



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda
November 16, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon
In Person Meeting at 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 November 16, 2022, meeting date. A direct link to the meeting presentation is provided [here](#).

- I. **Opening—Sig Hutchinson, Chair**
 - A. **Introductions, Note Announcements**
 - B. **Roll Call for Quorum**
 - C. **Identification of any Conflicts**
 - D. **Review and Approval of Agenda**
- II. **Action Items for UNRBA Board of Directors**
 - A. **Approval of [September 21, 2022, Draft Board Minutes](#)**
 - B. **Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)**
 - C. **Approval of [UNRBA Meeting Dates for 2022](#)**
 - D. **Appointment of the Officer Nominating Committee**
 - E. **Appointment of the Personnel Committee**
 - F. **Motion to Recess the Regular Session of the UNRBA Board to Sit as the Compliance Group Committee**
- III. **Action Items for the Compliance Group Committee (CGC)**
 - A. **Approval of the Year 1 Summary Report for 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. Press releases were developed for the UNRBA and the jurisdictions (template). Annual reports from participants summarizing first-year investment commitments were submitted to DWR and the CGC to assess compliance. The Executive Director has provided a cover letter and final summary tables to the CGC for review and approval for submittal to DWR.
 - B. **Motion to Recess the Compliance Group Committee to Resume Regular Session of the UNRBA Board**
- IV. **Status Reports and Informational Items**
 - A. **FY2024 Budget Discussion**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA will complete most of its modeling and scenario development by June 2023 (this fiscal year). The UNRBA will be proceeding toward developing its recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy by the end of December 2023 (1st half of FY2024). Developing the recommendations and responding to external stakeholders including DWR and EPA Region IV will be an important component of FY2024. For budget planning, the Executive Director recommends maintaining the current funding level for modeling, regulatory support, and communications support.
 - B. **DWR Implementation Plan and Stakeholder Engagement for High Rock Lake**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The first DWR stakeholder meeting for the High Rock Lake implementation plan was held on September 29, 2022. The DWR process is anticipated to take approximately 2 years to develop draft rules. The Executive Team will track this process and provide updates to the UNRBA as needed.
 - C. **Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status:**

Item Summary (Alix Matos): Three lake water quality models (Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) Lake, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and a Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model) are being developed. The WARMF model for the watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality to provide inputs to the lake models. A draft watershed modeling report has been submitted to the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) for review. Next, the team will be responding to comments and preparing a draft report for review by the PFC. After PFC review a formal submittal will be provided to DWR.

Final calibration of the WARMF Lake model was approved by the MRSW at the November 1st meeting. The modeling team is planning a training workshop with DWR and UNRBA members interested in running the WARMF model. Similarly, the modeling team has been working with the SMEs and DWR to develop the EFDC model, the next meeting is scheduled for November 17th. Final calibration of the EFDC model will be presented to the MRSW at the December 6th meeting. The draft lake modeling report is under development. UNC Collaboratory-funded researchers contribute to the extensive database developed by the UNRBA, our members, and DWR. The modeling efforts have included extensive vetting by SMEs, third-party reviewers, UNRBA representatives, and DWR.

D. Developing Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has been meeting with DEQ and DWR leadership to discuss coordination efforts to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. Plans are under development on how to coordinate with DEQ and EPA on our general objectives for a revised strategy and a site-specific standard. DWR has hired a standards coordinator that replaces the former coordinator who retired. As a result, we anticipate the Division will identify a contact for us to work with on developing the site-specific standard recommendation/petition. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well. The UNRBA has compiled preliminary concepts for developing the recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy. The PFC will continue to discuss and refine over the coming months. The PFC spent most of its November 1st meeting beginning discussion on principles and concepts for our recommendations on a revised strategy. We have reached out to other regulated stakeholders, specifically agriculture, DOT and forestry, to provide input and participate in these discussions. We will expand this outreach to include stakeholders impacted by all aspects of the current rules, including other state and federal facilities, the development community (new development rule), and landholders. The subject matter experts continue to evaluate other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards. Dr. Marty Lebo continues to integrate his work into the statistical modeling and regulatory support efforts.

Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- The UNRBA developed a press release and a template for use by CGC participants to celebrate the unanimous approval of the IAIA by the NC Environmental Management Commission in September 2022.
- On October 17, 2022, American Rivers hosted a celebration along the Neuse River in Goldsboro, NC to announce the selection of the Neuse River as their River of the Year for 2022. This event highlighted the progress made in terms of nutrient management, acknowledged the efforts of the Upper and Lower

Neuse Basin Associations, and provided a call to action on climate change, flooding impacts, and environmental justice.

- The Executive Director made a presentation to the Wake County Growth and Sustainability Committee on October 24th.
- The UNRBA is planning a technical stakeholders' workshop for early 2023 following calibration of the lake models and evaluation of preliminary scenarios. The workshop will discuss the status of the modeling efforts and provide an opportunity for 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 working toward a coordinated meeting with DEQ and EPA in late winter or early spring of 2023 to discuss the emerging direction of future management of the Falls watershed under a revised nutrient management strategy and a revised standard.
- 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 will be coordinating with the communications staff from the local governments to leverage existing platforms, accounts, and distribution lists to reach out to local stakeholders. These efforts will focus on the UNRBA's goals, objectives, and recommendations for an updated Falls Lake management strategy.
- 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 governments to identify needs and support staff with implementation of the IAIA Program and participation in developing the revised nutrient 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 to provide input on developing our data and the models. This outreach will continue through the development of recommendations for an updated Nutrient Management Strategy.
- The "open" nature 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.

E. 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.

F. 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	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	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	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 379 349 920 # 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