



Path Forward Committee (PFC) and Rules Review Meeting Agenda

September 2, 2025, 9:30 AM

Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room

Note: This is an in-person meeting. A remote option is provided on the last page of this agenda for those who cannot attend in person.

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): 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. DWR has responded that the reports have been accepted and approved under the reexamination provision of the Falls Lake Rules. Relative to rule readoption work, the UNRBA initiated 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 their May 6, 2025; June 3, 2025; July 1, 2025; and August 5, 2025 meetings. On June 24th, the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a Falls Rules Readoption Stakeholder Meeting. Comments received and edits made following these meetings have been compiled and distributed for discussion at this meeting. The stakeholder process led by UNRBA is ongoing, and we continue to invite feedback from interested parties. We will be seeking support from the PFC for the UNRBA's draft rules at the September PFC meeting. The rules will be presented to the UNRBA Board at the September meeting. The UNRBA will continue to seek cooperation and coordination with DEQ, DWR, and the EMC. We seek to reach a significant level of concurrence on the draft rules that will be taken to public notice. The formal review process managed by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) is anticipated to begin in November 2025, and stakeholders will have additional opportunities to provide feedback. Rules readoption by the Rules Review Commission is anticipated in March 2027.

There remain outstanding issues for discussion with DWR. UNRBA and DWR are planning meetings in August and September to continue these discussions. We will highlight these items during this PFC meeting. DWR provided drafts of their rules to the Executive Director on August 25th as a markup to the current rules. They also provided a "crosswalk" that explained the differences or reasoning behind their rules as comments in the UNRBA's July version of the rules. The Executive Director, support team, and PFC Co-Chairs are currently reviewing these documents and met with DWR staff on August 28th to discuss. Preliminary comments on these drafts will be provided during the meeting.

III. Review Comments Received, Recent Discussions, and Latest UNRBA Draft-Draft Rules Sections

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA has received comments on the draft-draft rule sections following each meeting. The four rule sections have been updated to address the latest comments as well as our take on the discussions during the June 24th DWR Stakeholder Meeting: Purpose and Scope, New Development,

Existing Managed Lands (now Existing Development), and Wastewater. At today's meeting we will review the current draft of the rules with the goal of attaining PFC approval to present to the Board at their September meeting.

The UNRBA has evaluated scenarios for proposed WWTP effluent concentrations consistent with best available biological nutrient removal using the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) and Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) models, and results will be presented during the meeting.

IV. PFC Consideration of Process for Board Review and Approval of Draft-Draft Rules

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA PFC had planned to consider approval of draft Rules to submit to the Board at their September 17th meeting. Given that we have just received DWR's draft Rules at the end of August, the Executive Director and PFC Co-Chairs recommend revising our drafts in September to incorporate some of what DWR proposed in their draft rules. We would provide a revised copy of rules for review and consideration at October PFC meeting and schedule special, virtual Board meeting in October to consider providing to the Commission in November and setting timeline for public notice. We would like to discuss and seek concurrence with the PFC on this revised approach.

V. Extension of IAIA Program and Annual Reports Due Soon

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): 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. We are planning to include a Compliance Group Committee (CGC) meeting during the November 19, 2025, UNRBA Board meeting, where the Committee 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). The current draft of the Managed Lands Rule allows up to a year for the submittal of a watershed protection plan to implement the revised rules.

As a reminder, year four of the program ended June 30, 2025. Individual annual reports are due to John Huisman, Forrest Westall, and Alix Matos by September 30, 2025. The latest version of the template is available [here](#). The UNRBA Annual Summary Report will be developed for consideration and approval by the CGC during the November 19, 2025, Board meeting. This joint report is due to John Huisman November 30, 2025.

VI. Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Granville County and Wake County have requested a comparison and best practices across local governments for their implementation of stormwater rules and regulatory requirements within the Falls Lake Watershed. Earlier this year, the PFC discussed a workshop approach for UNRBA members to discuss and gather information. During the PFC meeting, we will begin preliminary discussions to support planning for this workshop.

VII. Communications

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): In addition to the efforts described earlier, ongoing or upcoming activities are noted below:

- Continued discussion and input from stakeholders on draft-draft rules
- Continued coordination with DWR on draft rules and fiscal analysis
- Additional stakeholders will be included when the draft-draft goes to the Board by September 2025
- Status updates to the EMC (September 11, 2025)
- Planning a meeting with the new Secretary of DEQ
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management
- Planning a meeting with EPA

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.

VIII. Other Items

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

Upcoming meetings

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for September 17, 2025; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Next PFC Meeting Scheduled for October 7, 2025; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Special Board Meeting in October: to be determined

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	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.