



Path Forward Committee (PFC) and Rules Review Meeting Agenda

June 3, 2025, 9:30 AM

Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room

Note: This is an in-person meeting. A remote option is provided on the last page of this agenda for those who cannot attend in person.

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. Status and Timeline of Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Per [NC Session Law 2018-5](#), the Falls Lake Rules Readoption process was triggered by the NC Collaboratory report submittal in December 2023 and the UNRBA submittals of the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#). These UNRBA documents were sent to DWR and the EMC on November 22, 2023. The UNRBA submitted their [final watershed model report](#) in December 2023 and [final lake model report](#) in December 2024. An informal stakeholder process started in December 2024 with four rule workgroups. A summary of the drafts produced by the workgroups was presented to the PFC at the May 6, 2025, meeting. Comments received after the May meeting have been compiled and distributed for discussion at the June 3, 2025, PFC meeting (this meeting). The informal stakeholder process led by UNRBA will continue through November 2025, and we invite feedback from interested parties during this time. The formal review process managed by the Environmental Management Commission is anticipated to begin in March 2026 during which stakeholders will have additional opportunities to provide feedback. Rules readoption by the Rules Review Commission is anticipated in March 2027.

The UNRBA hosted 18 workgroup meetings and two workgroup workshops between December 2024 and April 2025. Four very preliminary draft rule sections (“draft, draft, draft”) were distributed to the PFC and other interested stakeholders before the [May 6, 2025, PFC meeting](#): Purpose and Scope Rule, Existing Managed Lands Rule, New Development Rule, and Wastewater Rule. Comments and suggestions from participants were requested by May 20, 2025. All comments have been compiled in marked-up versions of the draft rules. The three rules that were commented on (Purpose and Scope, Existing Managed Lands and New Development) were distributed ahead of this PFC meeting for continued discussion (see next item).

There remain outstanding issues for discussion with DWR. UNRBA and DWR are planning a meeting in mid-June to discuss the UNRBA’s proposed assessment methodology, constraints on WWTPs under the current rules that must be addressed, and DWR’s proposed cap on land conservation. Following this meeting, the draft rules will be revised as needed and redistributed to the PFC and stakeholders. Our goal is to distribute drafts to the UNRBA Board Directors and additional stakeholders for review and discussion at the September 18, 2025, Board meeting. We plan to submit the draft rule package to the EMC at the November 2025 meeting.

The IAIA was developed as a five-year program with an option to extend the program until the Falls Rules are readopted. The five-year period ends June 2026, and the schedule for Falls Rules readoption targets March 2027 as the adoption date (however, this may be revised depending on the UNRBA's strategy for moving the process forward). Thus, the IAIA program will need to be extended. During the November 19, 2025, UNRBA Board meeting, we will include a Compliance Group Committee (CGC) meeting, and they will consider submitting a request to the EMC to approve an extension of the IAIA program for five additional years or until the Falls Rules are readopted and an updated watershed protection plan is developed and approved by the Commission (i.e., an updated [Program Document](#)). The current draft of the Managed Lands Rule allows up to a year for submittal of a watershed protection plan to implement the revised rules.

The UNRBA considered the need for a legislative change to [§ 77-141](#) (legislation that created the Falls Lake Watershed Association which the UNRBA is doing business as) to explicitly allowed a watershed organization like the UNRBA to develop and implement a water quality protection plan (under [§ 143-214.14](#)). Following comments from Legislative Staff, we were asked to consider the need for this revision and to confirm that current law protects the option for the UNRBA to develop a watershed protection plan for submission to the EMC. Legislative staff interpreted the existing legislation to provide the Falls Lake Watershed Association with statutory authority to develop a plan for EMC approval and provided written confirmation to support this input. The communication from the Legislative staff provided documentation that they had reached out to DEQ who stated, "Our folks (DEQ legal and program staff) agree with your interpretation of this statute to mean that the Falls Lake Watershed Association should be eligible to propose such a plan."

III. Review Comments Received in May on the Draft-Draft-Draft Falls Rules Sections

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The UNRBA received comments on the draft-draft-draft rule sections following the May 6, 2025, PFC meeting. Comments will be summarized for the three rule sections that feedback was provided: Purpose and Scope, New Development, and Existing Managed Lands. Comments were not received on the draft wastewater rule except from the PFC Co-Chairs. The UNRBA is evaluating scenarios for proposed WWTP effluent concentrations consistent with best available biological nutrient removal, looking at projected impacts to lake quality from each scenario, and will re-distribute the draft wastewater rule and modeling results soon.

IV. Status of FY2026 Contracts

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA Board of Directors approved the UNRBA budget for FY2026 during the March 19, 2025, meeting. The contractor and Executive Director developed a draft Modeling, Regulatory, and Communications Support Contract and Scope of Work for FY2026. The PFC will review the scope of work for this contract during the June 3, 2025, meeting. Contracts for Executive Director Services, web support, and Dr. Martin Lebo are also under development. The current Financial Services Support contract extends through June of 2026. The Board of Directors will review and consider approval of the contracts and scopes of work during the June 18, 2025, meeting.

V. Communications

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues and will be even more important in FY2026. Consistent with our expanding stakeholder process as outlined, we will have additional meetings to gather input from NC Collaboratory staff, researchers, and

representatives of NGOs. As we have continued to do, we encourage our jurisdictions to identify additional communication needs and to request support from the UNRBA team as needed. Recent, ongoing, or upcoming activities are noted below:

- Distribution of draft-draft-draft rules to 90 PFC members and stakeholders for discussion at the May 6, 2025, PFC meeting; additional stakeholders will be included when the draft goes to the Board by September 2025
- Provided a summary/status report on the UNRBA's work to the Durham Environmental Affairs Board on May 14, 2025
- Sent letter to clarify DWR's informational item at the May 8, 2025, EMC meeting
- Status updates to the EMC
- The UNRBA has posted YouTube [videos](#) of the Falls Lakes water quality simulations to the website
- Planning a meeting with the new Secretary of DEQ
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management to support fiscal note development

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. We also continue to look to our engaged membership representatives to use materials developed to help with communication within their jurisdictions. We remain available to assist with any presentations/meetings that are set up to discuss Falls Lake and the status of our work and the rules readoption process.

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

Upcoming meetings

Next BOD Meeting: June 18, 2025, 9:30 AM to Noon at the Butner Town Hall
Next PFC Meeting: July 1, 2025, VIRTUAL CHECKIN FROM 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

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

Remote Access Instructions for PFC Meetings

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.

Remote Access Guidelines

- 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/device microphone or phone microphone to minimize background noise.