



# **UNRBA PFC Meeting**

## **January 6, 2025**

### **9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Butner Town Hall with  
Remote Option**  
(see agenda for remote access instructions)



# Agenda

- Opening comments, agenda review/revisions
- Status and timeline for Falls rules readoption
- Discuss Budget for FY2027
- Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules
- Communications
- Other Items
- Closing comments

# **Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions**

# **Status and Timeline for Falls Rules Readoption**

# Status of Rule Development Process

- The latest draft rules were distributed and discussed by the UNRBA Board at their meeting on October 21, 2025 and the PFC on November 4, 2025
  - Developed following discussion with DWR Leadership and the Chair of the EMC on October 7<sup>th</sup>
- DWR has not provided feedback on the October drafts
- DWR indicated they were considering our drafts in their drafts
- UNRBA provided an evaluation of annual nitrogen load reduction to Falls Lake of nearly 400,000 pounds per year
- We met with DWR Leadership and the EMC Chair on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue discussions on wastewater allocations
- DWR requested a document to justify why additional load allocation would be needed over the next ten-year cycle
- We are working with the WWTP operators on this document and will provide it to the PFC when available.

# Status of Rule Development Process

- Meetings with DWR to discuss two rules were held during the week of December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - New Development and Existing Managed Lands
  - DWR is refining their drafts based on these discussions and we will work to finalize drafts for PFC review in January and discussion in February
- Meetings on the other rules are targeted for the first couple of weeks in January
  - Purpose and Scope
  - Wastewater
  - We hope to provide these to the PFC in January as well
- We will review the outcomes with the PFC and discuss how we plan to move forward with the rules

# Status of Rule Development Process

- On November 12, 2025, the UNRBA provided an information item to the EMC Water Quality Committee regarding approval of the UNRBA Models.
- The EMC requested a summary of the re-examination efforts with respect to the requirements listed in the adaptive management provision of the Falls Rules.
- The UNRBA developed this summary and provided a copy to the PFC ahead of this meeting
- [The contents are summarized on the following slides](#)
- We do not plan to ask the EMC to approve our models at the January WQC meeting. We will discuss the reasons for this approach at this meeting of the PFC

# Rules Requirements for Re-examination and UNRBA Submittals to Meet these Requirements

Obtain Division review & approval of any monitoring study plan & description of the modeling framework

- [DWR-Approved UNRBA Monitoring Plan](#) (2014)
- [DWR-Approved UNRBA Monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) (2014)
- [DWR-Approved UNRBA Description of the Modeling Framework](#) (2014)

Modeling conducted in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of the Division

- [DWR-Approved UNRBA Modeling Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) (2018)

Supplemental modeling shall include a minimum of three years of lake water quality data

- [UNRBA 2019 Monitoring Report](#) (4+ years of data)

Submittal of supplemental modeling data, products, and results

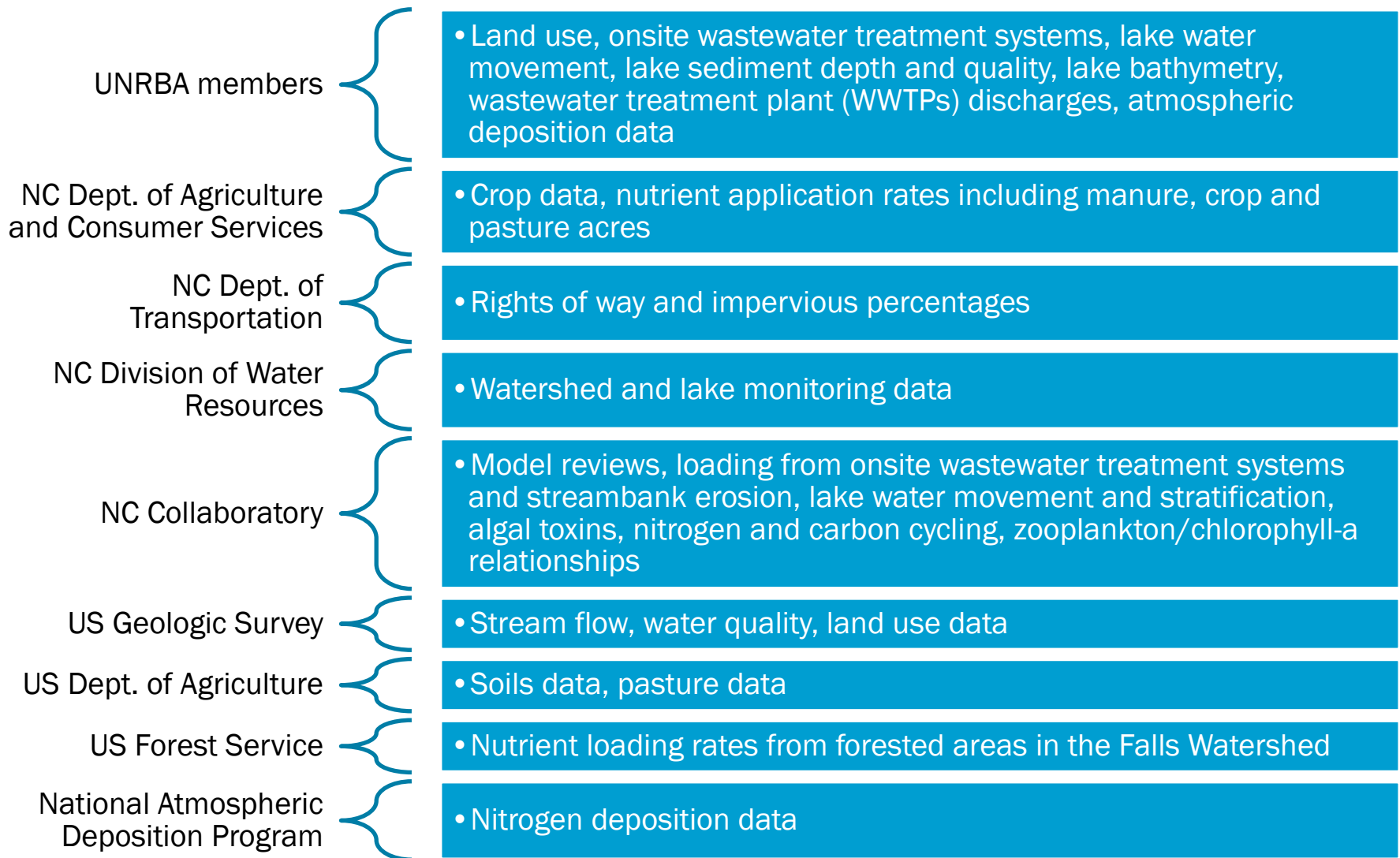
- [UNRBA Watershed Modeling Report](#) (2023)
- [UNRBA Lake Modeling Report](#) (2024)
- Submittal of modeling files to DWR (2023)



# Supporting Tables and Attachments

- **Table 1.** - requirements under Item (5)(f) of the Rule and UNRBA's re-examination work products
  - Efforts are identified as “required” or “additional”
  - Spans work from 2012 to 2025
- **Table 2.** - key findings of re-examination effort and implications for revised rules (summarized on later slide)
- **Attachment A** - summary of studies and evaluations applied to the UNRBA watershed and lake models
- **Attachment B** - UNRBA's letters to the EMC and DWR requesting review and approval of reports and models
  - UNRBA watershed model and report, December 20, 2023
  - UNRBA lake model and report, December 10, 2024
- **Attachment C** - DWR's email responses stating that the models were developed in accordance with the Modeling QAPP
  - Karen Higgins, DWR, July 31, 2024, watershed model and reporting
  - John Huisman, DWR, February 12, 2025, lakes models and report

# Multiple Organizations Provided Information for Model Development



# DWR's Responsibilities Under the Rules

- Five-year report with list of required elements
  - July 2025 report with additional required elements
    - Some of these have been or are being developed by UNRBA
    - These elements support UNRBA's long-term strategy of developing a site-specific chlorophyll-a standard:
- (i) The physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the Upper Falls Reservoir including nutrient loading impacts;
  - (ii) Whether alternative regulatory action pursuant to Sub-Item (5)(g) would be sufficient to protect existing uses as required under the Clean Water Act;
  - (iii) The impact of management of the Falls Reservoir on water quality in the Upper Falls Reservoir;
  - (iv) The methodology used to establish compliance with nutrient-related water quality standards in Falls Reservoir and the potential for using alternative methods;
  - (v) The feasibility of achieving the Stage II objective; and
  - (vi) The estimated costs and benefits of achieving the Stage II objective;

# Example Key Findings and Implications for Revised Rules

- Key findings
  - Reductions in nutrient loading to the lake are unlikely on the scale that has been seen since the 1980s
  - Lake water quality is stable
  - Exceedances of the chlorophyll-a standard are due to hydrologic modification caused by the dam
  - Nutrient loading to Falls Lake is driven by rainfall
  - WWTPs contribute 5 to 10% of loading based on hydrology
- Proposed framework for revised rules
  - Refine and continue the new development rule
  - Apply an integrated watershed management approach
  - Require largest WWTPs to continue to treat at highest achievable levels (five-stage biological nutrient removal) and provide an allocation to cover at least 10 years
  - Propose development of a site-specific water quality standard for chlorophyll-a

# Next Steps for Submitting a Rule Package

- UNRBA will continue to work with DWR on a joint set of rules and hopes to support a submittal by DWR to the WQC
- The package must include a fiscal note developed by DWR
- The UNRBA has been compiling supplemental fiscal information to support this effort.
  - This document will also need to be reviewed by the PFC and the Board and then approved by the Board for submittal.
  - Developing the UNRBA's economic information is important to timely readoption of the rules.
  - This timing of this document depends on when the rules are finalized, but the contractors are continuing to make progress
- Once the supporting fiscal information has gone through the UNRBA approval process, we will provide to DWR so the formal process can begin.

# Prospective Revised Timeline to Develop Rules

Month-Year	Milestone
January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNRBA and DWR continue discussing rule package to be submitted by DWR with UNRBA support</li><li>• Provides draft rules to PFC for review as available</li></ul>
February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PFC reviews draft rules and discusses at PFC meeting</li><li>• DWR host “all stakeholders” workshop</li><li>• Drafts are refined based on feedback and redistributed to PFC</li></ul>
March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PFC approves draft rules go to the Board;</li><li>• DWR brings draft rules as an information item to the EMC WQC</li><li>• Board considers support for formal submittal of package to the EMC</li></ul>
May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DWR submits a rule package to the EMC WQC for consideration to move forward to the full EMC.</li></ul>
July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full EMC considers WQC recommendation to approve rules for public notice and appoints hearing officers</li></ul>
October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public hearing</li></ul>
March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final package to WQC</li></ul>
May 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final package to full EMC</li></ul>
May/July 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Package goes to the Rules Review Commission (RRC)</li></ul>

**Discuss Budget for FY2027**

# Discuss Budget for FY2027

- The PFC and Board reviewed a planning-level budget for FY2027 at their November meetings
- A five-year projection was also provided.
- The Board concurred that this projection be used by our members for budget planning and dues for the UNRBA.
- The Board will approve a final budget at their March 2026 meeting.
- We noted that some adjustment to the budget may be required before it is finalized.
- If you have any further comments on the budget projections, please provide those as soon as possible. We want to provide the jurisdictions timely information for their planning purposes.



# **Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules**

# **Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules**

- Granville County and Wake County have requested a comparison and best practices across local governments for their implementation of stormwater rules and regulatory requirements within the Falls Lake Watershed
- Earlier this year, we discussed a workshop approach for UNRBA members to gather information and discuss
- We will continue planning for this workshop

# Communications

# **Additional Information and Activities**

- Continue meeting with DWR to work toward a joint set of rules to submit to the WQC
- Status updates to the EMC WQC: January 7, 2026
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management (DWR will likely need to set this up and participate)
- Planning additional meeting(s) with EPA, linking in DWR as appropriate

**Other Items**

# Ongoing Discussions/Issues

- Upcoming presentation by NC State University on their UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water research study
- Impacts on implementation of nutrient requirements in light of PFAS/PFOS and other emerging requirements on wastewater management costs to local governments. DWR developing an implementation plan for control of these pollutants—EMC to review

# Closing Comments

**Next Board Meeting Scheduled for  
January 21, 2026; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Next PFC Meeting Scheduled for  
February 3, 2026; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**