



**Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda  
March 15, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon  
Butner Town Hall with remote access option (see last page)**

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 15, 2023, meeting date.

**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 [January 18, 2023 Draft Board Minutes](#)
- B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)
- C. Approval of Contract Amendment #1 for Modeling and Regulatory Support for FY2023

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): During the January 18, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors authorized a budget amendment of \$180,000 for the FY2023 Modeling and Regulatory Support contract. [The Board will consider approval of the amended contract and scope of work.](#)

**D. Approval of the Budget for FY2024**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The Board will review the proposed budget for the Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Support contract for FY2024. It is recommended that the budget remain the same as FY2023 with the exception of the increases to the Executive Director Services Contract that the Board approved at the January 18, 2023 meeting. The Path Forward Committee supported this recommendation at the meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. A contract and scope of work is under development. The PFC will review, and it will be presented to the Board for approval at the June meeting.

**III. Status Reports and Informational Items**

**A. 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 is currently being evaluated for scenarios. The results of the model scenarios for the watershed and WARMF Lake model have been presented to the PFC. These results are also being incorporated into the watershed model and lake model reports. Once the watershed model report is updated, the MRSW will review a revised draft report in response to their comments on the original draft after the watershed modeling scenarios have been conducted. A WARMF model training was held with UNRBA members and DWR modeling staff on February 6, 2023.

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). Both WARMF Lake and EFDC have been calibrated for water quality in Falls Lake with approval by the MRSW. Lake model reporting and scenario evaluation are under development.

The datasets for the statistical model have been compiled and are being evaluated to address questions about the relationships among precipitation, nutrient loading, chlorophyll-a, and satisfaction with designated uses.

This model will inform the proposed revised nutrient management strategy and the petition for a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. The modeling team has engaged the third-party model reviewers for the statistical modeling and 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.

**B. 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 has discussed principles and concepts for the revised strategy during its [November](#), [December](#), and [January](#) meetings. These discussion notes were used to develop a preliminary draft document that the PFC will review at their April meeting.

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.

**C. Communications**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): There are several items of outreach that are underway including the continued engagement with DWR. The UNRBA is also planning for a session at WRRRI's Annual Conference in March 2023; a joint symposium with NC Policy Collaboratory in April 2023; a workshop with DWR/NC Policy Collaboratory/NGOs to discuss stakeholder feedback on the concepts for a revised nutrient management strategy planned for early summer 2023; a Technical Stakeholder Workshop in fall 2023; and a Stakeholder workshop to discussed the final recommendations for draft strategy in the spring of 2024. Expansion of outreach efforts with our members and their elected and leadership representatives will be a priority. 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. We are planning a press release on the Neuse River of the Year for the upper part of the watershed following event details from American Rivers. The Board suggests including the Year 1 IAIA Report and the 2022 UNRBA Status Report as part of this release. BC communications staff have been identified to support development of press releases and videos. Discussions at the March 7<sup>th</sup> PFC meeting identified several priorities for increasing communication to the general public about the UNRBA, specifically including the IAIA, and the upcoming decisions on a revised strategy.

A [UNRBA status update for 2022](#) has been posted to the UNRBA website. A press release is being planned to coincide with American River’s events to celebrate the Neuse River of the Year. Coordination with the NC Policy Collaboratory and their Falls Lake researchers is very important and will need to expand during 2023. The Collaboratory’s report on their Falls Lake work is due at the end of 2023.

The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We continue to emphasize the importance of seeking member input to help identify needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

**D. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations at the end of 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

**E. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair**

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**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: 723 709 240 # <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. <span style="background-color: yellow;">See note below on pass code</span>
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 723 709 240 # <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. <span style="background-color: yellow;">The system continues to update the passcode without warning. We will check the passcode the morning of the meeting and resend if needed via email.</span>

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- 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