



**Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda**  
**May 15, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon**  
**In Person Meeting at Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room**  
[Remote Access Option \(see last page for instructions\)](#)

Materials related to this BOD Meeting have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). See items under the March 20, 2024, meeting date.

- I. **Opening—Wendy Jacobs, 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 [UNRBA BOD Draft Minutes for March 20 2024](#)**
  - B. **Approval of the [May 2024 Treasurer's Report](#)**

- III. **Status Reports and Informational Items**
  - A. **Status of Proposed Legislative Change**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): On March 20, 2024, the Board voted to pursue a change to General Statute 77-141 that would add to the responsibilities of a watershed organization for the development and implementation of a water quality protection plan. Staff from American Rivers indicated support for this particular change. The would like to discuss the other recommendations in the Collaboratory report. The Executive Director discussed the proposed change with staff from DWR Planning who indicated they understood the reasoning and were supportive. Staff indicated they would brief DEQ leadership and council. Granville County is assisting with contacting NC legislators to support adoption of this change during the short session.

A related consideration is coordination of the UNRBA’s efforts at the Department leadership level. For several years the UNRBA has considered seeking a Memorandum of Agreement with DEQ/DWR to reflect a commitment to work cooperatively to develop revised Falls Lake Rules that are consistent with the scientific work and objectives of the UNRBA. Since the UNRBA issued its Concepts and Principles Document and Consensus Principles II at the end of last year, it seems appropriate to consider meeting with the Department/Division and pursuing agreement as the rule revisions are being developed. The Executive Director would like to proceed with making the appropriate contacts and, if appropriate, schedule a meeting.

- B. **Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process (Led by DWR)**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA submitted the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#) to DWR and the EMC on November 22, 2023. The NC Collaboratory submitted their final report in December 2023. These submittals trigger the initiation of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process let by the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR). The Board will be briefed on recent meetings with DWR Planning staff regarding next steps and planning for the rules readoption process as well as a recent planning meeting of the UNRBA Board Officers and PFC Co-Chairs. The Board will also be briefed on upcoming meetings as well as the anticipated schedule for rules readoption.

**C. DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The Division of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a draft proposal for changes to new development rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed. Stakeholders in the High Rock Lake watershed have not yet come to consensus on this proposal. Options in the proposal include requiring peak flow or volume reductions better than pre-development conditions depending on the intensity of the development. The most recent version was distributed to the PFC for review and discussion at their May meeting. DWR would appreciate feedback by mid-May from the UNRBA. Some comments have already been provided and have been compiled. John Huisman will present the draft and the PFC will discuss. Since this draft has potential to impact the components of the revised Falls Lake Rules, our input is important.

**D. Updating the UNRBA Technical Website**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update and merge the Association's technical and public facing websites. At their November meeting, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a contract to begin this work for an amount up to \$20,000. At their September meeting, the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. The PFC has provided input on the draft website content and the team is updating in response. We anticipate a beta version of the website for review by the June meeting.

**E. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status and Evaluating a Falls Lake Assessment Methodology Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard**

Item Summary (Alix Matos): Modeling files for the WARMF watershed model, WARMF lake model, and EFDC lake model have been submitted to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) for review and approval. The [watershed model report](#) has also been submitted to DWR. The Executive Director requested a formal statement from DWR as specified in Section (5)(f)(iii) of the [Falls Lake Rules](#) which require that "the Division shall assure that the supplemental modeling is conducted in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of the Division." The UNRBA submitted and the Division approved the [UNRBA Modeling Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) for this purpose.

The lake model report has been drafted. The Path Forward Committee (PFC) has reviewed and provided comments. DWR is still reviewing the draft report. This report addresses all three UNRBA lake models (WARMF, EFDC, and a statistical Bayesian model). Technical details are described in model-specific appendices. The UNRBA will submit the lake report to DWR for review and approval under Falls Lake Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0275 following this initial review and revision process.

Final development of the statistical model continues and the reporting appendix is under development. Model input data is already summarized in the main lake report. The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Nathan Hall to continue serving as a subject matter expert on statistical model development. The team met March 28, 2024 to continue discussions on the model structure and how to match water quality samples collected at different stations and time in Falls Lake. On April 5, 2024, the Executive Director approved shifting \$10K from Brown and Caldwell's labor budget for statistical modeling and \$20K from Brown and Caldwell's labor under regulatory support for an increase in funding of \$30K for the statistical modeling team to continue their efforts. This shift will not affect the total budget for the project.

As presented at the February PFC, Dr. Marty Lebo provided a final report on the initial work provided under his current agreement. A contract amendment has been executed to continue his progress on the evaluation of a

specific Falls Lake 303(d) assessment methodology and evaluation of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. Dr Lebo is coordinating with the statistical modeling effort, and his work supports this effort. We greatly appreciate that the NC Collaboratory is providing additional funding to Dr. Nathan Hall to review the statistical model and provide input on some of the ecological processes in Falls Lake (including algal species and edibility of higher trophic level organisms).

#### **F. Communications Support**

The UNRBA continues to focus on our primary priority: coordination with DWR and stakeholders in the development of a revised management strategy through the rules review process. Noting that two additional goals remain under consideration: modifications of the 303(d) water quality assessment method for chlorophyll-a in Falls Lake, and the development of a proposed site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria. The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues and will become even more important in 2024 and FY 2025. Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned. We continue to urge our jurisdictions to identify additional communication needs and to request support from the UNRBA team as needed.

Specific activities:

- Updates to the fast facts and infographics documents
- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process (possibly September 18, 2024)
- Participation in a synthesis workshop with NC Collaboratory researchers regarding the overall relationships between the findings of various research studies completed and how those relationships relate to the rules readoption process and the regulatory framework for Falls Lake
- Conducted a well-attended Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference on March 21, 2024
- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.

The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We always encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about issues related to the Association’s work and to provide ideas and identify opportunities to better communicate our work, increase input on the UNRBA’s recommendations for a revised strategy and water quality assessment of Falls Lake.

#### **G. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- DWR Neuse Watershed Model/Delivery Factors for WWTP
- DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed
- DWR interviews of local stormwater staff about stormwater management and reporting techniques
- DWR Inquiries and Issues Regarding Nutrient Credits
- Jordan Lake rules readoption process
- Brown and Caldwell conducting evaluations of development intensity under an on-call contract with the City of Raleigh

#### **H. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair**

**Next PFC Meeting: June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon**

**Next Board Meeting: June 12, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon**

This schedule may be revised, and notices will be provided about any change.

### Remote Access Instructions for UNRBA Board Meetings

**This meeting will open 10 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: <b>Sent morning of meeting</b> <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. <b>See note below on pass code</b>
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: <b>Sent morning of meeting</b> <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. <b>The system issues a new phone passcode for each meeting. We will distribute the telephone passcode the morning of each meeting.</b>

### Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your computer 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, please **limit the discussion to UNRBA Board Members** to facilitate moving through action items