

UNRBA Board of Directors: June 17, 2026, Board Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, via an in-person and conference call/webinar. Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Affiliation
Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jane Harrison (Vice Chair)*	City of Raleigh
Ryan Eaves (Treasurer)	Durham County
Russ May (Secretary)	Granville County
Forrest Westall (Executive Director)	UNRBA
Georgana Kicinski	City of Creedmoor
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham
Carl Rist	City of Durham
Kieu Tran	City of Durham
Ed Buchan	City of Raleigh
David Harris	Durham County Soil & Water
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Marilyn Carter	Orange County
Sherry Wilborn	Person County
Jay Jennings	Person County
Scott Schroyer	SGWASA
Jordan McMillan	Town of Butner
Meaghun Darab	Town of Hillsborough
Terry Hackett	Town of Hillsborough
Katie Cromwell	Upper Jurisdictions
Jim Wrenn	Upper Jurisdictions
Alix Matos	Brown & Caldwell
John Huisman	DWR
Sandi Wilbur*	City of Durham
Tirrill Moore*	City of Raleigh
Dustin Brewer*	Durham County
Barry Baker*	Granville County
Tim Karan*	Town of Stem
Nick Nolte*	Town of Wake Forest
Haywood Phthisic*	Lower Neuse Basin Association
Lauren Strader*	Brown & Caldwell
Carleen Evans*	Jones and Company

*Attended meeting virtually

Welcome and Recognition

The Chair, Wendy Jacobs, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those participating. Wendy asked if any of the Board Directors have any “conflict of interest” issues with any agenda items, and no conflicts were identified. Wendy called the roll, and 12 of 14 members were present for a quorum. Wendy reviewed the voting hierarchy described in the UNRBA Bylaws. The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Being none, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Marilyn Carter, and approved by the Board.

Action Items of the Board

Approval of Minutes, May 20, 2026, Board Meeting – The Chair asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections to the draft minutes provided. Hearing none, Marilyn Carter made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Georgana Kicinski, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report – Forrest Westall summarized the amount remaining in the legal fund. Ryan Eaves presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending May 31, 2026. The checking account balance at the close of the statement was \$220,019.65, and the savings account balance was \$1,316,206.16 (a copy of the Treasurer’s Report is posted on the UNRBA website). Following review of the report, Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Meaghun Darab, and approved by the Board.

Approval of FY2027 Contracts and Letters of Engagement – Forrest Westall reviewed two FY2027 contracts and two FY2027 letters of engagement for approval by the Board. Each contract or letter was considered for approval with authorization of the Chair to sign on behalf of the UNRBA as follows:

- Marilyn Carter made the motion to approve the FY2027 contract for Executive Director Services as presented, seconded by Ed Buchan, and approved by the Board.
- Georgana Kicinski made the motion to approve the FY2027 contract for Modeling and Regulatory Support and Communications Support as presented, seconded by Sherry Wilborn, and approved by the Board.
- Meaghun Darab made the motion to approve the two FY2027 letters of engagement for Accounting and Financial Services (one letter for financial services and one letter for tax preparation) as presented, seconded by Ed Buchan, and approved by the Board.
- All approvals were approved by unanimous vote.

Informational Items

Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process – Forrest reviewed the work of the UNRBA to support the Falls Rules Readoption Process and the benefits of those efforts relative to the latest draft rules. He summarized the status of discussions on the New Development, Existing Managed Lands, Agriculture, Wastewater, and Purpose and Scope rules and provided preliminary comparisons of costs of the current rules to what has been negotiated with DWR so far. Forrest indicated that the UNRBA team and staff from the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) will continue to meet to make progress on the rules and are planning to meet June 22, 2026, to discuss further. He pointed out that all discussions and potential changes to proposed rules would have to be reviewed by the PFC and the Board. Forrest indicated that significant additional work is needed to provide an appropriate Wastewater Rule.

Status of Extension of Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA)
Reminder for Year-End Reports – Forrest provided an update to the Board on the status of the extension of the IAIA Program. John Huisman at DWR has notified Forrest by email that DWR considers the program extended based on modification to the UNRBA Bylaws and discussion with DWR and the NC Environmental

Management Commission (EMC) leadership and attorneys. John confirmed this position at the Board meeting. Forrest has requested several times since November 2025 that DWR and/or the EMC provide a formal letter approving the extension. Board members representing jurisdictions that are part of interlocal agreements that rely on the IAIA as the basis of their agreement also stressed the importance of a formal acknowledgement of the extension.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds – Forrest reminded the Board of DWR’s work to develop a nutrient management strategy for High Rock Lake and to update and readopt the Jordan Lake Rules. He noted that the UNRBA team is continuing to monitor these processes.

Communication Support – Forrest provided online links of previously developed handouts that explain the challenges associated with the current Falls Rules and the work performed by the UNRBA and others to find more reasonable solutions. Forrest noted that the EMC Water Quality Committee will meet July 8, 2026, and the agenda for that meeting has not yet been set. Forrest also noted that he will be presenting virtually to Raleigh District D on the work of the UNRBA on June 20, 2026, and reminded the Board that he is available for these and other types of presentations as requested.

Other Items – Forrest listed other items the UNRBA is tracking including the NC State University UNRBA, Jordan Lake One Water research study, and the impacts of PFAS/PFOS on treatment costs and local governments. He also noted that the NC State study on streambank erosion has been completed and once the website is finalized it will include a function to download the data. When it is available, he will share with the PFC and Board.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held September 16, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at the Butner Town Hall with an option for remote access.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.