

[Home](#) [About UNRBA](#) [About the Upper Neuse River Basin](#)

[Projects & Activities](#) [Meetings](#) [Major Issues](#) [Links](#)



Technical Advisory Committee
December 10, 2002

Prepared December 11, 2002

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 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 in the Triangle J Council of Governments conference room. Chris Dreps began the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves. He then presented the meeting objectives:

- Nominate a chair for the Technical Advisory Committee;
- Supplemental funding update;
- Draft Plan Update - Septic System issue;
- Draft Plan Update - Wetlands and Riparian Analysis; and,
- Next Steps in Implementation.

Meeting attendees are listed below:

Name	Organization	E-mail Address or Phone
Becky Heron	Durham County Commission (UNRBA Board)	919-489-4402
Jimmy Clayton	Person County (UNRBA Board)	336-364-8520
Ken Krulik	Kerr-Tar COG	kkruklik@kerrtarco.org
Steve Carpenter	Person County	scarpenter@personcounty.nc.us
Derek Day	Person County Cooperative Extension	derek_day@ncsu.edu
Trevor Clements	Tetrattech	trevor.clements@tetrattech.com
Rick Bailey	Wake County	jrbailey@co.wake.nc.us

William Sun	City of Durham	919-560-4381
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest	scott.miles@ci.wake-forest.nc.us
Watson Brown	City of Raleigh Planning	brownw@raleigh-nc.org
Cam McNutt	NC Division of Water Quality	cam.mcnutt@ncmail.net
Marti Gibson	City of Raleigh	919-890-3400
Paul Wiebke	City of Durham Stormwater	919-560-4326
George Norris	NC Watershed Restoration Program	george.norris@ncmail.net
Paula Murphy	Person County Planning	pmurphy@personcounty.net
John Cox	City of Durham Stormwater	jcox@ci.durham.nc.us
Mark Senior	City of Raleigh Stormwater	mark.senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Chris Dreps	UNRBA	dreps@tjcog.org

Nomination of a TAC Chairperson

Responsibilities:

- Assists program planning and conservation
- Attends meeting (including Board Meetings)
- Communicates TAC recommendations to the Board
- Insures meeting minutes are taken
- Provides guidance to UNRBA Coordinator on local government issues

Comments:

Watson Brown noted that the first chair represented large urban city. The second, a rural area. Should an effort be made to look for a representative from small town or urban county?

Becky Heron - Responsibilities not as time consuming as when Watson provided all coordination because of the current Executive Director/Coordinator position.

John Cox added that the Chairperson should be someone from an entity not fully supporting all recommendations in the plan so it would ensure concerns are addressed.

Nominations:

- Keith Luck (by Watson Brown)
- Perry Sugg (by group discussion)

Recommendations made to formalize role and term so that it has defined time limit for considering commitment. Chris Dreps will:

- contact both Keith Luck and Perry Sugg, and
- begin working on a formalization of the TAC Chair roles and term length (2 years).

Supplemental Funding Possibilities

Watershed Initiative (EPA)

- Chris reported that Upper Neuse application was not selected by the Governor's administration for nomination to EPA (Cape Fear River Program and Ross near Asheville)
- However, good things came out of the process
- DWQ awareness raised, suggested other grant possibilities such as 319 grants (EPA Nonpoint Source Grants administered through NC Div. Of Water Quality). The Supplemental Funding Task Group will meet with Sean Groom (Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator) to discuss our potential projects.

North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund

Chris will meet with Nancy Guthrie from NCCWMTF to discuss funding possibilities for specific UNRBA/local government projects. (The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17)

Triangle Community Foundation (Strategic Impact Grants)

- Online match between fund sponsor and recipient

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program

- Has committed at least \$50,000 match toward Natural Heritage Inventories in Granville & Person Counties. The key is to get matching funds of \$50,000 and local support in contacting landowners.

DWQ has links to funding websites, and Chris will continue looking at possible sources to share with the Supplemental Funding Task Group (Terry Rolan, Becky Heron, Janet Cowell, George Norris).

Draft Plan Update

Chris reviewed the following recommendations made by the TAC in February of 2002:

- Make document revisions (first round done)
- Presented revision to Executive Committee (done)

Next:

- Want Director release of the plan for submittal to their own Boards.
- Hold jurisdictional forums for introduction to Plan (work sessions).
- Potentially multi-jurisdictional discussions by specific watersheds.
- Link the plan with the state's basin wide planning timeline.

The question is: How do we move forward to release the plan? What's needed to address critical issues?

Performance standards

- more discussion on NAP loading estimates

Peak flow Management

- refine recommendations to specify design criteria

Septic Tank Inspection

- too general? Target more strategically?

Inclusion of SW retrofits

- currently missing from the Draft Plan

Education program

- could this be shared among jurisdictions to defray costs?

Rick Bailey commented that Wake County was bogged down regarding agreement on details and decided to keep recommendations at level of consensus. The UNRBA should consider this approach to dealing with the difficult issues. Chris Dreps agreed that this is one possible effective strategy considering our preferred time frame of document finalization (early 2003).

Septic System Recommendations

Chris Dreps began a discussion of the septic system recommendation in the Draft Plan.

The recommendation in the Draft Plan (p.46) states:

Requirements for Individual Septic Systems: Inspect septic systems every five years to ensure that they are properly functioning. On average, this would mean inspecting 20% of all septic systems in the County annually. Require that homeowners repair or replace failing systems. (Local Health Code may need to be revised to require this inspections and maintenance program.)

Recommended Implementation: Local

Chris discussed the local government concerns that have arisen from this recommendation. See the meeting notes from the 9-17-02 TAC meeting to review local staff and board comments.

The Monitory & Enforcement task group (John Cox, Ellen Reckhow, Jimmy Clayton, Cam McNutt) held its first meeting Dec. 3, dealing with the septic system issue. Staff from the county health departments and NCSU Cooperative Extension attended the meeting (for notes, see www.unrba.org/meetings.htm). The meeting was very productive, and many recommendations for potential changes came out of it.

The potential recommendations from this group are:

- **Sending out educational materials/maintenance reminders (Durham County Environmental Resources) or mailing operators permits to homeowners;**
- **Educating and certifying inspectors, permitters, installers of septic systems (i.e. testing and certification programs such as the National Sanitation Foundation and the State Certified Operator Program--many such as lenders and local governments want this);**
- **Risk-based strategies for assessment and management (protecting water supply watershed or other environmentally-sensitive areas);**
- **Monitoring all sand filter systems (Orange County);**
- **Data needed to back up recommendations (ie, Wake County's recommendation); Utility for septic systems;**
- **Specific legislation for our area such as the Albemarle Management Program that helps landowners deal with management and repair costs;**
- **Requiring delayed inspections within 6-9 months of a new home sale (home still under warranty);**
- **Requiring inspections at the time of home resale (consumer protection issue & many lenders already do this);**
- **Requiring hook ups to municipal systems at time of sale if the municipal system is available.**

Trevor Clements added that the Draft Plan's septic system analysis considers proximity and transport and assumes a 10%-20% failure rate. He made the point that, regardless of our lack of data, we should understand that septic systems represent a water quality problem in the Upper Neuse. Mr. Clements recommended that we should seriously consider alternative technologies.

Wetlands & Riparian Analysis

Chris presented the results from an analysis that will replace the Draft Plan language on pp.33-35. The analysis considers:

- Potential wetlands for protection--Wetlands defined in the Falls Lake Functional Assessment as "High Water Quality Function".
- Potential wetlands for restoration--Wetlands identified in the Falls Lake Functional Assessment as "High Water Quality Function" and that have been cleared and drained.
- Potential riparian areas for protection--Riparian areas identified in the Triangle J's Riparian Blueprint as warranting special protection for water quality protection, ecosystem integrity, and recreational/educational use.
- Potential riparian areas for restoration--Non-forested riparian areas of at least 3000 feet in length and 100 feet in width.

This analysis provides better information for local governments regarding wetlands for protections, restoration, also available for riparian areas. The analyses and results are summarized in the table below.

Hydrologic Unit (last 5 digits)	Potential Wetland Restoration (acres & % total)	Potential Wetlands for Protection (acres & % total)	Potential Stream & Riparian Restoration (miles & % total)	Potential Riparian Protection (miles & % total)
10010	20.7 (12%)	152 (88%)	7.5 (6%)	35.4 (28%)
10020	0 (0%)	106 (82%)	7.5 (4%)	38.8 (21%)
10030	0.05 (0.1%)	33 (76%)	6.8 (14%)	16.7 (36%)
10040	0.1 (0%)	338 (95%)	2.3 (2%)	17.6 (16%)
10050	1.5 (0.2%)	184 (28%)	2.2 (2%)	32.8 (35%)
20010	0.1 (0%)	290 (80%)	3.3 (3%)	35.3 (35%)
20020	0.5 (0.2%)	197 (98%)	4.3 (4%)	42.3 (35%)
20030	0 (0%)	23 (61%)	0.3 (1%)	12.6 (48%)
20040	2.6 (0.3%)	274 (31%)	9.7 (10%)	28.5 (29%)
30010	0 (0%)	136 (87%)	7.9 (8%)	24.9 (26%)
30020	0 (0%)	130 (89%)	6.2 (5%)	47.6 (39%)
30030	0 (0%)	31 (79%)	14.8 (10%)	45.3 (31%)
30040	2.2 (3.7%)	21 (36%)	12.0 (15%)	25.7 (31%)
30050	0.3 (0%)	227 (21%)	6.4 (12%)	14.5 (27%)
40010	7.1 (3.1%)	162 (70%)	3.5 (3%)	24.8 (23%)

40020	0.2 (0%)	198 (14%)	4.3 (9%)	14.1 (31%)
50010	4.6 (0.2%)	727 (37%)	32.1 (23%)	37.1 (27%)
50020	3.9 (0.5%)	274 (39%)	12.1 (13%)	28.6 (30%)
50030	0 (0%)	405 (71%)	1.8 (2%)	23.3 (27%)
60010	3.4 (0.1%)	1231 (44%)	11.0 (5%)	53.4 (24%)
60020	27.0 (1.2%)	1217 (52%)	4.2 (2%)	67.6 (32%)
65010	0 (0%)	199 (44%)	1.5 (2%)	16.5 (19%)
65020	0 (0%)	153 (72%)	1.2 (2%)	21.5 (30%)
65030	0 (0%)	299 (73%)	2.6 (3%)	30.2 (29%)
65040	0 (0%)	40 (35%)	2.4 (5%)	13.1 (30%)

Next steps

Finally, the group discussed the need to get to consensus on issues of contention such as this one. Chris Dreps agreed that the TAC should hold a meeting at the end of January to reach consensus on several of the Draft Plan's recommendations. Chris will send out issue briefs on the following issues beginning in early January:

- Recommendation on Septic Systems
- Performance Standards Recommendations
- Peak-flow management
- Wetlands and Riparian Analysis to replace existing one (pp.33-35)
- Potential recommendation for stormwater retrofits

The TAC agreed to meet again in January to finalize these recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.