UNRBA Board of Directors: May 20, 2026, Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jane Harrison (Vice Chair)*	City of Raleigh
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Russ May (Secretary)	Granville County
Forrest Westall (Executive Director)	UNRBA
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Carl Rist	City of Durham
Michelle Woolfolk	City of Durham
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
Tirrill Moore	City of Raleigh
David Harris	Durham County Soil & Water
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Christopher Sandt	Orange County
Marilyn Carter	Orange County
Sherry Wilborn	Person County
Scott Schroyer	SGWASA
Jennifer Ganser	Town of Butner
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Tim Karan	Town of Stem
Jim Wrenn	Upper Jurisdictions
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
Dan McLawhorn	Smith Anderson
John Huisman	DWR
Aarin Miles*	City of Durham
Kieu Tran*	City of Durham
Sandi Wilbur*	City of Durham
Carolyn Bachl*	City of Raleigh
Barry Baker*	Granville County
Nish Trivedi*	Person County
Meaghun Darab*	Town of Hillsborough
Nick Nolte*	Town of Wake Forest
Katie Cromwell*	Upper Jurisdictions
Robert Hornik*	Upper Jurisdictions
Nancy Daly*	Wake County
Don Mial*	Wake County
Haywood Phthisic*	Lower Neuse Basin Association
Donna Myers*	American Rivers
Carleen Evans*	Jones and Company

*Attended meeting virtually

Welcome and Recognition – Closed Session of the Board

The Chair, Wendy Jacobs, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those participating. Wendy asked if any of the Board Directors have any "conflict of interest" issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. Wendy called the roll, and 12 of 14 members were present for a quorum. Wendy read § 143-318.11 governing closed sessions of public bodies. After Wendy read the General Statute, she requested a motion for the Board to enter a closed session. Marilyn Carter made the motion to go into closed session, seconded by Russ May, and approved by the Board.

Following the closed session, Wendy requested a motion for the Board to end the closed session and enter the open session. Marilyn Carter made the motion to end the closed session and enter the open session, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board.

Welcome and Recognition – Open Session of the Board

The Chair, Wendy Jacobs, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those participating. Wendy asked if any of the Board Directors have any "conflict of interest" issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. Wendy called the roll, and 12 of 14 members were present for a quorum. Wendy reviewed the voting hierarchy described in the UNRBA Bylaws. The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Being none, Marilyn Carter made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sherry Wilborn, and approved by the Board.

Action Items of the Board

Approval of Minutes, March 18, 2026, Board Meeting **–** The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Hearing none, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Carl Rist, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Forrest Westall summarized the amount remaining in the legal fund. Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2026. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was $282,926.56, and the savings account balance was $1,312,857.56 (a copy of the Treasurer's Report is posted on the UNRBA website). Following review of the report, Sherry Wilborn made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Marilyn Carter, and approved by the Board.

Barnes and Thornburg Engagement Letter – Forrest reviewed the Barnes and Thornburg engagement letter that was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. The Board discussed the letter. Marilyn Carter made the motion to approve the letter, Russ May seconded, and the Board approved.

Informational Items

Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process – Forrest reviewed the work of the UNRBA to support the Falls Rules Readoption Process. He summarized the status of discussions on the New Development, Existing Managed Lands, Agriculture, Wastewater, and Purpose and Scope rules and shared that DWR provided revised draft Falls Lake Rules to the UNRBA for review on April 22, 2026. Alix Matos summarized the rule sections, improvements relative to previous drafts, and outstanding issues with each rule. Forrest indicated that UNRBA and DWR will continue to meet to make progress on the rules. John Huisman stated that DWR would like to meet with UNRBA members and Executive Director in June to refine the New Development Rule to address UNRBA's concerns about the Stormwater Nitrogen and Phosphorus Tool. The Board discussed their concerns with DWR's draft rules including the additional costs to their rate payers which include census tracts with poverty levels greater than 24% and the significant growth and population increases projected for this region of the state. Forrest indicated that discussions are ongoing to try and achieve reasonable, scientifically supportable, technologically sound, and cost-reasonable revised Falls Lake Rules.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds – Forrest reminded the Board of DWR's work to develop a nutrient management strategy for High Rock Lake and to update and readopt the Jordan Lake Rules. He noted that the UNRBA team is continuing to monitor these processes.

Communication Support – Forrest provided online links of previously developed handouts that explain the challenges associated with the current Falls Rules and the work performed by the UNRBA and others to find more reasonable solutions. Forrest noted that through Fred Andes, legal advisor to the UNRBA, we met several months ago with EPA to discuss the regulatory framework for Falls Lake, and we will be working to schedule a follow-up meeting with EPA as the process with DWR/DEQ/EMC wraps up.

Other Items – Forrest listed other items the UNRBA is tracking including the NC State University UNRBA, Jordan Lake One Water research study, and the impacts of PFAS/PFOS on treatment costs and local governments. He also noted that the NC State study on streambank erosion has been completed and once the website is finalized it will include a function to download the data. When it is available, he will share with the PFC and Board.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held June 17, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at the Butner Town Hall with an option for remote access.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.