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**Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda**  
March 5, 2024, 9:30 AM  
Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room

Materials related to the PFC Meeting will be placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise: [UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

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

**II. Proposed Budget for FY 2025**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): At the January 2024 PFC meeting, the PFC reviewed potential scope items for FY2025. Supporting the rules readoption process will require significant effort and technical support throughout the process. The UNRBA will remain committed to working through rules readoption with DWR and the staff responsible for developing revised rules. In addition, the UNRBA will proceed with working on getting a specific 303(d) assessment methodology for Falls Lake and for continuing the evaluation of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. The PFC had a special, virtual meeting February 27, 2024 to discuss the scope of work and proposed budget for FY2025. The scope of work and budget were revised as needed following this meeting. At the March 5, 2024 PFC meeting, the PFC will consider action to support the proposed budget for consideration by the Board of Directors at their meeting on March 20, 2024.

**III. Draft Content for the Updated UNRBA Website**

Item Summary (Alix Matos, Raj Laddha): The UNRBA has contracted with River Delta Consulting to merge and update the two UNRBA websites. PFC members previously provided input on content to retain from the two existing websites. The UNRBA communications team has developed draft content for the website pages. PFC Co-Chairs and communications staff from the City of Durham have reviewed and provided comment on the draft content. The website developer has provided input on how the content could be organized on the new website. A mockup of the Home page for the website and the draft content pages were distributed to the PFC ahead of the meeting. The proposed organizational layout of content will be presented for PFC discussion and input. The contractor would like to begin coding the organization of the website soon. He has indicated that edits to text, graphics, and photos can occur as the site is built. The PFC is invited to send photographs, graphics, etc. of beneficial water quality projects, natural resource areas in the watershed, preservation sites, uses of Falls Lake, etc. for inclusion on the website. The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the Association's technical website. The current contract for website updates is \$20,000. After the contractor has reviewed the draft material developed by UNRBA, he will assess if additional funds will be needed. At their September 2023 meeting, the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. If an amendment to the contract is needed, the Board will consider this at their March meeting.

**IV. Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process (Led by DWR)**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA submitted the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#) to DWR and the EMC on November 22, 2023. The NC Collaboratory submitted their final report in December 2023. These submittals trigger the initiation of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process led by the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR). The PFC will be

briefed on recent meetings with DWR Planning staff regarding next steps and planning for the rules readoption process. The PFC will also be briefed on upcoming meetings with the UNRBA Board of Directors, DWR Planning staff, or subject matter experts.

**V. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status**

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA has submitted the final watershed modeling report and watershed modeling files to DWR and EMC. The UNRBA has also submitted lake modeling files for two of three lake models (WARMF and EFDC). The third lake model (statistical/Bayesian) is under development. Draft report components for WARMF Lake, EFDC, and the input data for the statistical model were provided to the PFC, DWR, and subject matter experts in October through December 2023. Initial comments on these files were requested by January 23, 2024. The modeling team is responding to these comments. DWR is reviewing the draft report, WARMF Lake, and EFDC model files. The UNRBA will submit the lake report and appendices to DWR for review and approval under Falls Lake Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0275 following this initial review process.

Final development of the statistical model continues and the reporting appendix is under development. Model input data is summarized in the main lake report. Segment boundaries for the statistical model have been revised to align with available data and analysis by Marty Lebo discussed by the PFC at their November 2023 meeting; the revised draft of the main lake report will summarize the lake data using the revised segments. The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Nathan Hall to continue serving as a subject matter expert on statistical model development. The team met February 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the preliminary statistical model structure and how to match water quality samples collected at different stations and time in Falls Lake. This information will be reviewed during the PFC meeting along with some preliminary data correlations.

**VI. Evaluation of Falls Lake Specific Assessment Methodology and Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): As presented at the February PFC, Dr. Marty Lebo provided a final report on the initial work provided under his current agreement. A small amount of budget was not used, and he is continuing work to support the UNRBA using those funds. As noted, there are some key considerations that need additional assessment to help support a specific Falls Lake 303(d) assessment methodology and to continue developing information on a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria for the Lake. Dr. Lebo's February PFC presentation of his [initial evaluations](#) is being provided for your reference. Dr. Lebo is coordinating with the statistical modeling effort, and his work supports this effort. We greatly appreciate that the NC Collaboratory is providing additional funding to Dr. Nathan Hall to evaluate and provide input on some of the ecological processes in Falls Lake (including algal species and edibility of higher trophic level organisms).

**VII. Communications Support**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues to focus on our primary priority: coordination with DWR and stakeholders in the development of a revised management strategy through the rules review process. Noting that two additional goals remain under consideration: modifications of the 303(d) water quality assessment method for chlorophyll-a in Falls Lake, and the development of a proposed site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria. The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues and will become even more important in 2024 and FY 2025. Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff,

researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned. We continue to urge our jurisdictions to identify additional communication needs and to request support from the UNRBA team as needed.

Specific activities:

- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process
- Participation in a synthesis workshop with NC Collaboratory researchers regarding the overall relationships between the findings of various research studies completed and how those relationships relate to the rules readoption process and the regulatory framework for Falls Lake
- Planning for a Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference March 20 and 21, 2024
- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.

The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We always encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about issues related to the Association’s work and to provide ideas and identify opportunities to better communicate our work, increase input on the UNRBA’s recommendations for a revised strategy and water quality assessment of Falls Lake.

#### VIII. Other Status Items

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

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.
- DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed
- Inquiries and Issues Regarding Nutrient Credits
- Jordan Lake rules readoption process
- Interviews by researchers at the Science and Technologies for Phosphorus Sustainability ([STEPS](#))— Lead Researcher, Jay Rickabaugh. Appalachian State University, to provide some comments

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

**Next BOD Meeting: March 20, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon**

**Next PFC Meeting: April 2, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon**

**This schedule may be revised, and notices will be provided about any change.**



## Remote Access Instructions for PFC Meetings

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Computers without audio capabilities, or audio that is not working	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	Follow instructions above. <b>Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone</b> , 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. <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>

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