

**Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW) and  
Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meetings**  
June 1, 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 June 1, 2021 meetings is provided here: [MRSW meeting](#) and [PFC meeting](#).

**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, Dan McLawhorn, and Anne Coan): 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. The Scenario Screening Workgroup will present three scenarios to the MRSW to vote on recommendations for priority level for consideration by the PFC at their meeting later in the day.

**III. Review of Contracts for FY2022**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): 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 were presented to the MRSW for review and discussion at their May meeting. The draft contract and scope of work were distributed prior to the June MRSW and PFC meetings and will be revised in response to MRSW and PFC comments and presented to the Board for approval on June 16, 2021. A status of the contracts for Sauber Water Quality Consulting, Phthisic Consulting, MFG Consulting LLC (web support), Executive Director Services and a new contract for support of site-specific criteria development (Dr. Marty Lebo) will also be discussed.

**IV. 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 is being calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The modeling team will review the status of 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.

**V. 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 met in May to discuss contacts for local data and information that can be used to evaluate the designated uses of Falls Lake. The Technical Advisors Workgroup is comprised of MRSW and PFC members and have identified staff at their jurisdictions or other experts to provide data and information. The modeling team will be meeting with these contacts in June and July. We have identified a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA in the site-specific effort, Dr. Marty Lebo. Dr. Lebo has presented to the PFC in the past on his work with the SAC and his evaluation of the High Rock Lake data. We have developed an agreement for support of the UNRBA effort. Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.

**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. Review of Contracts for FY2022**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): 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 were presented to the MRSW for review and discussion at their May meeting. The draft contract and scope of work were distributed prior to the June MRSW and PFC meetings and will be revised in response to MRSW and PFC comments and presented to the Board for approval on June 16, 2021. A status of the contracts for Sauber Water Quality Consulting, Phthisic Consulting, MFG Consulting LLC (web support), Executive Director Services and a new contract for support of site-specific criteria development (Dr. Marty Lebo) will also be discussed.
- III. 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). A draft resolution has been reviewed by the legal group and will be presented to the PFC in preparation for the CGC meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The template for reporting is under development and will be used to develop an Excel-based tool for use by the members, and a preliminary draft spreadsheet has been reviewed by the IAIA Reporting Workgroup including a representative from DWR and is being modified in response to their comments. We anticipate review by the PFC in June for discussion during the July PFC meeting.
- IV. 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 and plans to present to the water quality committee and full EMC at the July EMC meetings.

**V. 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 put before the EMC Water Quality Committee (WQC) in May and will be presented to the full EMC in July. This proposal is precedent setting for site specific chlorophyll-a criteria in NC lakes and reservoirs. The UNRBA provided comments on the draft in December 2020 and summarized comments in separate letter to the EMC in May. The YPDRBA provided comments to DWR in February 2021, and DWR made a presentation at the [Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Association \(YPDRBA\)](#) on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The NC Water Quality Association provided comments to DWR in April 2021. To date, no changes have been made to the draft proposal resulting from comments nor have responses been provided by DWR. At the May meeting, the EMC WQC instructed DWR to provide responses to these comments as part of the public record and to revise the proposal as warranted given the significant review and substantial comments submitted by the UNRBA, YPDRBA, and NCWQA.

**VI. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status — Informational Item**

Item Summary (Michelle Woolfolk, Dan McLawhorn, and Anne Coan, Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed is being calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The model output will be 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. The MRSW will present three scenarios to the PFC to vote on recommendations for priority level for consideration by the Board at their June meeting.

**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 to provide input to the statistical modelers and the legal group and provide recommendations to the MRSW and PFC. This

workgroup met in May to initiate discussions and identify local contacts for data gathering. The modeling team will be meeting with these contacts in June and July to discuss how the designated uses of Falls Lake will be evaluated and what local data is available. We have identified a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA in the site-specific effort, Dr. Marty Lebo. Dr. Lebo has presented to the PFC in the past on his work with the SAC and his evaluation of the High Rock Lake data. We have developed an agreement for support of the UNRBA effort. 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 UNRBA and UNC Collaboratory held a joint symposium on May 19, 2021 to discuss the ongoing nutrient management strategies for Falls Lake. The symposium discussed the individual efforts and the coordination between the two organizations. Approximately 100 people attended the event, and all presentations and recordings of interactive discussions will be made available online soon. The symposium was a big success, and the UNRBA is grateful to the Collaboratory for coordinating the event and highlighting the work of the UNRBA. 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, identification of opportunities to reach broader audiences
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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

**Next MRSW Meeting: July 6, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon**

**Next PFC Meeting: August 3, 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	<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: 371 817 961# <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.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961#	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. <b>Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.</b>

### 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