

Path Forward Committee Meeting January 7, 2020



Agenda

- Opening comments
- Submittal of UNRBA Decision Framework to Board
- Submittal of UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program Description to the Board
- Status Updates
 - Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
 - Monitoring Program Status
- Other status items

UNRBA Decision Framework Development

Decision to Submit UNRBA Decision Framework to the Board

- The PFC discussed final edits to the UNRBA Decision Framework during the December 3, 2019 PFC meeting.
- Final edits to the document were distributed to the PFC on December 11, 2019 for comment by December 18.
- Updates were made in response to comments.
- The PFC to review the final version during the January PFC meeting and decide if the document should be submitted to the Board for review at the January 15, 2019 Board meeting and adopted as a guidance document for the UNRBA.
- Recent changes
 - Edited to “timely” feedback from stakeholders is critical to the success of the UNRBA
 - Added a reference to the majority opinion
 - Updated progress and potential workflow of example decisions in Table 1

Decision by the PFC on whether or not to submit the document to the Board and recommend its adoption by the UNRBA.

Interim Alternative Implementation Approach Program Description

Status of the UNRBA Stage I ED IAIA Program Description

- The IAIA Workgroup developed a draft Program Description for an interim alternative implementation approach (IAIA) for Stage I Existing Development (ED).
- The draft Program Description was distributed to the PFC for review on December 11, 2019.
- Final, written comments on the Program Description were due from the PFC by December 18, 2019.
- A revised draft was distributed to the PFC for final review at during the January PFC meeting.

Decision to Submit UNRBA Stage I ED IAIA to the Board

- It is requested that the PFC recommend that the Board authorize the process of exploring regulatory options for putting an IAIA in place
- Following PFC review, updated report and recommendation to the Board would occur at the March Board meeting.
- Board action in January is not approval of a final IAIA nor is it a commitment by member(s) to participate in the IAIA, rather it would allow the UNRBA to move forward with developing additional program detail and identify the implementation approach
- The Board will have final approval on the actual program provisions, authorize putting the program in place
- If a program is approved and put in place, the UNRBA members individually would then determine if they are to participate in the program.

Decision by the PFC on whether or not to submit the document to the Board with a recommendation to explore additional details

Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status

MRS Status

- The Modeling Team is finalizing the land use data for input into the recent modeling period (2014 to 2018) which includes data from
 - NC Department of Agriculture
 - NC Department of Transportation
 - USGS National Land Cover Data (NLCD) for 2006, 2011, and 2016 for designation of developed areas as
 - Existing development
 - New development
 - Interim development
- Preliminary hydrologic calibration indicate the model is performing well; progress continues
- UNRBA 319 pre-application was submitted in December for 319 grant to support revisions to watershed model code
- The next Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup meeting is scheduled for February 4th before the PFC meeting during which preliminary calibration results will be shared.

Monitoring Program Status

Previous Discussions on Revisions to the Transition Monitoring Program

- The PFC discussed several options for the program ranging from discontinuing the program to expanding the program
- For reference, the current program includes the following
 - Monthly sampling, no field parameters
 - 12 stations: total phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total ammonia, and total nitrate+nitrite
 - 6 stations: total organic carbon
 - Cost is \$44,000 per year
- PFC members indicated the need to discuss the options with local decision makers to inform a decision

PFC discussion of local input

Review of the RRC Meeting Results

Review of the RRC Meeting Results

- The Executive Director, Don O'Toole and Dan McLawhorn attended the December 19, 2019 Meeting of the RRC and presented the UNRBA's comments and objection to the provision in the nutrient offset rule to reference Falls Lake specifically.
- This addition to the rule is in conflict with the Session Law and represents a potential cost to jurisdictionally owned WWTPs in the watershed in the future implementation of the provisions of the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy.
- The results of this meeting and the decision of the RRC will be reviewed.

Other Status Items

Budget Adoption Schedule for FY2021

Communications

- Planning continues for the upcoming regulatory forum scheduled for February 12, 2020
- Assistance is needed from the UNRBA membership to promote attendance by decision makers
- Other communication work products pending

Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items

- MOA for re-examination
- 303(d)
- 2019 UNRBA Data Report meeting
- Site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria

Release of Final Report on Jordan Lake by the UNC Collaboratory

Next BOD Meeting

January 15, 2020, 9:30 AM to Noon
Butner Town Hall

Next MRSW Meeting

February 4, 2020, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Butner Town Hall

Next PFC Meeting

February 4, 2020, 10:40 AM to 1:00 PM
Butner Town Hall

Closing Comments

Additional Discussion