

Path Forward Committee Meeting Butner Town Hall, November 7, 2023



Agenda

- Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions
- Town of Hillsborough Presentation
- Updating the UNRBA Technical Website
- Budget Considerations for FY 2025
- Board Changes
- Modeling and Regulatory Support Status
- Approval of Recommendations for a Revised Nutrient Management Strategy and Developing a Petition for a Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard and Falls Lake Assessment Methodology
- Review UNRBA FY2022-2023 Summary Report for Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)
- Communications Support
- Other Status Items
- Closing

Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions

Town of Hillsborough Presentation

Updating the UNRBA Technical Website

Updating the UNRBA Technical Website

- The UNRBA has been setting aside funding to update the Association's technical website where data, documents, and meeting history are provided.
- The software used to develop the website (Drupal) is in version 7 and cannot be upgraded. The new version is 10, and the website will have to be updated using this version.
- The technical website and public facing website will be merged during this process.
- The Executive Director and support staff are working on a preliminary layout for the website to provide to the contractor.
- At their September meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to work on a contract for \$20,000 to complete this initial phase of work and to use up to \$10,000 from contingency if needed.
- Progress on the contract is proceeding; the contract will be considered for approval by the Board at their November meeting.
- [The PFC will discuss access and functionality of the UNRBA monitoring database from the new website](#)

Budget Considerations for FY2025

Budget Considerations for FY2025

- The UNRBA is moving into support of the rules readoption process requiring
 - Significant effort and technical support throughout the process
 - A strong relationship between DWR, EMC, and the General Assembly
 - Engagement on redrafting of the rules
 - Technical support and public input to stakeholders and DWR.
- The UNRBA will need to work diligently to keep Consensus Principles II and the technical data analysis and modeling before the agencies and the stakeholders.
- The recommendations are unique for Falls Lake and a departure from previous nutrient management efforts.
- This new approach will need significant support to develop rules that make sense and are effective in maintaining uses in Falls Lake.
- The UNRBA will remain committed to working through this with DWR and the staff responsible for developing revised rules.

Budget Considerations for FY2025

- In addition, the UNRBA will proceed with working on getting a specific 303(d) assessment methodology for Falls Lake and for continuing the development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard.
- At this point, we do not have a specific budget proposal for FY2025
- The budget for FY2024 Modeling and Regulatory Support was reduced to create replacement of the \$180,000 fund balance allocated to respond to extensive input received in the model development efforts in FY2023.
- We anticipate that the budget will be reduced for FY2025 but will need to get a better feel for this following submittal of our recommendations for a revised strategy.

Board Changes

Board Changes

- The Board will meet on November 15th to conduct its normal business.
- However, the Board will deal with submittal of the recommendations and set up two processes to configure the UNRBA for the future.
- The Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee will be authorized to do their work in December and make reports at the January meeting.
- Two Board officers, Sig Hutchinson and Jenn Weaver will be stepping down as Board members.
- Officer recommendations from the Nominating Committee will be made in January.

Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

WARMF Watershed Model Report

- A final draft of the [watershed modeling report and appendices](#) was distributed to the MRSW, DWR, subject matter experts, PFC, Board, and the participants in the UNRBA Technical Stakeholders Workshop
- Final reviews and comments were requested by October 15th
- We have received review comments from DWR and are following up
- The report will be finalized for review and consideration of approval at the December 5th meeting by the PFC.
- We will confirm with the Board on November 15th that the PFC may approve modeling products and reports for submittal to DWR.
- The report will be formally submitted to DWR by December 2023
- The WARMF model executable, input files, and output files were previously submitted to DWR (includes the Falls Lake WARMF model)

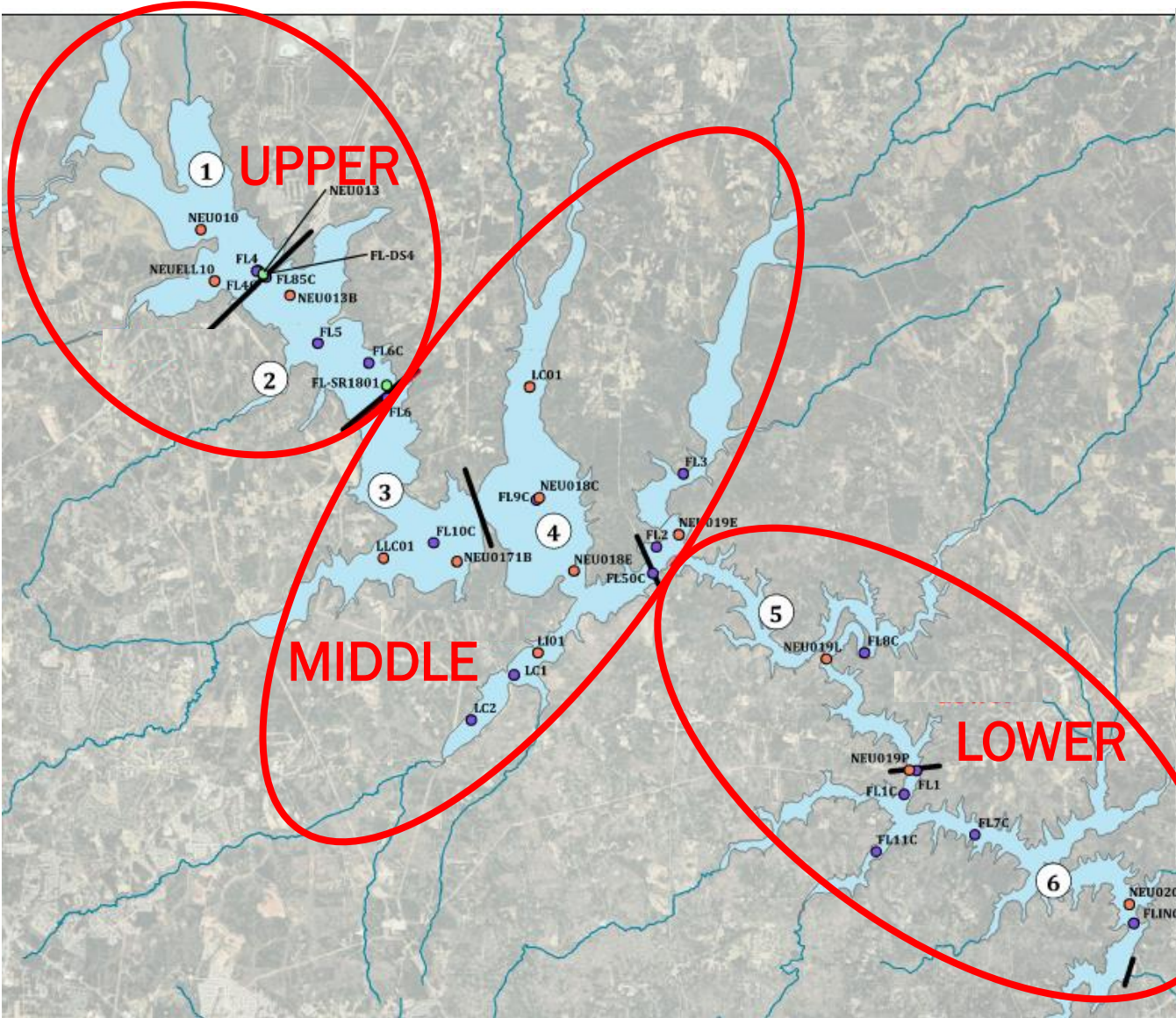
Lake Model Report and EFDC Model Training

- The lake model report addresses all three UNRBA lake models as well as lake model sensitivity and scenario evaluations
- Technical details are described in model-specific appendices
- The EFDC model training has been scheduled for Thursday November 9th
- To support the training, the main lake report and EFDC model appendix were distributed to trainees as well as the MRSW, PFC, DWR, and subject matter experts/third-party reviewers
- With the end of the year approaching, review of the lake model report by the UNRBA committees has been compressed
- The WARMF Lake appendix has been reviewed by the Executive Director, revised, and is being reviewed by the Co-Chairs. It will be distributed to the PFC, MRSW, DWR, and subject matter experts for review and comment in November.

UNRBA Statistical/Bayesian Modeling

- The third lake model is the Statistical/Bayesian/Decision Support model which is based on an extensive data base dating back to the late 1980s after the lake was filled
- Developing the linkages between the model variables to build the network with “parents” and “children”
- Building tables of probabilities (conditional probability tables) to explain how the variables relate to one another
- Will work with subject matter experts and Technical Advisors Workgroup to fill in gaps where we have too little data
- Based on input from Marty Lebo’s data analysis and the types of data available in different areas of the lake, the modelers proposed to shift the boundary between the upper and middle segment from Interstate 85 to Fish Dam/Cheek Road
 - Places NEU013B in “upper” segment which would put an algal biovolume station in “upper” as well as most recent DWR main lake chlorophyll-a
 - The Executive Director and PFC Co-Chairs have approved this recommendation

New Segment Assignments



Legend

Stations

Collector

- CAAE
- Durham
- NCDWQ

- Segment Boundary
- Zone Boundary
- Lake
- NHD Flowline

Zones and numbers are the WARMF Lake segments.

**Approval of Recommendations
for a Revised Nutrient
Management Strategy and
Developing a Petition for a Site-
Specific-Chlorophyll-a Water
Quality Standard and Falls Lake
Assessment Methodology**

Submittal of Consensus Principles II and UNRBA Recommendations for Revised Rules

- The UNRBA Board of Directors approved the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#) (CPII) at the September 20, 2023, meeting.
- The UNRBA provided a template resolution for local governments and utilities to use to approve Consensus Principles II at the local level.
- Presentations to local governments and utilities were completed November 6th; each are anticipated to sign the resolution.
- The UNRBA will compile these resolutions and draft a cover letter for consideration by the UNRBA Board on November 15th
- Submittal to DWR will occur in December (optional virtual Board meeting on December 13th if needed)
- NC Collaboratory report will also be submitted by December 2023
- As of November 7th, resolutions have been approved unanimously

Town of Butner

Franklin County

Creedmoor

Granville County

Orange County

SGWASA

Person County

Wake Forest

City of Durham

Durham County

Hillsborough

Raleigh

Town of Stem

Wake County

Schedule for Rules Readoption

- **January to March 2024**
 - UNRBA/DWR meeting to discuss process for rule making and approval of UNRBA products
 - Regulatory Forum to present rule making process to UNRBA members and other stakeholders
 - Meetings with the Chairs of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and its Water Quality Committee
 - UNRBA annotate existing rule language to mark for potential changes and review with DWR
- **June to December 2024**
 - DWR to begin rule making and their stakeholder process
- **2026/2027**
 - DWR anticipates rules readoption
 - **We hope to achieve rules readoption earlier**
- The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we begin coordinating, collaborating, and supporting DWR in rules review process
- The UNRBA and members must engage on the readoption process

Coordination on Site-Specific Chlorophyll-a Standard and Falls Lake Assessment Methodology

- The subject matter experts continue to evaluate other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards.
- The UNRBA continues to work with Dr. Marty Lebo to complete his work and integrate his results into the site-specific standard evaluation, statistical modeling, and regulatory support efforts.
- We are also using this information and other information to develop a specific Falls Lake 303(d) methodology with the current standard.
- The UNRBA will coordinate with DWR, Collaboratory researchers, and other stakeholders throughout this process

**Review UNRBA FY2022-2023
Summary Report for Interim
Alternative Implementation
Approach (IAIA)**

Review UNRBA FY2022-23 IAIA Summary Report

- Implementation of Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) began July 1, 2021.
- Year two of the program ended June 30, 2023.
- Participants submitted annual reports to DWR to assess individual compliance
 - First-year rollover amounts that exceeded the requirement
 - Second-year investment commitments
- Copies were provided to the UNRBA for summary reporting
- The PFC will review the draft UNRBA FY2022-23 summary tables on November 7th (draft tables follow)
- The Executive Director will provide a cover letter and final summary report to the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee for review and approval of submittal to DWR at the November 15th meeting.

DRAFT Summary FY2021-22 and FY2022-23

Participant	Annual Minimum Requirement	FY2021-2022 Funds Allocated	FY2022-2023 Funds Allocated
Wake County	\$88,968	\$1,973,493	\$135,810
City of Raleigh	\$466,081	\$1,745,485	\$740,000
City of Durham	\$337,587	\$960,268	\$1,750,824
Orange County	\$161,943	\$342,878	\$9,538
Durham County	\$133,300	\$148,394	\$46,069
Person County	\$114,394	\$114,394	\$114,394
Granville County	\$100,453	\$100,453	\$100,453
Town of Hillsborough	\$34,221	\$41,871	\$58,730
Town of Butner	\$23,393	\$23,393	\$23,393
Franklin County	\$19,058	\$19,058	\$19,058
City of Creedmoor	\$16,926	\$16,926	\$16,926
Town of Wake Forest	\$13,692	\$13,692	\$13,692
Town of Stem	\$11,605	\$11,605	\$11,605
Total	\$1,521,621	\$5,511,909	\$3,040,491

DRAFT Summary by Project Type (FY2022 to 2023)

Project Type	Total funds allocated (cash and in-kind)	Number of Projects
Green infrastructure and other best management practices (BMPs)	\$1,694,815	8
Land conservation	\$740,000	1
Illicit discharge detection and elimination	\$215,591	5
Stormwater control measures (State-approved SCMs)	\$156,139	5
Programmatic measures	\$89,210	3
Administrative costs associated with the participation in the IAIA	\$55,313	2
Stream and riparian buffer restoration and enhancement	\$53,060	4
Hydrilla removal and control	\$17,306	3
Total (missing information on one project type)	\$3,021,433	31

Communications Support

Coordination with DWR and EPA

- The UNRBA continues to coordinate with DWR
 - Preparations for the rules review process
 - Potential modifications to the water quality assessment methods
 - Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for Falls Lake
- Staff from EPA Region 4 from the 303(d) TMDL unit and modeling unit attended the UNRBA Technical Stakeholders Workshop
 - Provided encouraging feedback regarding the need for a site-specific standard for Falls Lake
 - We will schedule a follow up call to discuss

Upcoming Regulatory Forum

- A regulatory forum is being planned for spring 2024 to discuss the next steps in the rules readoption process.
- Following submittal of the UNRBA and NC Collaboratory reports and recommendations in December 2023, we anticipate that DWR will begin to formulate a plan for readoption of the rules.
- We continue to seek engagement with DWR on that process and, as already mentioned to DWR, work cooperatively with them as the new rules are drafted.
- DWR has been very positive in their feedback.

Coordination with Stakeholders and SMEs

- The UNRBA will continue to identify opportunities to work with other stakeholders as we move through rules readoption.
- The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach.
- We encourage member representatives and interested individuals to speak up about ideas and opportunities to communicate our work and the importance of our recommendations on a revised strategy and a site-specific standard.
- A public-facing, two-page summary was developed and distributed to expand outreach and invite additional feedback on the final draft Concepts and Principles document.
- This document can be used by the local governments to distribute information to their mailing lists and to post to social media accounts.
- Printed copies are available for those jurisdictions requesting them.
- [Feedback from the PFC on how it has been used to date will be requested.](#)

Coordination on River of Year Event

- American Rivers is still planning a “Neuse River of the Year” event for the upper part of the basin.
- The UNRBA is planning a press release to coincide with the timing of the event.
- This press release will also reference the successes of the IAIA and note the efforts to provide consensus principles for a revised set of rules.
- Plans to develop videos and messaging for UNRBA members to distribute on their social media accounts is being planned to coincide with this event to streamline videography.

Other Status Items

Other Status Items

- Neuse Watershed Model Information Session –
Delivery Factors for WWTP—Update provided by John Huisman

Future Meetings Currently Scheduled:

Next BOD Meeting: November 15, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next PFC Meeting: December 5, 2023, 9:30 AM to Noon

**Optional Virtual Meeting of the Board is set for
December 13, 2023, 9:30 AM**

Closing Comments

Additional Discussion