

## UNRBA Board of Directors: May 17, 2023 Board Minutes

---

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, Mar 17, 2023 via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Wendy Jacobs (Secretary)(virtual)	Durham County
Bill McKellar	Town of Butner
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Russ May	Granville County
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Carolyn Bachl (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
Kathy Cooper (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Jennifer Tavantvis	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Sally Greene	Orange County
Dustin Brewer (virtual)	Durham County Soil & Water
Katie Rhyne	Town of Butner
Don O'Toole (virtual)	City of Durham
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Monica Sarna	Town of Wake Forest
James Bryan	Orange County
Dan McLawhorn	McLawhorn Law
Joey Hester	NCDWR
Jay Sauber	Sauber Water Quality Consulting
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic	UNRBA

### Welcome and Recognition -

The Chair, Sig Hutchinson, called the meeting of the UNRBA Board to order and welcomed all those in attendance and those participating through remote access. The Chair asked if any of the Board Directors have any "conflict of interest" issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. The Chair called the roll and 10 of 14 members were present for a quorum.

### Action Items -

*Approval of Agenda* – The Chair asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Being none,

---

Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve as presented, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

*Staffing for FY 2024* – Forrest noted Jay Sauber, with Sauber Water Quality Consulting will not be renewing his contact with the UNRBA that ends June 30, 2023.

*Approval of Minutes March 15, 2023 Board Meeting* – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Jenn Weaver made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Sally Greene, and approved by the Board.

*Treasurer's Report* – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2023. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$182,646.57 and the savings account balance was \$834,767.05. Following review of the report, Bill McKellar made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

### **Informational Items -**

*Overview of the Reexamination* - Forrest reported the UNRBA draft recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake are due in December 2023. He reviewed the schedule and activities for the next several months including development and approval of Consensus Principals II by the governing bodies of our members, with final endorsement by the Board at the November 2023 meeting. During the process and after we will be seeking meetings with the Director of the Division of Water Resources (DWR), DEQ leadership, and the Chairs of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and its Water Quality Committee. Securing approval of the recommendations and Consensus Principles II is essential to providing a final package of recommendations to DEQ, EMC, and General Assembly. The UNRBA will continue to coordinate with the NC Collaboratory. Their report on Falls Lake is due in December as well.

*Modeling and Regulatory Support Status* – Alix Matos with Brown and Caldwell updated the Board on the modeling progress to date. For detailed information please review meeting presentation: [Meeting Presentation for May 18 2023](#) .

*Developing Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Standard* – Forrest reported since November 2022, the PFC has been discussing concepts and principles under consideration for inclusion in the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised Falls Lake Strategy/Revised Falls Lake Rules. These discussions were used to develop a preliminary draft document that describes the concepts and principles. This document was provided to the PFC for review and a revised draft was provided to the full PFC distribution list for discussion at the June 6<sup>th</sup> PFC meeting. Expanded outreach to other stakeholders including the general public, interest groups, and regulated entities will continue. The document will be revised to address this feedback over the next few months. The UNRBA recommendations are due in December 2023, and this document represents an important submittal.

*Approach for Developing the Modeling and Regulatory Support Contract and Scope of Work for FY 2024* - Forrest noted at the March 15, 2023 Board Meeting, the Board approved the proposed budget for FY2024 based on maintaining the budget at the current FY2023 level. The UNRBA will continue working on its recommendations for a revised Nutrient Management Strategy during the first half of the next fiscal year (FY2023-2024) and will need funding for Modeling and Regulatory Support as the process moves into 2024. Additionally, we anticipate feedback from DEQ/DWR about our recommendations and close coordination with the agency as they plan their actions leading up to a readoption of the Falls Lake Rules. There may be additional scenarios and modeling support to address DWR questions and to assist them in moving forward as quickly as possible on a revised strategy and updated rules. Since this support will be something of an unknown, we are preparing a contract for FY2024 that will include specific support, but with a significant component of the budget in reserve so we can respond to more specific needs as they emerge. In addition to regulatory support, the UNRBA may need additional policy development support or legal support to see

that the Association's recommendations are acted on and that proper revisions to the strategy are included in the readopted rules. The Executive Director will continue to work with the MRSW&C (Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications) project manager on a draft contract and scope of work for FY2024. Following review by the Co-Chairs of the PFC, a revised draft contract and scope of work will be provided to the PFC who will be asked to provide comments and edits via email. A final draft will be developed for review and discussion at the June PFC, and a final draft submitted to the Board at their June meeting.

*Data Collection from Local Governments and Utilities to Support the Cost Benefit Analysis* - Forrest informed the Board that an important component of the re-examination is understanding the costs of past and possible future actions in the watershed as well as the benefits in terms of nutrient load reductions and improvements in lake water quality. To support this cost-benefit analysis, we have requested information from the PFC as described during the [February PFC meeting](#). Structured data requests will follow after existing data and reports have been reviewed and compiled.

*Summary of Joint Symposium with the N.C. Collaboratory* – Forrest reported the third joint symposium with the NC Collaboratory was held on April 19, 2023. Several UNRBA member representatives were able to attend. This in-person meeting was very successful with substantive discussions about the challenges facing Falls Lake. The UNRBA has thanked the NC Collaboratory and the UNC Institute for the Environment for coordinating and hosting this important event. Some of the researchers noted the importance of holding a "synthesis workshop" for the scientists to continue to the momentum and integrate the findings across studies into the final Collaboratory report. Coordination with the NC Collaboratory and their Falls Lake researchers is very important and will need to continue throughout 2023. As noted, the Collaboratory's report on their Falls Lake work is also due at the end of 2023.

*Communications* - As noted by Forrest, and as previously summarized, there are several efforts of outreach underway, including ongoing engagement with DWR and development of a concepts and principles document for review by a broad set of stakeholders. Following discussion with communications staff at the City of Durham, the communications team is developing a high-level, public-facing document to describe the challenges for the Falls Lake watershed and the concepts and principles under consideration by the UNRBA to maintain and improve water quality in Falls Lake. This electronic document can be distributed by the local governments and utilities to their contact lists and social media accounts to provide information about the effort and how the general public and other organizations can be involved in review of the draft documents in preparation for submittal in December 2023.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be June 21, 2023, at 9:30 A.M face to face, with a remote access option. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Following the regular meeting, Forrest provided a review of the presentations made at the UNRBA/Collaboratory Joint Symposium. The Board members provided questions and comments. This summary session provided for a good opportunity to discuss the Symposium and the current status of the UNRBA's findings about the watershed and the lake.