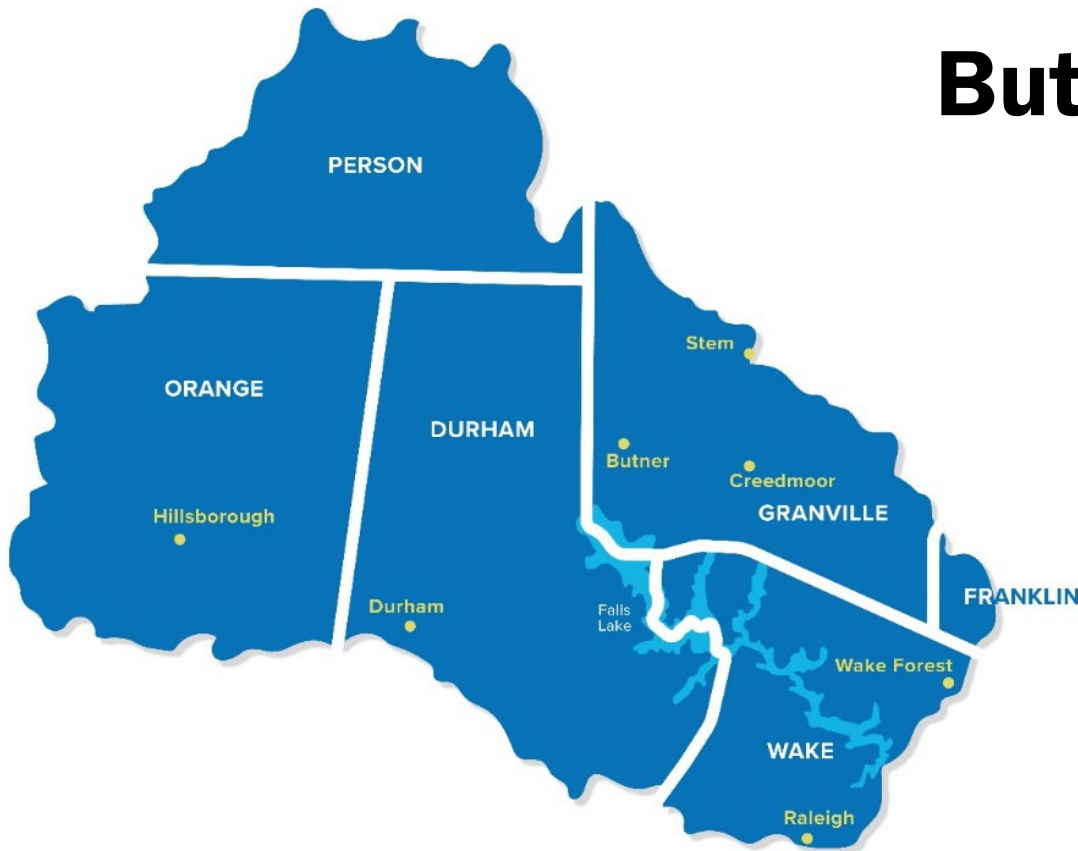




UNRBA Board Meeting May 15, 2024

Butner Town Hall



May 15, 2024, UNRBA Board Agenda

- **Opening—Sig Hutchinson, Chair**
- **Action Items**
 - Approval of March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - Approval of the Treasurer's Report
- **Status Reports and Informational Items**
 - Status of Proposed Legislative Change
 - Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process (Led by DWR)
 - DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed
 - Updating the UNRBA Technical Website
 - Modeling and Regulatory Support Status and Evaluating a Falls Lake Assessment Methodology Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard
 - Communications
 - Ongoing Discussions/Issues
- **Closing Comments**

Opening—Wendy Jacobs

Opening

- Introductions, Board member changes, and announcements
- Roll call for quorum
- Identification of any conflicts
- Review and approval of agenda

Action Items of UNRBA Board of Directors

Approval of Draft Minutes for March 20, 2024

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

**Upper Neuse River Basin Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report**

5/6/2024

Balance Forward: (per bank statement - 2/29/2024)	Checking	\$	160,723.58
	Savings		1,212,318.49
Debits:			
McGill Asso. (2024 Invs)		\$	34,832.88
Brown & Caldwell (MRS, FY 2024 Invs)			34,830.64
MFG Consulting, LLC (2024 Invs)			420.00
Total Debits		\$	70,083.52
Credits:			
Interest (checking)		\$	34.82
Interest (savings)			6,076.52
Transfer from Savings Acc't to Checking Acc't			-
Account Balance (per bank statement - 3/31/2024)	Checking	\$	90,674.88
	Savings		1,218,395.01
Total UNRBA Account Balances:		\$	1,309,069.89
Outstanding invoices/deposits in process since the close of bank statement (4/30/2024):			
Debits:			
McGill Asso. (2024 Inv)		\$	-
MFG Consulting, LLC (2024 Inv)			-
Brown & Caldwell (February, FY 2024)			-
Credits:			
Transfer from Savings to Checking		\$	-
Current Account Balances:	Checking	\$	90,674.88
	Savings		1,218,395.01
Total UNRBA Account Balance :		\$	1,309,069.89

Status Reports and Informational Items

Status of Proposed Legislative Change

Status of Proposed Legislative Change

- On March 20, 2024, the Board voted to pursue a change to General Statute 77-141 that would add to the responsibilities of a watershed organization:

(7) Developing and implementing a water quality protection plan to be approved by the Environmental Management Commission pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 143-214.14.

- Staff from American Rivers indicated support for this particular change but noted other recommendations in the Collaboratory report warrant additional discussion.
- The Executive Director discussed the proposed change with staff from DWR Planning
 - Indicated they understood and were supportive
 - Would discuss with DEQ leadership and council
- Granville County is assisting with contacting NC legislators to support adoption of this change during the short session.

Status of Proposed Legislative Change

- A related consideration is coordination of the UNRBA's efforts at the Department leadership level.
- For several years the UNRBA has considered seeking a Memorandum of Agreement with DEQ/DWR to reflect a commitment to work cooperatively to develop revised Falls Lake Rules that are consistent with the scientific work and objectives of the UNRBA.
- Since the UNRBA issued its Concepts and Principles Document and Consensus Principles II at the end of last year, it seems appropriate to consider meeting with the Department/Division and pursuing agreement as the rule revisions are being developed.
- The Executive Director would like to proceed with making the appropriate contacts and, if appropriate, schedule a meeting..

Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process (Led by DWR)

April 10th Meeting with DWR – Discussion Items

- Proposed legislative change: DWR supportive/understanding
- DWR is reviewing UNRBA and NC Collaboratory submittals
- DWR's role in approvals of UNRBA models and recommendations as specified in the Falls Lake Rules
- DWR continues to work on a rules readoption schedule for UNRBA review
- Planning for joint DWR-UNRBA regulatory forum
- Planning for presentations to EMC and WQC
- Watershed organization and protection plan
- How the UNRBA can support DWR's Falls Lake rules readoption process

Upcoming Activities

- The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Dan McLawhorn to continue his policy-related evaluations and recommendations related to Falls Lake rules readoption, a new watershed organizations, etc.
- The Collaboratory will also be funding further research by Barbara Doll on stream bank nutrient loading and restoration efforts as well as Nathan Hall to support statistical modeling efforts
- Planning meetings with DWR to discuss schedule for rules readoption, joint forum, UNRBA support activities, etc.

Schedule for Rules Readoption

- The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we begin coordinating, collaborating, and supporting DWR in rules review process
- **January to May 2024**
 - UNRBA/DWR meeting to continue to discuss process for rule making and approval of UNRBA products
 - Regulatory Forum to present rule making process to UNRBA members and other stakeholders
 - Meetings with the Chairs of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and its Water Quality Committee
 - UNRBA annotate existing rule language to mark for potential changes and review with DWR
- **June to December 2024**
 - DWR to begin rule making and their stakeholder process
- **2026/2027**
 - DWR anticipates rules readoption
 - **We hope to achieve rules readoption earlier**

DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed

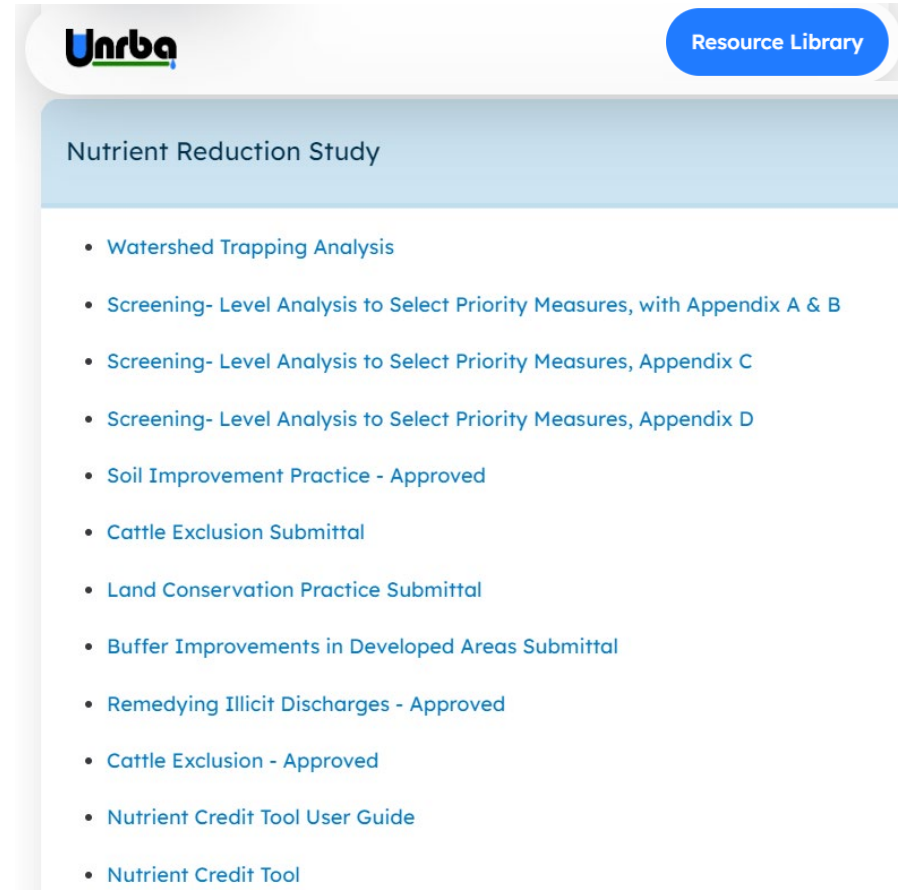
DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed

- The Division of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a draft proposal for changes to new development rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed.
- Stakeholders in the High Rock Lake watershed have not yet come to consensus on this proposal.
- Options in the proposal include requiring peak flow or volume reductions better than pre-development conditions depending on the intensity of the development.
- The most recent version was distributed to the PFC for review and discussion at their May meeting.
- DWR would appreciate feedback by mid-May from the UNRBA. Some comments have already been provided.
- Since this draft has potential to impact the components of the revised Falls Lake Rules, our input is important

Updating the UNRBA Technical Website

Status of UNRBA Website Updates

- Revised the draft content in response to PFC input
- Developed content pages with links to separate pdf documents that can be easily be updated
- The website developer is creating the resource library to which UNRBA reports and other important links will be housed.
- Once these links are active, the content pages will be updated to include the new links.
- This will be an iterative process
- We anticipate a beta version of the website ready for review by the June Board meeting.



The screenshot shows the UNRBA website's Resource Library. The page title is "Nutrient Reduction Study". The list of resources includes:

- [Watershed Trapping Analysis](#)
- [Screening- Level Analysis to Select Priority Measures, with Appendix A & B](#)
- [Screening- Level Analysis to Select Priority Measures, Appendix C](#)
- [Screening- Level Analysis to Select Priority Measures, Appendix D](#)
- [Soil Improvement Practice - Approved](#)
- [Cattle Exclusion Submittal](#)
- [Land Conservation Practice Submittal](#)
- [Buffer Improvements in Developed Areas Submittal](#)
- [Remediating Illicit Discharges - Approved](#)
- [Cattle Exclusion - Approved](#)
- [Nutrient Credit Tool User Guide](#)
- [Nutrient Credit Tool](#)

Potential Contract Amendment for Developer

- The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the 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 June meeting.

Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

**Evaluating a Falls Lake
Assessment Methodology Site-
Specific Chlorophyll-a Water
Quality Standard**

Status of Modeling Files and Reporting

- The Executive Director has requested a formal statement from DWR as specified in Section (5)(f)(iii) of the Falls Lake Rules which require that “the Division shall assure that the supplemental modeling is conducted in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of the Division.”
- The UNRBA submitted and the Division approved the UNRBA Modeling Quality Assurance Project Plan for this purpose.
- The lake model report has been drafted
 - The PFC has reviewed and provided comments.
 - DWR is still reviewing the draft report.
 - The UNRBA will submit the lake report to DWR for review and approval under Falls Lake Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0275 following this initial review and revision process.

Statistical Modeling

- The statistical model and appendix are under development
- The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Nathan Hall to continue serving as a subject matter expert on statistical model development
- Subject matter experts, Drs. Nathan Hall and Marty Lebo, are reviewing the model network (the linkages among drivers, responses, and outputs); the team met with them on March 28, 2024 to discuss
- On April 5, 2024, the Executive Director approved shifting \$10K from Brown and Caldwell's labor budget for statistical modeling and \$20K from Brown and Caldwell's labor under regulatory support for an increase in funding of \$30K for the statistical modeling team to continue their efforts. This shift will not affect the total budget for the project.

Evaluation of Falls Lake Specific Assessment Methodology and Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria

- Marty Lebo is continuing his work under his current contract to evaluate a Falls Lake Specific Assessment Methodology and Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria
- A contract amendment has been executed to continue his progress on this work
- The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Nathan Hall to provide input on the ecological functioning of Falls Lake (algal species and edibility of higher trophic level organisms)
- The statistical model is being developed to support these efforts

Communications

Communications Support

- The UNRBA continues to coordinate with DWR
 - Rules readoption process
 - Potential modifications to the water quality assessment methods
 - Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake
- The work with DWR will intensify greatly following submittal of the UNRBA's and NC Collaboratory's recommendations in December 2023.
- Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned.
- Jurisdictions should identify additional meetings where support from the UNRBA team is needed

Additional Information and Activities

- Updates to the fast facts and infographics documents
- Working on a slide deck for UNRBA members to present the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy
- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process
- Planning for a synthesis workshop with UNRBA and NC Collaboratory regarding the intersection of research studies and insights for the rules readoption process
- Conducted a well-attended Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference on March 21, 2024
- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.

Coordination with Stakeholders

- The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we move through rules readoption.
- The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach.
- We encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about ideas and opportunities to communicate our work and the importance of our recommendations on a revised strategy and a site-specific standard.

Ongoing Discussions/Issues

Ongoing Discussions/Issues

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model/Delivery Factors for WWTP
- DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed
- DWR interviews of local stormwater staff about stormwater management and reporting techniques
- DWR Inquiries and Issues Regarding Nutrient Credits
- Jordan Lake rules readoption process
- Brown and Caldwell conducting evaluations of development intensity under an on-call contract with the City of Raleigh

Closing Comments

Next UNRBA Board Meeting
June 12, 2024
Butner Town Hall
9:30 AM to Noon