

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
November 1, 2022, **9:00 AM to 11:30 AM**
In Person Meeting with Option for Remote Access Via Teams (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the PFC Meeting has been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [UNRBA Meetings Page](#). A direct link to the meeting presentation for the November 1, 2022, meeting is provided here: [PFC November 1, 2022 PowerPoint Presentation](#).

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

II. PFC / MRSW Meeting Time

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): A PFC member has recently been assigned to a local government meeting that is in conflict with the PFC meeting time. The member request consideration of moving the day (or time). A poll was distributed to the PFC regarding availability of members to move the day and/or time of the meeting. The PFC will discuss.

III. FY2024 Budget Discussion

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA will complete most of its modeling and scenario development by June 2023 (this fiscal year). The UNRBA is proceeding toward developing its recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy by the end of 2023 (1st half of FY2024). Additional external stakeholder review (e.g., EPA Region 4) and associated modeling and discussions will likely occur in FY2024. Developing draft recommendations and responding to DWR input on the recommendations will be an important component of FY2024 as well as other stakeholders. For budget planning, the Executive Director recommends maintaining the current funding level for modeling, regulatory support, and communications support. The PFC will discuss.

IV. Review Year 1 Summary Report for Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Implementation of the IAIA began July 1, 2021, and year one of the program ended June 30, 2022. Press releases were developed for the UNRBA and the jurisdictions (template). Annual reports from participants reflecting first-year investment commitments were submitted to DWR to assess individual compliance. Copies were provided to the UNRBA CGC for summary reporting. The Executive Director will provide a cover letter and final summary tables to the CGC for review and approval of submittal to DWR. Preliminary draft summary tables will be reviewed by the PFC.

V. Modeling Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality and the draft modeling report submitted to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) for review. The modeling team is compiling and responding to comments to prepare a draft for review by the PFC followed by formal submittal to DWR.

The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model) are being developed considering the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). Final calibration of the WARMF Lake model will be presented to the MRSW during the November 1st meeting (following today's PFC meeting). The modeling team is planning a workshop with DWR and UNRBA

members interested in running the WARMF model to train users on the new model interface and the set up for Falls Lake. The model team has also been working with the SMEs and DWR to continue to develop the EFDC model, and another meeting is scheduled for November 17th. Final calibration of the EFDC model will be presented to the MRSW during the December 6th meeting. The lake modeling report is under development, and the modeling team is working with the SMEs and DWR to develop graphical output formats that visualize the uncertainty associated with the lake water quality data. The modeling team will continue to reach out to Collaboratory-funded researchers to consider and supplement the extensive database developed by the UNRBA, our members, and DWR. The modeling effort has included extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward.

VI. Implementation Plan and Stakeholder Engagement for High Rock Lake

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The first stakeholder meeting for the High Rock Lake implementation plan was held on September 29, 2022. The process is anticipated to take approximately 2 years to develop draft rules. The Executive Team will track this process and provide updates to the UNRBA as needed.

VII. Developing Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has been meeting with DEQ and DWR leadership to discuss coordination efforts to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. DWR will identify a contact for standards development. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well. The subject matter experts continue to evaluate other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards. Coordinate with Dr. Marty Lebo to integrate his work into the statistical modeling and regulatory support efforts. The UNRBA has compiled preliminary concepts for developing the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy by December 2023. The PFC will review the preliminary concepts and discuss the timeline for developing a draft concepts document, engaging an expanded list of stakeholders, and addressing administration of a revised strategy.

VIII. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): On October 17, 2022, American Rivers hosted a celebration along the Neuse River in Goldsboro, NC to announce the selection of the Neuse River as their River of the Year for 2022. This event highlighted the progress made in terms of nutrient management, acknowledged the efforts of the Upper and Lower Neuse Basin Associations, and provided a call to action to address climate change, flooding impacts, and environmental justice.

There are several items of outreach that are underway including the continued engagement with DWR. The UNRBA is also planning for the WARMF Model Training with DWR in late winter 2022, the Technical Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for early winter 2023, a workshop with local government communications staff scheduled for spring 2023, a workshop with DWR/NC Policy Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management strategy planned for spring 2023, a joint symposium with NC Policy Collaboratory planned for early summer 2023, and a Stakeholder workshop to discussed the final recommendations for draft strategy in the fall of 2023.

Recent staff changes at member local governments highlight the need for UNRBA engagement from multiple staff across the levels of each local government. The Executive Director will continue to reach out to local

government staff to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program and participation in developing the revised nutrient management strategy.

The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings is a key component of a transparent communications approach. We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking member input to help identify needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

IX. Other Status Items

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Brief statements on ongoing activities:

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.—we plan to address in our follow-up meetings with DEQ/DWR

X. Future Meeting Protocols

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The Executive Director will continue to track conditions and coordinate changes as needed.

XI. Closing Comments— Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

Next MRSW Meeting: November 1, 2022, Follows this PFC Meeting, 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Next BOD Meeting: November 16, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next PFC Meeting: December 6, 2022, schedule to be determined

Remote Access Instructions for the MRSW and PFC Meetings

This meeting will open 10 minutes prior to the official meeting start time to allow for users to test equipment and ensure communication methods are functioning.

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	Press control and click on this link to bring up Microsoft Teams through the internet. You can view the screen share and communicate through your computer's speakers and microphone.
Computers without audio capabilities, or audio that is not working	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Follow instructions above. Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone , dial the number through your phone and enter the passcode.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961#	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.

Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your microphone, and turn down your speakers to avoid feedback
- Unless you are speaking, please mute your computer/device microphone or phone microphone to minimize background noise