



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda
January 20, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon

[Remote Access Only \(see last page for instructions\)](#)

Materials related to this BOD Meeting have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). See items under the January 20, 2021 meeting date. A direct link to the meeting presentation is provided [here](#).

I. Opening—Sig Hutchinson, Chair

- A. Introductions, Note Board Member Changes and Announcements
- B. Roll Call for Quorum
- C. Identification of any Conflicts
- D. Review and Approval of Agenda

II. Action Items

- A. Approval of [November 18, 2020 Draft Board Minutes](#)
- B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)
- C. Officer Elections for 2021: Nominating Committee Recommendations

Item Summary (Nominating Committee): The [UNRBA Bylaws](#) call for its Annual Meeting to be held in January and provides for the election of Association Officers for the calendar year. The Board appointed a Nominating Committee during the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting to make recommendations at the January Meeting: Bill McKellar, Carolyn Bachl and Terry Hackett. A summary of the recommendations will be provided for vote by the Board.

D. Request to Submit Comments on Proposed Chlorophyll-a Site Specific Standards for High Rock Lake

Item Summary (Forrest Westall, Jay Sauber): In March, the NC Division of Water Resources intends to submit a request to the EMC's Water Quality Committee (WQC) to proceed with the adoption of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for High Rock Lake. Pending WQC approval, in May, the DWR and the WQC will request the full Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to approve the proposed site-specific standard to go out to Public Hearing in the summer of 2021. The details of the proposed site-specific chlorophyll-a standard and the methods for determining compliance with the proposed standard have not been determined at this time. The adoption of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for High Rock Lake could be a significant precedent that will likely impact any attempts of the UNRBA to request a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The Executive Director requests authorization from the Board to submit comments to the Water Quality Committee and the EMC on the proposed site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for High Rock Lake.

III. Administrative Items

A. [Prospective Budget for FY2022 - Status](#)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): There are a couple of budget revisions that should be considered prior to the final budget adoption in March. There is a need for a financial audit in FY 2021-2022 and following the Personnel Committee Report, there may be an additional adjustment. The [UNRBA Policy and Procedures Manual](#) and [UNRBA Bylaws](#) require an audit at least once every three years. The Executive Director requests that the Board authorize the Executive Committee (UNRBA Officers) to serve as the Audit Committee which would select a contractor and fulfill this requirement. Previous cost for the audit was \$2,500, but that cannot be finalized until a contractor is selected. The Personnel Committee Report will address the second item.

B. Personnel Committee Report

Item Summary (Committee Chair, Don O’Toole): The Personnel Committee met December 8, 2020 and reviewed the work of the UNRBA during 2020 and the support provided under the Executive Director Services Contract. The Chair will present the Committee report and make recommendations to the Board on behalf of the members of the Committee.

IV. Status Reports and Informational Items

A. Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program Development

Based on the schedule for implementation of the Model Program, it is anticipated that the final IAIA program components, Bylaws revisions and the IAIA Program Document, will be presented to the Board at the March 17, 2021 Board meeting. At the November 18, 2020 meeting, the Board Directors reviewed the proposed changes to the UNRBA Bylaws to allow for the IAIA, provided updates on discussions at the local level, and indicated jurisdictional intent to participate in the IAIA at the local level. In preparation for an anticipated implementation date of July 1, 2021, the PFC has begun discussing elements of the annual reports to be submitted by individual local governments participating in the program to DWR. An IAIA Reporting Workgroup was formed at the December 1, 2020 PFC meeting; the workgroup met virtually on December 14, 2020 to discuss reporting elements and the PFC reviewed their recommendations at the January 5, 2021 PFC meeting. DWR has drafted the Falls Lake Model Program with input from the UNRBA to allow for the IAIA for compliance with Stage I Existing Development Rules. DWR presented the draft Model Program which references the IAIA to the EMC and its WQC on January 13 and 14, 2021. A report will be provided on the EMC vote last week.

B. Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status:

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The modeling team is continuing work on the WARMF watershed model for water quality calibration and has begun model development of WARMF Lake. All datasets representing 2015 to 2018 have been input to the WARMF watershed model, and stream flow, total suspended sediments and total organic carbon have been calibrated preliminarily. Nutrient calibration for the watershed model is underway. The modelers are refining the calibration of lake level in the lake response model (EFDC hydrodynamic model) based on review and input from DWR and the UNC Collaboratory third party reviewers following approval of calibration approach by the MRSW. In preparation of the transition from model development and calibration to model scenario evaluation, the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) and PFC have formed two workgroups that will provide recommendations for review and input from the larger groups. One group will recommend a scenario selection process and a list of potential scenarios to evaluate with the models. The other group will recommend reporting formats for comparison of model scenarios to aid in interpretation and decision making. A draft of the WARMF watershed hydrologic model report will be provided to the MRSW for review following submittal of the 319 Final Report (revisions to the WARMF model code) and the final Transition Monitoring Technical Memorandum. A review of the multi-year UNRBA Stage II Re-examination timeline will also be provided.

C. Update - DWR 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessments

Item Summary (Jay Sauber): The DWR draft Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report and the 303(d) list for 2020 were previously anticipated for June 2020. DWR now anticipates public releases for these two documents during the month of January 2021. To date it has not been released.

D. Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): On October 4th the UNRBA Legal Group discussed the FY2021 scope of work with Barnes and Thornburg relative to their legal support to the UNRBA. The discussion included the modeling team and plans for utilizing the statistical modeling effort to support the development of relationships between the water quality parameters and use support. Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard represents an important consideration for a revised Falls Lake management strategy. A workgroup to support these efforts will provide input to the statistical modelers and the legal group and report to the MRSW and PFC.

E. Ongoing DEQ Discussions/Issues:

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- The President Elect has appointed DEQ Secretary Michael S. Regan as his choice for EPA Administrator. Regan led the Environmental Defense Fund’s efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change and air quality pollution. He is also a former air quality specialist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Communications:
 - Development plans are underway for a UNRBA joint Symposium with the UNC Collaboratory being planned for May-June of 2021. COVID-19 issues and considerations are also being discussed.
 - Objectives continue to be reviewed relative to communication opportunities with stakeholders. To support the re-examination process and achieve broad support for the UNRBA recommendations, additional outreach to external stakeholders including DWR, DEQ, and other interested stakeholders is needed; coordination with local leaders to convey messages and facilitate outreach will be necessary. This is a huge undertaking. To be successful, this effort will require the support of the UNRBA membership, staff and Board representatives.
- We have been hoping to have a face-to-face session with DWR/DEQ to review and discuss findings presented in the 2019 Annual Monitoring Report, but this remains a challenge. A future meeting will be scheduled based on compliance with state requirements for assembly and social distancing. It may be necessary to move forward using remote access.
- The re-examination, 303(d) assessment procedures, need for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls, NC Nutrient Criteria Development Plan, the work of the Scientific Advisory Council and Compliance Implementation Committee, and the evaluation work by the UNC Collaboratory are interrelated and connected to the Re-examination effort of the UNRBA. We will continue to engage these different efforts to help develop a set of recommendations for a revised nutrient strategy for Falls Lake.
- Continue to engage DWR in the larger technical stakeholder sessions and work to secure input to modeling as it is being developed. The UNRBA technical stakeholder workshop has been postponed to the fall due to COVID-19 and to focus resources on the joint Symposium with the UNC Collaboratory.
- Reengage with the legal group on the goal of a Memorandum of Agreement with DEQ and plan for meetings with the reconfigured leadership of the Department.

F. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair

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- UNRBA meetings are open meetings; however, for this remote access meeting, please **limit the discussion to UNRBA Board Members** to facilitate moving through action items