



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda
November 17, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon
[Remote Access Only \(see last page for instructions\)](#)
[Note new call-in number for phone access](#)

Materials related to this BOD Meeting have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). See items under the November 17, 2021, meeting date. A direct link to the meeting presentation is provided [here](#).

- I. Opening—Sig Hutchinson, Chair
 - A. Introductions, Board Member Comments, and Announcements
 - B. Roll Call for Quorum
 - C. Identification of any Conflicts
 - D. Review and Approval of Agenda
- II. Action Items – UNRBA Board
 - A. Approval of [September 15, 2021, Draft Board Minutes](#)
 - B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)
 - C. Approval of [2022 Meeting Dates](#)
 - D. Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee
 - E. Appointment of Personnel Committee
- III. Action Item – Compliance Group Committee
 - A. None
- IV. Status Reports and Informational Items
 - A. Results of UNRBA Audit

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Carleen Evans): An [audit](#) was conducted by Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co., LLP. The results of the successful audit will be presented by Carleen Evans at the Board Meeting.
 - B. Revisions to UNRBA Policies and Procedures Manual

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): As part of the audit review process, UNRBA Board members suggested revisions to the UNRBA Policies and Procedures Manual to address whistleblower protections and record keeping requirements. The Board discussed these suggestions during the September 15, 2021 Board meeting. A status of the revisions will be made during the November Board meeting.
 - C. Status of the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): A reporting tool has been developed and reviewed by the IAIA Reporting Workgroup to assist the IAIA participants in tracking eligible projects and compliance with the Program. This tool was discussed by the PFC in November, and DWR provided some additional recommendations for clarification that have been incorporated. Action for approving the reporting template will be brought forward at the January 19, 2022, meeting. The “[About Us](#)” page on the www.unrba.org website has been updated to include a copy of the revised Bylaws including the UNRBA IAIA Program Document.
 - D. Status of Proposed Chlorophyll a Site-Specific Standards for High Rock Lake

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Jay Sauber): In July, the EMC voted to send the proposed High Rock Lake Site Specific Water Quality Standard out to public hearing. The official public notice was issued in the September 1st edition of the NC Register. The hearing was held virtually on October 28th and the comment period ended on November 15th. This proposal is precedent setting for site specific chlorophyll-a criteria in NC

lakes and reservoirs and will likely affect the process for establishing a site-specific standard for Falls Lake. At the September 15, 2021 Board meeting, the Board reaffirmed authorization of the Executive Director to comment on this rule-making precedent, and [UNRBA comments](#) were submitted on October 26, 2021, ahead of the hearing.

E. Statistical Model Development and Regulatory Options for the Chlorophyll-a Water Quality Standard

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA is developing a statistical/Bayesian model to link the water quality in Falls Lake to its designated uses. The Technical Advisors Workgroup for the legal group, MRSW, and PFC have identified local subject matter experts to provide data and information regarding satisfaction with the designated uses of Falls Lake (drinking water, recreation, aquatic life, and flooding). The modeling team will be coordinating virtual meetings with these experts to understand the types of data and information that are tracked with respect to designated uses to inform development of the statistical/Bayesian modeling. Development of a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard represents an important consideration for a revised Falls Lake management strategy and is linked to this modeling effort. The modeling team and the legal team are also coordinating with Dr. Marty Lebo who has been identified as a Subject Matter Expert for assistance to the UNRBA for evaluating site-specific criteria for Falls Lake and coordinating with the Environmental Finance Center on their Year 3 effort funded by the UNC Collaboratory.

F. Modeling and Regulatory Support (MRS) Status:

Item Summary (Alix Matos): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The model output has been processed to identify the major sources of loading to the lake, and this information is being reviewed by local subject matter experts. This information will provide the best available picture of what sources in the watershed fall into the “controllable” category and lay the foundation on the feasibility and potential effectiveness of management actions to reduce nutrient input. The modeling team plans to reach out to Collaboratory funded researchers to review modeling as it progresses. Calibration of WARMF Lake and EFDC are also proceeding. The modeling team is working on the watershed model calibration report and the EFDC model calibration report. The scenario screening workgroup is continuing its process to select scenarios to evaluate with the models.

G. Communications

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): As a follow-up to the May 19, 2021, Symposium on the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Studies held by the UNRBA and UNC Policy Collaboratory, Collaboratory-funded researchers have been presenting their studies to the UNRBA Path Forward Committee (PFC) and the Modeling and Regulatory Support Workgroup (MRSW). In July, Dr. Rick Luettich presented his study on water circulation and physical properties of Falls Lake. In August, Dr. Nathan Hall presented his study on nitrogen fixation and denitrification in Falls Lake; he also presented Dr. Mike Piehler’s study on quantifying nutrient processing in Falls Lake. In September, Dr. Brent McKee presented his study of suspended sediment inputs and associated organic carbon to Falls Lake, and the amount of sediment mixing and accumulation impacting nutrient fluxes and carbon Falls Lake. In October, Dr. Michael O’Driscoll presented his on estimating the influence of onsite wastewater treatment systems on nutrient loading to Falls Lake Watershed. Each of these studies provide important information relevant to the watershed and lake models being developed by the UNRBA. The modeling team will continue to coordinate with these researchers as the models are developed and calibrated to ensure the models reflect the latest science and information.

The UNRBA is also planning a **technical stakeholders' workshop for Spring 2022** to discuss the status of the modeling efforts. Planning has also begun for a **joint symposium with the Collaboratory to be held in Spring 2022**. We are also working with the Collaboratory-funded researchers to develop a proposed session on Falls Lake at the upcoming Water Resources Research Institute's Annual Meeting in March 2022.

The Executive Director and the UNRBA Chair will be heading up a group to meet with Secretary Elizabeth Biser tomorrow to review the work of the UNRBA with the Department of Environmental Quality's leadership. The UNRBA is planning meetings with DWR to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. We continue to engage DWR in the meetings of the MRSW and PFC and to seek the input of the agency on the model development work.

We want to emphasize the importance of seeking Board member input to help identify their needs related to communicating the work of the UNRBA to their jurisdictions and the citizens of their local governments.

H. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- Intensive workgroup activity and management of expectations and resources—A lot to do between now and recommendations in 2023
- Ongoing DEQ/DWR Items—MOA, Neuse Watershed Model Information Session / Delivery Factors for WWTP, etc.

I. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair

Next MRSW or PFC Meeting: December 7, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon

Next BOD Meeting: January 19, 2022, 9:30 AM to Noon

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Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 981 714 577# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode.

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- 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**
- UNRBA meetings are open meetings; however, for this remote access meeting, please **limit the discussion to UNRBA Board Members** to facilitate moving through action items