

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee
DRAFT October 11, 2005 Meeting Summary

Prepared October 12, 2005

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 Wednesday, October 11, 2005 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. The meeting objectives were to:

- Update the TAC on UNRBA projects;
- Inform the TAC about the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy and Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative;
- Decide how the UNRBA TAC can interact with both of the above efforts; and
- Present the draft outline of the Upper Neuse Watershed Implementation Plan.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address or phone
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org
Sarah Bruce	Triangle J Council of Governments	sbruce@tjcog.org
Katie Ertmer	Franklin County Planning	Kertmer@co.franklin.nc.us
Shelby Powell	Kerr-Tar Council of Governments	spowell@kerrtarcog.org
Chris Mankoff	NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program	Chris.Mankoff@ncmail.net
Mark Senior	City of Raleigh Stormwater	Mark.senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Will Autry	Orange Co. Sed. & Erosion Control	wautry@co.orange.nc.us
Amy Hathaway	City of Raleigh Stormwater	amy.hathaway@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	Planning@granvillecounty.org
George Rogers	City of Raleigh	George.Rogers@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Vicki Westbrook	City of Durham	Vicki.westbrook@durhamnc.gov
Michele Hane	City of Raleigh Planning Dept.	michele.hane@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest	scott.miles@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Kelly Williams	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program	kelly.williams@ncmail.net
Joe Pearce	Durham County Engineering	jpearce@co.durham.nc.us

Announcements

Next UNRBA Board meeting—October 19, 2005 at the Downhome Steakhouse in Creedmoor, 11:30 am.

UNRBA TAC Chair

Joe Pearce nominated George Rogers, from the City of Raleigh Public Works Department, to chair the TAC, and Will Autry seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

UNRBA Projects Update

Chris Dreps updated the TAC on UNRBA projects. (For details about specific projects, see the "Projects and Activities" page at www.unrba.org.)

Critical Lands Protection Planning

The UNRBA has delivered the Draft Little River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan to the Eno River Association and will finalize the plan within weeks.

The UNRBA is a partner in the Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative, which seeks to identify and protect lands critical to water quality throughout the Basin.

Watershed Restoration Plans

The UNRBA and partners have identified potential restoration projects as part of the Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan, funded by the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Chris Mankoff has replaced Deborah Amaral as EEP's project manager for the Little Lick Creek project.

UNRBA has won an NC Division of Water Quality 319 grant to do a restoration plan for Lick Creek, another impaired creek in Durham County.

UNRBA is also discussing doing restoration plan for Knap of Reeds Creek with the Tar River Land Conservancy. Chris Dreps agreed to send Barry Baker a brief proposal that would outline what would be involved.

Nutrient Management

The UNRBA and Tetra Tech have completed the draft SET, User Guide, Model Documentation, and have completed one training workshop. The UNRBA and Tetra Tech will conduct a second training workshop for interested local government staff. UNRBA will also develop a web page where SET materials and documentation can be downloaded.

The Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy process is underway. A nutrient response model and a watershed loading model are under development.

Upper Neuse Implementation Planning

Sarah Bruce discussed progress on the Implementation Plan being developed for the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan. As currently envisioned, a major portion the Implementation Plan will be detailed descriptions for each of the 19 recommendations in the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan.

These recommendation sheets are being drafted by Sarah Bruce, Shelby Powell, and Chris Dreps, and reviewed by the various TAC task groups. Once the task groups feel that the major issues for each recommendation have been addressed, Sarah and others will bring the recommendation sheet to the TAC for their discussion and approval. Staff and task groups will make any necessary revisions and the TAC will approve the revised draft over email. (A time period for objections to be submitted will be given, after which the recommendation will be considered provisional.)

The first recommendation Sarah brought before the TAC was Stormwater Control Inspections (recommendation #4). Several comments were made by the TAC:

- Show which of the “Applicable Jurisdictions” are subject to Phase II.
- Ideally, latitude and longitude would be obtained for each BMP, as they can become more difficult to locate with time. George Rogers speculated whether this could be done at the plan review stage to eliminate the costs of a survey crew and GPS equipment. Joe Pearce agreed to ask his GIS staff about this issue.
- Discussion of performance guarantees/bonds/agreements is deficient; these are a very important means to ensuring long-term maintenance.
- The recommendation needs to acknowledge the disparate capabilities for its implementation in Upper Neuse jurisdictions.
- A basic explanation of the benefits of implementing the recommendation is needed to facilitate adoption of new policies and justify new costs.

Staff and reviewers will revise the text of the recommendation sheet to address these comments and will distribute a revised draft to the TAC for their approval via email.

Next, Shelby Powell discussed the recommendation for Targeted Lands Acquisition and Conservation Easements (recommendation #12). This recommendation is strongly contingent upon the Falls Lake Initiative, a project to identify lands critical to water quality in the Upper Neuse watershed and prioritize them for protection (the kickoff meeting of this Initiative is scheduled for October 26 at 10 am in Butner). The TAC approved this recommendation as provisional with no requested changes. Shelby Powell will present this recommendation for possible approval to the UNRBA Board on October 19.

Finally, Sarah Bruce discussed the Adopt-A-Stream and Other Watershed Education Programs recommendation (#13).

- Some members of the TAC felt that .25 FTE was unrealistic for some Upper Neuse jurisdictions, while others felt it should be more. The TAC agreed that staff and reviewers should research how much human resources are currently devoted to educational activities per capita in Phase I communities and make a recommendation based on that information.
- The second “alternative” should be moved to “Basic Implementation Steps” because it is simpler than hiring staff.
- The recommendation needs more information on return on investment; that is, what education staff members do that benefits water quality.

Staff and reviewers will revise the text of the recommendation sheet to address these comments and will distribute a revised draft to the TAC for their approval via email.

The TAC raised several broad issues as a result of the discussion of recommendations 4, 12, and 13.

Regarding costs, it is important to acknowledge the benefits of each recommendation to balance costs. The TAC also discussed the idea of showing various levels of service that could be met with varying degrees of effort.

Regarding prioritization, the plan could use the timing of various milestones as one method of prioritizing areas (for example, stormwater review, practices, and BMP inspections might be a short-term goal in urban areas and a mid-term goal in more rural areas).

Linking Major Upper Neuse Management Efforts

Chris Dreps discussed several current basin-wide planning efforts that will have long-term effects in the Upper Neuse. These are the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy, the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan, and the Falls Lake Land Protection Initiative.

Chris showed a timeline with all the projects along with the state's basinwide planning for the Neuse. The TAC discussed the need to coordinate the second Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (UNWMP2) with the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. It was agreed that timing our efforts with those of the Nutrient Management Strategy is very important, and that delaying our plan to do this may be necessary.

Since George Hunt is leaving the NC DWQ, Chris Dreps will contact other water quality modeling staff and continue following the Falls Lake Nutrient Management process.

The TAC briefly discussed the Falls Lake Initiative and the importance of that project in identifying lands that are critical to the long-term protection of water quality in the Upper Neuse (see discussion of detailed recommendation #12 above). The UNRBA agrees that UNWMP 2 should assess the long term benefits of protecting the lands prioritized by the Falls Lake Initiative.

In general, the TAC agreed that the following are local government interests in the Upper Neuse.

1. Local governments should have a say in the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy
2. We should be sure that data and modeling are sound and include all the available information
3. The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan should be consistent with and complementary to the Nutrient Management Strategy
4. The Falls Lake Initiative should focus on all water resources in the Upper Neuse

Chris Dreps presented a slide showing how the UNWMP 2 might be written to address some of these concerns.

1. Use the Falls Lake Nutrient Management model, allocations, and strategy
2. Create additional nutrient management recommendations for other reservoirs
3. Model future management scenarios
 - a. New existing or proposed regulations
 - b. Falls Lake Initiative Critical Lands Protection Analysis
 - c. Restoration plans for impaired and degraded watersheds
4. Include the Implementation Plan

Next TAC Meeting

UNRBA will schedule the next TAC meeting for early November via email.