

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting
April 6, 2021, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Remote Access Only (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the [April PFC Meeting](#) have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). There is no Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup Meeting scheduled in April.

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Kenny Waldroup and Michelle Woolfolk**
- II. **Board Approval of the Final Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program Document and Revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws — 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 press release celebrating this accomplishment is under development and will also be posted to the UNRBA upperneuse.org 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 and has indicated they will reference the summaries and findings from the [2019 UNRBA Monitoring Report](#). John Huisman has reached out to the Executive Director and the consulting team for clarifications as he drafts the report. DWR plans to deliver a draft report for UNRBA review in mid-March for review and input. An overview of the report will be provided during the meeting.
- IV. **Update - DWR 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessments**
Item Summary (Pam Behm and Cam McNutt): The DWR draft Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report and the 303(d) list for 2020 have been released. The UNRBA subject matter experts provided a review of the assessment at the March PFC and March Board meetings. UNRBA comments were submitted to DWR prior to the deadline of April 2, 2021. These comments were provided to the PFC and Board as well. Staff from DWR will provide an overview of the assessment for Falls Lake.
- 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 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 is scheduled to make a presentation at the [Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Association](#) on April 9th.

VI. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status — Informational Item

Item Summary (Alix Matos, Michelle Woolfolk, and Jenn Tavantzis): The modeling team is continuing work on the WARMF watershed model for water quality simulations/calibration and beginning model development of the simple lake model (WARMF Lake). The modeling team is refining the hydrodynamic calibration of the complex lake model (EFDC). A draft of the WARMF watershed model report is being revised in response to comments from the Executive Director and to include descriptions of inputs related to water quality. The two scenario workgroups (Scenario Output Group and the Scenario Screening 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.

VII. 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. Planning for a kickoff meeting with this workgroup is underway. 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.

VIII. Communications Support – Information Item

Item Summary (Alix Matos): At the March 17, 2021 Board meeting, an overview of past and upcoming communication efforts was discussed. The Board discussed the need for additional outreach to interest groups and the general public. The Board noted an interest in identifying specific ways the membership representatives can help in this process. We continue to encourage UNRBA member representatives to reach out to the interest groups they have relationships with to determine if a UNRBA presentation similar to that provided in February to the Interfaith Creation Care groups would fit into an upcoming agenda. This presentation was well received and provided a means to reach many members of the public who are interested in environmental protection. We are seeking input on this from the PFC members.

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](#). We are exploring the possibility of offering professional development hours through the licensing boards to incentivize participation. 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.

IX. 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.

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

Next MRSW Meeting: May 4, 2021, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Remote Access

Next PFC Meeting: May 4, 2021, 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM, Remote Access

Falls Lake Symposium: May 19, 2021, 10:00 AM to 2:15 PM, Remote Access

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

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.

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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.

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