

Path Forward Committee (PFC) Meeting Agenda
November 2, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon
Remote Access Only (see last page of agenda for instructions)

Materials related to the PFC Meeting has been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting page](#). A direct link to the meeting presentation for the November 2, 2021 meeting is provided here: [PFC meeting](#).

- I. **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chair Michelle Woolfolk**
- II. **Modeling and Regulatory Support Status**

Item Summary (Alix Matos, Silong Lu, and Michelle Woolfolk): The Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model for the Falls Lake watershed has been calibrated for stream flows and water quality. The MRSW and PFC approved the model for developing the lake water quality model on August 27, 2021, and September 7, 2021. The model output is being post-processed to identify the major sources of loading to the lake and the subject matter experts for the modeling are reviewing this information. 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 is working on the watershed model calibration report which will include information regarding source allocation.

Water quality calibration of WARMF Lake and EFDC are underway. The modelers will recommend a revised layering approach for the EFDC model based on water level and input from DWR received during the October 5th MRSW meeting. The modeling team met virtually with Dr. Rick Luettich on September 21, 2021 to discuss simulated water movement in Falls Lake compared to observations made by Dr. Luettich and his team. Dynamic Solutions will show a video of simulated water movement during the meeting.

The Scenario Screening Workgroups has two additional scenarios to review before bringing recommendations to the MRSW and PFC. A refined project schedule will be discussed during the meeting that distinguishes the watershed model, lake model, and scenario evaluations for the modeling.

- III. **Status of the UNRBA Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) — Informational Item**

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 distributed to the PFC in October for review and discussion during this 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.

- IV. **Status of Proposed Chlorophyll a Site-Specific Standards for High Rock Lake — Informational Item**

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 ends 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.

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

Item Summary (Forrest Westall and Alix Matos): The UNRBA legal workgroup discussed the FY2021 scope of work with Barnes and Thornburg to provide legal support. The primary task for FY2021 is to begin consideration of a petition for rulemaking for Falls Lake (e.g., site specific criteria). This work will be partially supported by the UNRBA Statistical Model of Falls Lake. The models supporting the Re-examination of the Falls Nutrient Management Strategy will be discussed with an emphasis on the Statistical Model. To support this effort, the Technical Advisors Workgroup, MRSW, and PFC identified local subject matter experts that may have information and data regarding tracking satisfaction with designated uses in the watershed. The modeling team has begun to reach out to these contacts to understand what type of information they have and if they would like to provide input to and feedback on the Statistical Model. The modeling team has also acquired, or is in the process of acquiring, several national or regional datasets to provide additional insight into variation in water quality and potential impacts to designated uses. 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. Evaluation of other State's site-specific standards for chlorophyll-a and nutrient-related standards is ongoing.

VI. Communications Support – Information Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA and UNC Collaboratory met virtually to discuss research studies for FY22. The Falls Lake researchers funded through the Collaboratory will be presenting at upcoming UNRBA MRSW and PFC meetings to ensure the modeling team is integrating these studies into the models. The UNRBA Modeling Team has been and will continue to reach out to the Falls Lake researchers as the modeling progresses to ensure the best science and available information is incorporated into the models. The UNRBA Technical Stakeholder Workshop was postponed until FY2022 (this fiscal year) due to COVID-19 and the Collaboratory/UNRBA Symposium. The plan was to hold this workshop in person this November, but recent developments with COVID-19 will likely require either holding the workshop virtually or delaying until early 2022. The UNRBA is also planning meetings with DWR and DEQ to review the technical work and discuss the general approach for the re-examination. Fred Andes at Barnes and Thornburg is looking into opportunities to highlight the work of the UNRBA to EPA as well. The PFC will continue to discuss external stakeholder communication needs.

VII. Other Status Items—Information Item

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Brief statements on several ongoing activities:

- An audit was conducted by Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co., LLP. The results of the audit will be presented by Carleen Evans at the November 17, 2021 Board Meeting.
- 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.

VIII. Closing Comments— Co-Chair Michelle Woolfolk

Next BOD Meeting: November 17, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon
 Next PFC or MRSW Meeting: December 7, 2021, 9:30 AM to Noon

Remote Access Instructions for the MRSW and PFC Meetings

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