



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda
June 15, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon
Hybrid Meeting: Butner Town Hall
with Remote Option (see last page of agenda 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 June 15, 2022, 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 of UNRBA Board of Directors

- A. Approval of [May 18, 2022, Draft Board Minutes](#)**
- B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)**
- C. Approval of FY2023 Contracts**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Contracts for FY2023 were summarized for the Path Forward Committee (PFC) at the June 7th meeting. The Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup reviewed the main tasks and summary of the Brown and Caldwell budget at their May meeting prior to the PFC meeting in June. No issues were identified. The final draft contracts were provided to the Board ahead of today's meeting. The following contracts need Board approval today: Brown and Caldwell for the Modeling, Regulatory, and Communications Support project for FY2023 and Executive Director Services for FY2023. The Executive Director will present these contracts and request approval and Board authorization to the Chair to sign on behalf of the UNRBA.

III. Status Reports and Informational Items

A. Objection Letters Regarding Proposed Chlorophyll-a Site Specific Standard for High Rock Lake

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): In July 2021, the EMC voted to send the proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Water Quality Standard for chlorophyll-a out to public hearing. The proposal is precedent setting for site specific chlorophyll-a criteria in NC lakes and reservoirs and will likely affect the process to establish a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The UNRBA filed significant comments highlighting the differences between the DWR staff proposal and the [recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council](#). A Hearing Officer's Report has not been generated yet. DWR staff anticipate the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations on the High Rock Lake site specific proposal may be brought forward to the EMC in July 2022. DWR presented the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin Plan to the EMC Water Quality Committee on May 11, 2022. This Plan includes High Rock Lake. The Plan does not mention the significant differences between the DWR staff proposal and those of the Scientific Advisory Council

At the January 19, 2022, Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to develop a letter of objection to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) if DWR and the EMC proceeded to move forward with the approval of the rule as essentially released in the public notice. Also, the Board authorized the Executive Director to contact and coordinate with the individual UNRBA member jurisdictions for the consideration of formal objection letters. A brief review of the UNRBA basis for objection will be presented as a reminder. Status reports will be provided to the Board at the September Board Meeting. However, the RRC requirements for

filing formal objection letters may require the UNRBA to act quickly. Should a letter be filed, the Executive Director will provide the letter to the Executive Committee for input and, once final, provide a copy to the Board members.

B. Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status:

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Executive Director and the MRSW Chair have reviewed the watershed modeling report that describes development and calibration of the watershed model as well as summaries of loading delivered to Falls Lake. Agricultural representatives have reviewed sections of the report describing agricultural inputs and outputs. Jurisdictional loads have been processed and will be summarized during the meeting. The full modeling report will be distributed to the MRSW after the modeling team has addressed the comments from the Executive Director, Chair of the MRSW, and representatives from agriculture. The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian model) are being developed considering the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). The modeling team will continue to reach out to Collaboratory funded researchers to consider and supplement the extensive database developed by the UNRBA, our members and DWR. The modeling effort will also include extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward. The modeling team is working on the lake modeling report. The Scenario Screening Workgroup has completed its work to evaluate potential scenarios for evaluation with the models; these scenarios were presented to the MRSW in March and to the PFC in June for approval. The Scenario Output workgroup has completed their charge of developing reporting formats to facilitate comparison of scenario output.

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

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues developing a statistical/Bayesian model to link the water quality in Falls Lake to its designated uses. This is a critical support effort to developing a petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup, MRSW, and PFC have identified local subject matter experts to provide data and information regarding satisfaction with the designated uses of Falls Lake (drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and flooding). The modeling team has also been coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control and NC Collaboratory Researchers on their algal toxin datasets to include in the UNRBA model. The modeling team will continue coordinating virtual meetings with these experts to understand the types of data and information that are tracked with respect to designated uses to inform development of the statistical/Bayesian modeling. Development of an appropriate chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake represents an important consideration for an effective revised Falls Lake management strategy. This effort is linked to the statistical modeling effort because this model will have the ability to simultaneously evaluate chlorophyll-a levels and potential impacts to designated uses in the lake. The modeling team and the legal team are also coordinating with Dr. Marty Lebo who has been identified as a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA for evaluating site-specific criteria for Falls Lake. The UNRBA is also coordinating with the Environmental Finance Center on their Year 3 effort funded by the NC Collaboratory.

D. Preliminary Discussions on Ideas for the Revised Nutrient Management Strategy (Revision to the Falls Lake Rules)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The Co-Chairs of the PFC identified the need to begin discussions on concepts for the UNRBA's recommendations for revision to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy—the Rules. This

initiative was noted in communication to the PFC within the last couple of months, and it is important that we begin to consider what has been learned about the nutrient contributions from the different categories of nutrient sources to Falls Lake. The watershed model has identified some critical aspects that will relate directly to developing an effective revised strategy. These discussions will help formulate preliminary information that will be shared internally, externally, and with DWR. While the calibration and confirmation of the lake modeling is not yet complete, the watershed model provides some excellent insights into how the nutrient sources in the watershed contribute loading to the lake. This modeling provides important characteristics of sources that can be considered either “unmanaged” or those that represent human activity and active use of land. It is important to note that this process is very preliminary and represents only a beginning of the effort to generate discussion and input on how the strategy may be updated. This by no means is intended to limit discussion, but to expand it and generate interest and consideration by Falls Lake stakeholders. The Co-Chairs of the PFC met following the June PFC meeting to discuss moving this initiative forward.

E. Communications

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- The UNRBA is planning a technical stakeholders’ workshop for Fall 2022 following calibration of the lake models and evaluation of preliminary scenarios to discuss the status of the modeling efforts and hear input on a revised nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake.
- The UNRBA is planning to coordinate with the communications staff from the local governments to leverage existing platforms, accounts, and distribution lists to reach the general public regarding the UNRBA’s goals, objectives, and revised recommendations
- The Executive Director is planning a meeting with Richard Rogers, the DWR Director, to discuss the work of the UNRBA and preliminary results on the Re-examination, process for site-specific water quality standard petition and the High Rock Lake site-specific rulemaking process.
- The UNRBA is planning meetings with DWR planning, modeling, and standards groups to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. We continue to engage DWR in the meetings of the MRSW and PFC and to seek the input of the agency on the model development work. Every effort has been made to engage DWR staff in all of the work and meetings of the UNRBA on the way to developing our data, the models and this will continue through the development of recommendations for an updated Nutrient Management Strategy.
- The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings is a key component of a transparent communications approach.
- We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking Board member input to help identify their needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

F. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.—we plan to address in our follow-up meetings with DEQ/DWR

G. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair

Remote Access Instructions for UNRBA Board Meetings

This meeting will open 30 minutes prior to the official meeting start time to allow for users to test equipment and ensure communication methods are functioning.

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Computers without audio capabilities, or audio that is not working	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 981 714 577# 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: 981 714 577# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode.

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**
- 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