



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda  
September 21, 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 September 21, 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 [June 15, 2022, Draft Board Minutes](#)
- B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)
- C. Review of UNRBA IRS Tax Submittal Form 990 Prior to Submittal

Item Summary (Haywood Phthisic): The UNRBA's tax preparation contractor has completed the Form 990 for IRS filing for the UNRBA for tax year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. A copy of the draft return, Form 990, has been provided to the Board of Directors prior to this meeting. This provides the opportunity for Board member review prior to submittal. The form will be submitted later this month. It is requested that any comments or questions be directed to Haywood and Forrest by September 30, 2022.

D. Board Decision on Surplus Property

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA purchased an inflatable boat during the UNRBA Monitoring Program to assist with collection of bathymetric data along the lake shoreline and lake arms. The purchase was made when the contract was with Cardno, Inc. and the boat was transferred to the care of Brown and Caldwell when the contract was executed with that firm. Since the monitoring program is no longer active, the boat is no longer needed. The PFC, MRSW and Board (in March and May) have discussed options for transferring the property to a member government or non-profit organization. In March, the Board declared the boat and associated equipment as surplus property. In March, the Board discussed two options identified by Board members for transferring the boat. Contact with the first identified potential assignment has been unsuccessful, despite repeated attempts by Board members to reach this party. The Executive Director recommends that the Board vote to transfer the property to the Granville County Sheriff's Department as they have expressed interest in the boat.

III. Status Reports and Informational Items

A. Update Software for the Technical Website

Item Summary (Haywood Phthisic): The technical website ([unrba.org](http://unrba.org)) was developed on a software version that is no longer being supported. The software needs to be updated to the latest version. This cost can be accommodated with the funds set aside in previous years for this purpose.

B. Status of Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Implementation of the IAIA began July 1, 2021, and year one of the program ended June 30, 2022. Annual reports reflecting first-year investment commitments are due to DWR and the

UNRBA Compliance Group Committee (CGC) by September 30, 2022. The CGC will submit a joint-compliance report to DWR by November 30, 2022, after presentation, consideration, and approval by the CGC at the November meeting. A reporting templates is available for the annual report. Please email the Executive Director and Alix Matos if you need a copy of the template. DWR presented the IAIA joint compliance program to the Water Quality Committee and Environmental Management Commission at the September 2022 meetings. As a courtesy, DWR provided draft slides to the Executive Director for review prior to the presentations. John Huisman presented the IAIA program to the EMC and made several references to the cooperation between the Division and the UNRBA. He was very complementary concerning the process to finalize the program and the work of the UNRBA and NGOs on the program. The EMC approved the IAIA program.

**C. EMC Approval of the High Rock Lake Site-specific Chlorophyll-a Standards (July 14, 2022)**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Jay Sauber): During the January 19, 2022 meeting, the UNRBA Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to submit a comment letter on behalf of the Association to DWR and the EMC to encourage consideration of the comments offered to the EMC and, if necessary, develop and send a letter of objection to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) should the EMC adopt a final site-specific standard for High Rock Lake that fails to adequately address the substantial and valid concerns raised in the UNRBA's comments. In the final version of the standard, provided the week before the July EMC meeting, some of the UNRBA concerns were addressed but others were not. The organizations with members directly affected by the High Rock Lake standard, the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Association and the NC Water Quality Association, decided to accept the adopted standard and not file objection letters with the RRC. DWR has expressed many times that the High Rock Lake site-specific standard does not directly affect development of an appropriate Falls Lake site-specific standard. For these reasons, the Executive Director informed the Executive Committee and they concurred with his recommendation not to file an objection letter on behalf of the UNRBA.

**D. Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status:**

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality and the draft modeling report submitted to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) for review and to DWR for consideration ahead of formal submittal. The modeling team is compiling and responding to comments to prepare a final draft for review by the PFC. Following PFC approval, the report will be formally submittal to DWR. This report has been fully vetted throughout the model development process, reviewed by third-party reviewers provided by the NC Policy Collaboratory, and by DWR. For your reference, Appendix I of the report summarizes the nutrient loads delivered to Falls Lake for each jurisdiction by source. The Executive Director will distribute the final version of the report and appendices to the Board later this year.

The three lake water quality models (WARMF Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model) are being developed using the information generated by the watershed model (stream flows, nutrient concentrations, and delivered loads to Falls Lake). At the August 2, 2022, MRSW meeting, draft calibration of the WARMF Lake model was presented along with a potential list of sensitivity analyses. Revised calibration statistics were presented during the September 6, 2022, PFC meeting. The modeling team is planning a workshop with DWR and UNRBA members interested in running the WARMF model to train users on the new model interface and the set up for Falls Lake. The model team is also working with the SMEs and DWR to continue to develop the EFDC model. The lake modeling report is under development, and the modeling team is working with the SMEs and DWR to develop graphical output formats

that visualize the uncertainty associated with the lake water quality data. 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 has included extensive vetting through identified SMEs, third-party reviewers, our membership representatives, and DWR as the lake modeling effort moves forward.

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 develop a petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard for Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup (TAW), MRSW, and PFC have identified local 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 is continuing to compile data for use in the statistical/Bayesian/decision support tool. The TAW met on July 8, 2022, to review some of the data compiled and to discuss potential categories to classify data and evaluate changes. The modeling team will take the input from the TAW and discuss with the topic experts (DWR staff, Collaboratory researchers, etc.) to continue building the model.

#### **E. Ongoing Development of the Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Jay Sauber): 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 UNC Collaboratory and continues to evaluate site-specific chlorophyll-a standards from other States.

The Executive Director met with the DWR Director on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Director and UNRBA subject matter experts met with the DWR Director and the DWR leadership team on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings discussed a collaborative approach for DWR and UNRBA to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well.

#### **F. Communications**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Recent staff changes at member local governments highlight the need for UNRBA engagement from multiple staff across the levels of each local government. The Executive Director will continue to reach out to local government staff to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program and participation in developing the revised nutrient management strategy.
- The UNRBA is planning a technical stakeholders' workshop for Winter 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 and NC Policy Collaboratory are planning the third joint Symposium for Spring/Summer 2023

- The UNRBA is planning a workshop in the Fall of 2023 to review the input received and provide an opportunity for final comments on the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy
- The UNRBA is planning to coordinate with the communications staff from the local governments to leverage existing platforms, accounts, and distribution lists to reach local stakeholders, including the general public, regarding the UNRBA's goals, objectives, and recommendations for an updated Falls Lake management strategy
- 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 the work and meetings of the UNRBA, the many opportunities we've offered along 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.

**G. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in late 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.

**H. 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.

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> <b>Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.</b>	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	<a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 981 714 577# <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	Follow instructions above. <b>Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone</b> , dial the number through your phone and enter the passcode.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 981 714 577# <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	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