
Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
May 7, 2024, 9:30 AM
Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room

Materials related to the PFC Meeting will be placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise: [UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett**
- II. **DWR Proposed Changes to New Development Rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed**
Item Summary (John Huisman): The Division of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a draft proposal for changes to new development rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed. Stakeholders in the High Rock Lake watershed have not yet come to consensus on this proposal. Options in the proposal include requiring peak flow or volume reductions better than pre-development conditions depending on the intensity of the development. The most recent version was distributed to the PFC for review. DWR would appreciate feedback by mid-May from the PFC. Some comments have already been provided and have been compiled. John Huisman will present the draft and the PFC will discuss. Since this draft has potential to impact the components of the revised Falls Lake Rules, our input is important.
- III. **DWR Interviews of Local Government Stormwater Staff**
Item Summary (Forrest Westall): DWR has been reaching out to local stormwater regulators to learn more about local programs and reporting systems. Ellie Rauh will be contacting UNRBA member governments to schedule discussions.
- IV. **Status of Updates to the UNRBA Website**
Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has contracted with River Delta Consulting to merge and update the two UNRBA websites. PFC members previously provided input on draft content for the website. PFC Co-Chairs and communications staff from the City of Durham have reviewed and provided comment on the draft content. The UNRBA communications team has revised the draft content in response to this feedback. The content pages will include links to separate pdf documents that can be easily updated (e.g., list of Board members, key findings of the watershed modeling). The website developer is creating the resource library to which UNRBA reports and other important links will be housed. Once these links are active, the content pages will be updated to include the new links. This will be an iterative process as a few critical documents, like the UNRBA Watershed Modeling Report, will need to have their links updated. The website will include a disclaimer that links in older files may not work and to refer to the resource library. This cannot occur until other documents (like the modeling quality assurance project plan) has been posted. We anticipate a beta version of the website ready for review by the June PFC meeting.

The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the website. The current contract for website updates is \$20,000. After the contractor has reviewed the draft material developed by UNRBA, he will assess if additional funds will be needed. At their September 2023 meeting, the Board authorized the use of up to \$10,000 from contingency to increase the contract to \$30,000 if necessary. If an amendment to the contract is needed, the Board will consider this at their June meeting.

V. Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process (Led by DWR)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA submitted the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#) to DWR and the EMC on November 22, 2023. The NC Collaboratory submitted their final report in December 2023. These submittals trigger the initiation of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process let by the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR).

On March 8, 2024, the Officers of the UNRBA discussed a legislative change based on the NC Collaboratory funded study by Dan McLawhorn that would support the concept of a watershed organization like the UNRBA developing and implementing a water quality protection plan. While existing legislation likely allows for this, Mr. McLawhorn recommended these activities should be explicitly allowed by changing existing legislation ([§ 77-141](#)). The legal group of the UNRBA met to refine the recommended language. The Board discussed this legislative change at their meeting on March 20, 2024. The PFC received a copy of the language with the meeting materials and will discuss during the meeting.

The Executive Director and support team met with Rich Gannon and John Huisman on April 10, 2024, to discuss the proposed legislative change, and they expressed support and understanding of the need for this change. Granville County is assisting with contacting NC legislators to support adoption of this change during the short session. Staff from American Rivers have also indicated support for this particular change but noted other recommendations in the Collaboratory report warrant additional discussion. The noted items will be discussed as the rules readoption process continues. DWR also staff noted they continue to develop the list of milestones and areas of support the UNRBA can provide during this process.

VI. Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA has submitted the final watershed modeling report and watershed modeling files to DWR and EMC. The Executive Director requested a formal statement from DWR as specified in Section (5)(f)(iii) of the [Falls Lake Rules](#) which require that “the Division shall assure that the supplemental modeling is conducted in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of the Division.” The UNRBA submitted and the Division approved the [UNRBA Modeling Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) for this purpose.

The UNRBA has also submitted lake modeling files for two of three lake models (WARMF and EFDC). The third lake model (statistical/Bayesian) is under development. The lake model report addresses all three UNRBA lake models. The modeling team has received comments on the draft lake modeling report from PFC members and DWR and is responding accordingly. The UNRBA will submit the lake report and appendices to DWR for review and approval under Falls Lake Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0275 following this initial review process.

Final development of the statistical model continues and the reporting appendix is under development. Model input data is summarized in the main lake report. The NC Collaboratory will provide funding to Nathan Hall to continue serving as a subject matter expert on statistical model development. The team met March 28, 2024 to continue discussions on the model structure and how to match water quality samples collected at different stations and time in Falls Lake. On April 5, 2024, the Executive Director approved

shifting \$10K from Brown and Caldwell's labor budget for statistical modeling and \$20K from Brown and Caldwell's labor under regulatory support for an increase in funding of \$30K for the statistical modeling team to continue their efforts. This shift will not affect the total budget for the project.

VII. Evaluation of Falls Lake Specific Assessment Methodology and Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): As presented at the February PFC, Dr. Marty Lebo provided a final report on the initial work provided under his current agreement. A contract amendment has been executed to continue his progress on the evaluation of a specific Falls Lake 303(d) assessment methodology and evaluation of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard. Dr Lebo is coordinating with the statistical modeling effort, and his work supports this effort. We greatly appreciate that the NC Collaboratory is providing additional funding to Dr. Nathan Hall to review the statistical model and provide input on some of the ecological processes in Falls Lake (including algal species and edibility of higher trophic level organisms).

VIII. Communications Support

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA continues to focus on our primary priority: coordination with DWR and stakeholders in the development of a revised management strategy through the rules review process. Noting that two additional goals remain under consideration: modifications of the 303(d) water quality assessment method for chlorophyll-a in Falls Lake, and the development of a proposed site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria. The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues and will become even more important in 2024 and FY 2025. Additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and representatives of NGOs are being planned. We continue to urge our jurisdictions to identify additional communication needs and to request support from the UNRBA team as needed.

Specific activities:

- Updates to the fast facts and infographics documents
- Planning for a joint stakeholder workshop with DWR and UNRBA on the rules readoption process (possibly September 18, 2024)
- Participation in a synthesis workshop with NC Collaboratory researchers regarding the overall relationships between the findings of various research studies completed and how those relationships relate to the rules readoption process and the regulatory framework for Falls Lake
- Conducted a well-attended Falls Lake session at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference on March 21, 2024
- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.

The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach. We always encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about issues related to the Association’s work and to provide ideas and identify opportunities to better communicate our work, increase input on the UNRBA’s recommendations for a revised strategy and water quality assessment of Falls Lake.

IX. Other Status Items

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



- DWR Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.
- Inquiries and Issues Regarding Nutrient Credits
- Jordan Lake rules readoption process
- Brown and Caldwell conducting evaluations of development intensity under an on-call contract with the City of Raleigh

X. Closing Comments— Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

Next BOD Meeting: May 15, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next PFC Meeting: June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM to Noon

This schedule may be revised, and notices will be provided about any change.



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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.

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