

Path Forward Committee Meeting
11:30 AM on February 2, 2021
Remote Access Only (see next slides)



Remote Access Options

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
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Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode

Remote Access Guidelines

- This meeting will open 10 minutes prior to the first meeting start time (e.g., MRSW) to allow users to **test equipment** and ensure communication methods are working
- 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 or device microphone and phone microphone to **minimize background noise**

Agenda

- Opening comments
- Review Latest Draft of the Program Document for the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)
- Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
- Plan for Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard
- Status of MRSW and PFC Workgroups
- Communications Support
- Other items
- Closing comments

**Review Latest Draft of the
Program Document for the
UNRBA Stage I Existing
Development Interim
Alternative Implementation
Approach (IAIA)**

Prospective Schedule for Adoption of Program

- EMC voted to approve the revised Falls Lake Model Program at their January 2021 meeting; this action starts the 6-month “clock” for implementation of either
 - IAIA
 - Individual local program
- At the March 17, 2021 meeting, the UNRBA Board to
 - Approve revisions to the IAIA Program Document and UNRBA Bylaws
 - Appoint the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee
- Local government planning
 - Project identification and budgeting
 - Outreach to potential partners
 - Individual reporting, data and information management
- Program Document to be finalized by the UNRBA Board and IAIA participants to be submitted at the end of June 2021
- Program start July 1, 2021

Status of the IAIA

- At the request of the Board, the Legal Group has proposed revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws to allow for the IAIA
- On November 18, 2020, the Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws; no comments have been received
- Thus far, all jurisdictions indicate they plan to participate in the IAIA pending finalization of documents
- PFC has reviewed a reporting template for individual local government annual reports
- The IAIA Program Document has been revised in response to comments from DWR and to be consistent with the Bylaw changes and draft reporting elements
 - Revised document distributed to the PFC on January 26th
 - PFC to review changes (following slides)
 - **Please provide feedback by February 12th** to allow time to address comments prior to providing to the Board for their March 17th meeting

Summary of Revisions to the IAIA Program Document

- Participation in the IAIA through a UNRBA resolution
- Roles and responsibilities of the Compliance Group Committee (CGC) as governed by the Bylaws
- Specifies that annual reports from local governments should be sent to both DWR and the CGC
- Includes draft reporting elements as Appendix D
- References special projects as governed by the Bylaws
- Includes a table comparing Stage I load allocations for total nitrogen and total phosphorus to cumulative actual loads from three major wastewater treatment plants
- Clarifies in the Operation and Maintenance section that local governments should ensure long term functionality of practices

Summary of Revisions to the IAIA Program Document, continued

- Clarifications to eligible practices
 - Water quality benefits associated with greenways and parks are to be identified as specific project components identified in project development plans
 - Over-treatment credits associated with new development on private property would require an agreement with the property owner allowing the jurisdiction to use any overtreatment for meeting their IAIA commitments
- Clarification that estimated nutrient credits (calculated as appropriate for the practice) would not change in the future if the crediting method is revised or updated
- Updates the duration to reference EMC action that occurred in January 2021

Summary of Revisions to the IAIA Program Document, continued

- Clarification that a change in IAIA participation status
 - It is the responsibility of the individual local government to ensure compliance with DWR under a local program
 - Requires previous financial committees to be controlled by the agreement in place between the joint project members

Please provide feedback on the changes to the IAIA Program Document by February 12th to allow sufficient time to prepare for the March 17th Board meeting.

Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status

Modeling Status

- Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model
 - Flow, sediment, and total organic carbon calibrated for the rivers and streams that enter Falls Lake
 - Nutrient calibration is underway
 - Model code has been modified to simulate many types of onsite wastewater treatment systems
 - WARMF Lake model component is under development
- Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) Falls Lake Model (more complex than WARMF Lake model)
 - Modelers are refining the calibration of water levels and temperatures in Falls Lake
 - Water quality calibration will begin when the watershed model has been calibrated for water quality

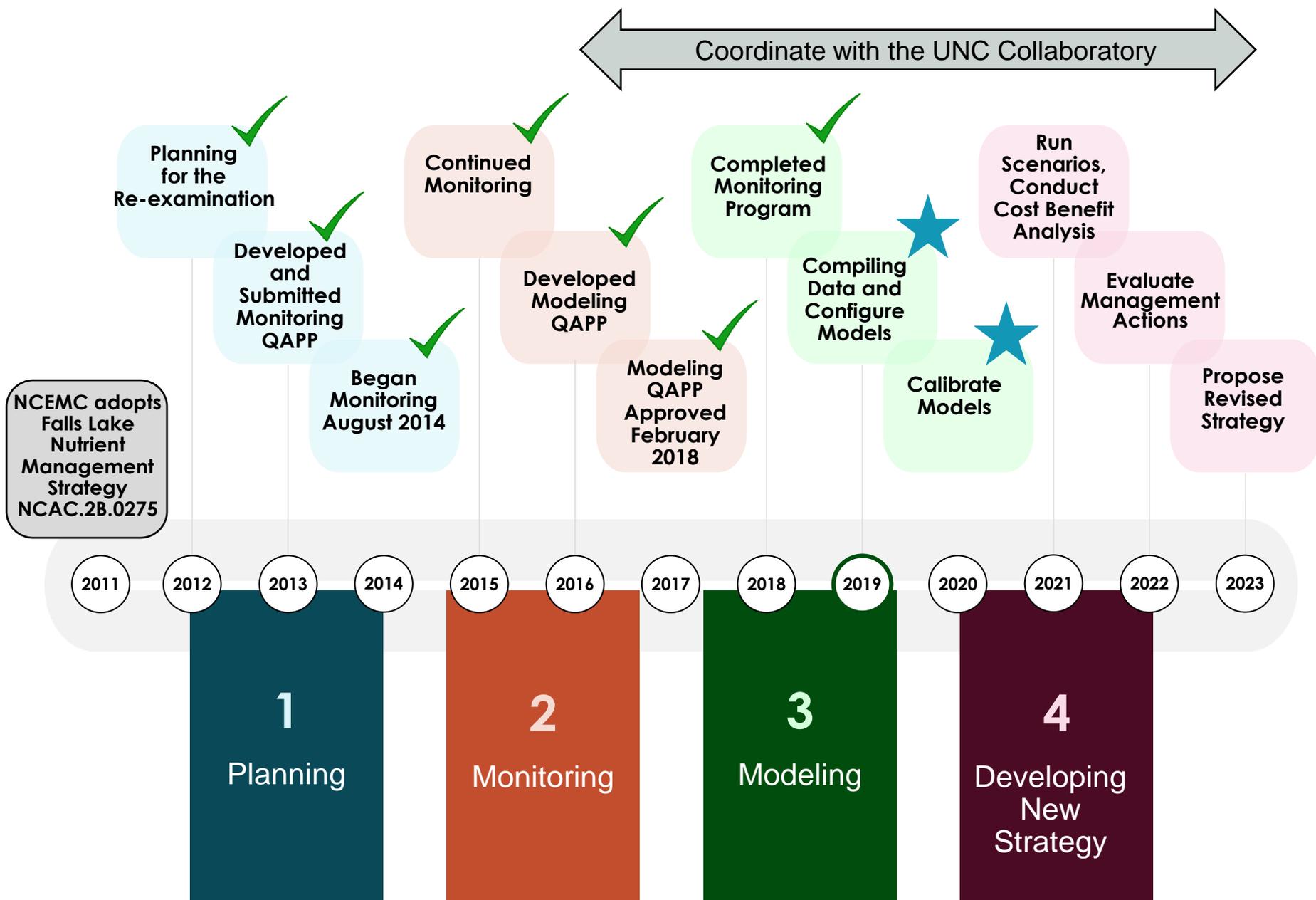
Formation of Two Scenario Workgroups

- Once the models are calibrated, they can be used to answer questions by testing different “scenarios”
- The MRSW and PFC have formed two workgroups to provide input to the modeling team on
 - Reporting formats for comparing scenario output
 - A selection process for choosing scenarios and a preliminary list of scenarios to evaluate
- Both workgroups most recently met the week of January 25th and will report back to the PFC at a later meeting

Reporting Status for MRS

- 319 report to describe revisions to watershed model code has been reviewed by the Executive Director and contractors are addressing comments
- Final Transition Monitoring technical memorandum is being finalized
- Modeling team is responding to Executive Director comments on the draft watershed hydrologic calibration modeling report
- Reporting regarding water quality inputs for the watershed model and hydrodynamic calibration of the EFDC model are in progress

Multi-year UNRBA Stage II Re-examination Timeline



Review of Modeling Work Relative to Re-Examination Process

- The UNRBA's Re-examination process is entering into the last two and a half years of the effort to develop specific recommendations for revision to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy.
- The amount of work remaining is significant and as the effort moves from finalization of the modeling tools into the evaluation of scenarios it is critical that we keep this overall goal in mind.
- The MRS work is essential to the development of these recommendations, but there are significant policy issues and communication goals that will need to be effectively addressed before the UNRBA can complete its Re-examination recommendations package for submittal to DWR and the EMC.
- It will be essential to effectively plan and carryout our MRS work to support the overall UNRBA objectives.

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

Planning for Development of a Petition for Site Specific Criteria

- The primary task for the legal team in FY2021 is to begin consideration of a petition for site specific criteria for Falls Lake
- This work will rely partially on the UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake
- Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.
- The legal team and the statistical modeling team are coordinating on this effort
- The Technical Advisors Workgroup was formed at the January 2021 PFC meeting
- This workgroup will report back to the MRSW and PFC

Status of MRSW and PFC Workgroups

Status of PFC and MRSW Workgroups

- Model Scenario Output Workgroup
 - Formed during the November 2020 MRSW meeting
 - Met January 7th and 25th 2021
 - Will recommend model output formats for summarizing and comparing different scenarios
- Scenario Screening Workgroup
 - Formed during the November 2020 MRSW meeting
 - Met January 29th
 - Will recommend initial scenarios for evaluation
- IAIA Reporting Workgroup
 - Formed during the December 2020 PFC meeting
 - Met December 14th 2020
 - Have provided recommendations to the PFC
- Technical Advisors Workgroup
 - Formed during the January 2021 PFC meeting
 - Will likely meet in February or March

Communications Support

Planning for Spring Symposium with the UNC Collaboratory

- Planning for the joint Collaboratory and UNRBA Symposium continues; UNRBA team met virtually with Collaboratory staff on January 27, 2021
- General plan is to have presentations by the Collaboratory Researchers and the UNRBA to
 - Summarize the research underway and how the UNRBA plans to incorporate it into the re-examination analyses
 - Review the schedule for completion of the Collaboratory's assessment of Falls Lake and the UNRBA's Re-examination of the Falls Lake Rules
 - Engage attendees to get needed input related to the issues important to stakeholders.

Alternate Plan for the UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop

- The UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop has been postponed until FY2022 due to COVID-19 and the Collaboratory/UNRBA Symposium.
- Anticipate first half of meeting to provide an update on model calibration for WARMF and EFDC
- Second half is typically small group sessions; potential topics include review and stakeholder input of
 - Discussion of scenarios under consideration
 - Data sources for the statistical model
 - Output metrics for the statistical model

External Stakeholder Communication Needs

- Objectives continue to be reviewed relative to communication opportunities with stakeholders.
- To support the re-examination process and achieve broad support for the UNRBA recommendations, additional outreach to external stakeholders including DWR, DEQ, and other interested stakeholders is needed;
- Coordination with local leaders to convey messages and facilitate outreach will be necessary.
- This effort will require the support of the UNRBA membership, staff and Board representatives.
- As a reminder, the [Infographic](#) and [Fast Facts](#) are available online <https://upperneuse.org/resource-library>
- An [Overview of the Work of the UNRBA](#) provided to the UNC Collaboratory for inclusion in their reporting is available online <https://nutrients.web.unc.edu/resources/>

Other Status Items

Ongoing Items

- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items
 - MOA
 - DWR 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) assessments
 - Board authorized the Executive Director to make UNRBA comments on High Rock Lake Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria
 - 2019 UNRBA Final Monitoring Report meeting
 - Schedule for face to face when possible
 - Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP

Future Meetings as Currently Scheduled:

**Next PFC Meeting: March 2, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon,
Remote Access**

**Next BOD Meeting: March 17, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon,
Remote Access**

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

Closing Comments Additional Discussion