

## UNRBA Board of Directors: **Draft** September 15, 2021 Board Minutes

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The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 via conference call/webinar due to the COVID-19 issues. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Bill McKellar (Vice Chair)	Town of Butner
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Secretary)	Town of Hillsborough
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Russ May	Granville County
Jamezetta Bedford	Orange County
Neena Nowell	City of Creedmoor
Barry Baker	Granville County
Jamezetta Bedford	Orange County
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
David Harris	Durham Soil & Water Conservation
Emily Bateman	Durham Soil & Water Conservation
Kathy Cooper	City of Raleigh
McKenzie Myers	Durham County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Nancy Daly	Wake County
Carolyn Bachl	City of Raleigh
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Dan McLawhorn	City of Raleigh
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Jim Wrenn	Representing Granville Co., Person Co., Butner, and Creedmoor
Javiera Caballero	City of Durham
Lori Oakley	Person County
Don O'Toole	City of Durham
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville and Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Joey Hester	DWR Planning
Wendy Jacobs	Durham County
Carrie Mitchell	Town of Wake Forest
Bob Hornick	Town of Hillsborough
Peter Raabe	American Rivers
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Jessica Sheffield	Eno River Association
Lauren Meads	
Jay Sauber	Water Quality Consultant
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic	UNRBA

**Welcome and Recognition -**

The Chair, Sig Hutchinson, called the meeting of the UNRBA to order and welcomed all those in attendance 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 11 of 13 members were present for a quorum. The Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda and, if not, was there a motion to approve the agenda. Jenn Weaver made the motion to approve as presented, seconded by Javiera Caballero, and approved by the Board.

**Action Items -**

*Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2021 Board Meeting* - The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Neena Nowell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Javiera Caballero, and approved by the Board.

*Treasurer's Report* – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2021. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$1,204,654.55 and the savings account balance was \$570,412.38. Following review of the report, Bill McKellar made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Jenn Weaver, and approved by the Board.

*Review of UNRBA 990 Tax Return for 2020* – Haywood Phthisic presented the draft 990 tax return for 2020. The draft return was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting and Haywood noted several comments had been received. The due date for the return is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Haywood requested that if Board members have other comments or questions please submit those to him and Forrest.

*Review of UNRBA Audit Form* – Forrest reported the audit process is underway and the auditor has sent several questionnaires for the management team and the Board members. The Board questionnaire was emailed to the members prior to the meeting. Forrest asked the Board to review and complete the questionnaire and submit it to the auditor as soon as possible. The auditor is Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Company, LLP located in Oxford, N.C.

*Authorization for Executive Director to Comment on Proposed Chlorophyll-a Site Specific Standards for High Rock Lake and Importance to Site Specific Standards for Falls Lake* – Forrest reviewed the proposed chlorophyll-a site specific standard for High Rock Lake with the Board and requested confirmation that he is authorized to submit comments during the public comment period. He noted the Board had previously authorized the submittal of comments at other stages in this process of the state to put forward a site-specific proposal for High Rock Lake. Being no objections, the Board confirmed that the Executive Director is authorized to submit comments.

**Informational Items -**

*EPA Approval of NC 2020 303(d) List* – Jay Sauber, water quality consultant to the UNRBA, reported to the Board the NC 303(d) List has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

*EPA Approval of Ambient Water Quality Criteria Recommendation for Lakes and Reservoirs* – Forrest noted the US EPA had noticed for public comment a new water quality criteria guidance proposal in May of 2020. The UNRBA submitted comments on August 4, 2020. On August 13, 2021 EPA issued final approval of this criteria. States are not required to adopt these criteria, but to consider them in developing their standards for lakes and reservoirs.

*Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard* – Forrest reviewed the status of the UNRBA's development of a statistical/Bayesian model for Falls Lake. One of the important components of the is effort is to evaluate/project linkages to the water quality information from

Falls Lake to its designated uses. This information will support an evaluation of the appropriateness of a site-specific standard for Falls Lake. The PFC (Path Forward Committee) identified local subject matter experts to provide data and information regarding satisfaction with the designated uses of Falls Lake (drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and flooding). This group is designated the Technical Advisors Workgroup and their work will inform the Legal Group and the UNRBA's legal support contractor about any noted issues related to uses and algal impacts in Falls Lake.

*Modeling & Regulatory Support (MRS) Status* – Alix Matos reviewed the status of the MRS efforts and noted that the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. This calibration was reviewed by modeling subject matter experts funded by the UNC Policy Collaboratory, the MRSW (Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup), at a meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>, and the PFC at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The calibration was recommended for approved by the MRSW and approved by the PFC. The calibrated model will be used for developing the WARMF Lake and Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) models for Falls Lake. The combined modeling effort will be used to support the development of the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised Nutrient Management Strategy for Falls Lake. September 7, 2021, PFC meeting. Additionally, the WARMF Lake model has been set up and the modeling team is working on evaluation of water movement and thermal stratification.

*Communications* – Forrest reported that, as a follow-up to the May 19, 2021, Symposium on the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Studies held jointly by the UNRBA and UNC Collaboratory, Collaboratory-funded researchers have been presenting their studies to the UNRBA Path Forward Committee (PFC) and the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW). The UNRBA is also planning a technical stakeholders' workshop for late Fall 2021 or spring 2022 to discuss the status of the modeling efforts. Planning has also begun for another joint symposium with the Policy Collaboratory to be held in Spring 2022. The Executive Director and his team recently discussed the history of the UNRBA and the re-examination project with Tim Wool, manager of Region IV's modeling program. The UNRBA is also planning meetings with DWR and DEQ to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. Forrest pointed out that the UNRBA's monthly meetings, of either the MRSW or the PFC, are open to all and that DWR modeling and planning staff consistently attend these sessions and provide input to the UNRBA. The UNRBA team consistently address input from DWR and promote the full exchange of information and observations. The Board meetings are also open and DWR consistently has a representative at these sessions. Forrest reiterated his ongoing observation that the UNRBA meeting process is in itself an open communication effort. Forrest stated that he would continue to discuss internal and external stakeholder communication needs at every meeting of the UNRBA.

*Re-examination Timeline* - The re-examination of the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy will rely on completion of the models, adjustments to the regulatory framework (e.g., site specific criteria, variances, use attainability analyses), and an extensive communication effort with internal and external stakeholders. The effort to secure appropriate outreach to stakeholders is a shared responsibility within the UNRBA. The schedule for developing the UNRBA's recommendations for a revised nutrient management strategy was revised during the meeting and it was emphasized that this approach would continue for future meetings.

*Status of the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)*: Forrest reviewed the work on the IAIA. On June 16, 2021, the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee (CGC) submitted the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program to DWR and the EMC. DWR acknowledged receipt of the submittal on June 30, 2021, and implementation of the program began on July 1, 2021. A draft reporting tool has been developed and reviewed by the IAIA Reporting Workgroup. This tool will be distributed to the PFC for review and discussion at their next meeting. Forrest acknowledged that there has been a lot of work by all of our jurisdictions both before the IAIA was adopted and since to identify and undertake projects that will meet the investment commitments established in the program. He noted one of the project efforts in Person County. Lori Oakley with the County has been working toward the completion of this project for several months. Recently, the Person

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County Board of Commissioners voted to proceed with moving forward with utilizing the undeveloped 300 acre "County Farm" site for a land preservation effort which will go toward IAIA compliance for the county.

*Ongoing Discussions/Issues* - Forrest summarized the list of items and activities in progress. For the list please see the meeting agenda: [September 17 2021 Agenda](#)

The next scheduled Board meeting will be November 17, 2021 at 9:30 A.M via remote access. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.