

UNRBA Board of Directors: March 20, 2024 Draft Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Wendy Jacobs	Durham County
Ryan Eaves	Durham County
Meaghun Darab (virtual)	Town of Hillsborough
Carolyn Bachl (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Katie Rhyne	Town of Butner
Russ May	Granville County
Carl Rist	City of Durham
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Scott Schroyer	South Granville Water and Sewer Authority
Ed Buchan (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Wesley Poole (virtual)	Orange County
Chris Bowley	Person County
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Aaron Worley	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Kathy Cooper (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Jay Sauber (virtual)	Sauber Water Quality Consultant
Dan McLawhorn (virtual)	DFM Law Office
Bob Hornick (virtual)	Town of Hillsborough and Town of Stem
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic (virtual)	UNRBA

Welcome and Recognition -

The Chair, Wendy Jacobs, called the meeting of the UNRBA Board to order and welcomed all those in attendance and those participating through remote access. The Chair asked if any of the Board Directors have any "conflict of interest" issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. The Chair called the roll and 8 of 14 members were present for a quorum (three additional member representatives joined the meeting later and voted on action items). The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Being none, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Cary Rist, and approved by the Board

Action Items -

Approval of Minutes, January 17, 2024 Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Ed Buchan made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Scott Schroyer, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 29, 2024. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$160,723.58 and the savings account balance was \$1,212,318.49. Following review of the report, Carl Rist made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Chris Bowley, and approved by the Board.

Proposed Legislative Change to Expand the Authority of Watershed Organizations in the Implementation of Watershed Management Rules – Forrest reported to the Board that work funded by the N. C. Collaboratory suggest revisions in the current statutes that could benefit the UNRBA in achieving an improved framework for implementation of the revised rules for the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. The specific revision recommended would revise General Statute § 77-141 be modified to include as an allowed purpose of the organizations to develop and implement a water quality protection plan approved by the Environmental Management Commission. Forrest provided a draft of the proposed legislation. Following discussion, Russ May made the motion to proceed with pursuing the legislative revision, seconded by Carl Rist, and approved by the Board (roll call vote).

Agreement with WSP, Inc. – Forrest reported that WSP, Inc. (Dr, Marty Lebo, project manager) continues work for the UNRBA in developing support information for a revised water quality standard and other information that would assist with developing an improved regulatory framework for Falls Lake. Additional effort is needed to supplement the work already completed and to provide data analyses to support revision of the 303(d) assessment methodology applied to Falls Lake. The cost estimate for this work is \$26,000 and Forrest recommend a budget not to exceed \$30,000. \$20,000 for this work is included in the proposed budget for FY 2025 and \$10,000 will be appropriated from contingency. Following discussion, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement, seconded by Scott Schroyer, and approved by the Board.

Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25 – Forrest presented the proposed FY 2024-25 Budget. He noted that work will need to focus on coordination and support for the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised Falls Lake Nutrient Strategy and to work with DWR, EMC, and the General Assembly to support an effective and efficient rules readoption process. The proposed budget is: Executive Director Services, \$243,390; Modeling, Regulatory, and Communications, \$535,010; WSP, Inc., \$20,000; Communications Support, \$60,000; Legal Support, \$100,000; and Administrative Costs, \$8,300 totaling \$966,700. Following discussion, Carl Rist made the motion to approve the FY 2024-25 Budget as presented, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board (roll call vote).

Informational Items -

Interviews by researchers from Science and Technologies for Phosphorous Sustainability (STEPS) – Forrest reported he had been contacted by a researcher from N. C. State, Dr. Ashton Merck, who is working with professors from Appalachian State Univ. that they are interested in talking with members of the UNRBA. Information on this process was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. Forrest indicated they may be in contact with UNRBA member representatives in the near future.

Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process – Forrest briefed the Board on the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process. He noted that the UNRBA submitted the Concepts and Principles for Reexamination and the Consensus Principles II to DWR and EMC in November and the NC Collaboratory submitted their final report in December. While DWR anticipates rule readoption in 2026-27, Forrest reiterated that he hopes that readoption can occur before then. He reviewed the follow-up activity that has occurred since the UNRBA submitted its recommendations.

UNRBA Website Update – Forrest reviewed the preliminary work on the upgraded website which will combine the two existing websites into one site. A preview may be available at the May meeting.

Modeling and Regulatory Support Update – Alix Matos reported the WARMF watershed model, draft WARMF Lake model, and draft EFDC lake model reports have been submitted to DWR. The Statistical model is still being developed. For details please review the meeting presentation: [March 20 Meeting Presentation](#)

Communication Support – Forrest noted a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR is being planned, a meeting with NC Collaboratory regarding revised nutrient management strategy, a presentation is planned for the March WRII conference. An update of the fast facts and infographics documents, as well as the general presentation slides for use by our members are in the works.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be May 15, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., planned as a face to face meeting, with a remote access option available. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.