



# Wake County Water Partnership

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2024

1:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m.

Wake County Library Administration Bld.

**Committee Members:** Daniel Wiebke, Chair; George Matthis, Vice Chair; Jeff Adkins; Suzanne Harris; Nancy Daly; Marc Collins; Lisa Booze; Ben Mills; Teresa Furr; Lori Avent; Ed Buchan; Michael Wagner; Steven Quarcelino, Michael Kendall, John Burt, Ike Archer;

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Daniel Wiebke, Chair

**Item Title: Opening Remarks 1:00**

Daniel Wiebke, Chair

- Eventful year: field trips to Ironhorse Farm and Neuse Resource Recovery Facility
- Year included extremes in weather-drought and severe floods across state; balancing extreme conditions will be important to consider moving forward
- Several members rolling off: Ben Mills, Dr. Michael Burchell, Teresa Furr, Rachel Ingham
- Retreat planned for February 14, 2025, 12:00pm-4:00pm
- Chairs/Co-chairs needed for GSI, Comprehensive Planning, Education and Outreach subcommittees

**Item Title: Adoption of August 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes 1:05**  
**Adoption of October 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

• **August 9, 2024**

- Motion: Buchan
- Second: Collins  
Approved

• **October 11, 2024**

- Motion: Furr
- Second: Adkins  
Approved

**Item Title: Triangle Water Partnership Regional Water Supply Plan 1:10**

Jeff Adkins, PE, Senior Consultant and Project Manager, HDR

- Triangle Water Supply Partnership (TWP)
- Need to remind all of importance of water infrastructure to economic development
  - 2022 GDP for Triangle Water Supply Partnership area ~\$184 billion
  - NC OSBM projected 7-county Triangle Water Partnership area increase by 2050 ~1.2 million additional people

- History
  - Neuse and Cape Fear prone to flooding
  - Authorized for construction in 1070s to 1980s
  - Purposes: flood control, WQ, water supply, recreation, fish/wildlife conservation
  - State administers Jordan Lake WS pool for region
  - Falls Lake entire water supply pool designated for Raleigh
- TWP Water Supply Challenges
  - Continued growth
  - Water quality concerns-emerging contaminants, nutrients
  - Regulatory imperatives
- Issues to consider
  - Interconnections help increase resiliency
  - One Water approach
  - Grey water and reclaimed water supply opportunities
- TWP History
  - Established in 2009
  - Mission: Meet Triangle's water needs while preserving downstream supplies
  - 16 members: Jordan Lake, Cape Fear, Neuse basins
    - Sanford (TriRiver Water) now a member
  - TWP formed partly due to Jordan Lake allocation process
  - Lake partitioned for sediment, water supply, low flow augmentation, flood storage
- Western Intake Partnership
  - Chatham County, Pittsboro, Durham, OWASA
  - Build facilities between now and 2031
  - Durham is lead in project
- TWP Regional Interconnections
  - Resiliency improved through connectivity
- Updating 2014 Regional Water Supply Plan with expanded membership in both Cape Fear and Neuse Basins
  - Per capita water use decreased
  - Obtaining latest data on current water use and extend forecast to 2070
  - Peer review sessions for input on forecast assumptions and regional consistency; increase trust through peer review
  - Account for uncertainty
  - OASIS model to evaluate alternatives
  - Engage stakeholder, particularly DWR
  - Currently in second phase of analysis; anticipate finishing in Fall 2025
- Take aways
  - Significant growth expected-updated forecast of regional water supply requirements
  - Advances in water use efficiency
  - 2070 forecast
  - Additional water sources needed
    - More than 50% that water demand in 2022; greater need in Neuse Basin
  - OASIS model scenarios

- Most impacted-need future water supply to account for existing and planned future water demands
  - Raleigh, Johnston County, Apex, Holly Springs, Fuquay Varina
- ‘What-if’ Forecast Scenarios to better understand challenges to future water supply needs
- Regional US 421 Study looking at Chatham County and corridor
  - Infrastructure requirement for area that does not currently have infrastructure
- This year looking at hydrologic modeling to understand options
  - Identify water that will have access to
  - Environmental and economic cost of options
  - Regulatory landscape
  - Alternative analysis; looking at future WS development
    - Weighing factors in future water supply development
    - Identify water that is hydrologically available
- Shortlist Triangle water supply options
  - Five options for Cape Fear
  - Four options for Neuse
  - 1 non-geographic water management option: process water recycling, reclaimed water
  - 5 other options assumed to be implemented
- Factors Influencing Regional Water Supply Development
  - Environmental impact
  - Financial impact
  - Regional resiliency
  - Regulatory/Political/Institutional complexity
  - Technical feasibility
  - Timeliness
  - Water supply availability/sufficiency
- Plan
  - Look at water demand requirements for partners and state
  - Justifies actions for long-term needs of Triangle
  - Final Plan anticipated Fall 2025

**Item Title: Well & Septic Financial Assistance Pilot Fund**

**1:40**

Evan Kane, Wake County Onsite Water Protection Director

- Onsite Water (private wells and septic systems) System Challenge
  - 40,000 private wells
  - 80,000 septic system in service
    - At any given time, 10% septic failing
    - Many systems 30 years old; still installing new systems
  - 1 in 5 wells in eastern Wake have radiological concerns
- Homeowners are water system operators
- Large numbers of low income residents on well & septic
- Onsite challenges
  - Const concerns inhibit residents addressing hidden well and septic system problems
  - Scarcity of affordable housing

- Public health risk
    - Private well-household risk
    - Septic failure-household and adjacent, environmental risk
- Financial assistance
  - Well testing discounts
    - Signed affidavit
- Typically have single digit utilization in year; 2019 outreach campaign resulted in >100 qualified requests
  - 7% overall response
  - 2% low income response
- WC Housing Rehab grants
  - CDBG Funding
  - Elderly and Disabled Housing Grants
  - Emergency Grants
- External Financial Assistance
  - SERCAP Individual Loan Program
  - Bernard Allen Drinking Water Fund (NCDEQ)-\$600,000 per year; contamination must be human caused
- Well and Septic Financial Assistance Pilot
  - Collaboration with Housing and Water Quality
  - 3-year pilot
  - \$300,000 in ARPA funds
  - Use Housing applicant qualification
  - WaterNow Alliance equitable outreach strategy
  - Results
    - >\$233,000 allocated to 23 households
      - 14 well repair, rehabilitation, or replacement
      - 9 septic system repairs
  - Increased communication between OSWP & Housing; greater awareness of linkage to affordable housing
  - Phase 2
    - Contracting with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle
    - \$66,000 remaining
    - Ends December 2026
  - Considering NC DWI Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System Pilot Program
  - Statewide Septic Policy Consultation
    - Examination of barriers and opportunities for septic repair funding and financing
  - Questions
    - Census block statistics-Wendell poverty rate dropped 300%; increasingly seeing have and have/not dichotomy in east
    - Working to bring neighboring community into Wendell in economically neutral way

**Item Title: One Water Updates**

**2:00**

Nancy Daly, Wake County Water Resources Manager

- Jordan Lake One Water
  - All stakeholder meeting on December 12

- February 13 JLOW and US Water Alliance NC Delegation Meeting
- Workgroups
  - Jordan Lake Rules
  - Strategic Action Plan
  - Public Outreach and Education
- DWR Stakeholder Engagement
  - Three full stakeholder meetings
  - Technical Advisory Groups
    - Riparian buffer
    - Agriculture
    - Wastewater
    - Existing development
    - New development
  - Timeline
    - 2024-2025: Informal stakeholder engagement
    - 2025-2026: Water Quality Committee Approval to Proceed
    - 2026-2027: Formal rulemaking
- Falls Lake-Upper Neuse River Basin Association
  - November 20-Joint Forum with UNRBA and DWR provided update on UNRBA work and rules readoption process
  - Consensus Principles
    - Conserve unmanaged lands
    - Investment-based approach
    - One Water approach
    - Cost-effective actions
    - Adaptive management
  - UNRBA formed rules workgroups to inform recommendations to DWR
  - IAIA is exceeding annual commitment among partners
- Walnut Creek
  - Thirty participants in the Fall cohort of the Walnut Creek Watershed Learning Network
  - Currently hiring Community Ambassador
  - Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership
    - Quarterly events hosted by Stewardship Corps-Fall Garden Growers Workshop
    - Representing Walnut Creek in Downtown South Watershed Mitigation Fund
- Wake One Water
  - Vision and Goals
    - Build Knowledge, Collaboration and Partnerships
    - Increase Community Resilience to Climate Change
    - Cultivate Community Support
    - Embed Equity and Environmental Justice into Water Management
    - Support Local Economy and Fiscal Accountability

- Tasks Completed
  - Stormwater Evaluation
  - Surface Water and Drought Vulnerability
  - Wastewater Treatment Capacity
  - Stormwater and Flood Resilience Strategy Workshop
  - Wastewater and Nutrient Strategy Workshop
- In Progress
  - Drivers of Nutrient Loadings
  - Baseline Analysis
  - Groundwater Assessment
  - Groundwater and Surface Water Strategy Workshop (1/15)
- Public Engagement
  - New videos highlight youth perspective
- Next Steps
  - Scenario Analysis-Spring 2025
  - Community Meetings and Public Survey-Spring 2025
  - Draft One Water Plan-Fall 2025
  - Final One Water Plan-Winter 2026

**Item Title: Subcommittee Updates**

**2:20**

- Education and Outreach-Steven Quarcelino, Chair
  - Focus on radionuclides issue - educations and outreach
  - Completed first part of GIS Tool to support water resource communication
  - Seeking ideas for future field trips
- GSI-Ben Mills and Leah Harrison, Co-Chairs
  - Finalized GSI video
  - Completed fact sheet on GSI and Maintenance; may produce more fact sheets in future on different topics
- Comprehensive Planning-Teresa Furr, Chair
  - Joint meeting with Comprehensive Planning and GSI
  - Keith Larrick, NC Farm Bureau presented on nature-based solutions and GSI; water farming-using ponds for storage during storm events; stream debris removal program;
  - Furr and Burt are working with NC AgLeads on pond retrofit pilot program
- Coordination-Jeff Adkin, Chair
  - Regional Organization Report will be shared prior to February Meeting

**Item Title: Membership Water Perspectives**

**2:35**

- New member orientation
- Wiebke:
  - Equitable GSI Project in Durham; select 5-7 neighborhoods each year
- Buchan

- Working through galvanized service line inventory as part of Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- Developed model to help predict service line material
- NC Water Quality Association provided updates on groundwater standards for PFAS, extremely low, below drinking water standards; this has impacts for biosolids management
- Wagner
  - November groundbreaking for Sanford expansion project; partnership with Holly Springs on conveyance line
- Kendall
  - Raleigh Stormwater outreach meetings on Weathering the Storm-Stormwater Management Priorities
- Burt
  - NC AgLeads process-final presentation on Thursday
    - Pond retrofit
    - Stream rehabilitation
    - Pilot projects anticipated in future
- Booze
  - Cary Sustainability and Climate Action Strategy released and available for public comment
  - Stormwater Division approved contractor for new Stormwater Master Plan
- Matthis
  - Look after the wells
- Harris
  - HBA member showed cost of complying with regulations
    - Water and sewer fees are the largest proportion
    - Regulatory fees are typically 25%, largest piece is water and sewer
- Collins
  - Thanks to RaleighWater for work with merger communities
- Daly
  - Upcoming One Water workshops; focus on the right solution at the right location, coordinated strategies

**Next meeting:  
Annual Retreat (Location TBD)  
February 14, 2024, 12:00 pm-4:00 pm**

**Adjourn**

**3:00**

**Motion: Burt**

**Second: Collins**