



Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Agenda  
March 18, 2026, 10:30 AM to Noon

**PLEASE NOTE: MEETING BEGINS AT 10:30 AM**  
In Person Meeting at Butner Town Hall, Camp Butner Room  
[Remote Access Option \(see page 6 for instructions\)](#)

Materials related to this BOD Meeting have been placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise on the [Meeting Page](#). See items under the March 18, 2026, meeting date.

- I. Opening—Wendy Jacobs, Chair
  - A. Introductions and Announcements
  - B. Roll Call for Quorum
  - C. Identification of Conflicts
  - D. Review and Approval of Agenda
  - E. Review voting hierarchy established in Bylaws
- II. Action Items
  - A. Approval of [January 21, 2026, Draft Board Minutes](#)
  - B. Approval of the [Treasurer's Report](#)
  - C. Consideration of Amendment to the Smith Anderson Engagement Letter
  - D. Personnel Committee Report and Budget Approval

Item Summary (Wendy Jacobs): The Personnel Committee met December 3, 2025, and reviewed the work of the UNRBA during 2025 and the support provided under the Executive Director Services Contract. The Committee provided an interim report to the Board in January 2026. The Committee met again on February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions and finalize their recommendation which is to increase the Executive Director Services Contract by \$83,415 compared to what the Board discussed at their November 2025 meeting. The Personnel Committee discussed funding this amount using unallocated fund balance. The PFC discussed funding on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and recommended reducing the Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Support contract by \$40,000 to conserve unallocated funds for future use. The remaining funding for this action, \$43,415, would come from unallocated funds. Depending on the approach, a budget will be provided for approval for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027). [The Board will discuss the recommendations and consider approval of the increase in the Executive Director Services Contract. If approved, the Board will decide the source\(s\) used for the additional funding. The Board will then be asked to approve the FY2027 budget based on the funding decision for Executive Director Services.](#)

- III. Status Reports and Informational Items
  - A. Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has invested over \$11 million since 2011 collecting data and building watershed and lake models to re-examine the nutrient load reduction requirements in the 2011 Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Rules. After our high-level recommendations for revised rules were submitted to DWR and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), the UNRBA began working intensively with stakeholders and DWR from December 2024 through May 2025 to draft rules. More than 20 meetings were held to discuss stakeholder feedback and incorporate into the rules. At the May 2025 EMC meeting, DWR announced that they were drafting their own rules. DWR provided their drafts to the UNRBA for review in August 2025. The UNRBA provided updated draft rules to incorporate appropriate language from the rules drafted by DWR. In September 2025, to work on resolving key differences between the DWR and UNRBA rules, leadership from UNRBA, DEQ, DWR, and the EMC began discussing options for a joint set of rules to submit to the EMC Water Quality Committee (WQC)—to begin the formal rulemaking process. In February 2026, DWR provided drafts of four rule sections for review by the UNRBA:

Purpose and Scope, Existing Managed Lands, New Development, and Agriculture. Critical issues related to the need for changing the nutrient loading allocations for municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the watershed (Durham, South Granville Water and Sewer Authority, and Hillsborough) resulted in ongoing discussions about how to address this situation. DWR has not provided a draft Wastewater Rule for our review. As the Board has discussed at previous meetings (e.g., the September 17, 2025 Board meeting ([slides](#) 31 to 43), the wastewater rule and restrictions on growth and economic development are the most essential issues that must be resolved. During the January 21, 2026, Board meeting ([slides](#) 18-21), the Executive Director summarized the studies and evaluations that DWR has requested since September 2025 to justify the need for additional load allocation. These included documentation of nearly 400,000 pounds per year reduction in total nitrogen loading to Falls Lake since 2006 (assuming similar hydrology) and population growth and engineering evaluations of need for each of the three wastewater treatment plants.

In addition, the UNRBA has significant concerns with the other four rules provided by DWR in February. The March 3, 2026, PFC meeting [slides](#) (6 to 41) provide detailed summaries of DWR's draft rule language and the UNRBA's concerns. For the Board meeting, we will provide a higher-level review of these concerns and the UNRBA's proposals for ensuring continued management of nutrients in the watershed and Falls Lake. The Executive Director team's recommendation is that the concerns noted in DWR's draft should be addressed and revised before DWR moves the rules to the EMC. The PFC discussed this at the March meeting and agreed that significant revision to DWR's rules is needed. The PFC agreed that any final draft rules for EMC consideration must include an appropriate wastewater rule. [The Executive Director will seek feedback from the Board members on whether or not DWR's draft rules are workable for their jurisdiction.](#)

**B. Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): We continue to monitor DWR's draft proposal for nutrient management rules for the High Rock Lake Watershed and their rules readoption process for the Jordan Lake Watershed.

**C. Communications Support**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The work with DWR on the revised Falls Lake Rules continues. 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:

- Reviewing existing information for jurisdictional use in developing presentations and handouts
  - [Infographic](#)
  - [Fact Facts](#)
  - Presentation materials as requested
- DWR established a [list serve for Falls Lake](#)
- Coordinating with DWR on an all stakeholders meeting prior to submission of rules to the EMC
- Providing status updates to the EMC
- Planning for a Falls Lake rules status presentation at the Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference March 25 and 26, 2026
- Planning for a workshop for UNRBA members on implementation of Falls New Development Rules

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.

**D. Ongoing Discussions/Issues:**

Item Summary (Forrest Westall):

- NCSU streambank erosion loading website and spatial data available soon
- Upcoming presentation by NC State University on the UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water study
- Impacts on implementation of nutrient requirements in light of PFAS/PFOS and other emerging requirements on wastewater management costs to local governments

**E. Closing Comments—Board Members and Chair**

**Next PFC Meeting: April 7, 2026, 9:30 AM to Noon, Virtual**

**Next Board Meeting: May 20, 2026, 9:30 AM to Noon, Butner Town Hall**

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

## Remote Access Instructions for UNRBA Board Meetings

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### Remote Access Guidelines

- If you dial in through your phone, mute your computer 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, please **limit the discussion to UNRBA Board Members** to facilitate moving through action items