

**Path Forward Committee (PFC) and Rules Review Meeting Agenda**

July 1, 2025, 9:30 AM

**Virtual Meeting Only**

Remote access instructions are provided on the last page of this agenda.

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. Status and Timeline of Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA team and the PFC Co-Chairs met with DWR on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the UNRBA's proposed assessment methodology, constraints on WWTPs under the current rules that must be addressed, DWR's proposed cap on land conservation, the baseline period for the rules, and the new development rules. Following this meeting and based on preliminary input from the Board, the draft rules will be revised and redistributed to the PFC and stakeholders for discussion at the August PFC meeting. Our goal is to distribute updated drafts to the UNRBA Board Directors and additional stakeholders for review and discussion at the September 17, 2025, Board meeting. We plan to submit the draft rule package including supplemental information on the fiscal impacts to the EMC at the November 2025 meeting.

Background: Per [NC Session Law 2018-5](#), the Falls Lake Rules Readoption process was triggered by the NC Collaboratory report submittal in December 2023 and the UNRBA submittals of the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#). These UNRBA documents were sent to DWR and the EMC on November 22, 2023. The UNRBA submitted their [final watershed model report](#) in December 2023 and [final lake model report](#) in December 2024. An informal stakeholder process started in December 2024 with four rule workgroups. A summary of the drafts produced by the workgroups was presented to the PFC at the May 6, 2025, meeting. Comments received after the May meeting have been compiled and distributed for discussion at the June 3, 2025, PFC meeting (this meeting). The informal stakeholder process led by UNRBA will continue through November 2025, and we invite feedback from interested parties during this time. The formal review process managed by the Environmental Management Commission is anticipated to begin in March 2026 during stakeholders will have additional opportunities to provide feedback. Rules readoption by the Rules Review Commission is anticipated in March 2027.

The UNRBA hosted 18 workgroup meetings and two workgroup workshops between December 2024 and April 2025. Four very preliminary draft rule sections ("draft, draft, draft") were distributed to the PFC and other interested stakeholders before the [May 6, 2025, PFC meeting](#): Purpose and Scope Rule, Existing Managed Lands Rule, New Development Rule, and Wastewater Rule. Comments and suggestions from participants were requested by May 20, 2025. All comments were compiled and discussed during the June 3<sup>rd</sup> PFC meeting. DWR discussed at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that they had not been participating in the UNRBA meetings while they were drafting their own rules. Forrest again requested that DWR wait until the UNRBA process is complete to take our well-vetted drafts and make the adjustments needed, pointing out

differences between UNRBA and DWR proposals. The Board reiterated the importance of collaboration to secure revised rules during their June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board also requested distribution of the most recent draft rules for their review and understanding of the issues still under discussion with DWR.

### III. **Extension of IAIA Program and Annual Reports Due Soon**

The IAIA was developed as a five-year program with an option to extend the program until the Falls Rules are readopted. The five-year period ends June 2026, and the schedule for Falls Rules readoption targets March 2027 as the adoption date (however, this may be revised depending on the UNRBA's strategy for moving the process forward). Thus, the IAIA program will need to be extended. During the November 19, 2025, UNRBA Board meeting, we will include a Compliance Group Committee (CGC) meeting, and they will consider submitting a request to the EMC to approve an extension of the IAIA program for five additional years or until the Falls Rules are readopted and an updated watershed protection plan is developed and approved by the Commission (i.e., an updated [Program Document](#)). During the November meeting, the CGC will also review and consider for submission the UNRBA IAIA Summary Report for Year Four which ends June 30, 2025. Annual reports from each participant are due to [John Huisman](#) at the Division of Water Resources (DWR) with a copy to the [Executive Director](#) and [Alix Matos](#) by September 30, 2025. The link to the template is [here](#).

### IV. **Communications**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues. Consistent with our expanding stakeholder process, we will have additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs. As we have continued to do, we encourage our jurisdictions to identify additional communication needs and to request support from the UNRBA team as needed. Recent, ongoing, or upcoming activities are noted below:

- Recent workshop with DWR
- Status updates to the EMC
- Planning a meeting with the new Secretary of DEQ
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management to support fiscal note development

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. We also continue to look to our engaged membership representatives to use materials developed to help with communication within their jurisdictions. We remain available to assist with any presentations/meetings that are set up to discuss Falls Lake and the status of our work and the rules readoption process.

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

### Upcoming meetings

**Next PFC Meeting: August 5, 2025, 9:30 AM to noon**

**Next BOD Meeting: September 17, 2025, 9:30 AM to Noon at the Butner Town Hall**

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

### **Remote Access Instructions for PFC Meetings**

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> <b>Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.</b>	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	<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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- Unless you are speaking, please mute your computer/device microphone or phone microphone to minimize background noise.