

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting
June 7, 2022, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting: Butner Town Hall
with Remote Option (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the meeting will be placed on the UNRBA [Meeting page](#) prior to the meeting.

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs, Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

II. IAIA Status of Submittal to DWR

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): During the March Board meeting, the Board voted to amend the UNRBA Bylaws to allow the Town of Stem to join the UNRBA. The Compliance Group Committee (CGC) voted to allow the Town of Stem to join the IAIA Program and voted to amend the Program Document to add Stem and make other updates such as adding Hydrilla removal as an eligible practice. The CGC also voted to allow the Chair of the CGC to execute an updated resolution to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to add the Town of Stem and update the Program Document. The Chair executed the resolution and signed a submittal cover letter on May 2, 2022, for submittal to the State. The revised package was submitted to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on May 12, 2022. As we move toward the end of the first year of the IAIA, we want to remind our participating members that first-year investment commitments under the IAIA are required to be reflected in the FY 2021-2022 IAIA annual report. This report is due to DWR and the UNRBA by September 30, 2022.

III. Discussion of the Joint Symposium with the NC Policy Collaboratory

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The second joint symposium with the NC Policy Collaboratory was held on April 7, 2022. This in person meeting was very successful with substantive discussions about the challenges facing Falls Lake. A summary of the discussions and questions posed will be provided. The UNRBA would like to thank the NC Policy Collaboratory and the UNC Institute for the Environment for coordinating and hosting this important event.

IV. Draft Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Scope of Work for FY2023

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Alix Matos): The Executive Director and Chair of the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW, Michelle Woolfolk) reviewed a preliminary draft scope of work, and Don O'Toole has reviewed a preliminary draft contract. The preliminary draft scope of work was reviewed by the MRSW at their May meeting. Review comments were incorporated into a revised draft scope of work and contract distributed to the PFC. PFC comments on the draft scope of work and contract should be provided to the Executive Director by close of business June 7, 2022, following the PFC meeting to provide to the Board approximately one week prior to their review and action at the Board meeting on June 15, 2022. The total budget is set at \$815,000 (which includes the Communications budget). A review of the draft tasks and budget allocations will be discussed.

V. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): As part of the watershed modeling effort, the UNRBA requested that the modeling catchments be delineated to allow for calculation of loads delivered to Falls Lake by county. The data limitations for the model interface have been exceeded, so processing the calibrated model by county is not feasible and an alternative approach was presented to the MRSW and approved at their May meeting. These county-level loads are being further processed to estimate delivered loads to Falls Lake from each

jurisdiction. Preliminary estimates of the jurisdictional loads will be presented and ultimately included in the watershed model report.

The Executive Director and the MRSW Chair have reviewed the WARMF watershed modeling report that describes development and calibration of the watershed model as well as summaries of loading delivered to Falls Lake. Agricultural representatives have reviewed sections of the report describing agricultural inputs and outputs. Jurisdictional loads are being processed for inclusion in an appendix along with loading summaries by tributary. The full modeling report will be distributed to the MRSW after comments have been addressed by the modeling team.

Preliminary water quality calibration of WARMF Lake and EFDC are proceeding using the output from the WARMF watershed model. Visual comparisons of preliminary simulations to lake observations have been discussed with subject matter experts. Data and information are being compiled in reference to different groups of algae in Falls Lake (beyond those included in the models to date) and sediment flux estimates (Dr. Piehler's work is forthcoming).

The statistical/Bayesian modeler has summarized the One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS) water quality and hazardous algal bloom data provided by the CDC and discussed the summaries with CDC staff. An overview of the data and its limitations will be discussed. The modelers are coordinating with Astrid Schnetzer (NCSU) to incorporate her algal toxin data collected in Falls Lake into the analysis. The City of Raleigh has also provided additional toxin data that will be updated.

VI. Preliminary Discussions of Concepts Believed to be Important in Developing the 2023 Nutrient Strategy Revisions (Falls Lake Rules)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Outreach on this objective occurred a couple of months ago. The Co-Chairs of the PFC identified the need to begin discussions on concepts for the UNRBA's recommendations for revision to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy—the Rules. This initiative was noted in communication to the PFC within the last couple of months, and it is important that we begin to consider what has been learned about the nutrient contributions from the different categories of nutrient sources to Falls Lake. The watershed model has identified some critical aspects that will relate directly to developing an effective revised strategy. These discussions will help formulate preliminary information that will be shared internally, externally, and with DWR. While the calibration and confirmation of the lake modeling is not yet complete, the watershed model provides some excellent insights into how the nutrient sources in the watershed contribute loading to the lake. This modeling provides important characteristics of sources that can be considered either "unmanaged" or those that represent human activity and active use of land. It is important to note that this process is very preliminary and represents only a beginning of the effort to generate discussion and input on how the strategy may be updated. This by no means is intended to limit discussion, but to expand it and generate interest and consideration by Falls Lake stakeholders. The Co-Chairs of the PFC will meet today following the PFC meeting to discuss moving this initiative forward.

VII. MRSW Workgroup Reports

Item Summary (Michelle Woolfolk and Alix Matos): The Scenario Screening workgroup has completed its work to evaluate potential scenarios for evaluation with the models; these scenarios were presented to the MRSW in March. The modeling team discussed options for modeling management activities on agricultural lands with agricultural representatives in April and May. The agricultural sector has already achieved significant reductions in nutrient loading to Falls Lake since baseline; these actions will be documented in

UNRBA reporting. The Scenario Output workgroup has completed their charge of developing reporting formats to facilitate comparison of scenario output.

VIII. Plan for Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard Proposal

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The primary task is to begin consideration of a petition for rulemaking for Falls Lake (e.g., site specific criteria). The effort to develop this proposal will be partially supported by the UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake. However, input to the proposal will be supported by the other models as well. The Statistical Model has important flexibility in the posing of questions related to the appropriateness of a site-specific standard. All the models supporting the Re-examination of the Falls Nutrient Management Strategy will be used to support the effort, with an emphasis on the Statistical Model. The statistical modeling team has been reaching out to contacts provided by the Technical Advisors Workgroup to collect data and information regarding satisfaction of designated uses in Falls Lake. DWR has also provided input on the contact list. National and local datasets are being formatted to build the model (e.g., CDC's OHHABS data discussed above). The statistical modeling team and the legal team are also coordinating with Dr. Marty Lebo who has been identified as a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA for evaluating site-specific criteria for Falls Lake. Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.

IX. DWR 2022 Integrated Report and 303(d) Assessments

Item Summary (Jay Sauber): DWR and EPA have finalized the 2022 303(d) List. The DWR Draft Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report and the Draft 303(d) List for 2022 were posted to the [DWR website](#). The UNRBA submitted comments on the draft documents on February 18, 2022. The EPA received the State's final 2022 Section 303(d) List submission on April 1, 2022. The submission consisted of a Listing and Delisting Methodology, the Section 303(d) List, the list of waters removed from the Section 303(d) List (delistings), and a Draft Integrated Report (IR) providing IR categories on all State-assessed waters. According to the EPA decision support document, the package also included the State's priority ranking of TMDLs, the Notice for Public Comment, and the State's response to public comments. EPA approved DWR's 303(d) List as submitted by DWR on April 28, 2022. However, as related to UNRBA interests, EPA's approved 303(d) List contains some inconsistencies with the UNRBA's comments and DWR's response to those comments.

X. Communications Outreach and Preparation

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- The UNRBA is planning a technical stakeholders' workshop for Fall 2022 following calibration of the lake models and evaluation of preliminary scenarios to discuss the status of the modeling efforts and hear input on a revised nutrient management strategy for Falls Lake.
- The UNRBA is planning to coordinate with the communications staff from the local governments to leverage existing platforms, accounts, and distribution lists to reach the general public regarding the UNRBA's goals, objectives, and revised recommendations
- The Executive Director is planning a meeting with Richard Rogers, the DWR Director, to discuss the work of the UNRBA and preliminary results on the Re-examination, process for site-specific water quality standard petition and the High Rock Lake site-specific rulemaking process.
- The UNRBA is planning meetings with DWR planning, modeling, and standards groups to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. We continue to engage DWR

in the meetings of the MRSW and PFC and to seek the input of the agency on the model development work. Every effort has been made to engage DWR staff in all of the work and meetings of the UNRBA on the way to developing our data, the models and this will continue through the development of recommendations for an updated Nutrient Management Strategy.

- The “open” nature of all of the UNRBA meetings is a key component of a transparent communications approach.

XI. Future Meeting Protocols

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): This is the first, in-person/virtual option, meeting the PFC has had since March of 2020. With COVID-related meeting and person-to-person contact protocols changing, the PFC needs to be flexible in considering future meeting protocols. This decision will need to be looked at by the PFC ahead of their next meeting which is September 6, 2022. Today, the PFC should discuss if the in-person/virtual option approach should continue. The next meeting of the MRSW has been postponed until August 2, 2022. There will be no meeting of the PFC or MRSW on July 5, 2022.

Next BOD Meeting: June 15, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon
Next MRSW Meeting: August 2, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

Remote Option Access Instructions for the 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