

UNRBA Board of Directors: March 19, 2025, Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Jane Harrison (Vice Chair)	City of Raleigh
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Forrest Westall (Executive Director)	UNRBA
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Aarin Miles	City of Durham
Carl Rist	City of Durham
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
David Harris	Durham County Soil & Water
Scott Schroyer	SGWASA
Vicky Daniels	Town of Butner
Jennifer Ganser	Town of Butner
Tim Karan	Town of Stem
Katie Cromwell	Upper Jurisdictions
Elsemarie Mullins	Upper Jurisdictions
Jim Wrenn	Upper Jurisdictions
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Sandi Wilbur*	City of Durham
Kathy Cooper*	City of Raleigh
Ja'Nell Henry*	Durham County Soil & Water
Barry Baker*	Granville County
James Bryan*	Orange County
Wesley Poole*	Orange County
Christopher Sandt*	Orange County
Marilyn Carter*	Orange County
Sherry Wilborn*	Person County
Meaghun Darab*	Town of Hillsborough
Haywood Phthisic*	Haywood Phthisic
Dan McLawhorn*	DFM Law Office
Carleen Evans*	Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans, and Co., LLP

*Attended meeting virtually

Welcome and Recognition -

The meeting was Chaired by the Vice Chair, Jane Harrison, who called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance and those participating through remote access. Jane asked if any of the Board Directors have any “conflict of interest” issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. The Chair called the roll and 10 of 14 members were present for a quorum. The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Being none, Carl Rist made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Scott Schroyer, and approved by the Board.

Action Items -

Approval of Minutes, January 15, 2025, Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Carl Rist made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jennifer Ganser, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report – Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer Report for the period ending March 10, 2025. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$416,396.79 and the savings account balance was \$1,267,687.04. Following review of the report, Scott Schroyer made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Ed Buchan, and approved by the Board.

Approval of the Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 – Forrest Westall reviewed the remaining funds and commitments under UNRBA contracts for FY2025. He discussed the major efforts anticipated for FY2026 and other efforts for FY2026 that are likely to increase or continue in subsequent years. The Board discussed the FY2026 budget and the five-year budget projection. The Board also discussed the potential need for more monitoring in future years and who should be responsible (the State or local governments). The Board also discussed evolving requirements to address emerging contaminants, costs, and the potential impacts to nutrient management. Following discussion, Carl Rist made the motion to approve the budget, Scott Schroyer seconded, and the Board approved.

Approval of a Resolution to Honor the Contribution of Haywood Phthisic to the UNRBA – Forrest Westall noted that Haywood’s last day with the UNRBA is March 31, 2025. He presented a resolution to the Board to honor the work and service of Haywood to the organization. Haywood has supported the UNRBA since 2012 in the financial management of the organization and provided technical support and input related to the UNRBA’s Falls Lake studies. Haywood will continue to follow the work of the UNRBA in his role as Executive Director of the Lower Neuse Basin Association and the Neuse River Compliance Association. Following discussion, Jane Harrison made the motion to approve the resolution, Ed Buchan seconded, and the Board approved.

Informational Items -

Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process – Forrest noted that the Falls Lake Rules Readoption process has been triggered by the documents the UNRBA submitted in November 2023 and the report provided by the NC Collaboratory in December 2023. While the formal adoption process will be led by the Division of Water Resources (DWR), the UNRBA has a vested and important interest in these rules. The UNRBA’s Reexamination of these rules is an essential guide to the development of revised rules. To support the effort, the UNRBA has organized four workgroups to discuss concepts and to draft revised rules. DWR is participating in all four workgroups. The PFC will review the latest drafts at their May 6th meeting and this work will be summarized at the May Board meeting. The UNRBA and DWR jointly presented the status of the process to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on January 9, 2025, and answered questions from the EMC during the EMC’s Water Quality Committee meeting on March 19, 2025. Rule readoption is currently anticipated in early 2027. Forrest noted that every effort will be made to push this process forward and is committed to coordinating and collaborating with DEQ, DWR, EMC, and stakeholders

to get appropriate revisions to the rules in place using the UNRBA's recommendations from the Reexamination. Forrest also provided an update on the potential legislative change to General Statute 77-141.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds – Forrest pointed out that the agenda and presentation materials provide information on the potential impacts of DWR's draft proposal for changes to new development requirements (referred to by DWR as post-construction stormwater controls) for the High Rock Lake Watershed and the rules readoption process for the Jordan Lake Watershed. He noted that the UNRBA team is continuing to monitor these processes. DWR has indicated that Falls rules will likely be readopted before these other two rule-development processes are completed.

Discussion of House Bill 382 and Impacts to Local Government Zoning Authority – Forrest discussed Subpart III-K. of Senate Bill 382 which prohibits a local government to initiate down-zoning without the consent of all affected property owners. This bill applies to any ordinance or zoning change within 180 days of the day of adoption and any passed after the day of adoption. The Governor's veto of the bill was overridden on December 11, 2024, and the bill was passed. The Board discussed draft legislation being proposed to provide clarification and exemptions in some cases.

Modeling and Regulatory Support and Chlorophyll-a Update – Alix Matos reported the WARMF watershed model, draft WARMF Lake model, and draft EFDC lake model reports have been submitted to DWR. She noted that Forrest has requested a formal statement from the Division that the watershed model has been reviewed and met quality assurance requirements of the Division as required in the Falls Lake Rule allowing a reexamination. DWR doesn't have specific quality assurance requirements but previously approved the UNRBA's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the modeling effort prior to the effort proceeding. DWR has issued an email concurring with the watershed and lake model development effort. A formal letter from DWR will be submitted following formal appointment of the new Secretary. Dr Marty Lebo will continue his work evaluating the need for a specific Falls Lake 303(d) assessment methodology and a site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria for the lake. Dr. Nathan Hall continues to support these efforts through statistical analyses of proposals.

Communication Support – In addition to the activities discussed earlier in the meeting, Forrest reviewed upcoming activities including establishment of a Falls Lake list serve by DWR, coordination with DWR on a larger stakeholder engagement kickoff meeting for the rules readoption process following the workgroup activities, and a Falls Lake presentation scheduled for the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference set for March 20, 2025.

Other Items – Forrest listed other items the UNRBA is tracking including the DWR Neuse Watershed Model/Delivery Factors for WWTP: DWR has presented final modeling report on January 28th. The Board discussed the modeling results and impacts to load allocations to the Neuse Estuary. Forrest also noted the NC State University UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water research study, and the impacts of PFAS/PFOS on treatment costs and local governments.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be May 21, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. at the Butner Town Hall.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.