



# Wake County Water Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 11, 2020 1:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted by simultaneous communication

Virtual Meeting–WebEx

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**Committee Members Attending:** Heather Keefer, Chair; Bill Holman, Vice Chair; Matt Echols, P.E.; Jeff Adkins; Kenny Waldroup; Kelly Arnold; George Matthis; Thomas Dean; Suzanne Harris; Michael Orbon; Chris Johnson; Horace Smith; Marc Collins; Robert Krueger, Billy Lee, Rachel Ingham

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Heather Keefer, Chair

Motion-Jeff Adkins

Second-Horace Smith

**I. Item Title: Opening Remarks**

**1:00**

Heather Keefer: Chair

- New Water Partnership Members:
  - Matthew Starr, Upper Neuse River Keeper, former Chair Stormwater Advisory Chair for City of Raleigh
  - Rachel Ingham, Town of Holly Springs, Utility Engineer
- Additional Introductions:
  - Ashley Rodgers- Watershed Manager with Wake County
  - Emily Barrett-Water Resources and Resiliency Principal Planner for Triangle J Council of Governments
- PlanWake survey on draft comprehensive plan is available online
- City of Raleigh proposed floodplain regulation survey is online
- Water Partnership Meeting schedule for 2021
  - February 12, 2021- Water Partnership Retreat
  - April 9, 2021
  - June 11, 2021
  - August 13, 2021
  - October 8, 2021
  - December 10, 2021
- December 17: US Water Alliance: Implementing One Water Part 2, One Water Planning

**II. Item Title: Adoption of Meeting Minutes****1:05**

Motion: Horace Smith

Second: Robert Krueger

**III. Item Title: Eastern Wake 4.0 and Green Infrastructure Opportunities****1:10**

Jeffrey Carter, PE, Vice President of Facilities, Wake Technical Community College

- Over 70,000 students enrolled
  - Non-degree program 39,314
  - Degree program 30,781
- Nine campuses plus one “online” campus
- 106 ac at intersection of I-87 and Rolesville Rd., located across from East Wake High School
- Public safety building-fire, EMS, law enforcement, drone training
- Driver training area for EMS, fire, police, motorcycle, tractor trailer training
- Central core of campus are general education buildings, tech training
- Phase 1 fully funded; funding for Phase 2 and 3 still needs to be approved
- Campus will serve currently underserved portion of County, serve as talent ladder
- Looking in detail at sustainability including geothermal wells, solar panels
- Buffalo Creek located on eastern portion of property; working to reduce impact on overall environment

Open Discussion:

- Full master plan is available on Wake Tech Facilities website (<https://www.waketech.edu/about-wake-tech/administrative-offices/facility-operations/design-construction/master-plan>)
- Timelines for phases:
  - Phase 1: students anticipated to be in building by 2023
  - Phase 2: 7-8 years
  - Phase 3:10-14 years
- GSI opportunities?
  - Provides opportunity to take holistic approach to stormwater
    - Bioretention, rain gardens, permeable pavers
    - Capture and reuse
    - Phase approach allows greater return on investment by leveraging multiple projects into stormwater system
  - Current campus sustainability initiatives
    - Northern Wake Campus has pollinator gardens, composting; integrating with faculty for teaching
  - Would like to preserve as much green space as possible
  - Incorporate lands into bioag curriculum opportunities

**IV. Item Title: Water Quality Updates****1:50**

Nancy Daly, Water Resources Manager

One Water Updates: Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, Walnut Creek Watershed

- Falls Lake:
  - Presented Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) to BOC in November 2020; BOC approved moving forward as did other Falls Lake jurisdictions

- DWR presents IAIA to Environmental Management Commission (EMC) in January 2021 for approval
- IAIA will result in \$1.5 million annual investment in water quality improvement projects in watershed
- July 2021-IAIA implementation begins
- Jordan Lake:
  - Four workgroups working with Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW)
    - Integrated Watershed Management Implementation
    - Evaluation Methods
    - Monitoring and Reporting
    - Organizational and Financial
  - Workgroups finalizing recommendations for NCDWR
  - Recommendations should be compiled February 2021
  - DWR develops rule concepts November 2021
- Walnut Creek Watershed:
  - DWR leading effort on utilizing Watershed Action Tool to develop watershed plan
  - Federal, state government, academic, non-profit, strong community engagement
  - Areas highly prone to flooding are located downstream of new and proposed development (Downtown South Project)
  - Working to minimize downstream impacts
  - Partnerships are advancing multiple initiatives: public-private partnerships, water quality monitoring, job development, retrofits, GSI projects

#### Watershed Management Updates

Betsy Pearce and Ashley Rodgers, Water Quality Program Leads

- Neuse Stormwater Rule Update
  - County met with NCDEQ as well as municipalities (Wendell, Rolesville, Zebulon) to discuss Neuse Stormwater Rule update
  - Timeline: NCDEQ plans to present information item to EMC in January 2021 and present model program in March 2021; local program submittal pushed back at least three months
    - Holman: Will county look at pros/cons of stormwater utility? Hopes county will consider supporting SCM maintenance and regional partnerships in watershed initiatives.
    - Orbon: If provisions look onerous, will work with state and internally to see how can fulfill mandates.
- City of Raleigh Flood Ordinance Updates and Survey
  - Raleigh floodplain ordinance update in progress; public meeting held on Tuesday 12/8/20
  - Goal-keep new development out of floodplain; incorporating language from state model ordinance
  - Significant changes:
    - Prohibit new development in floodway fringe areas
      - Exceptions:
        - Small property ½ ac or less
        - Properties with existing structures or development

- Propose new public roads to have dry access for emergency vehicles
- City of Raleigh webpage has summary of changes and survey; closes January 31
- Anticipates taking to Planning Commission in January; likely spring 2021 before changes become effective
- State should have draft Wake County flood maps available in 2021 and will require ordinance update.

#### Groundwater Program Updates

Evan Kane, Groundwater Program Manager

- Construction activity, new well installation activity is strong
- Backlog of WQ testing data evaluated and will help move into Phase 3 of radiological well water awareness campaign
  - Map latest data to verify recommendations and testing requirements are accurate
  - Reach out to neighborhoods with hotspots with low testing rates
  - Share hotspot data with nearby municipalities; GIS is supporting access to tools that will support data sharing with municipalities
- WQ newsletter for homeowners: distributed two newsletters this year; newsletter sent to 3,500 email addresses; included survey asked for volunteers to participate in USGS synoptic monitoring network; identified 75 wells suitable for monitoring

#### V. Item Title: Subcommittee Updates

2:10

Education and Outreach-Bill Holman, Chair

- Met on 11/13/21; Cam McNutt presented on Walnut Creek Watershed planning; open source approach to bring together information and encourage collaboration
- SCMs are maintained by homeowner's association-area that could use additional education in future

GSI-Billy Lee, Chair

- Met on 12/4/20: Teresa Furr of SWCD and Daniel Wiebke with McAdams participated
- Nancy and Billy met with Christy Perrin re: Green School Partnership
- Result of discussions: maintenance of GSI is troublesome for WCPSS
- Billy met with Andy McDaniel with NCDOT to discuss retrofit opportunities; NCDOT renegotiating NPDES permit and will allow retrofits outside right-of-way; NCDOT interested in partnerships and providing funding for planning, design, and construction of maintenance; NCDOT does not want to cover maintenance
- Discussed Adopt-a-SCM program
- Teresa Furr discussed stormwater management in agricultural areas
- Bill Holman presented Opti/TNC joint venture in Maryland: retrofit of wet ponds for water quality treatment

Comprehensive Planning-Heather Keefer, Acting Chair

- Jay Meyers is no longer serving on Water Partnership
- Looking for Chair for Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee

- In future, committee will have opportunity to engage in One Water Study and discuss opportunities for Water Partnership collaboration
- Water conservation is ongoing focus

Coordination-Jeff Adkins, Chair

- Coordination Report contains links on Jordan Lake One Water and Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA)
- Upcoming meetings listed in report: UNRBA, Upper Cape Fear River Basin Association, Triangle Water Supply Partnership
- League of Municipalities has description of utilities being considered as part of State fund for financially struggling water and wastewater systems (Viability Fund)
- TJCOG partnering with Clean Water Education Partnership for Creek Week in March 2021

**VI. Item Title: 2021 Retreat Planning**

**2:30**

Heather Keefer

- Opportunity for members to communicate what is/is not working well
- Heather/Nancy will be checking in with members on ideas

**VII. Item Title: Member Updates**

**2:40**

**Adjourn**