

**Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) and
Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meetings**
May 4, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM
Remote Access Only (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the MRSW and PFC Meetings have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). A direct link to the meeting presentations for the PFC meetings is provided here: [PFC Meeting for May 4, 2021](#). Materials for the MRSW meeting will be distributed separately.

Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup Agenda, 9:00 to 11:00

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Chair, Michelle Woolfolk

II. MRSW Workgroup Reports

Item Summary (Michelle Woolfolk and Jenn Tavantzis): The MRSW established two workgroups to screen and select scenarios for evaluation with the models and to develop reporting formats to facilitate comparison of scenario output. Members of the Scenario Output and the Model Scenario Output Workgroups will provide status reports to the MRSW.

III. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status – WARMF Watershed and EFDC Lake

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. The modeling team will review the model calibration and summarize the calibration efforts. The model output is being post-processed to identify the major sources of loading to the lake. The Falls Lake bathymetry data collected by the UNRBA is being processed to develop the modeling segments for WARMF Lake. Hydrodynamic calibration of the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) is ongoing and the water quality inputs are being set up to transition to water quality calibration. The modeling team is working on the watershed model calibration report and the EFDC model calibration report.

IV. Plan for Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Alix Matos and Forrest Westall): The UNRBA legal workgroup discussed the FY2021 scope of work with Barnes and Thornburg to provide legal support. The primary task for FY2021 is to begin consideration of a petition for rulemaking for Falls Lake (e.g., site specific criteria). This work will be partially supported by the UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake. The models supporting the Re-examination of the Falls Nutrient Management Strategy will be discussed with an emphasis on the Statistical Model. Next steps and input requirements of the Statistical Model will be discussed. To support this effort, a Technical Advisors Workgroup to the Legal Team and Statistical Modelers was formed during the January PFC meeting and will meet in May to discuss local data that can be used to evaluate the designated uses of Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup is comprised of MRSW and PFC members and will be asked to identify staff at their jurisdictions to provide data and information. Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.

V. Review of Draft Scope of Work for Modeling, Regulatory, and Communications Support for FY2022

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Alix Matos): Brown and Caldwell and the subconsultants have developed a draft scope of work and preliminary budget for the Modeling, Regulatory, and Communications Support project for FY2022. The main tasks and summary of the draft budget will be presented to the

MRSW for review and discussion. The draft will be revised in response to MRSW comments and presented to the PFC at their June meeting and to the Board for approval on June 16, 2021.

THE MRSW MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A ONE-HALF HOUR BREAK.

Path Forward Committee Agenda, 11:30 to 1:15

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Kenny Waldroup and Michelle Woolfolk**
- II. **Implementation of the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) — Informational Item**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA Board voted to approve the IAIA Program Document and the revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws on March 17, 2021. The Board also formed the Compliance Group Committee (CGC) comprised of Board Directors who represent the local governments participating in the Program. The CGC will meet in June during the UNRBA Board meeting to confirm by resolution the participation by each local government in the IAIA. Implementation of the Stage I Existing Development Rules under the IAIA will begin formally in July 2021. This will be stated in the resolution to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). The template for reporting will be used to develop an Excel-based tool for use by the members. A [press release](#) celebrating this accomplishment has been posted to the UNRBA website and provided to selected media outlets.
- III. **Status of the Draft 2021 Falls Lake Status Report — Informational Item**

Item Summary (John Huisman): DWR is drafting its 5-year status report for Falls Lake which includes references to the summaries and findings from the [2019 UNRBA Monitoring Report](#). John Huisman provided an overview of the report and the PFC provided comments during the April 6, 2021 PFC meeting. DWR is revising the draft report to respond to UNRBA comments and have continued to reach out to the Executive Director for clarification of comments. DWR will provide a revised draft for review by the UNRBA in May and will present to the water quality committee and full EMC at the July meetings.
- IV. **Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria**

Item Summary (Jay Sauber): At the January 2021 Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director and the UNRBA subject matter experts to comment on the proposed High Rock Lake (HRL) site specific chlorophyll-a criteria. The HRL site specific standard proposal was expected to be put before the EMC Water Quality Committee (WQC) in March and the full EMC in May. The proposal was not issued or discussed at the March WQC meeting. To allow DWR additional time to consider the comments received on the information presented to the Compliance Implementation Committee (CIC), presentation to the WQC was delayed. We certainly hope that this additional consideration will address the UNRBA's comments provided to the CIC before their meeting to discuss the preliminary proposal. We anticipate that the EMC WQC will consider the DWR proposal at the May meeting and the Full EMC will review it in July to determine if the proposed site-specific standard will go to public notice. DWR made a presentation at the [Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Association](#) on April 9th. The NC Water Quality Association provided comments on April 19th.
- V. **Modeling and Regulatory Support Status — Informational Item**

Item Summary (Alix Matos, Michelle Woolfolk, and Jenn Tavantzis): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The model output is being post-processed to identify the major sources of loading to the lake. The Falls Lake bathymetry data collected by the UNRBA is being processed to develop the modeling

segments for WARMF Lake. Hydrodynamic calibration of the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) is ongoing and the water quality inputs are being set up to transition to water quality calibration. The modeling team is working on the watershed model calibration report and the EFDC model calibration report. The two scenario workgroups (Scenario Output and the Model Scenario Output Workgroups) are continuing to develop a process to select scenarios to evaluate and to develop documentation to describe and compare output. Status updates from members of these two workgroups will be provided.

VI. Statistical Model Development and Evaluation of Regulatory Options Relative to the Water Quality Standard – Information Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The importance of establishing a site-specific standard for Falls Lake has been reviewed a number of times over the last two years. Because of the flexibility that will be built into the Statistical Model, this effort is being coordinated with the work of the Legal Group and the UNRBA's legal subject matter expert. Additional coordination sessions with the Statistical Modeling Team and the Legal Group will be scheduled in the coming months. Because development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard represents an important consideration for a revised Falls Lake management strategy, a Technical Advisors' Workgroup to support these efforts was formed during the January PFC meeting and will provide input to the statistical modelers and the legal group and provide recommendations to the MRSW and PFC. This workgroup is meeting to May to initiate discussions and identify local contacts for data gathering. The UNRBA's engagement in the High Rock Lake site-specific standard for chlorophyll-a process and our work on the 303(d) and Integrated Report process are also linked to this effort.

VII. Communications Support – Information Item

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Executive Director and communications team continues planning efforts with the Collaboratory on the joint symposium, and a "save the date" has been distributed for May 19, 2021. The symposium is free, but registration is required; register by [clicking here](#). Over 90 people have registered, and the UNRBA will be well represented in attendance. The May Board meeting has been cancelled by the Board to accommodate this event and maximize participation by UNRBA Board members and those in the PFC. The purpose of the symposium is to inform Falls Lake stakeholders of recent UNC Collaboratory research and how those study results will be referenced and incorporated into the UNRBA efforts to re-examine the Falls Nutrient Management Strategy. The UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop has been postponed until FY2022 due to COVID-19 and the Collaboratory/UNRBA Symposium. The PFC will continue to discuss external stakeholder communication needs.

VIII. Other Status Items—Information Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Brief statements on several ongoing activities:

- Importance of communication outreach efforts: IAIA press release, Symposium, Technical Workshop, MRSW workgroups
- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Leadership and organizational changes at NCDEQ and EPA (noting several organizational changes—Assistant Secretary Sheila Holman is retiring effective May 1, 2021)
- Coordination with the Collaboratory on Falls Lake studies and the 3rd party review effort
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, UNRBA/DWR meeting to review data collected/compiled from the Association's study, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.



IX. Closing Comments— Co-Chairs Kenny Waldroup and Michelle Woolfolk

Falls Lake Symposium: May 19, 2021, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Next MRSW Meeting: June 1, 2021, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Next PFC Meeting: June 1, 2021, 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM

Next BOD Meeting: June 16, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon

Remote Access Instructions for the MRSW and PFC 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	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	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	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Follow instructions above. Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone , dial the number through your phone and enter the passcode.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961#	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.

Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your 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