

UNRBA Board of Directors: Draft September 21, 2022 Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Sig Hutchinson (Chair)	Wake County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair) (virtual)	Town of Hillsborough
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Wendy Jacobs (Secretary)	Durham County
Reggie Hicks (virtual)	City of Durham
Bill McKellar	Town of Butner
Russ May	Granville County
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Chris Bowley	Person County
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Carolyn Bachl (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Nancy Daly (virtual)	Wake County
Kathy Cooper (virtual)	City of Raleigh
Katie Cromwell	Representing Granville/Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Jennifer Tavantzis (virtual)	Representing Granville/Person Stormwater Utility (Granville Co., Person Co., Stem, Butner, & Creedmoor)
Jim Wrenn	Representing the Granville/Person Stormwater Utility and Granville County
John Huisman (virtual)	DWR
Peter Raabe (virtual)	American Rivers
Sally Green (virtual)	Orange County
Tammie Sawaya (virtual)	
Sandy Wilber (virtual)	City of Durham
Don O'Toole (virtual)	City of Durham
Wesley Poole	Orange
Monica Sarna	Town of Wake Forest
Rebecca Freeman	Preserve Rural Durham
Thomas Freeman	Preserve Rural Durham
Pam Williams	Preserve Rural Durham
Tina Motley-Pearson	Preserve Rural Durham
Pamela Andrews	Preserve Rural Durham
Katie Ross	Preserve Rural Durham
Jay Sauber	Sauber Water Quality Consulting
Alix Matos (virtual)	Brown & Caldwell
Forrest Westall	UNRBA
Haywood Phthisic	UNRBA

Welcome and Recognition -

The Chair, Sig Hutchinson, called the meeting of the UNRBA Board 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 14 members were present for a quorum.

The Chair called on Peter Raabe with American Rivers for a special announcement by American Rivers. Peter noted American Rivers will be announcing later in mid-October that the Neuse River will be American Rivers “River of the Year.” He noted several points of reference in making this decision, including the improvements that have occurred in the water quality at the Neuse Estuary since the development Neuse Management Strategy in 1998 and the work of the UNRBA. He also pointed out that there are many reasons for this designation, including the importance and unique character of this river and watershed for NC.

Review and Approval of the Agenda – The Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Being none, Bill McKellar made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Russ May, and approved by the Board.

Action Items -

Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2022 Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Being none, Wendy Jacobs made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending August 31, 2022. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$733,233.91 and the savings account balance was \$574,816.73. Following review of the report, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Bill McKellar, and approved by the Board.

990 Tax Return for FY 2021 – Haywood Phthisic reported the 990 Tax Return for FY 2021 has been completed and distributed to the Board for review. The return is due November 15, 2022 so, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please let us know by September 30, 2022.

Surplus Property Update – Forrest reported the inflatable boat used in the monitoring program that was being considered by their sheriff’s department. Russ May with Granville County asked that the Board reconsidered its previous request and donate to Granville County instead of the sheriff’s department. Following discussion, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to transfer the boat to Granville County, seconded by Terry Hackett, and approved by the Board.

Informational Items -

Update on Website Software on Technical Website – Haywood reported the software version that the technical website is operating on will not be support in approximately 1 year. Discussions are moving forward on the task of updating the website with the current version of Drupal software. More information will be forthcoming.

Status of Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) – Forrest reported the IAIA was implemented on July 1, 2022. Individual jurisdictional reports are due September 30, 2022. A reporting template has been distributed for the annual reports. The UNRBA’s overall summary report is due November 30th and will be presented for approval to the Compliance Group Committee of the UNRBA at the November Board meeting. Forrest noted the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) provided its final approval of the IAIA program at their September meeting.

EMC Approval of the High Rock Lake Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Standard – The EMC approved the site-specific standard for chlorophyll-a for High Rock Lake at their September 8, 2022, meeting. Several of the issues raised by the UNRBA and other commentors were addressed, but there were some important ones that were not. The UNRBA Board had authorized the Executive Director to intervene with the Rules Review Commission (RRC) if the final action failed to properly address the UNRBA’s comments. The Yadkin/PeeDee River Basis Association and the NC Water Quality Association, both of which provided generally consistent comments to those provided by the UNRBA, decided not to pursue any additional revisions through objection to the RRC. As a result, and with coordination with the UNRBA Executive Committee, decided that objection by the UNRBA was not appropriate. The Executive Director did reference several discussions with DWR that confirmed DWR would consider any site-specific standard request for Falls Lake would be considered based on the characteristics of Falls Lake and not the High Rock Lake decision basis.

Modeling and Regulatory Support Status – Alix Matos with Brown and Caldwell updated the Board on the modeling progress to date. For detailed information please review meeting presentation: [September 21 2022 Meeting Presentation](#).

Ongoing Development of the Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Regulatory Options - The Executive Director met with the DWR Director on June 17th. The Executive Director and UNRBA subject matter experts met with the DWR Director and the DWR leadership team on July 25th. Both meetings discussed a collaborative approach for DWR and UNRBA to finalize the models, develop a revised nutrient management strategy, and develop a petition for site specific criteria. The UNRBA will continue to work with other stakeholders on these items as well.

Communications – Forrest noted recent staff changes at member local governments highlight the need for UNRBA engagement at all levels with each local government. A technical stakeholder meeting is planned for the winter of 2023 following the model calibrations. A second joint symposium will be scheduled for the spring of 2023. A general workshop is planned for the fall of 2023, ahead of finalizing the UNRBA’s recommendations, to provide an opportunity to comment on the draft concepts and principles developed to support final recommendations for the revised nutrient management strategy and the site-specific standard.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be November 16, 2022 at 9:30 A.M face to face, with a remote access option. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.