

### UNRBA PFC Meeting September 2, 2025 9:30 AM to Noon



#### **Agenda**

- Opening comments, agenda review/revisions
- Status and timeline for Falls rules readoption
- Review Comments Received, Recent Discussions, and Latest UNRBA Draft-Draft Rules Sections
- PFC Consideration of Process for Board Review and Approval of Draft-Draft Rules
- Extension of IAIA Program and Annual Reports Due Soon
- Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules
- Communications
- Other Items
- Closing comments

# Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions

# Status and Timeline for Falls Rules Readoption

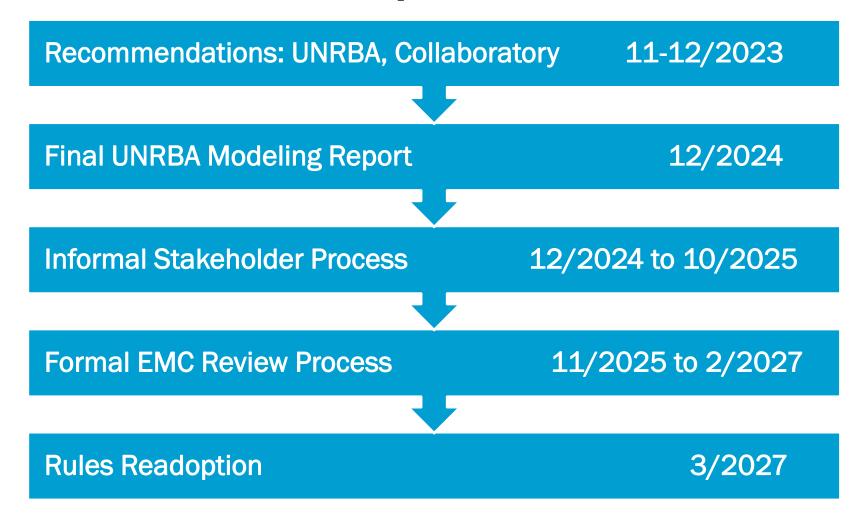
#### Status of UNRBA Rules Development Process

- The UNRBA hosted 18 workgroup meetings and two workgroup workshops between December 2024 and April 2025.
- The PFC has been reviewing and comment on draft rules since May 2025 (see UNRBA meeting page for summaries)
- On June 24, 2025, DWR hosted a stakeholders meeting
- Comments and discussion notes have been compiled and distributed in marked-up versions of the UNRBA draft rules
- DWR provided drafts of their rules to the Executive Director on August 25<sup>th</sup> with a call August 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss
  - Provided as markups to the current Falls Rules
  - "Crosswalk" explaining differences or reasoning behind their rules provided as comments in UNRBA's July version of the rules.
  - The Executive Director, support team, and PFC Co-Chairs are currently reviewing these documents – preliminary notes today marked with bold font to distinguish from UNRBA's proposal
- Discussions with DWR continue on topics and coordination on draft rules (see next slide)

#### **Meetings with DWR and Rules Timeline**

- August 28<sup>th</sup> DWR walked through their draft rules
- August 29<sup>th</sup> –UNRBA's proposed assessment methodology in the draft Purpose and Scope Rule
- September 16<sup>th</sup> constraints on WWTPs under the current rules that must be addressed
- Other outstanding discussion items
  - DWR's proposed cap on land conservation
  - DWR's proposal for new development
- Our goal is to distribute draft rules to the UNRBA Board of Directors and additional stakeholders for review and discussion at a special October Board meeting
- The formal review process managed by the EMC is anticipated to begin in November 2025, and stakeholders will have additional opportunities to provide feedback.

#### **Rules Readoption Schedule**



UNRBA: Upper Neuse River Basin Association EMC: Environmental Management Commission

#### **Anticipated Schedule - Falls Lake Rules Development Process**

#### **Draft-Draft**

#### Four Workgroups

- 12/24 to 4/25
  - 18 workgroup meetings
  - 2 workgroup workshops
- Discussed concepts and challenges
- Developed initial drafts

#### **Draft-Draft**

PFC, Board, EMC informational items, and Expanded Stakeholders

- 5/2025 to 10/2025
- Reviewed draft-drafts at UNRBA May and June PFC meetings
- DWR June Stakeholder Meeting
- Collecting fiscal data
- Refining drafts for UNRBA Board recommendation

#### Draft → Final → Rules

#### Formal Process

- 11/2025 to 3/2027
- Present to WQC
- Present to EMC
- Public comment period
- Public hearings
- Rules to RRC with fiscal analysis

Note: UNRBA and DWR continue to coordinate on development of a joint package for the EMC. We continue to discuss how to address differences between our recommendations.

**EMC:** Environmental Management Commission

WQC: EMC Water Quality Committee RRC: Rules Review Commission

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

#### \*Approach for Reviewing these Rule Sections

- Any new or edited text is marked with "\*" at the beginning and end of the edits – in this case, this entire slide is new
- First, we will review outstanding discussing items from August 5<sup>th</sup>
  - If DWR's draft rules address one of these, we note it
- Next, we review comments and suggested edits that came in after the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and how they were addressed in the August draft
- Finally we review additional notes from review of DWR's draft rules that were not already mentioned
- For the wastewater rule, we have not been receiving comments while the modeling was being conducted
- Today we will review the results of the modeling and review notes from DWR's draft rules\*

# **Purpose and Scope Rule**

#### Review of Issues Discussed during August 5th PFC Meeting

- DOT noted that for other watersheds, DWR's draft rules address applicability in the P&S Rule and explicitly name State/Federal agencies (DOT is not listed)
  - DWR's draft Purpose and Scope Rule does not list state/federal entities but existing managed lands rule does
- UNRBA recommends maintaining the current baseline (2006)
  - DWR's draft Purpose and Scope Rule proposes 20% TN and 40% TP reductions relative to a baseline of 2006
- UNRBA noted that for other watersheds, DWR's draft rules provided credit for increases in programmatic activities relative to the <u>effective date of the readopted rule</u>, not the baseline
  - **DWR's draft EML Rule addresses** this for some practices but not others (fertilizer management, IDDE)
- UNRBA recommends Falls-specific assessment methodology in the rules to provide stable, scientifically valid procedures
  - DWR/UNRBA meeting August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss
  - Update will be provided during the September PFC meeting

# **Comments Received and Addressed After August PFC Meeting - Suggested edits from Dan McLawhorn:**

(d) The Division shall utilize data collected as described in Sub-items (5)(a) and 5(b) and evaluated following adoption of the methodology for addressing outliers as described in Item (5)(c) to evaluate and report changes in nutrient loading and flow-weighted nutrient loading to Falls Reservoir, to evaluate changes in reservoir water quality and trophic status, and to perform assessments used in making compliance determinations pursuant to the water quality standards in 15A NCAC 02B .0211 as required under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of 33 U.S.C. §1251 as indicated by the evaluation described in this Item (5)(d) to judge progress on and compliance with the goal of the Falls nutrient strategy, and for submission of the biennial Integrated Report to the US Environmental Protection Agency as required by Section 305(b) including the following:

#### 5-year and 20-yr DWR Reports

- During the Purpose and Scope Workgroup Progress, the UNRBA and DWR discussed the need to streamline the requirements listed in the Rule associated with DWR's reports
- DWR staff indicated they would provide input on a streamlined list
- UNRBA can review and incorporate elements from the DWR draft Purpose and Scope Rule

# Preliminary Notes on <u>DWR's Draft Rules</u> (additional relative to notes on the August 5<sup>th</sup> follow up slide)

- Requirements for other water supply impoundments in the watershed not included (they are mentioned in their WW rule)
- Says the Division "may" do evaluations and reporting listed in Adaptive Management section
- Says the Division will maintain lake monitoring and use that data to "help estimate and track load reduction reductions achieved" which is not possible.
- No Falls-specific assessment methodology to account for vastly different sampling regime versus other 160 NC lakes/reservoirs
- Requires application of delivery factors to offset credits, but does not address sources (i.e., only to one side of the equation)

Based on very preliminary review of DWR's draft rules and a call with DWR on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Existing Managed Lands Rule**

#### Review of Issues Discussed during August 5th PFC Meeting

- UNRBA members strongly recommended against a cap on land conservation investment credits in the rules and against putting specific requirements for projects in the rule
  - UNRBA latest draft rules removed the specific elements for eligible projects – these types of specifications will be included in the Program Document
  - **DWR's draft Falls Rules** include a cap of 25%
- UNRBA supports continued allowance of investment credits for projects implemented to comply with MS4 permits or TMDLs
  - PFC provided several examples where projects satisfy more than one rule or requirement
  - UNRBA continues to monitor this issue with respect to DWR's draft Falls Rules
  - DWR's draft Falls Rules needs clarification on this issue
    - There is a section that says what other regulations mean, but the references to excluding do not reference that Item
- PFC agreed to separate out the Agriculture Rule
  - \*DWR's draft Falls Rules include a new section on eligible projects including several ag-related practices\*

## Comments Received After August PFC Meeting Editing "existing managed lands" to "existing development"

- The PFC agreed during the August meeting to split the Existing Development Rule and Agriculture Rules into two documents rather than a single Existing Managed Lands Rule, at DWR's suggestion
  - However, DWR's draft is an Existing Managed Lands Rule
  - UNRBA reverted back to EML as that was our original intent
- Requirements for load reductions were edited to apply to "existing development"

#### **Comments Received and Addressed After August PFC Meeting**

- Need to allow rollover for all three options (move text up) and edited to explicitly address IAIA:
  "(3)(b)(i)(E). The Commission shall recognize reduction credit for early implementation of policies and practices pursuant to Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0750, to reduce runoff and discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus per Session Law 2009-486 including investment-based credits earned under the EMC-approved Stage I Interim Alternative Implementation Approach
- Refer to SNAP v4.2 or higher
- For the conventional load reduction approach, specify the project horizon for the proposed annual implementation – revised to specify 10-year planning horizon to align with rule readoption schedule
- Define redevelopment added reference to G.S. 143-214.7

#### **Comments Received and Addressed After August PFC Meeting**

- Add <u>or other approved projects</u> to references of allowable practices for the conventional load reduction option
- Add <u>or an equivalent substitute</u> to the requirement to indefinitely maintain and ensure performance of implemented load-reducing measures
- Add <u>land trusts</u> and clarify that funding and partnering extends to entities <u>outside</u> of the Falls Lake Watershed Association

#### Preliminary Notes on DWR's Draft Rules (additional, 1)

- For the conventional optional, requires reductions from "developed" areas but should refer to "existing development"
- Entities that have completely met or nearly met their conventional load reduction requirements only get to claim 15% of their total credit per year, so they could have to do more than reduce loading from baseline.
- \*Provides six months to state written intent of compliance option, six months to draft an individual plan or nine months to draft a group plan, and then "upon receiving written Division approval of the plan, a party shall begin implementing it." This process does not allow for the individual or group to formally adopt and approved plan. They cannot formally adopt until after Division approval. \*
- Requires inflation adjustments every ten years, but no adjustments for financial hardships or emergencies

Based on very preliminary review of DWR's draft rules and a call with DWR on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Preliminary Notes on DWR's Draft Rules (additional, 2)

- Forward-looking planning requirements include 2-yr projections of which projects will be implemented, funding sources, and partnership allocations of investment
- Annual reports must include the forward looking 2 yr plans mentioned above as well as a list of inspections performed
- The administrative burden of the group compliance options will eliminate the option (\*requires the group to select projects and that is not how IAIA functions\*).
- The credit for the increase in pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer management measures and addressing IDDE is relative to rule effective date
- Other practices require "with empirical evidence" to be counted or included as eligible activities which limit new practices

Based on very preliminary review of DWR's draft rules and a call with DWR on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

# New Development Rule

#### Review of Issues Discussed during August 5th PFC Meeting

- Latest UNRBA draft had been updated to make (1)(d) more specific in its requirements to pass RRC review
- On the issue of DWR's comment during their June 24<sup>th</sup> All Stakeholders meeting about runoff reduction, peak flow match, and how to handle onsite requirements
  - DWR staff are going back and forth on these issues (e.g., considering previous High Rock Lake proposals, specifying percent onsite requirements rather than requiring a primary SCM).
  - DWR is also looking at ways to regulate agri-tourism; UNRBA views stepping into this area as risky, but these are potential opportunities for voluntary partnerships.
  - DWR's draft ND Rules require clarification
- Confirmed UNRBA development excluded section is consistent with House Bill 926; has not passed the Senate; UNRBA to continue to track and modify draft language as needed
- Edited text: A plan to ensure maintenance <u>or replacement</u> of stormwater control measures (SCMs) implemented to comply with this rule for the life of the development

#### **Comments Received and Addressed After August PFC Meeting**

- Regarding the text allowing developers to make payments to the Falls Lake Watershed Association if credits from private bankers were not available - deleted this text based on several discussions at previous meetings that local governments cannot be bankers and this option presents many challenges for implementation
- Include DWR's nutrient crediting document as listing allowable practices and added any other practices approved by DWR

#### **Preliminary Notes on DWR's Draft Rules (additional)**

- Requires parties submit updated stormwater plans within 6 months and fully adopt within 8 months after Commission approval
- Doesn't specifically address HB 926 (not yet passed), but adds less than 5% BUA for development as excluded, applies to single family lots/duplexes not part of a common plan of development
- New D nitrogen loading are very complicated, vary by jurisdiction, require two separate SNAP runs, etc.
- Draft relies on an updated SNAP tool that no one else has seen and says it requires Division approval, not Commission approval
- Design storm remains at 1 inch
- \*There are some concepts regarding onsite/offsite requirements and expanded types of practices that can be used that we may want to capture in our rule\*

Based on very preliminary review of DWR's draft rules and a call with DWR on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

# Wastewater Rule/Modeling Results

#### **Challenges with Current Wastewater Rules**

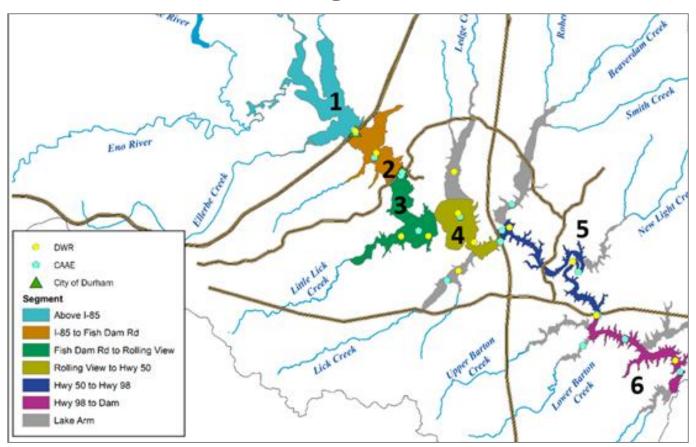
- Permits include permitted flows and Stage I allowable loads
  - Similar effluent concentrations at permitted flow as Stage II
  - Neither allow WWTPs to use full capacity
  - Both require reverse osmosis
    - Unproven for this application
    - Significant logistical challenges (reject water)
  - Upgrades would require investment of financial resources never anticipated or expected under Stage I (over \$100 million for Hillsborough alone)
  - Significantly increased carbon footprint
- The UNRBA draft proposal addresses this by requiring
  - Treatment performance at best achievable technology
  - Tracking of emerging technologies and optimization
  - Investment of combined \$500k in watershed health
  - Monthly monitoring in receiving streams and Falls Lake to support adaptive management as flows increase (P&S)
  - Use of predictive modeling to evaluate chlorophyll-a

#### Setting Limits of "Best Achievable Technology"

- UNRBA proposed setting allocations using permitted flow rates and best available technology (BAT)
  - Based on Tar-Pam Rule, BAT is 3.5 mg-N/L and 0.5 mg-P/L
  - \*In June, DWR suggested\* BAT for Falls of 3.0 mg-N/L and 0.1 mg-P/L
  - \*In August, DWR said they are still figure out what BAT is for Falls\*
- The three largest WWTPs are currently implementing BAT using 5-stage biological nutrient removal and chemical coagulants
- UNRBA Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) and UNRBA Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) have been used to simulate water quality assuming effluent concentrations of 3.0 mg-N/L and 0.1 mg-P/L

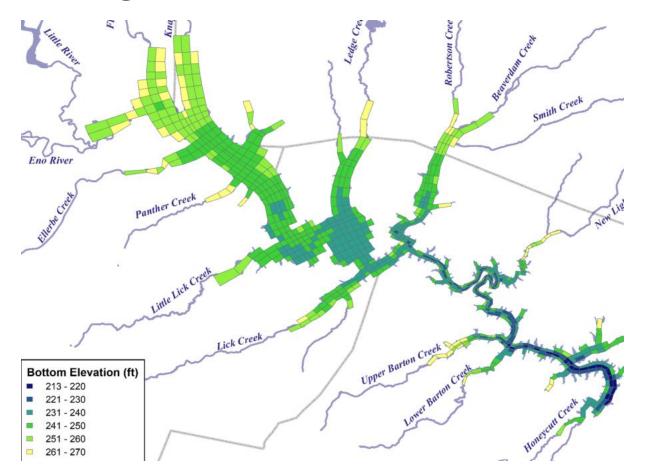
#### **UNRBA Lake Models - WARMF**

- UNRBA developed two lake models for Falls Lake
  - Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF)
    - Simulates the watershed and the lake
    - Six mainstem lake segments

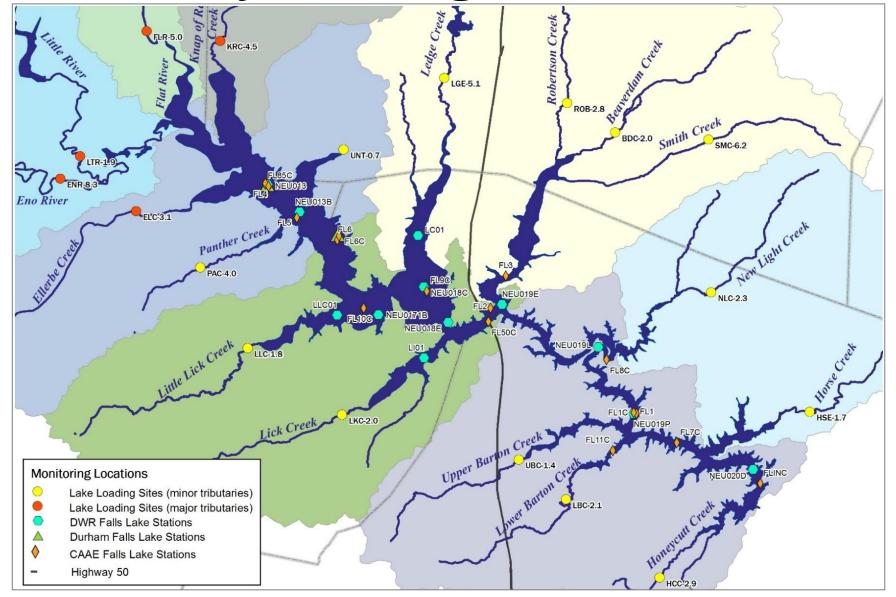


#### **UNRBA Lake Models - EFDC**

- UNRBA developed two lake models for Falls Lake
  - Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC)
    - Hydrodynamic/water quality model of Falls Lake
    - 864 grid cells



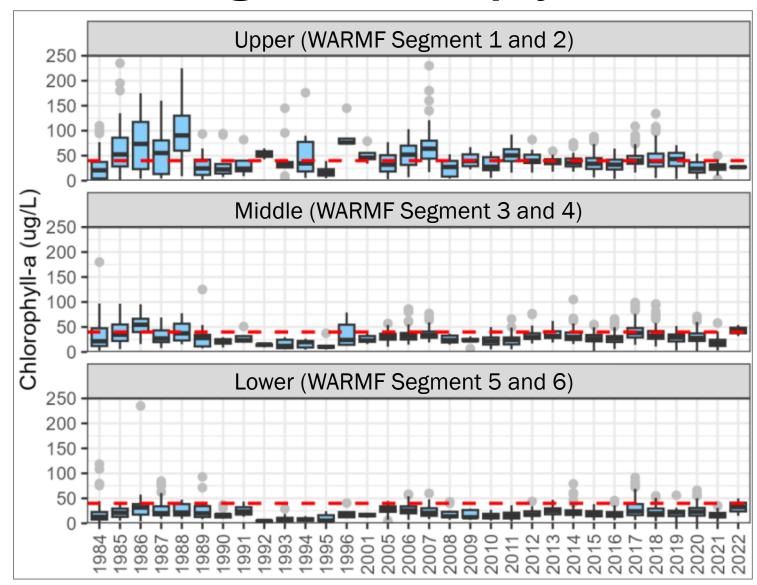
**Water Quality Monitoring Stations for Calibration** 



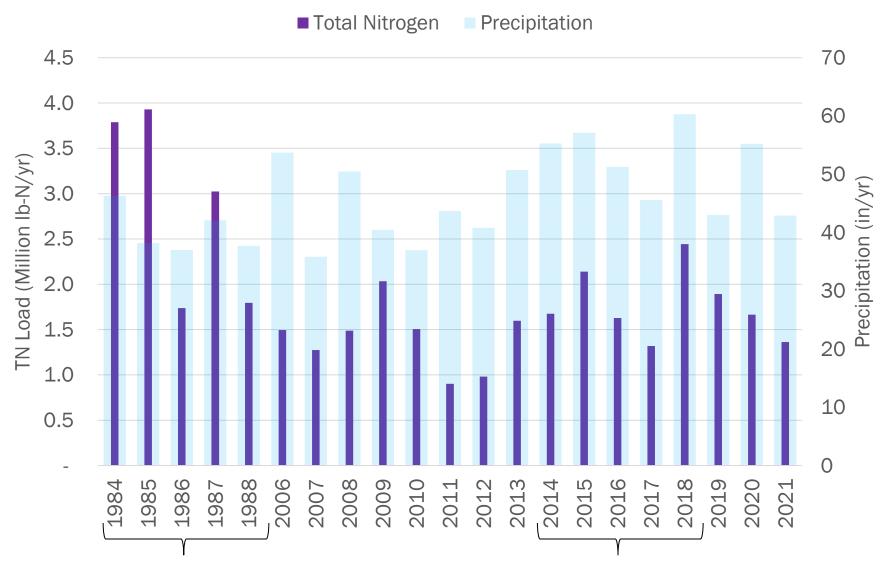
#### **Three Modeling Scenarios for Major WWTPs**

- Calibrated Model
  - 2015 to 2018 conditions (rainfall, lake sediment releases, etc.)
  - Actual discharges from WWTPs
- Qp\_3.0N\_0.1P (same as Calibrated Model except for 3 WWTPs)
  - Permitted flows
  - Effluent concentrations of 3.0 mg-N/L and 0.1 mg-P/L (best available treatment technology-BAT)
- Qp\_StageII (same as Calibrated Model except for 3 WWTPs)
  - Hypothetical, permitted flow scenario
  - Effluent concentrations of 1.12 mg-N/L and 0.06 mg-P/L
  - Similar to Stage I load allocations at permitted flow
  - Both Stage I and II would require reverse osmosis (not feasible)
    - Hillsborough (a 3 MGD facility that serves 10,000 people): Upgrades of \$100 million in capital costs
    - Generates a "reject" stream with high concentrations of nutrients and other pollutants that is usually discharged to the ocean

#### **Review Long-Term Chlorophyll-a Distributions**



#### **Historic Precipitation and Nitrogen Loading**



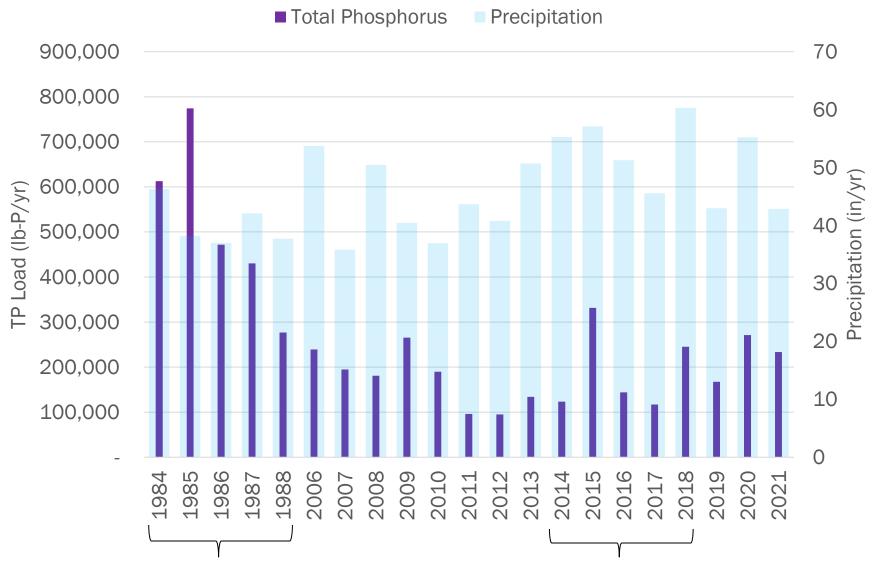
Range Prec: 37 to 46.3 inches

Average TN: 2.85 million

Range Prec: 45.5 to 60.3 inches

Average TN: 1.84 million

#### **Historic Precipitation and Phosphorus Loading**



Range Prec: 37 to 46.3 inches

Average TP: 513,000

Range Prec: 45.5 to 60.3 inches

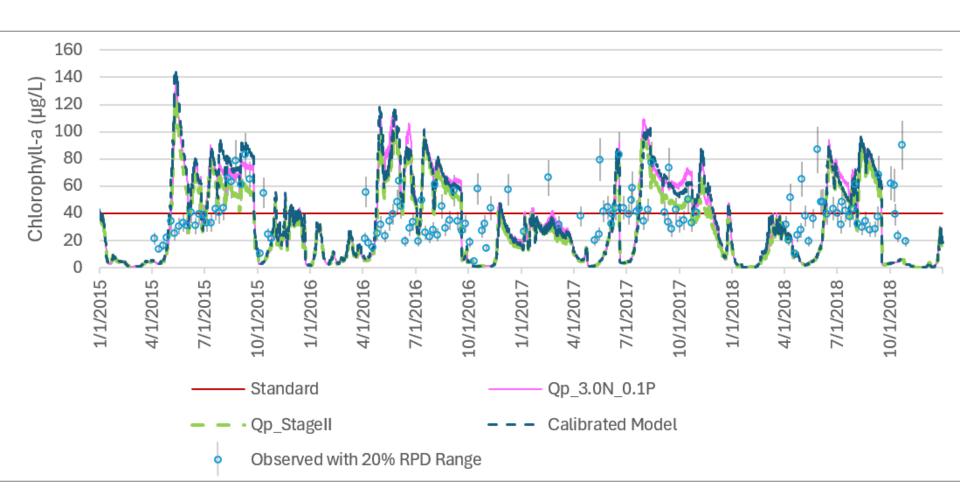
Average TP: 192,000

#### **Load Increases Relative to Recent Variability**

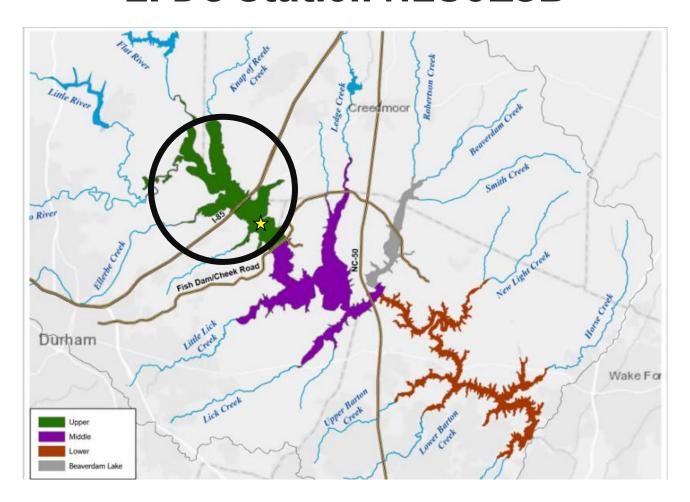
- Calibrated Model period (2014 to 2018)
- 2017 driest year of this period
  - Precipitation: 45.5 inches
  - Total nitrogen load: 1.32 million pounds per year
  - Total phosphorus load: 117,000 pounds per year
- 2018 wettest year of this period
  - Precipitation: 60.3 inches
  - Total nitrogen load: 2.44 million pounds per year
  - Total phosphorus load: 245,000 pounds per year.
- Annual variability within Calibrated Model Period
  - Over 1.1 million pounds of total nitrogen
  - 128,000 pounds of total phosphorus
- Projected increases of permitted flow/BAT scenario (as a percent of the rainfall-driven load increase from 2017 to 2018)
  - 167,000 pounds of total nitrogen (15% of year-year variability)
  - 2,600 pounds of total phosphorus (2% of year-year variability)

### Example slide using WARMF Segment 1 to review elements of the figure:

axes, scenarios, standard, relative percent difference (RPD), seasonal trends



## Model Results for Upper Lake: WARMF Segments 1 and 2 EFDC Station NEU013B

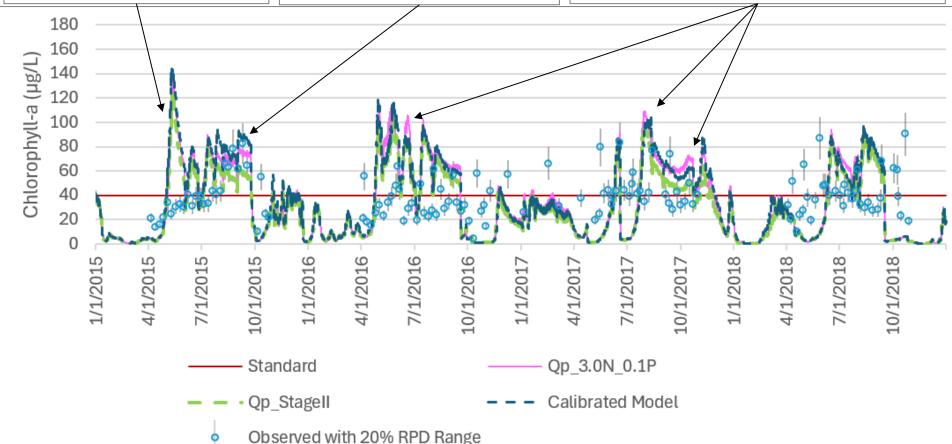


#### WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 1

Usually, the three scenarios predict similar results that are higher than observations.

Here, BAT results in **lower** chlorophyll-a (period of higher nutrients in Knap of Reeds Creek).

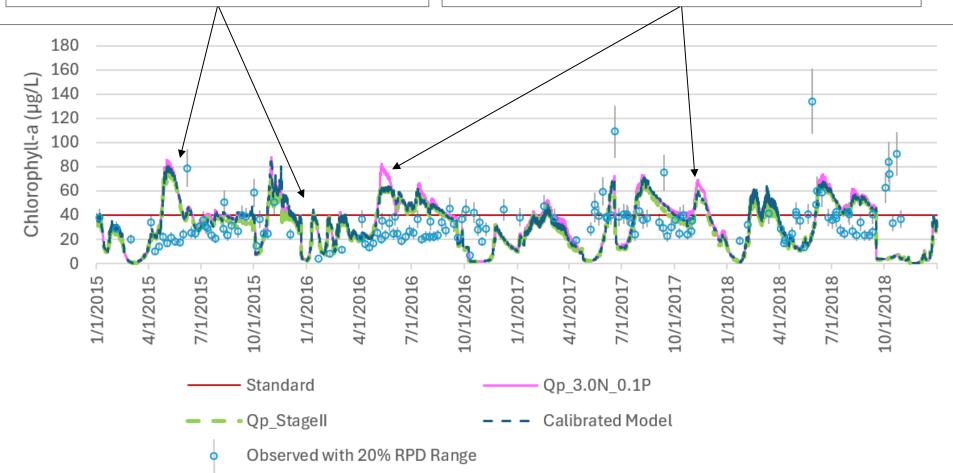
Sometimes, BAT results in higher chlorophyll-a for very short periods. Does not impact compliance and is within RPD.



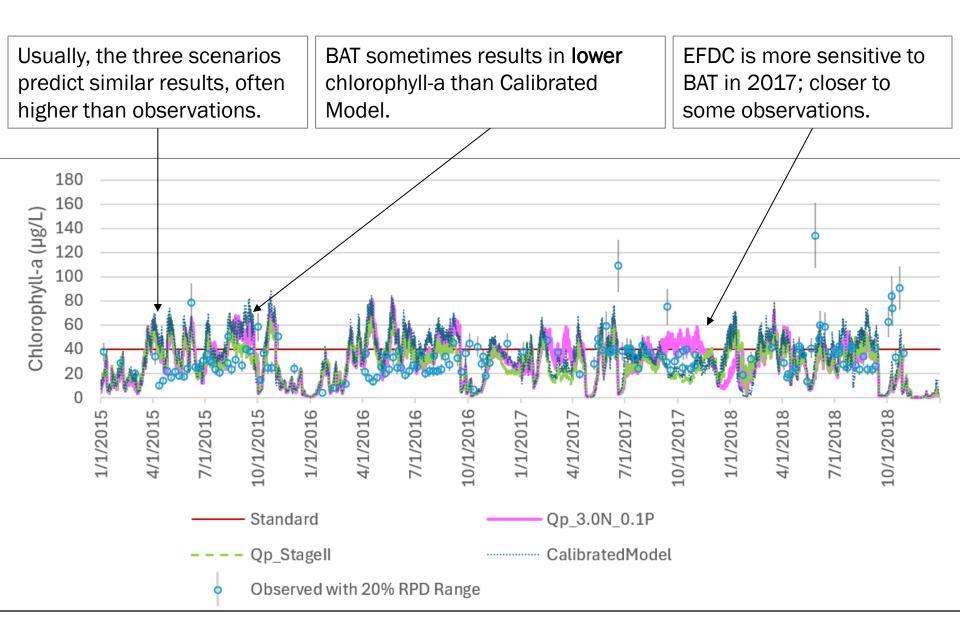
#### WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 2

Usually, the three scenarios predict similar results, often higher than observations.

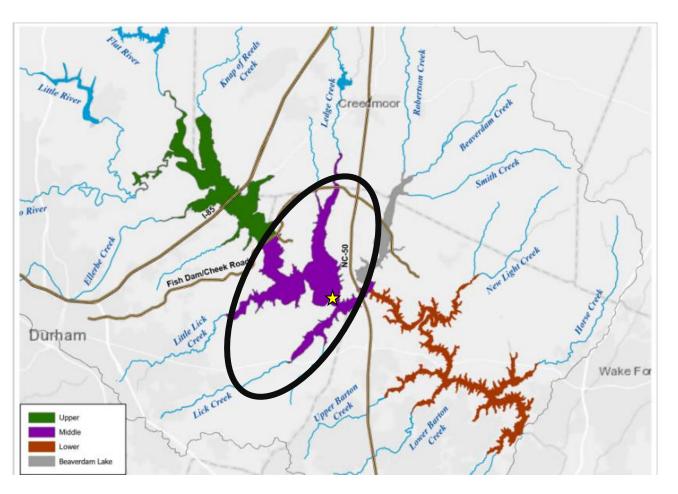
Sometimes, BAT results in higher chlorophyll-a for very short periods (within RPD), often when chlorophyll-a is already over predicted.



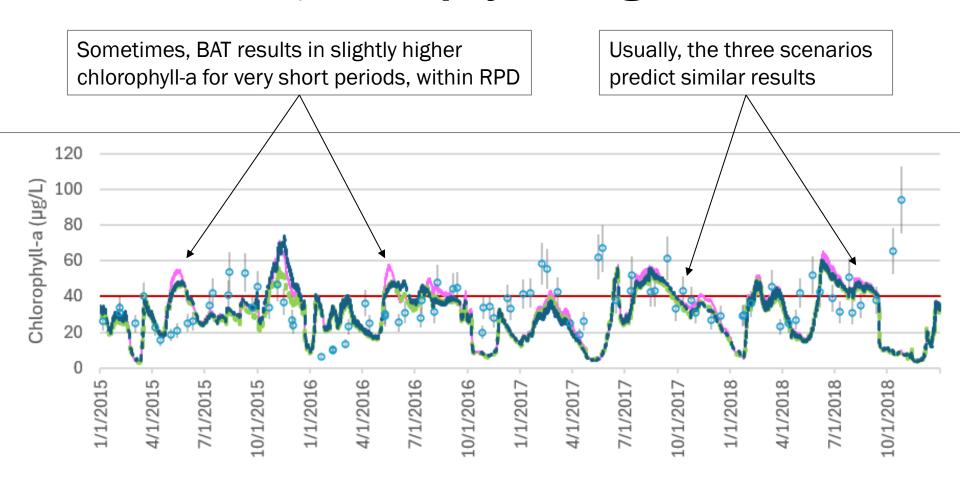
#### EFDC Model, Chlorophyll-a Station NEU013B: compliance station



## Model Results for Middle Lake: WARMF Segments 3 and 4 EFDC Station NEU018E



#### WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 3



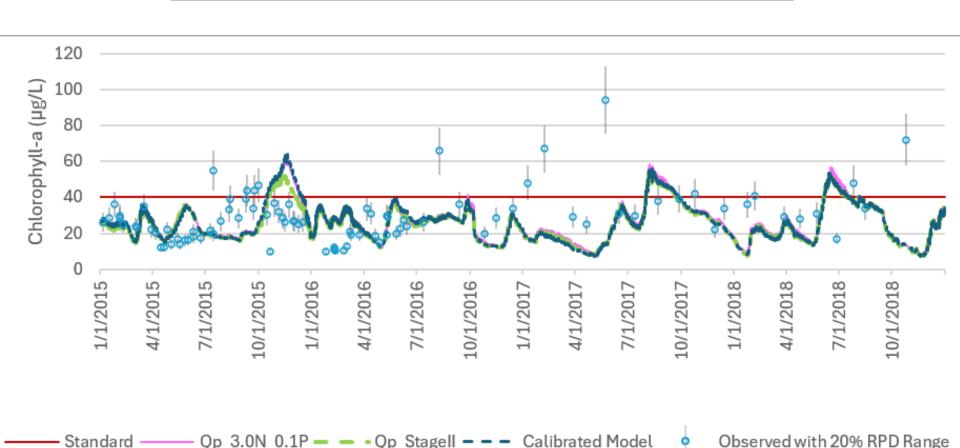
- Standard ——— Qp\_3.0N\_0.1P — — - Qp\_StageII — — — Calibrated Model

Observed with 20% RPD Range

#### WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 4

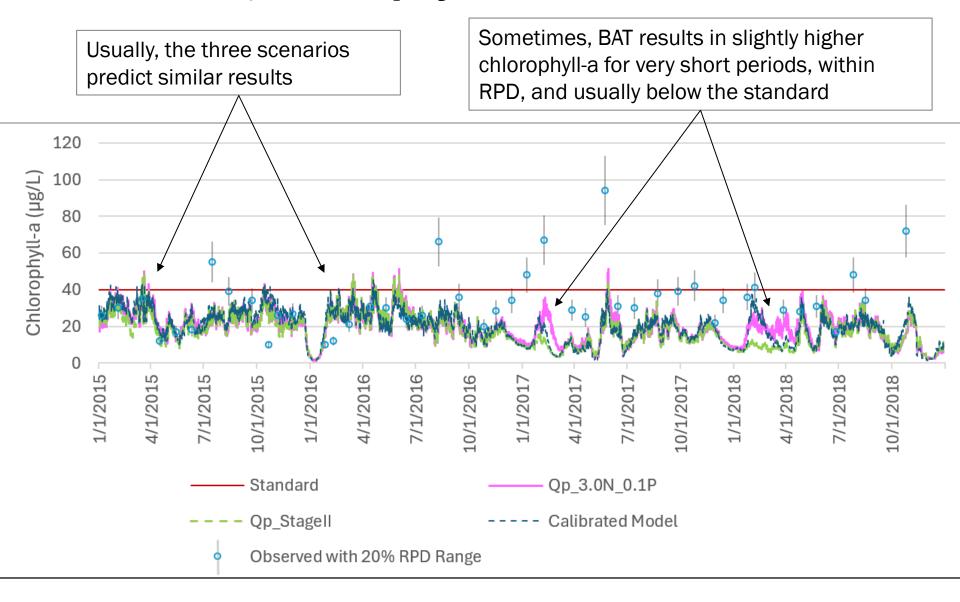
Standard

By Segment 4, there is little difference in the simulated values across the three scenarios.

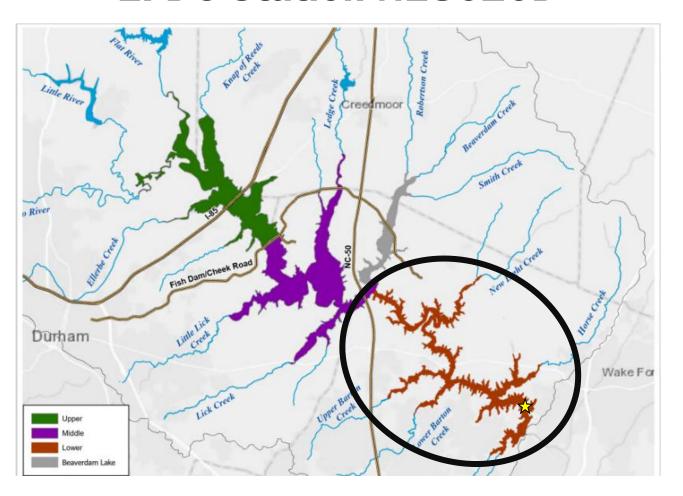


Qp\_3.0N\_0.1P - - - Qp\_StageII - - - Calibrated Model

#### EFDC Model, Chlorophyll-a NEU018E

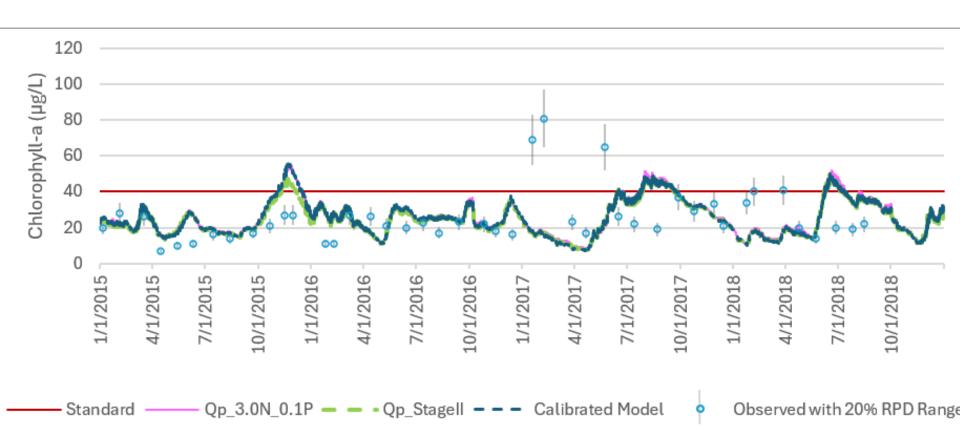


## Model Results for Lower Lake: WARMF Segments 5 and 6 EFDC Station NEU020D



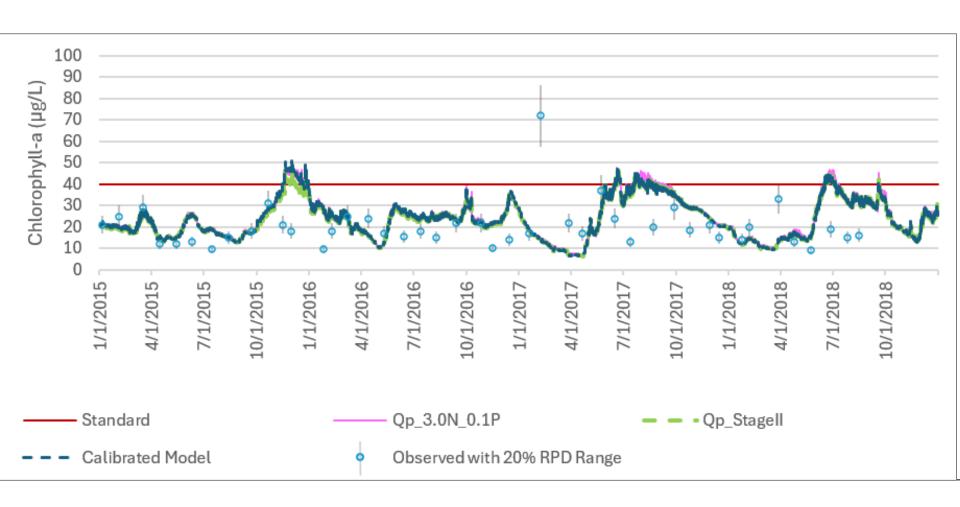
#### **WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 5**

In Segment 5, there is little difference in the simulated values across the three scenarios.



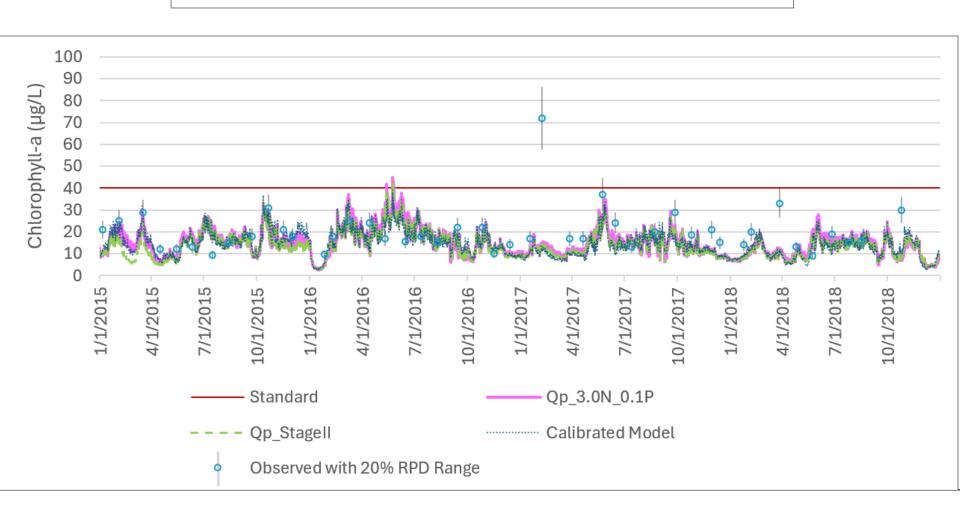
#### WARMF Model, Chlorophyll-a Segment 6

In Segment 6 near the dam, there is little difference in the simulated values across the three scenarios.



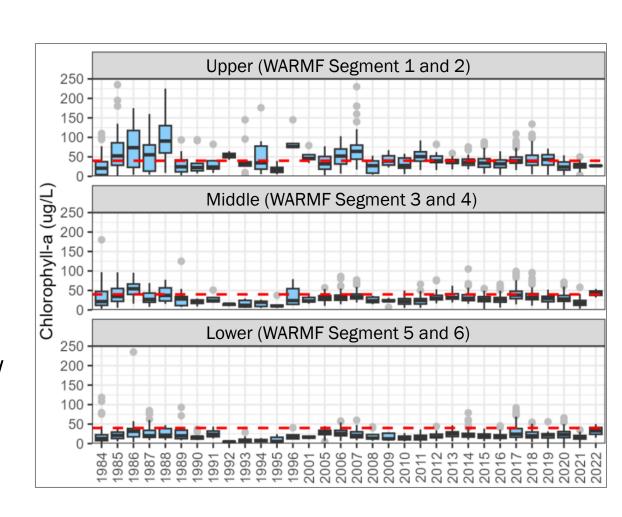
#### EFDC Model, Chlorophyll-a NEU020D

At NEU020D near the dam, there is little difference in the simulated values across the three scenarios.



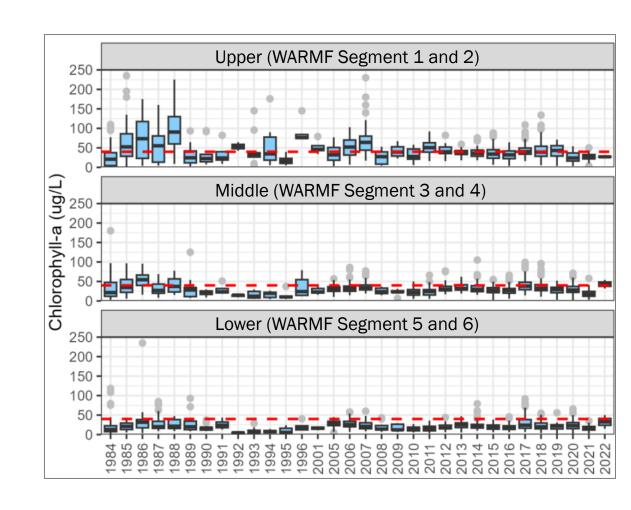
#### Model Comparison to Long-Term Chlorophyll-a Data

- Consistent patterns
- Upper: higher variability
- Lower: very little variability
- Lake is relatively stable within the loads simulated for BAT at permitted flow



#### Model Comparison to Long-Term Chlorophyll-a Data

- Nutrient loading in the 1980s was two or three times higher than 2015 to 2018 though rainfall was dry to average
- To get chlorophyll-a concentrations like the 1980s in <u>upper</u> lake would require much higher nutrient loading than the BAT scenario; lower lake would not be affected



#### **UNRBA Proposal - Multi-faceted, Adaptive Approach**

Require best achievable technology

Allow facilities to utilize permitted flows

Track emerging technologies; optimize facilities

Invest combined \$500,000/yr in watershed health

Monitor receiving streams and Falls Lake to support adaptive management as flows increase

Use predictive modeling to evaluate chlorophyll-a (proposed rules and future changes)

#### **Moving Forward Given Challenges**

- The reasonable approach is to allow permitted flows at BAT concentration limits
- Alternatives are politically, technologically, and financially infeasible:
  - Requiring reverse osmosis
  - Capping growth and use of flow capacity
  - \*Requiring nutrient offset credits for up to 167,000 lbs nitrogen\*
- Projected load increases with the recommendation
  - Would occur incrementally over time, providing opportunity to collect water quality data and adapt as needed
  - Are a fraction of the rainfall-driven changes in delivered nutrient loading between 2017 and 2018
- DWR's draft rules propose
  - Keeping Stage I load allocations
  - Allowing for bubble permits and the purchase of nitrogen offset credits if BAT does not meet Stage I load allocations
  - Draft rules need clarification on purchase requirements
  - Cost of DMS credits can change frequently

#### **Preliminary Notes on DWR's Draft Rules**

- Requires facilities to meet 20%N 40%P reduction from 2006 levels (basically the Stage I requirements)
- Allows for bubble permit
- Allows facilities to pay offset credits to DMS or a private banker if the allocations cannot be met with BAT
  - DWR has still not settled on what BAT "means"
  - At 3 mg/L, would need potentially \*167,000\* pounds N credit per year
  - Cost through DMS is \$7.48 per pound (required to use private banks first)
    - DMS can change cost frequently, and bankers have indicated <u>N cost</u> will go up as P need declines (huge risk)
    - Language is unclear about payment schedule
    - Costs would be affected by delivery factors
  - P overtreatment: should allow offsets of the N requirements
- Does not allow option to invest in local, watershed health projects benefitting the local community

Based on very preliminary review of DWR's draft rules and a call with DWR on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

- The workgroups and PFC have been working on draft Falls Rules since December 2024
- Our email distribution list for the PFC includes approximately 126 contacts
- PFC Co-Chairs discussed revising our drafts in September to incorporate <u>some</u> of what DWR proposed in their draft rules
  - \*Would like preliminary written comments from PFC within one week of release (starting early next week)
  - We would compile preliminary written comments and provide to the PFC in mid September\* to review and consider at October 2<sup>nd</sup> PFC meeting
  - Schedule special Board meeting in October to consider providing to the Commission in November and setting timeline for public notice
- Seeking concurrence with PFC on this revised approach

**PFC Discussion** 

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

#### **Extension of the IAIA Program**

- IAIA is approved as a five-year program with an option to extend until Falls Rules are readopted.
  - The five-year period ends June 2026
  - Projected rule readoption date is in March 2027
  - IAIA program will need to be extended
- During the November 19, 2025, UNRBA Board meeting, we are planning to include a Compliance Group Committee (CGC) meeting to consider submitting a request to the EMC to approve an extension of the IAIA program
  - Five years, or
  - Until the Falls Rules are readopted <u>and</u> an updated watershed protection plan is developed and approved by the Commission (i.e., an updated <u>Program Document</u>)

#### **Year Four of the IAIA Ended June 30th**

- The fourth-year of the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) ended June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Annual reports from each participant are due to <u>John</u>
  <u>Huisman</u> at the Division of Water Resources (DWR) with a
  copy to the <u>Executive Director</u> and <u>Alix Matos</u> by
  <u>September 30, 2025</u>.
- The latest version of the template is available <u>here</u>
  - Save a local copy of this latest version 6.3
  - Rename with your "JuridictionName" and "FY25" in the file name
  - Review the "Instructions" tab and "Column Explanations" tab
  - Enter FY2025 projects into the "User Input" tab
    - Blue cells are dropdown menus
    - Purple cells are automatically populated
    - Green cells are user entered values or text
    - Carry over from the previous year must be entered manually

# Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules

#### Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules

- 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, we discussed a workshop approach for UNRBA members to gather information and discuss
- We would like to start planning for this workshop:
  - Who: full PFC or start with ND workgroup (expanded)?
  - When: likely early 2026 for a reasonable approximation of readopted New Development Rules?
  - What: limit to ND Rules or expand to other regulations?
  - How: a list of questions from the PFC and Board members would help guide content development

PFC preliminary planning discussions

#### Communications

#### **Additional Information and Activities**

- Continued discussion and input from stakeholders on draft-draft rules
- Continued coordination with DWR on draft rules and fiscal information
- Additional stakeholders will be included when the draftdraft 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
- Meeting with EPA

#### **Other Items**

#### **Ongoing Discussions/Issues**

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model/Delivery Factors for WWTP
  - Final modeling report presented January 28<sup>th</sup>
  - DWR provided a status update to EMC on May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Ongoing NC State University UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water research study
- Impacts on implementation of nutrient requirements in light of PFAS/PFOS and other emerging requirements on wastewater management costs to local governments. DWR developing an implementation plan for control of these pollutants—EMC to review

#### **Links to Reference Documents**

- UNRBA <u>Consensus Principles II</u> to guide development of the revised Falls Lake Rules
  - Based on scientific conclusions resulting from a 10-year evaluation of Falls Lake and its watershed by the <u>UNRBA</u>, <u>NC Collaboratory</u>, and <u>other organizations</u>
  - Companion document: "Concepts and Principles for the UNRBA Recommendations for a Revised Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy"
    - History of Falls Reservoir and Falls Rules
    - Summary of <u>key findings</u> from modeling and monitoring
    - Recommendations for revised nutrient management strategy
- Additional information available online in the UNRBA Resource Library: <a href="https://unrba.org/resource-library">https://unrba.org/resource-library</a>.
- <u>Falls Lake water quality evaluation</u> conducted by Dr. Marty Lebo to support development of Falls specific assessment methodology
- <u>UNRBA Lake Modeling Report</u> (summarizes historic water quality monitoring data and use support information)
- Final Program Document: Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

### **Closing Comments**

#### 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