

Path Forward Committee Meeting
9:30 AM on March 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
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Agenda

- Opening comments
- Review and Support of the Final Draft Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program Document and the Revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws for Submittal to the Board for Action in March
- Status of the Draft DWR 2021 Falls Lake Status Report
- Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
- Development of a Statistical Model and Evaluation of Regulatory Options Relative to the Water Quality Standard
- Update--DWR 2020 Integrated Report and 303(d) list
- Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria
- Communications Support
- Other Status Items
- Closing Comments

**Review and Support of the Final
Draft Interim Alternative
Implementation Approach (IAIA)
Program Document and
Revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws
for Submittal to the Board for
Action in March**

PFC Action to Submit Final Draft IAIA Program Document for Board Action in March

- In 2020, the UNRBA legal workgroup developed revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws to allow for the IAIA
- On November 18, 2020, the Board reviewed the proposed changes
- No comments were received on the proposed revisions

Recommendation: PFC Vote to Submit Final Draft Revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws for Board Action in March

- The Environmental Management Commission approved the Falls Lake Model Program on January 14, 2021
- The Model Program allows for group compliance for State I Existing Development requirements and references the IAIA
- DWR reviewed the Program Document—comments addressed
- Following EMC approval, the UNRBA team revised the IAIA Program Document, and the PFC was provided an updated draft at the end of January (discussed during the February 2nd PFC meeting)—Comments requested by February 12th
- The PFC provided comments on the revised draft and revisions have been made-- Final Draft document distributed to the PFC in February 2021 ahead of this meeting.

Board and PFC Review of Draft IAIA Program Document and Bylaw Revisions

- At the request of the Board, the Legal Group 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 were received
- At the November Board Meeting all jurisdictions confirmed that they plan to participate in the IAIA pending finalization of documents
- PFC has reviewed a set of reporting elements for individual local government annual reports
- The IAIA Program Document has been revised in response to comments from DWR and the UNRBA
- Proposed Bylaw changes, Program Document and draft reporting elements have been provided to the PFC on January 27th

Recommendation: PFC Vote to Present the IAIA Program Document and the Bylaw Revisions to the Board for Approval at the March 17th Meeting

Schedule for Adoption and Implementation of the IAIA Program

- Local government planning continues
 - Project identification and budgeting
 - Outreach to potential partners
 - Individual reporting, data and information management
- At the March 17, 2021 meeting, the UNRBA Board to
 - Approve revisions to the UNRBA Bylaws including attachment of the IAIA Program Document
 - Appoint the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee (CGC)
- CGC to meet in June and finalize resolution for IAIA participants to submit the IAIA for group compliance to DWR and the EMC at the end of June 2021
- Program start July 1, 2021

Status of the Draft 2021 Falls Lake Status Report

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- DWR is drafting its 5-year status report for Falls Lake.
- DWR plans to use summaries and findings from the 2019 UNRBA Monitoring Report to help develop the 5-year 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.
- Comments from John.

Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status

Modeling Status

- Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model
 - Water quality calibration in the rivers and streams is underway
 - 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

Reporting Status for MRS

- Final 319 report to describe revisions to watershed model code has submitted to DWR to satisfy the contract requirements
- Final Transition Monitoring technical memorandum has been posted to the UNRBA website (monitoring tab)
- 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

Status of Two Scenario Workgroups

- The MRSW and PFC have formed two workgroups to provide input to the modeling team on
- The Model Scenario Output Workgroup
 - Discussing reporting formats for comparing scenario descriptions and model output
 - Met twice in January and twice in February
- The Scenario Screening Workgroup
 - Developing a selection process for choosing scenarios and a preliminary list of scenarios to evaluate
 - Met once in January and once in February

Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for Water Quality Standards

Planning for Development of a Petition for Site Specific Criteria

- A primary task for the legal team in FY2021 is to begin consideration of a petition for site specific criteria for Falls Lake
- The UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake will be used to support this effort
- 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; planning for a kickoff meeting is underway
- This workgroup will report back to the MRSW and PFC

DWR 2020 Water Quality Assessments Integrated Report and 303(d) list

Status Update

Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria

Status of UNRBA Comments on the Proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria

- 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
- DWR's HRL proposal has been delayed until the May EMC Water Quality Committee (WQC) meeting
- Stated reason for delay is to consider comments made on material presented to the Criteria Implementation Committee — we have asked that DWR's comments review includes the UNRBA comments
- UNRBA comments on the proposal to be presented to the WQC in May will be drafted as soon as possible after the proposal is available

Communications Support

Overview of Communication Efforts for the Board

- At the January 2021 Board meeting, the new Board members requested a summary of the UNRBA communications efforts
- At the March 17th Board meeting, the following will be discussed
 - Development of the UNRBA Communications Plan including a description of the communications workshop
 - Goals and objectives
 - Target audiences
 - Key messages
 - Summary of past communications efforts
 - Routine UNRBA meetings
 - Presentations at annual conferences
 - UNRBA technical workshops
 - External meetings
 - Special events (UNRBA Regulatory Forum, One Water Spotlight)
 - Links to communication materials will be provided
 - Planning for upcoming events will be discussed

Planning for Spring Symposium with the UNC Collaboratory (May 19, 2021)

- Planning continues and the agenda is under development
- Save the date has been distributed for May 19, 2021
 - Virtual meeting
 - 10 AM to 3 PM with a 30-minute lunch break
- Presentations by the Collaboratory researchers and the UNRBA
 - Summarize the research underway and how the UNRBA plans to incorporate it into the re-examination
 - 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.

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

- Communication Outreach Efforts: February 11th briefing with Person County, February 23rd Zoom meeting sponsored by Interfaith Creation Care Groups (Orange-Chatham and Triangle organizations)
- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Leadership and organizational changes at DEQ and EPA
- Coordination with UNC Collaboratory on Falls Lake studies
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items
 - MOA
 - 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 BOD Meeting: March 17, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon,
Remote Access**

**Next PFC Meeting: April 6, 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