

UNRBA Technical Advisory Committee April 16, 2009 Meeting Summary

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 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at the Water Management Administration & Maintenance Facility in Durham.

Meeting agenda:

- Agenda & Introductions
- Announcements & Project Updates
- Focus Areas
- Local Management Strategy Reviews
- Rec. Sheet #3: Enhanced Peak Flow Controls
- Break
- Rec. Sheet #1: New Development Nutrient Reduction
- LID strategy
- Gap Analysis Methodology
- Next Steps

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Organization	E-mail address
Mark Senior	City of Raleigh Stormwater	Mark.Senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Amy Hathaway	City of Raleigh Stormwater	amy.hathaway@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Kenny Waldroup	City of Raleigh Public Utilities	Kenneth.Waldroup@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Scott Miles	Town of Wake Forest Planning	smiles@wakeforestnc.gov
Terry Hackett	Orange County Erosion Control	THackett@co.orange.nc.us
Margaret Hauth	Town of Hillsborough Planning	margaret.hauth@hillsboroughnc.org
Melinda Clark	Wake County Environmental Services	melinda.clark@co.wake.nc.us
Barry Baker	Granville County Planning	planning@granvillecounty.org
Melissa Hodges	Town of Butner Planning	planning@butnenc.org
Haywood Phthistic	Lower Neuse River Basin Association	haywood.phthistic@johnstonnc.com
Scott Hammerbacher	Franklin County Planning	shammerbacher@franklincountync.us
Gail Bledsoe	NC Division of Forest Resources	gail.bledsoe@ncmail.net
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham Water Management	Reginald.Hicks@durhamnc.gov
Sarah Bruce	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	sbruce@tjcog.org
Heather Saunders	Upper Neuse River Basin Association	hsaunders@tjcog.org

Announcements

Sarah talked about the Upper Neuse River Basin Water Credits (Senate Bill 1020, proposed by Senator Stein) and provided the bill text. The bill is designed to provide credits to jurisdictions that implement early adoption of stormwater controls.

A TAC member asked DENR had requested the extension for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Kenny Waldroup reported that he had not seen it appear in the “Clean-up” bill addressing administrative aspects of code. The group discussed enforcement if the timeline isn’t followed and how, in general, third-party lawsuits or the Environmental Management Commission enforces.

A TAC member asked for an example of a credit. A TAC member provided the example of local governments implementing stormwater standards when they don’t have to or ahead of schedule. The TAC then discussed timeframes for scheduled compliance. S1020 would extend the timeline by two years if early measures were adopted. Sarah says that it is possible that there would be limitations on what activities could be credited. Sarah will investigate details, monitor the bill, and keep the UNRBA Board and TAC up to date.

UNRBA Projects Update

Heather provided an update of the **Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan** and indicated the project and plan will be completed by September 2009. Heather also provided a description and some background on the **Upper Neuse EEP Phase IV Project** that is now underway. TAC members were encouraged to review and add to lists of restoration project opportunities (“Atlases”), under development for Ledge Creek, Lick Creek, Little Lick Creek, and Ellerbe Creek in the Upper Neuse Basin, as well as Swift Creek in Wake County.

Barry Baker asked about the outcome of UNRBA’s Section 319 grant application to do a restoration plan for the Knap of Reeds watershed. Sarah explained that the NC Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) elected not to fund the project because they felt that their existing watershed studies in this area were sufficient at the time. The NCDWQ is no longer assigning bio-classifications to streams within the Triassic Basin due to a lack of understanding of macroinvertebrate ecology in the highly erosive soils of this region.

Sarah provided an update on the **Falls Lake NMS Stakeholder Process**. The May 21 meeting will be an overview of water quality modeling and the June 18 meeting would present the results of the water quality modeling done by NCDWQ. Sarah encouraged members stay involved from this point forward and to rejoin the process if they had not been participating. Sarah suggested that the help of the Falls DWQ TAC may be useful to help guide us in preparing scenarios for DWQ to model.

Focus Areas

Sarah first reviewed the Implementation Planning process diagram. The first step of this process is to flesh out the strategies recommended in the Management Plan into Recommendation Sheets, which include some preliminary considerations regarding “focus areas” to indicate where a strategy may be especially beneficial.

Sarah has been gathering GIS data depicting characteristics relevant to Focus Areas. Sarah requested updated GIS information, such as water and sewer infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure mapping, etc. (due to the large scale of the mapping, service areas would be represented as polygons and would not pose a security concern).

UNRBA participants are invited to weigh in on Focus Areas and data related to them via the blog, <http://unrba.wordpress.com>.

Local Management Strategy Reviews

Sarah has been generating templates for Local Management Strategy Reviews for each strategy based on the Recommendation Sheets. All of the LMSR templates are available on the website under "Strategy-Specific Documents." Sarah will be working with local government staff to complete the applicable LMSRs for each jurisdiction in the coming months.

Recommendation Sheet #3: Enhanced Peak Flow Controls

Enhanced Peak Flow Controls is the third component of New Development Site Management in the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan, to be implemented in conjunction with with riparian buffers and nutrient controls.

Mark Senior said that most communities have exemptions for smaller (< 1 acre) developments; thresholds may differ based on land use (industrial and commercial tend to have higher levels of impervious cover for a given lot size). The group discussed various thresholds and exemptions, as well as the need to clarify that the intent is to address the difference between the pre- and post-development conditions. Sarah will have the document's reviewers hash out the wording to address these concerns and will bring a revised document back to the TAC for their approval.

Recommendation Sheet #1: Nutrient Reduction for New Development

Sarah reported that the Recommendation Sheet had not been substantially updated since the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) stakeholder process began. The modeling for the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan did not show that Falls Lake would exceed 40 ug/L in the lower portion. The group discussed the utility of keeping the two types of zones and attendant standards for new development, and the TAC decided that the Conservation Zones were still applicable to protecting local water supplies and that the Falls NMS would set standards for protection of Falls Lake. Sarah agreed to amend the document to reflect this sentiment.

LID Strategy

The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan recommended a strategy of all local governments adopting ordinance language to support use of Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques for new development. It had been set aside since it was deemed infeasible at first; some aspects of this strategy had been encapsulated in the Recommendation Sheet for LID Education. The TAC felt that it was appropriate at this time to give the LID strategy the full treatment in the Implementation Planning process because knowledge of how to implement LID has progressed substantially since the Plan was drafted (for example, the statewide LID guidebook will be available shortly).

Point Source Strategies

Sarah asked about the applicability of the point source strategies recommended in the Plan at this time. Since not all wastewater dischargers are doing tertiary treatment, this strategy is still applicable and worth fleshing out further.

Gap Analysis Methodology

Sarah discussed how the Local Management Strategy Reviews would be simplified to determine whether the strategy was being implemented or not in each area of the Basin. This determination will be made preliminarily by UNRBA staff, with subsequent discussions within the UNRBA membership to confirm.

The results of this LMSR analysis of the state of program implementation will be overlaid with the Focus Areas maps to determine where in the Basin strategies are needed but not being implemented. Once we know where the gaps are, we can bring organizational resources to address these gaps.

Next Steps

Sarah said that it would be appropriate to present the results of the Gap Analysis to local governments. UNRBA staff will also continue to coordinate with the Falls Lake NMS stakeholder process on watershed management strategies, related legislation, and stakeholder involvement.