

Memorandum

Prepared for: Wake County Water Partnership

Subject: Coordination Subcommittee Report – Bimonthly Status of Regional Organizations

Date: October 8, 2021

From: Coordination Subcommittee

This report is updated prior to each Wake County Water Partnership meeting to provide updates on recent and upcoming activities of several key organizations that are involved in water resources issues important to Wake County.

Upcoming Regional Meetings

Organization	Date / Time	Meeting Name	Location	Comments
Triangle J COG	October 28-29	2021 Regional Summit	Virtual	Register at 2021 Regional Summit TJCOG
Upper Neuse River Basin Association	November 2, 9:30 am	Path Forward Committee Meeting	Virtual	Contact Forrest Westall for login. Agenda at https://www.unrba.org/
Upper Neuse River Basin Association	November 17, 9:30 am	Board of Directors Bimonthly Meeting	Virtual	Contact Forrest Westall for login. Agenda at https://www.unrba.org/
Triangle Water Supply Partnership	December 3, 9:30am–noon	Bi-Monthly Partnership Meeting	Virtual	Contact Emily Barrett for login, ebarrett@tjcog.org .

Regional Organizations Updates

1-Cape Fear River Assembly

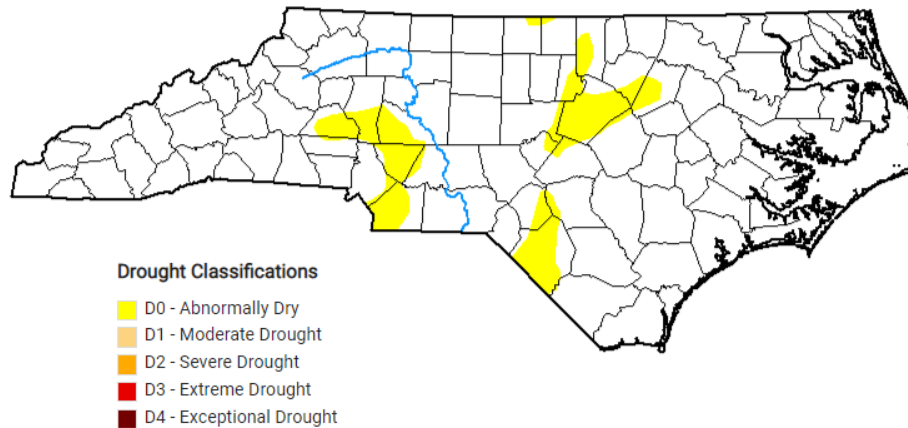
Recent Activities	▪ CFRA is hiring a new executive director.
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2-Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW)

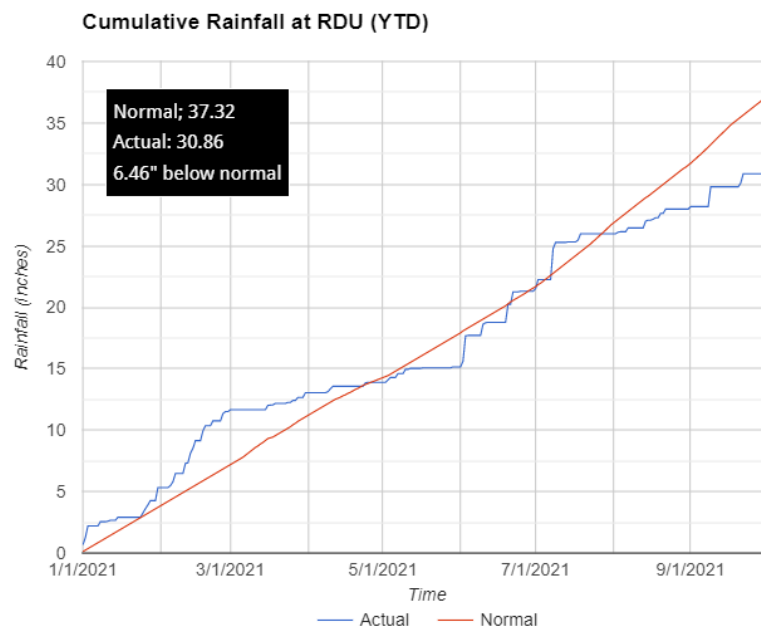
Recent Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Information about JLOW's activities can be accessed at TJCOG's JLOW web page.▪ JLOW is providing significant input into the 2021-22 NC Division of Water Resources (NCDWR) Jordan Lake rules re-adoption effort following the NC Policy Collaboratory's Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Study report. The JLOW One Water Vision for the Jordan Lake Watershed was finalized in September and is attached to this summary.▪ JLOW hosted an event at Jordan Lake's Seaforth Recreation Area on October 7th, to celebrate the completion of the JLOW vision and recommendations document and kick-off Phase 2. At the event, the JLOW steering committee discussed next steps for JLOW, and hosted an elected official boat tour of Jordan Lake. Contact Emily Barrett, ebarrett@tjcog.org for details.
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3-Drought Management Advisory Council

- Recent Activities**
- Council reviews drought designations on a weekly basis (issued on website each Thursday morning). The latest North Carolina drought index map as of September 30th is below. The majority of Wake County is currently experiencing abnormally dry conditions, along with ten other counties in the southern and central Piedmont. Assess NC DMAC's weekly [Current Drought Assessment Report \(ncdrought.org\)](https://www.ncdrought.org/) here.



- Since July Wake County has been experiencing cycles of dry conditions and moderate rainfall events. Rainfall is about 6.5 inches below normal year-to-date, and rainfall over the past 12 months is now 3 inches below normal. Falls Lake is more than a foot below its normal elevation; Jordan Lake is at its normal elevation.



- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s seasonal weather outlook projects above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation for the state overall through February 2022.

4-North Carolina League of Municipalities, Regulatory Action Committee (RAC)

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The latest League Bulletin (nclm.org) was posted September 3rd. The bulletin addresses the budget process, redistricting, and the signing of two bills which may have water resources implications for local governments. SL 2021-124 LGC Assistance Toolkit establishes a process for municipalities to respond to financial distress through steps to recover, or dissolve and transfer assets and service obligations to others. SL 2021-121 Building Code and Development Regulation Reform, among other provisions, limits local government sedimentation and erosion control program fees and regulations during residential construction. |
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5- North Carolina Policy Collaboratory

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Falls Lake Nutrient Management Study is underway and is anticipated to be completed by 2023. The study is being closely coordinated with the Upper Neuse Basin Association. The Collaboratory recently published a Falls Lake Nutrient Management Study project brief describing the project. An interim update on the study is expected to be submitted to the Legislature in December.▪ In July, the Collaboratory completed a flood resilience study funded by the NC General Assembly. Though the study was focused primarily on eastern North Carolina, its findings and recommendations may be of interest in Wake County as well. The study can be accessed at Flood Resilience Study - North Carolina Policy Collaboratory (unc.edu)▪ Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Study submitted to the General Assembly in December 2019 can be accessed here: Jordan Lake Study Final Report. |
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6-Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Links to partner communities' monitoring of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and other contaminants of emerging concern are on the organization homepage, tawssmp.org. Links to real-time USGS streamflow data for the Triangle region can also be accessed from the homepage.▪ Currently in Project Phase 8 (July 2017-June 2022), with bi-monthly sampling at 10 reservoir sites and 4 stream sites, stream gage measurements at 10 gaging stations & annual storm-event sampling at other stream sites. Phase 8 includes analysis for 1,4-dioxane, bromide and chromium as a special project.▪ Following completion of quality control reviews, USGS will publish a biennial report on 2017-2019 water quality in the Neuse River basin (upstream of Falls Lake) and the Haw/Jordan Lake watershed by late 2021. |
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7-Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG)

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ TJCOG hosts a quarterly joint meeting of its Smart Growth and Water Resources Collaboratives at TJCOG. These meetings often include agenda topics of interest to Partnership members, such as green stormwater infrastructure. A Collaborative meeting is being held (virtually) on December 9th, topic TBD.▪ TJCOG and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) are working with local and county governments on the 2050 regional transportation plan, which includes forecasts of future regional growth. The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan forecast is expected to be finalized in September-October, and will be available at the CAMPO website.▪ TJCOG is sponsoring a virtual 2021 Annual Summit, “Anticipating Change”, to be held October 28. <i>The past year and a half taught us that no one can predict the future, but it is necessary for local government to be flexible, strategic, and acutely aware of what is on the horizon. How can our region develop the skills needed to analyze the way we currently approach challenges, identify possible trends in the future, and build foresight into government operations?</i> Agenda and registration details are published at Regional Summit TJCOG. |
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8-Triangle Water Supply Partnership

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Raleigh, Cary, Apex and Morrisville are represented in the Partnership, along with communities in Chatham, Durham, Harnett, Johnston and Orange counties.▪ Partnership meetings occur every other month, including recently on October 1st. The next meeting will be held (virtually) on December 3rd. Meetings are announced at trianglewaterpartnership.org; signup for email meeting notices is available. Meetings are open to the public.▪ Current Partnership initiatives are an updated regional water system interconnect computer model, modeling regional water shortage responses using the state’s OASIS model, and a regionally-consistent water shortage response plan.▪ The Partnership plans to begin a regional water supply plan for utilities in 2022.▪ A subgroup of the Partnership members – Chatham County, Durham and Pittsboro, with collaboration from Orange Water and Sewer Authority – are moving forward with plans to construct a new jointly-owned water supply intake and water treatment plant on the western shore of Jordan Lake, to serve their long-term needs. Their goal is to construct and operate the new facilities by 2031. Currently the only Jordan Lake intake is operated by Cary and Apex. Partnership member Jeff Adkins is program manager for this effort. |
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9-Upper Neuse River Basin Association

**Recent
Activities**

- The UNRBA Board of Directors last met on September 15th, and the Path Forward Committee on September 7th. Both meetings were held virtually. The Board is chaired by Wake Co. Commissioner Sig Hutchinson. Topics discussed at the Board meeting included:
 - Focus on completing their model development work
 - Communication with internal and external groups, such as NCDEQ/NCDWR and USEPA.
 - UNRBA comments on Chlorophyll-a site specific standards for High Rock Lake and relevance to site specific standards for Falls Lake
 - Coordination with NC Policy Collaboratory researchers on the Falls Lake Nutrient Management study. A technical stakeholder’s workshop is planned for late fall, with a joint UNRBA/Collaboratory symposium to be held in Spring 2022.

Meeting materials and the Executive Director’s Monthly Report are available at UNRBA’s [Board of Directors September 15th meeting page](#) and [Path Forward Committee September 7th meeting page](#). The next scheduled Board meeting is scheduled (virtually) for November 17th; the next scheduled Path Forward Committee meeting is scheduled (virtually) for November 2nd.

- UNRBA’s Compliance Group Committee (CGC) submitted the Stage I Existing Development Interim Alternative Implementation Approach (IAIA) Program to DWR in June 2021. The IAIA is developing projects throughout the watershed. Executive Director Forest Westall sees linkage between IAIA’s success in getting DWR to accept this approach for compliance with the existing development rule, and a similar “investment” approach included in the Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) vision to address land already developed within the readopted Jordan Lake rules.

10-Upper Cape Fear River Basin Association

**Recent
Activities**

UCFRBA’s Technical Advisory Committee meets on a quarterly basis. The next joint Board and TAC meeting is expected October 21st, agenda to be announced. Additional information on UCFRBA meetings and reports can be accessed at the [UCFRBA website](#).

11-Triangle Watershed Protection Board (formerly Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative, including watershed protection measures for Raleigh and Durham)

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| Recent Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The group adopted a new name, Triangle Watershed Protection Board, and is now being administered by TJCOG. Emily Barrett is contact.▪ The Board met on September 23 to review and make recommendations on nine applications for funding from Triangle area land trusts.▪ Website link is: Triangle Watershed Protection Board▪ Partnership member Nancy Daly is a board member. |
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