

Path Forward Committee (PFC)
September 1, 2026, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Remote Meeting

Instructions for remote option are provided on the last page of this agenda.

Materials related to the PFC Meeting will be placed on the UNRBA website unless noted otherwise:
[UNRBA Meetings Page](#).

I. Opening Comments, Agenda Review/Revisions — Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

II. Status of IAIA Year-End Reports

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The fifth year of the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) ended June 30, 2026. IAIA participants are required to submit annual reports to NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) (John Huisman) by September 30th each year. Please copy Forrest and Alix on your submission so we can compile the UNRBA Annual Summary Report which will be reviewed and considered for approval by the UNRBA Compliance Group Committee at their November 18, 2026, meeting. The UNRBA Annual Summary Report is due to DWR by November 30th each year. The spreadsheet-based reporting template is available under the “IAIA” heading on the UNRBA website Resource Library:

<https://unrba.org/resource-library>. Please remember to manually enter the rollover amount from last year’s spreadsheet into this year’s (table of rollover amounts provided in slides).

III. Status and Timeline of Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): The UNRBA has continued to seek cooperation with DWR on a rule package that has a level of acceptance by the UNRBA that would support submittal to the NC Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Water Quality Committee (WQC). DWR provided revised drafts of the four rule sections to the Executive Director of the UNRBA on April 22, 2026. The PFC and Board discussed these drafts at their May meetings. On July 20, 2026, UNRBA member representatives met with DWR to discuss the outstanding issues on the draft Falls Rules, and this meeting was summarized for the PFC in the August meeting [slides](#). We will provide a condensed summary of the July 20th meeting (developed for the September Board meeting) and a status update during the meeting. There will not be a Falls Status update at the September EMC meeting.

For additional information and background on the history of the Falls Rules Readoption Process, please see the last page(s) of this agenda.

IV. Planning PFC Workshop on Best Practices for Implementing Falls Rules

Item Summary (Forrest Westall): Granville County and Wake County requested a comparison and best practices across local governments for their implementation of stormwater rules and regulatory requirements within the Falls Lake Watershed. In August, the PFC established a workgroup to discuss and gather information for a workshop. The New Development Workgroup is meeting remotely later today to discuss the best approach to provide information on the topics compiled thus far. During this meeting, the workgroup will review the scope of the workshop, the topics raised to date, and identify a list of speakers to address each. The workgroup will schedule second workgroup meeting to review the draft materials. The need for a third meeting will be determined at the second meeting. The workgroup will provide recommendations to the PFC on when to schedule the workshop which will likely coincide with one or more PFC meetings.

V. Communications

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
- Coordinating with DWR on an all stakeholders meeting prior to submission of rules to the EMC
- Providing status updates to the EMC (next Falls update likely in November 2026)
- Planning a meeting with staff from the NC Office of State Budget Management in coordination with DWR
- Planning additional meeting(s) with EPA

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.

VI. Other Items

VII. Closing Comments— Co-Chairs Michelle Woolfolk and Terry Hackett

Upcoming meetings

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for September 16, 2026; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Next PFC Meeting Scheduled for October 6, 2026; 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

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

Background on the Status of the Falls:

As a reminder and per [NC Session Law 2018-5](#), the Falls Lake Rules Readoption process was triggered by the NC Collaboratory report submittal in December 2023 and the UNRBA submittal of the [UNRBA Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination](#) and [Consensus Principles II](#). These UNRBA documents were sent to NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on November 22, 2023. The UNRBA submitted their [final watershed model report](#) in December 2023 and [final lake model report](#) in December 2024. DWR has responded that the reports have been accepted and the models developed approved under the reexamination provision of the Falls Lake Rules. Relative to rule readoption work, the UNRBA initiated an informal stakeholder process started in December 2024 with four rule [workgroups](#). A summary of the drafts produced by the workgroups and later updated by the PFC and stakeholders has been discussed by the PFC at their May 6, 2025; June 3, 2025; July 1, 2025; August 5, 2025; September 2, 2025; October 7, 2025; November 4, 2025; and December 2, 2025, meetings. At the May 2025 meeting of the EMC, we learned that DWR had begun preparation of a set of draft Falls Lake Rules. No notice was provided to the UNRBA that this effort was underway, nor was there any information provided to the Association on how DWR planned to use the

information developed during the extensive workgroup process to provide preliminary draft (draft-draft) rules. A rule readoption status update was provided at the January 6, 2026, PFC meeting.

On June 24, 2025, DWR hosted a Falls Rules Readoption Stakeholder Meeting. DWR provided the UNRBA with their draft rules on August 25th. The Executive Director, support team, and PFC Co-Chairs met with DWR staff on August 28th, August 29th, and September 16th to discuss DWR's drafts. In September, the UNRBA updated their draft rules to include the DWR language that was consistent with Consensus Principles II and the concepts outlined in the draft rules developed through the workgroup process.

UNRBA (Board Chair, Co-Chairs of the PFC, and the Executive Director and team), the Chair of the EMC, and leadership from the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Division of Water Resources (DWR) met to discuss key provisions of the Purpose and Scope Rule, Existing Managed Lands Rule, and New Development Rule on October 7, 2025. In October, the UNRBA revised its draft rules based on this discussion, our understanding of the points of agreement achieved, and redistributed this draft to the PFC, Board, and DWR. DWR referenced the UNRBA October drafts in their revisions to the drafts they had provided in August 2025. Meetings were held in December to discuss DWR's draft Existing Managed Lands Rule and New Development Rule and in February to discuss DWR's draft Purpose and Scope Rule. DWR provided updated drafts of these three rules in February along with their proposed Agriculture Rule. For a summary of the comments received from the PFC and Board during and following their March meetings see the April PFC meeting [slides](#).

Leading up to the UNRBA's work with DWR staff, the UNRBA leadership has been meeting with DEQ/DWR leadership and the EMC Chair since September 2025 to discuss the Wastewater Rule and work toward a compromise that can provide the wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) with enough nitrogen allocation to cover at least the next rules readoption cycle (10 to 15 years). These meetings have also reviewed the status of updating the other rules based on the meetings in September and October. Regardless of the results of these discussions and language in updated drafts from DWR, the UNRBA members with WWTPs will have to decide whether or not to accept any compromise that DWR is willing to put forward. As of the date of this agenda, DWR has yet to provide a proposed draft of the Wastewater Rule they are recommending for readoption.

Relative to the Wastewater Rule and during the October 7, 2025, meeting, DWR requested documentation of the amount of nitrogen load reduction that has been achieved since the baseline year (2006). UNRBA developed this documentation (shared with the PFC previously) which shows a reduction of nearly 400,000 pounds per year of nitrogen since the baseline year (2006). These reductions are the result of several factors, including reduction actions in the watershed, changes in air deposition, and reduced nutrient loading from lake sediments resulting from lower nutrient loading inputs from the watershed. Following DWR's review of that information (with really no feedback from DWR or any alternate information from the Division about alternate calculation methods), the UNRBA leadership met with DEQ and DWR Leadership and the EMC Chair on December 2, 2025, and January 13, 2026, to continue discussions. DWR noted that the conditions in the rules would need to be evaluated in 10 years following this current pending readoption, as required by the General Assembly (all environmental rules must be reviewed every 10 years for applicability, continuation, or modification). The UNRBA and our members with WWTPs previously provided information on the need for increased nitrogen allocation moving into the future. During the December 2nd meeting, DWR requested additional information to justify why more nitrogen load allocation would be needed above the 2006 baseline

loads to cover the next ten years. We worked with the WWTP operators on this document and provided it to DWR ahead of the January 13th meeting and to the Board ahead of their January meeting. During the January 13th meeting, DWR again requested additional information. They asked for more justification on the flow projections based on population growth and planning documents. In response, we worked with the WWTP operators to compile their planning information and engineering studies. Forrest provided an updated version of the projections document to the PFC and Board. The UNRBA met with DEQ and DWR Leadership on February 2, 2026, to continue discussions. DWR provided a draft Wastewater Rule for our review on April 22, 2026. The PFC discussed this latest draft at the May 2026 meeting. Member representatives from the UNRBA met with DWR on July 20, 2026, to continue refining the draft rules. The UNRBA PFC and Board discussed this meeting and follow-up input from DWR at their August and September meetings.

Remote Access Instructions for PFC Meetings

Equipment Type	Access Information	Notes
Computers with microphones and speakers	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Please mute your microphone unless you want to provide input.	Press control and click on this link to bring up Microsoft Teams through the internet. You can view the screen share and communicate through your computer's speakers and microphone.
Computers without audio capabilities, or audio that is not working	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting (888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961# Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.	Follow instructions above. Turn down your computer speakers, mute your computer microphone , dial the number through your phone and enter the passcode.
Phone only	(888) 404-2493 Passcode: 371 817 961#	Dial the toll-free number and enter the passcode. Please mute your phone unless you want to provide input.

Remote Access Guidelines

- 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.