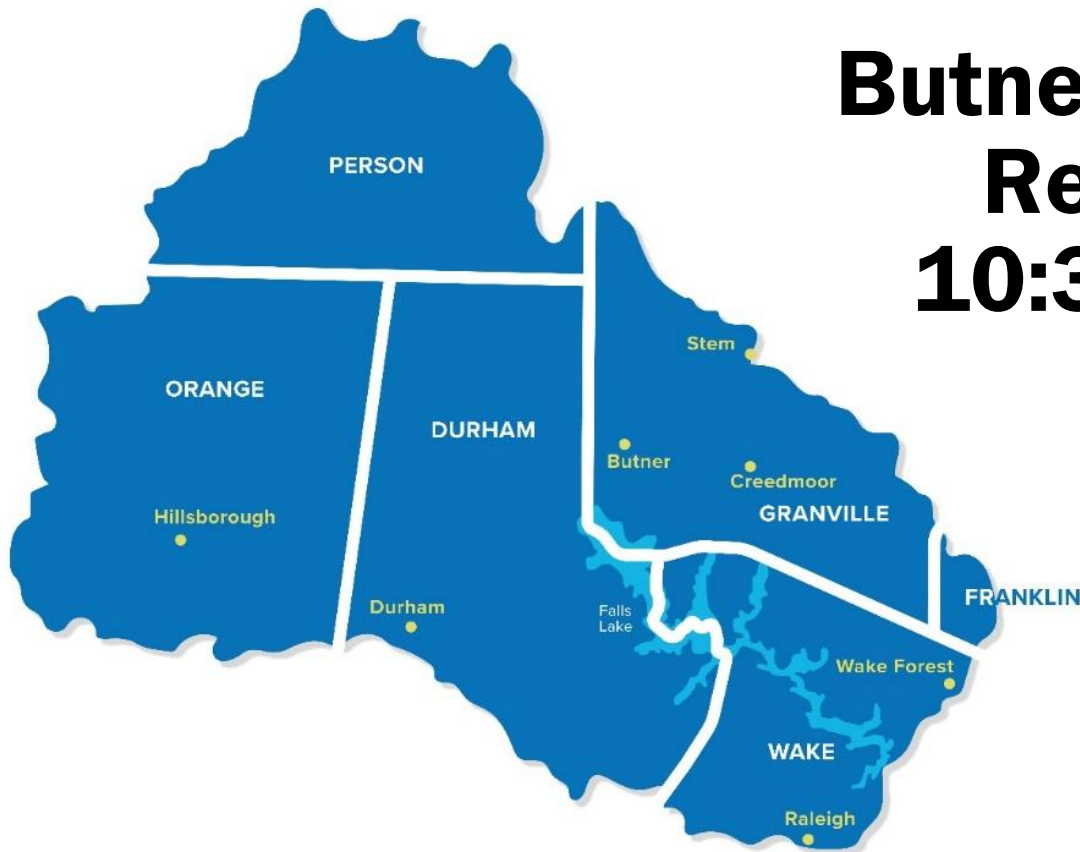




UNRBA Board Meeting March 18, 2026

Butner Town Hall with Remote Option 10:30 AM to Noon



March 18, 2026, UNRBA Board Agenda

- **Opening—Wendy Jacobs, Chair**
- **Action Items**
 - Approval of January 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - Approval of the Treasurer’s Report
 - Personnel Committee Report and Budget Approval
- **Status Reports and Informational Items**
 - Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process
 - Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds
 - Communications Support
 - Ongoing Discussions/Issues
- **Closing Comments**

Opening

Opening

- Introductions and announcements
- Roll call for quorum
- Identification of conflicts
- Review and approval of agenda
- Review voting hierarchy established in Bylaws
 - Primary Director
 - 1st Alternate if Primary Director is absent
 - 2nd Alternate if Primary Director and 1st Alternate are absent

Action Items of UNRBA Board of Directors

Approval of
January 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward: (per bank statement - 01/31/2025)		Checking	\$	555,057.84
		Savings		1,303,288.96
Debits:				
	Brown & Caldwell		\$	30,006.10
	Barnes & Thornburg		\$	3,459.00
	Smith Law		\$	13,488.75
	Brown & Caldwell		\$	21,928.07
				<hr/>
		Total Debits	\$	68,881.92
Credits:				
	Interest (checking)		\$	58.62
	Interest (savings)			3,002.62
Account Balance (per bank statement - 02/28/2026)		Checking	\$	486,234.54
		Savings		1,306,291.58
				<hr/>
Total UNRBA Account Balances:			\$	1,792,526.12
Outstanding invoices/deposits in process since the close of bank statement (02/28/2026):				
Debits:				
	WSP		\$	1,297.50
	Winston Williams Creech & Evans		\$	950.00
	McGill Associates		\$	18,030.81
Credits:				
Current Account Balances:		Checking	\$	465,956.23
		Savings	\$	1,306,291.58
				<hr/>
Total UNRBA Account Balance :			\$	1,772,247.81

Legal Fund Balance

\$588,204.92	24/25 YE
<u>\$100,000.00</u>	<u>25/26 Allotment</u>
\$688,204.92	Total
\$ (43,856.99)	B&T contract
<u>\$ (50,000.00)</u>	<u>Smith Anderson contract</u>
\$594,347.93	Balance

Consideration of Amendment to the Smith Anderson Engagement Letter

Consideration of Amendment to the Smith Anderson Engagement Letter

- Allow an additional \$100,000 for legal services, as needed and approved
- Registration of Dana Simpson (Smith-Anderson) as a lobbyist for the UNRBA—only as related to this initiative

The Board will discuss and consider approval of an amendment to the Smith Anderson Engagement Letter.

Personnel Committee Report and Budget Approval

Personnel Committee Findings and Recommendations

- 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 in January
- The Committee met again on February 27th to continue discussions and finalize their recommendation:
 - Increase the contract by \$83,415 and funding from unallocated funds so projected dues do not increase relative to those discussed in November 2025
- PFC discussed on March 3rd and recommend reducing the Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Support contract by \$40,000 and funding the balance through unallocated funds (\$43,415) to conserve unallocated funds for future use
- The Personnel Committee met again on March 12th to consider this funding option

The Board will discuss and consider approval of the increase in the Executive Director Services Contract and the sources of the funding.

FY2027 Budget if Recommendations are Adopted and Use of Unallocated Funds

- Total budget discussed in November 2025 was \$769,400
- Dues were estimated based on a total of \$609,400 which accounted for \$160,000 projected “roll over” from unused Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Support (MRS&CS) budget from FY2025 and FY2026
- If the Board approves increasing the budget by \$83,415 for Executive Director Services Contract and the MRS&CS budget is reduced by \$40,000, the total would be \$812,815
- Dues would not change from the November estimate (\$609,400)
 - \$160,000 roll over from MRS&CS from FY2025 and FY2026
 - Reduced budget for FY2027 MRS&CS by \$40,000
 - Use of unallocated funds of \$43,415

Revised Draft - Five-Year Projection

Contracts and Services	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Executive Director Services	231,700	326,700	343,035	360,187	378,196	397,106
Legal Support Fund	100,000	100,000				
Technical Contractor and Subconsultants:	385,000	335,000	315,000	430,000	430,000	430,000
<i>Finalize Nutrient Management Strategy for Falls Lake</i>	182,000	70,000				
<i>Regulatory Support, Planning, Prelim. Dev. of Implementation Plan</i>		70,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<i>Support Development of a Site-specific Chlorophyll-a Criteria</i>	25,000	25,000	25,000	100,000	#####	#####
<i>Support Implementation of 2011 Rules, Compare Programs</i>	25,000	15,000				
<i>Communications: Meetings, Workshops, Status Meetings</i>	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
<i>Monitoring Program (planning, coordination, implementation)</i>	13,000	15,000	50,000	100,000	#####	#####
<i>Technical Support, Data Analysis, and Reporting</i>	60,000	60,000	60,000	100,000	#####	#####
<i>Project Management</i>	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Subject Matter Expert - Site-specific chlorophyll-a criteria	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Accounting and financial services	13,000	13,650	14,333	15,049	15,802	16,592
Administrative costs, insurance, tax forms, etc.	12,300	12,465	17,638	12,820	13,011	18,212
<i>Website improvements</i>	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
<i>Website hosting and maintenance</i>	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
<i>UNRBA Audit</i>			5,000			5,000
<i>Insurance (two policies)</i>	2,200	2,310	2,426	2,547	2,674	2,808
<i>Lobbying and registration fees and costs</i>	1,100	1,155	1,213	1,273	1,337	1,404
Total of potential contracts:	767,000	812,815	740,006	868,056	887,009	911,909
Dues assume MRS&CS rollover of \$160,000 and \$43,415 from unallocated funds:		609,400				

Reduces MRS&CS budget by \$40,000 in FY2027. Includes placeholder for monitoring of \$100,000 per year. Eliminates funding legal support fund after FY2027. Dues formula for FY2027 would be \$812,815 - \$160,000 - \$43,415 = \$609,400

Total Membership Fees Since FY2013

Fiscal Year	Budget
2013	\$259,381.00
2014	\$643,500.01
2015	\$811,999.98
2016	\$826,299.94
2017	\$978,800.02
2018	\$1,025,599.95
2019	\$1,136,265.01
2020	\$1,144,999.97
2021	\$1,152,850.05
2022	\$1,165,517.07
2023	\$1,192,892.05
2024	\$1,204,940.00
2025	\$966,700.00
2026	\$767,000.00
2027 (recommended)	\$812,815 - \$203,415 [using unallocated funds] = \$609,400.00

Membership Fees by Member Since FY2024-25

Member	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	Recommended* FY2026-27
Town of Butner	\$13,845.33	\$10,963.81	\$ 8,711.02
City of Creedmoor	\$9,693.09	\$7,718.80	6,132.78
City of Durham	\$212,129.18	\$162,937.56	129,457.83
Durham County	\$82,772.69	\$66,403.16	52,758.92
Franklin County	\$11,061.96	\$8,763.99	6,963.21
Granville County	\$63,310.34	\$49,747.86	39,525.87
Town of Hillsborough	\$19,075.94	\$17,023.29	13,525.41
Orange County	\$102,378.22	\$80,774.72	64,177.47
Person County	\$72,267.00	\$55,692.58	44,249.10
City of Raleigh	\$288,097.34	\$233,623.29	185,619.34
SGWASA	\$21,721.32	\$17,530.31	13,928.26
Town of Stem	\$7,303.07	\$5,962.31	4,737.20
Wake County	\$55,420.45	\$43,810.59	34,808.57
Town of Wake Forest	\$7,624.05	\$6,047.71	4,805.05
Total	\$966,699.98	\$766,999.98	\$ 609,400.03

PRELIMINARY

**Preliminary using last years land area and water use data and assuming use of unallocated funds.*

Consideration of FY2027 Budget

- Consideration of a motion to approve a proposed FY2027 budget, use of unallocated funds, and total dues amount
- Member dues presented are preliminary and will be calculated following updates to drainage areas and water use
- For reference, the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and PFC are as follows:
 - FY2027 budget: \$812,815
 - Use of unallocated funds: \$203,415 (\$160,000+\$43,415)
 - Total dues amount: \$609,400

Status Reports and Informational Items

Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

Current Falls Lake Regulatory Framework

- Passed in 2011 because the lake did not meet the chlorophyll-a water quality standard as currently applied
 - Chlorophyll-a is an indicator of eutrophication
 - It is not toxic or tied directly to use attainment
- Two stages of nutrient load reductions relative to baseline (2006)
 - Stage I reductions: 20% nitrogen, 40% phosphorus
 - Stage II reductions: 40% nitrogen, 77% phosphorus
- Adaptive management provisions
 - Allows for re-examination
 - Collect 3+ years of monitoring data
 - Update the watershed and lake models
 - Allows for alternative regulatory approaches

Falls Lake Uses are Being Met

Water Supply

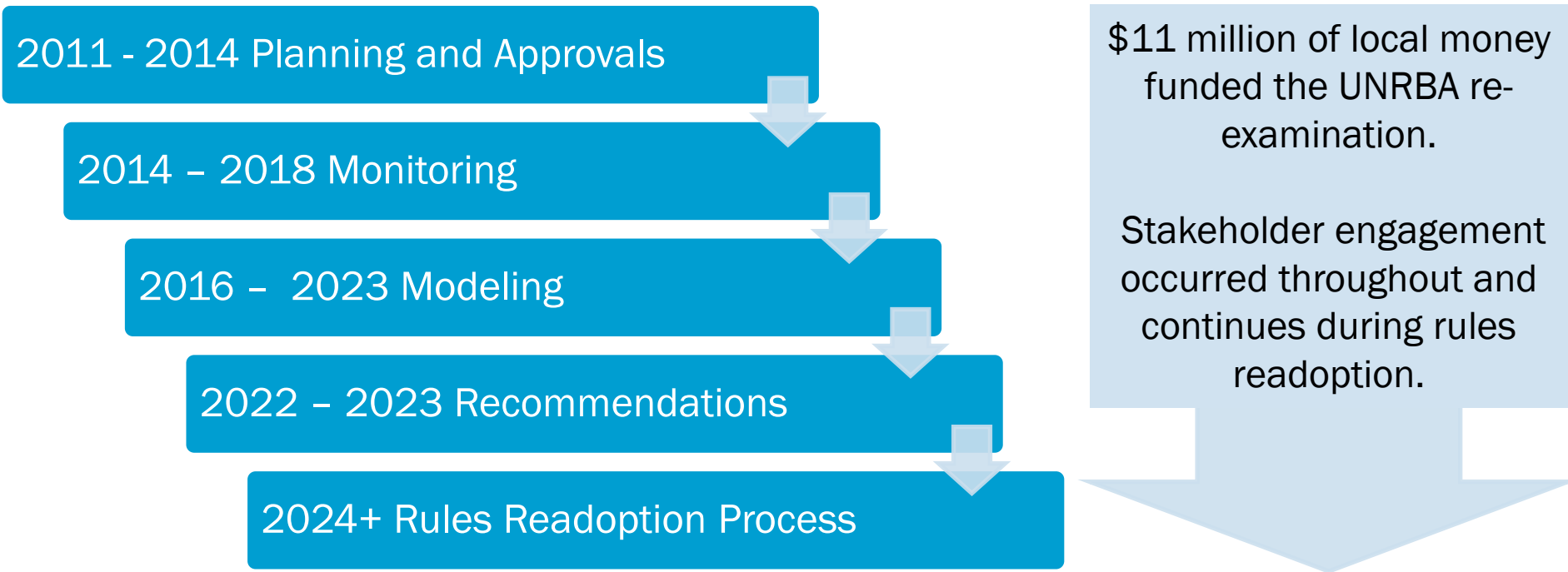
- Water is treated using conventional technology
- Raleigh won “best of the best” drinking water award

Recreation and Aquatic Life

- No nutrient related fish kills since Falls Lake was filled
- No public health advisors or algal toxin concentrations above guidelines or regulations



UNRBA Reexamination of Falls Lake Rules and Nutrient Reduction Requirements



Background on Rule Development

- The UNRBA worked intensively with stakeholders and DWR from December 2024 through May 2025 to draft rules (more than 20 meetings)
- At the May 2025 EMC meeting, DWR announced they were drafting their own rules and provided drafts in August
- Leadership from UNRBA, DEQ, and DWR began discussing options for a joint set of rules in Sept. 2025
- The UNRBA provided updated draft rules to incorporate appropriate language from the rules drafted by DWR (October)
- Leadership meetings have continued through February 2026
- In February, DWR provided drafts of four rule sections:
 - Purpose and Scope, Existing Managed Lands, New Development and Agriculture
 - They have not provided a draft Wastewater Rule – critical issue
 - The UNRBA still has concerns with the rules received (next slides)

Big Picture Concerns with DWR's Drafts 1/4

- By definition, rules are requirements that the public must follow
 - DWR has commented that the rules are “aspirational goals” and that some parts are “utterly unenforceable”
 - Enforcement section references civil and criminal penalties
- DWR's August 2025 draft rules included load reductions of 20% nitrogen and 40% phosphorus – not feasible
- DWR's February 2026 draft references load reductions of 40% nitrogen and 77% phosphorus – really not feasible
- Our watershed and lake modeling shows
 - 1/2 of the loading comes from forests, wetlands, etc.
 - Even the “all forest” scenario does not meet the load reduction requirements or the chlorophyll-a water quality standard
 - All land converted to forests
 - Removes all wastewater treatment plants and septic systems
 - Ceases nutrient application

Big Picture Concerns with DWR's Drafts 2/4

- The Falls Rules are a 4B alternative to a total maximum daily load (TMDL)
- 4B's are designed to make progress toward meeting the standard
- The goals of DWR's rules include load reduction requirements which put other parts of the rules at risk for third-party lawsuits
 - The draft Existing Managed Lands Rule includes an investment-based option that does not count pounds
 - DWR has indicated they are willing to provide an increase in the load allocations for the wastewater treatment plants

Big Picture Concerns with DWR's Drafts 3/4

- The current rules and DWR's proposed rules will halt economic growth across the watershed
 - There is not sufficient nitrogen allocation for the three plants
 - Hillsborough could exceed their allocation within 1-2 years
 - Durham and SGWASA within 10-15 years
 - Reverse osmosis would be required at these facilities to meet Stage I and II of the current rules as well as DWR's proposal
 - ~\$100 million per facility plus millions annually to operate
 - No option to discharge the waste stream/filter backwash
 - Not enough nitrogen offset credits in the watershed
 - Both UNRBA lake models show that requiring these facilities to meet Stage I or II does not significantly impact water quality

Big Picture Concerns with DWR's Drafts 4/4

- DWR's draft Purpose and Scope Rule includes a provision for the NC Nutrient Criteria Development Program Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) to develop a Falls site-specific chlorophyll-a standard by 2034 using the approach developed for High Rock Lake
- The UNRBA proposed a coordinated effort (DWR, UNRBA, and other interested parties) to develop a standard with five years of rules readoption
- In the past, the SAC process has been inefficient, not resulted in substantial change to the assessment of impairment, and DWR ignored many of the SAC's recommendations

UNRBA's Proposed Rules

- Continue to manage nutrients in the watershed and work toward achieving the standard
- Invest in watershed health and provide multi-benefits
- Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs)
 - Continue treating at limits of technology (5-stage biological nutrient removal, BNR)
 - Be allowed to use their permitted capacity – modeling shows insignificant changes in water quality even at 100% permitted capacity
- New development – continue implementing nutrient controls
- Existing development – continue investment in watershed health

Executive Director Team's Recommendation

- 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 DWR's draft rules are workable for their jurisdiction.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds

- 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

Communications Support

Communications Outreach and Preparation to Support Rule Readoption

- Reviewing existing information for jurisdictional use in developing presentations and handouts (see next slides)
 - [Infographic](#)
 - [Fact Facts](#)
 - Presentation materials as requested to address meeting topic
 - Jurisdictions can identify additional meetings or materials when support from the UNRBA team is needed
- Members can join DWR's [list serve for Falls Lake](#)
- Continue to coordinate with DWR
- Additional opportunities for public input during the formal EMC process
- The “open” nature of all UNRBA meetings remains a key component of a transparent communications approach.
- Please speak up about ideas and opportunities to communicate our work and the importance of our recommendations on revised rules and a site-specific standard.

Additional Information and Activities

- Status updates to the EMC
- Planning workshop for members on rule implementation and best practices
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management
- Meeting with EPA

Ongoing Discussions/Issues

Ongoing Discussions/Issues

- NCSU streambank erosion loading website and spatial data available soon
- Upcoming presentation by NC State University on the 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

Closing Comments

Next UNRBA PFC Meeting
April 7, 2026
Butner Town Hall
9:30 AM to Noon

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