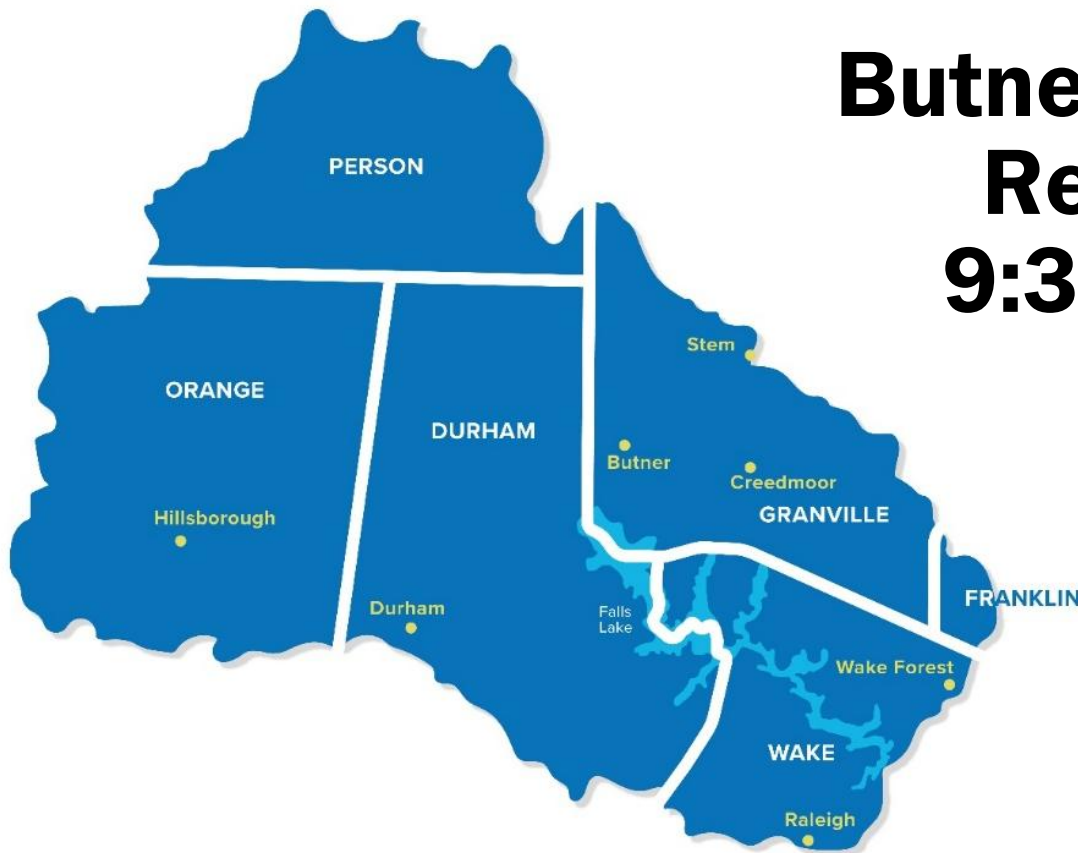




UNRBA Board Meeting September 16, 2026

**Butner Town Hall with
Remote Option
9:30 AM to Noon**



September 16, 2026, UNRBA Board Agenda

- **Opening—Wendy Jacobs, Chair**
- **Action Items**
 - Approval of June 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - Approval of the Treasurer's Report
 - Consider setting an earlier than normal meeting date for the Personnel Committee
- **Status Reports and Informational Items**
 - Presentation on the UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water Research Study
 - Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process
 - Reminder for IAIA Year-End Reports
 - 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
June 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward: (per bank statement - 07/31/2026)		Checking	\$	264,076.60
		Savings		1,207,608.03
Debits:				
	Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Jones		\$	980.00
	McGill & Associates		\$	29,218.13
	Brown & Caldwell		\$	8,263.98
	Smith Law (2 Invoices)			22,869.00
Total Debits			\$	61,331.11
Credits:				
	Interest (checking)		\$	20.90
	Interest (savings)			3,379.75
	Membership Dues Received			230,931.10
Account Balance (per bank statement - 08/30/2026)		Checking	\$	202,766.39
		Savings		1,441,918.88
Total UNRBA Account Balances:			\$	1,644,685.27

Outstanding invoices/deposits in process since the close of bank statement (08/31/2026):

Debits:				
	Penn National Insurance		\$	897.00
	The Insurance Shoppe		\$	1,332.00
	Barnes & Thornburg		\$	10,839.00

Credits:

Current Account Balances:		Checking	\$	189,698.39
		Savings	\$	1,441,918.88
Total UNRBA Account Balance :			\$	1,631,617.27

Legal Fund Balance

\$549,433.86	25/26	YE
<u>\$100,000.00</u>	<u>26/27</u>	<u>Allotment</u>
\$649,433.86		Total
\$(74,698.67)		Invoices paid
\$(40,193.63)		B&T contract remaining
<u>\$(31,050.75)</u>		<u>Smith Anderson contract remaining</u>
\$494,347.93		Balance

Appoint the Personnel Committee and Consider Setting an Earlier than Normal Meeting Date

- The Executive Director recommends setting an earlier than normal meeting date for the Personnel Committee
 - Assess this year's activities
 - Review the work provided under the Services Contract
 - Plan for next year
- The Personnel Committee provides an invitation for participation and input from all UNRBA Board Directors, Alternates and PFC Members
- Proposed membership
 - Wendy Jacobs, Chair
 - Jane Harrison
 - Russ May
 - Ryan Eaves
 - Other proposed members as identified by the Board
 - Aarin Miles
 - Reggie Hicks
 - Kathy Cooper
 - Ed Buchan
 - Jim Wrenn
- Vote to appoint the committee and authorize the Chair to set a meeting date

Status Reports and Informational Items

Presentation on the UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water Research Study

Presentation on the UNRBA and Jordan Lake One Water Research Study

- Presentation by Jay Rickabaugh, NC State University and Kelly Chernin, Appalachian State University

Status of the Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

Impacts of the Reexamination Effort

- Provides a well-developed, scientific evaluation of the lake and watershed that clearly shows the impossibility of the current rules
- Modeling was accepted by DWR as following established QA/QC procedures for development
- Approval of the modeling by the EMC is highly likely—however, the reductions required under the current standard evaluation process are way beyond what is reasonable or possible
- The work established that there is no basis for considering the lake “impaired” because all uses are being met
- The progress on most of the rules in our discussions with DWR would not be possible without the results of the Reexamination
- The UNRBA has provided extensive additional justification for rules modification and revised WWTP loading requirements

Status of Falls Rules Readoption

- DWR provided updated rule sections on April 22nd
- UNRBA PFC and the Board have reviewed and discussed at their May meetings and the June PFC meeting with DWR staff present
- UNRBA members and Executive Director met with DWR on July 20th to discuss (summarized on following slides)
- Language is close on Purpose and Scope, Existing Managed Lands, and New Development Rules
- Additional work is needed on Wastewater Rule; the EMC and EMC Executive Director are also reviewing

Summary of July 20th Meeting with DWR

- UNRBA member representatives met with DWR to discuss UNRBA comments on the April draft rules
 - City of Durham: Michelle Woolfolk and Sandi Wilber
 - Wake County: Nancy Daly
 - Upper Jurisdictions: Katie Cromwell
 - Durham County: Ryan Eaves
 - Town of Hillsborough: Terry Hackett
 - UNRBA: Forrest Westall, Alix Matos
 - DWR: John Huisman, Rich Gannon, Trish D'Arconte
- Two-hour meeting intended to focus on new development and existing managed lands rule
- The following slides summarize the discussion with additional details provided in the [August PFC slides](#)

Draft Purpose and Scope (PS) Rule, Items Discussed on July 20th

- References to percent reductions that are not feasible or applicable should be removed or clarified as historical reference only
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*
- The word “restore” should not be referenced: Falls Lake water quality is the best it has ever been
 - *At the August PFC meeting, John Huisman indicated they will replace with “maintain and improve”*
- Suggested using “manage” rather than “reduce” nutrients to be more comprehensive in our approach
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*

Draft Purpose and Scope (PS) Rule, Items Not Discussed on July 20th due to Time Constraints but discussed at August PFC meeting

- Nutrient Criteria Development Plan (NCDP) to establish site-specific standard for Falls Lake (last updated 2019)
 - DWR has not met the schedule described in the plan
 - Evaluate nutrient and chlorophyll-a data for NC lakes and reservoirs (by January 2024)
 - Evaluate the High Rock Lake approach for lakes and reservoirs across the state (by December 2024)
 - Develop criteria (by December 2026 with rules adopted May 2028)
 - UNRBA has concerns with schedule proposed in the draft Purpose and Scope Rule given ongoing delays with other NCDP efforts
 - A site-specific process for development of a Falls Lake standard is needed which must include specific input from the UNRBA along with a commitment from DWR to staff and support such an effort
- *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*

Draft Purpose and Scope (PS) Rule, Items Not Discussed on July 20th due to Time Constraints but discussed at August PFC meeting

- Importance of tributary monitoring
 - *According to John Huisman, this is being discussed by DEQ*
- Implementation of the “offramp” as currently drafted
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*

Draft New Development (ND) Rule, Items Discussed on July 20th

- Purpose statement should reference the purpose statement of the Purpose and Scope Rule
 - *John Huisman indicated they will edit this and other rules as suggested; not have separate purpose statements in each rule*
- UNRBA recommended deleting the last sentence of the ND Purpose: “Nothing in this Rule prevents local governments from implementing requirements that are more restrictive than those set forth in this Rule”
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*
- Next version of the Stormwater Nitrogen and Phosphorus (SNAP) Tool is likely delayed 18+ months
 - Impacts structure of the rule and the loading targets
 - Suggested considering a separate SNAP rule rather than re-adopting again
 - *John Huisman indicated this option is being discussed*
- Rule language about large institutional projects is not needed because they are regulated by the local governments
 - *DWR agreed during the meeting and will delete*

Draft Existing Managed Lands (EML) Rule, Items Discussed on July 20th

- Discussed that requirements and purpose of EML rule needed to be relative to existing **development**, not existing **managed lands** (EML)
 - EML are to indicate potential partnerships, not requirements—important concept to encourage joint projects
 - *DWR is reviewing wording throughout (managed lands versus development)*
- Education and outreach costs related to nutrient management should be eligible activities and are required elements of MS4 permits due to their importance
 - *John Huisman indicated they will add this back in at the August PFC meeting*
- If members leave compliance group, group investment level should be adjusted down (subtract member)
 - *John Huisman indicated they will make this revision*
- If DWR dissolves the group for non-compliance, retroactive requirements should only be required for those jurisdictions that were out of compliance
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*
- Item (8, eligible activities for investment-based approach) still references lands “under their control”; should say “under their ownership”
 - *DWR may still be considering, but has not stated agreement yet*

Draft Wastewater Rule (WW) Rule, Items Discussed on July 20th

- Three WWTPs are operating at best achievable technology (BAT)
- DWR's latest draft caps the WWTPs at their currently permitted flow rates (28.5 MGD cumulative) based on nitrogen (N)
 - End of pipe: 163,704 pounds per year (baseline, 2006 levels)
 - Offsets: capped at 100,000 pounds per year
 - *John Huisman indicated they are reviewing this draft rule language*
 - Limits total allocation to permitted flow at BAT, 3 mg-N/L
 - No path for increased allocation
- DWR's latest draft sets phosphorus allocation to
 - End of pipe: 14,469 pounds per year (Stage I allocation)
- No other WW Rule in the state limits the number of offsets you can acquire
- Other WW rules allow for new and expanded facilities based on offsets obtained with no limit
- Other WW rules allow 3.5 mg-N/L and permitted flow to be discharged from pipe – Falls 1.88 mg-N/L end of pipe

Overview of Financial Impacts of Revised Rules

- Fiscal comparisons are required relative to the current rule framework, which includes the Stage II requirements
- The work of the UNRBA and discussions with DWR have resulted in draft rules that are less costly than the Stage I and Stage II requirements
- More work is needed, particularly for the Wastewater Rule to ensure fair, equitable requirements that consider limits of technology and relative proportion of loading to Falls Lake
- This material was summarized for the Board at their [June meeting](#)

Reminder for Year-End IAIA Reports

Reminder for Year-End Reports

- The fifth year of the IAIA ends June 30, 2026.
- IAIA participants are required to submit annual reports to DWR (John Huisman) by September 30th
- The PFC discussed the process for providing these annual reports to DWR with a copy to Forrest and Alix to compile the UNRBA Annual Summary Report
- The UNRBA Annual Summary Report 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>.

Continued Rule Development for Jordan Lake and High Rock Lake Watersheds

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- 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

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- DWR is requesting feedback by September 15th on the Lower Neuse Modeling Report and how to use the model for updating delivery factors (based on DWR's July 14th workshop)
- NCSU streambank erosion loading website and spatial data available soon
- 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
October 6, 2026
In Person (Butner Town Hall) or Virtual
9:30 AM to Noon

Next UNRBA Board Meeting
November 18, 2026
Butner Town Hall
9:30 AM to Noon