting later this fall.

Wet/Monitoring Task Group

Barry Baker (Granville Co.)
Wright Lowery (Wake Co.)
Kenny Keel (Hillsborough)
Jocelyn Elliot (NCWRP)
Dale Crisp (Raleigh)
Melissa Carle (WRRRI)
Colleen Kiley (CGIA)
Tom Hill (Wake Co.)
Larry Band (UNC-CH)
Scott Miles (Wake Forest)
Cam McNutt (NCDWQ)
Perry Sugg (Orange Co.)
David Meaux (Orange Co.)

Terry Rolan (Durham City) also will be included in this task group.
(For monitoring, we should include Butner and Creedmoor)

Other Task Groups needed in the coming year

Supplemented Funding Task Group

Goal: To assist with EPA Watershed Initiative, Wetland Program Development grant (EPA Region 4, CWMTF, NCWRP (local plans, LID pilot project). Members of this task group could meet with NCWRP (new Environmental Enhancement Program) to determine if they might go along with a watershed plan targeted at protection rather than restoration.

Critical Lands Protection Task Group

Goal: Review Plan, Triangle Greenprint, other sources for possible project proposals, receive reports on Granville & Person County Natural Heritage Inventories, and assist in proposal development.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the UNRBA Board is 1:30 p.m. on October 29, 2003 at the TJCOG office.

Next TAC Meeting

The TAC did not schedule its next meeting, but agreed to meet again after the Board's decision on the implementation planning process.