



Wake County Water Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 11, 2021 1:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted by simultaneous communication
Virtual Meeting–WebEx

Committee Members Present: Heather Keefer, Chair; Matt Echols, P.E.; Jeff Adkins; Kenny Waldroup; George Matthis; Suzanne Harris; Chris Johnson; Horace Smith; Marc Collins; Robert Krueger, Billy Lee, Ben Mills, Teresa Furr, Rachel Ingham, PE; Michael Burchell, PhD

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Heather Keefer, Chair

- I. **Item Title: Opening Remarks** 1:00
Heather Keefer: Chair
Motion-George Matthis
Second-Jeff Adkins

- II. **Item Title: Adoption of Meeting Minutes** 1:05
Motion-Billy Lee
Second-Suzanne Harris

- III. **Item Title: NC Dept. of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Resilience Report and Strategies in Response to Executive Order 80** 1:10
Toby Vinson, Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (NCDEMLR) Section Chief and NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency Liaison
 - Resilient North Carolina: State where communities, economies and ecosystems are better able to rebound, positively adapt to and thrive amid changing conditions and challenges, including disasters and climate change; to maintain and improve quality of life, healthy growth, and durable systems; and to conserve resources for present and future generations.
 - Executive Order 80: Creation of NC Climate Change Interagency Council
 - Coordinate closely with communities and local stakeholders on priorities
 - Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan-Completed in 2020 and provides scientific assessment of current and future climate impacts for NC
 - Creation of NC Interagency Resiliency Team
 - Working on plans across departments and with power companies to modify grids so citizens can get to needs in times of emergency

- 2021 DEQ Agency Resiliency Strategy Report-move state from reaction to resilience
 - Division of Coastal Management:
 - Created Resilient Coastal Communities Program to incentivize and reward communities for meeting standards for long-term planning, preparedness, and community engagement
 - Division of Energy, Minerals and Land Resources:
 - Continue study of hydrologic and hydraulic assessment and overtopping of 550 large/very large dams in Lumber, Neuse and Cape Fear Basins
 - Continue Landslide Mapping Program
 - NC Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) Study
 - Division of Mitigation Services
 - Develop program to create and address flood storage using nature-based solutions; piloting in middle-Neuse River Basin
 - Division of Waste Management
 - Continue working with local, state, federal partners to establish debris cleanup sites.
 - Division of Water Resources
 - Coordinate with USGS and stakeholders to recalculate 7Q10 values which are used to calculate wasteload allocations from NPDES permitted facilities, determine water supply availability, and assess ecosystem habitat.
- Steps to Resilience
 - Explore hazards
 - Assess vulnerability and risks
 - Investigate options
 - Prioritize and plan
 - Take action

IV. Item Title: Water Quality Updates

1:40

One Water Updates: Walnut Creek, Falls Lake, Jordan Lake-Nancy Daly,
Water Resources Manager

- Falls Lake Update
 - Upper Neuse River Basin Association: Joint compliance approach in which UNRBA members work together to address water quality through investment in watershed improvement projects
 - May 19: Falls Lake Nutrient Management Study Research Symposium-symposium videos available online (<https://nutrients.web.unc.edu/2021-falls-lake-symposium/>)
 - July 1, 2021: start date for Interim Alternative Implementation Approach
 - UNRBA continues to update modeling to support Stage 2 reexamination
- Jordan Lake One Water
 - Vision and Recommendations document open for comment until June 11
 - Includes two parts: Formation of 501c3 and collaborative effort to work with NCDEQ on regulations
 - Four stakeholder meetings held June 6-13

- Final report should be submitted by end of June
- Walnut Creek Watershed
 - Grant applications in process
 - Urban Waters Federal Partnership-BOC provided letters of support
 - EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
 - Hosted Raleigh Watershed Learning Network-engage community in watershed to educate and empower to work in watershed
- Wake County One Water Update
 - Currently in Year 3 of Groundwater Study
 - Important to document existing efforts and identify gaps
 - Closely aligns with PlanWake for healthy and sustainable environment
 - Community engagement is big component
- Identified focus areas”
 - Water supply should meet demand of growing population and economy
 - Wastewater treatment meets capacity without exacerbating nutrients
 - Best practices to mitigate flood impacts, support groundwater recharge
 - Comprehensive stormwater approach
 - Community engagement
 - Ecological function and recreation
 - Community health
- Questions for members:
 - What do you see as most important consideration for One Water?
 - What components are most critical for resilient water supply moving forward?
 - Does municipality/organization have data to share?
 - Is municipality/organization willing to participate?
- Member feedback:
 - Support groundwater recharge-what does this entail?
 - Green stormwater infrastructure practices
 - Onsite wastewater systems
 - Preservation and conservation
 - Brave Blue World-Innovative Technologies
 - Municipal contributions to One Water Study
 - Triangle Water Partnership-includes all Wake County communities with exception of Fuquay Varina; completing long-range water supply plan, anticipated completion in one year

Neuse Stormwater Rules Update-Ashley Rodgers, Watershed Management Manager

- Meeting with stakeholder group; program due to DWR by Sept. 10; one year for full implementation
- Floodmap updates: appeal period ends July 7; once appeal period over and appeal resolved, will receive Letter of Final Determination from FEMA and 6 months to adopt

V. Item Title: Coordinating Drought Strategies**2:00**

Water Partnership Members-Jeff Adkins Lead, Open Discussion

- 2001-2002 and 2007-2008 were major drought periods for region
- As of June 8, Wake County in moderate drought; referred to as flash drought and may be more frequent as a result of climate change
- NCDrought.org produces weekly drought explainer; provides straightforward description of what is happening;
- Year to date, less than inch below normal
- In preparation for future drought, City of Raleigh created Power BI dashboard fed by model runs of OASIS (mass balance model for Neuse and Cape Fear); updated with real time information that can support predictive analysis
- Ag is surrounded by development and creates more challenges; water from adjacent development can run onto agricultural lands
- Water managers are working to develop regionally consistent approaches
- Consumer information for City of Raleigh residents: Raleigh has efficiency guides; during periods of voluntary and mandatory conservation, new information provided; challenge is understanding when trigger occurs; City and some municipalities have seasonal triggers as well

VI. Item Title: Subcommittee Updates**2:20**

Education and Outreach-Bill Holman, Chair

- No updates

GSI-Billy Lee, Chair

- Opti-RTC and Walmart presented on public-private partnership for stormwater control retrofits
- Continued discussion on municipal practices for GSI

Comprehensive Planning-Jay Meyers, Chair

- Whit Wheeler, City of Raleigh, presented on Lead and Copper Rule update
- Shared suggestions for coordination moving forward

Coordination-Jeff Adkins, Chair

- UNRBA and NC Collaboratory symposium linked in Regional Organization Summary Report
- NC Collaboratory hosted forum on PFAS testing network and video is linked in report

Adjourn**2:45**

Motion-Matt Echols

Second-Robert Kruegger