



Wake County Water Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 14, 2025

12:00 p.m. –4:00 p.m.

Morrisville Town Hall

100 Town Hall Drive

Committee Members Attending: Daniel Wiebke, Chair; George Matthis, Vice Chair; Jeff Adkins; Dr. Elizabeth Nichols; Nancy Daly; Leah Harrison; Marc Collins; Rachel Jones; Lisa Booze; Mark Spanioli; Emily Bateman; Lori Avent; Ed Buchan; Michael Wagner; Steven Quarcelino, Michael Kendall, John Burt, Timothy Watson

Staff and Guests Attending:

Wake County: Ashley Jacobs, Evan Kane, Kelsey Sosa, Nancy Coe, Dr. Caroline Loop, Dr. Theo Udeigwe, Dr. Joseph Threadcraft

Subcommittee Members and Guests: Christy Perrin, Patty Berry, Ryan Mullins, Jeri Gray

Lunch and Networking **12:00**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Daniel Wiebke, Chair

Item Title: Opening Remarks **12:30**
Daniel Wiebke, Chair

- 2025 Schedule shared with members
 - February 14
 - April 11
 - June 13
 - August 8
 - October 10
 - December 12
- Consider future field trips

Item title: Introductions and Member Updates **12:35**

- Avent
 - Working on end of year reports
- Booze
 - Comment review period completed for Cary Climate Action Plan
 - Imagine Cary Community Plan-moved environmental topics under separate chapter entitled, Enrich

- Jones
 - Comprehensive plan updates focused more on water and sewer
- Buchan
 - Seeking clarity on next water resource to support growth
 - Reviewing Little Reservoir and Neuse River Intake
 - PFAS and biosolids big issue; Raleigh Resource Recovery Facility reduced biosolids by 55%; concerned will not have anywhere to distribute biosolids; federal regulations in flux; biogas for buses should start in March;
- Harrison
 - RFQ for Stormwater Utility
 - Looking at regional solutions for downtown development located in Water Supply Watershed area
- Collins
 - RFQ for UDO rewrite to implement stormwater utility
 - Looking to restore dam property
- Matthis
 - No updates
- Burt
 - NC AgLeads program work wrapped up
 - Submitted findings and now in NC Chamber steering committee
- Adkins
 - Triangle Area Regional Supply Plan moving forward; working through alternatives for communities that are suppliers to determine supplies for next 50 years; Sanford joined TWSP and currently incorporating their needs
 - Western Intake Partnership moving towards getting design built
- Kendall
 - Partners for Environmental Justice wrapping up interviews for Community Watershed Ambassador position; Kendall is new President; preparing for annual retreat
- Bateman
 - Two new staff in Wake SWCD
 - Starting new stream restoration project with Morrisville
 - Headed west to help with recovery in EWP program
- Wagner
 - Broke ground on Terrible Creek WWTP expansion
 - Bid for 1 million gallon elevated tank by end of March
 - Sanford expansion project underway
 - Continue to wrap up easements and permitting for conveyance lines in Holly Springs
 - Submitting comments to NCDEQ on Interbasin Transfer
- Watson
 - First year of stormwater utility
 - UDO updates with GSI and stormwater
 - Stormwater and stream restoration projects starting up
 - Wake Forest reservoir dam project

Item Title: Adoption of December 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

12:45

Motion: John Burt
Second: Marc Collins
Approved

Item Title: The State of One Water

12:50

Scott Berry, US Water Alliance Director of Policy and Government Affairs

- US Water Alliance-movement building organization designed to grow One Water movement
 - Member supported national nonprofit; common ground and transformational change for water challenges
 - Accomplish this through people and systems that deliver water; educate on value of water; new pilots and approaches; accelerate adoption and scaling of One Water; celebrate what works
 - >200 member organizations
- Concept of innovation=Theory of diffusion of innovations
 - Similar to Technology Adoption Lifecycle
 - Innovators
 - Early adopters
 - **Chasm**-gap between early market and mainstream market; identify what is needed to cross chasm; goal of US Water Alliance is to cross chasm of One Water; currently working to cross chasm
 - Early majority
 - Late majority
 - Laggards
- State of One Water Field Survey
 - One Water means a lot of things to a lot of people; set of practices; diversity in understanding and application
 - Three goals
 - Define and establish baseline information and metrics to track growth
 - Identify barriers
 - Envision where industry is moving
 - Three field measures
 - People-national network of One Water changemakers in country
 - Place-Cities, regions and watersheds across America are institutionalizing One Water
 - Practice-One Water is maturing and shifting water landscape towards integration, sustainability and equity
 - Surveyed 500 people
 - Stage of development of One Water Work-identified perception problem; field is more mature than people think
 - Barriers-limited understanding, limited collaboration with partners, policy constraints and lack of political will, internal resource constraints, lack of structure
 - More than 80 places are actively working on One Water
- One Water Summit: July 8-11, 2025 in Pittsburgh, PA

- Policy Updates
 - After 2024, Republicans control White House, US House of Representatives and Senate
 - Senate
 - Comfortable majority
 - House of Representatives
 - Republicans held control
 - Looking forwards towards 2026 and 2028 elections
 - Agenda
 - Focus on extension of expiring 2017 tax cuts
 - Budget cuts to agencies and programs
 - Deregulatory agenda
 - Lead and copper regulations on list
 - PFAS on list
 - Voters consistently place water and security of healthy watershed in top issues; voters would support policy makers that support water infrastructure; water supported across demographic groups; need to be mindful on how message work
 - Patty Berry, Central Pines Regional Council, is NC Delegation Lead and provides 20% off code for Summit
 - Disaster recovery messaging is universally successful; look at preparedness and resiliency as framework for investment and advocacy
 - US Water Alliance focuses on education and outreach and helps empower states with information on water investment

Item Title: 2024 Accomplishments

1:15

Nancy Daly, Wake County Water Resources Manager

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
 - 2024 Stormwater and GSI Best Practice Summary; shares information on policy, modeling, research, among others
 - Billy Lee and Daly presented at the American Public Works Association NC Stormwater Conference
 - Education and Outreach on GSI
 - Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Video
 - Fact Sheet on GSI Maintenance
 - Interviewed individuals that implemented GSI practices; posted on Instagram and Facebook
- Water Resource Navigation Tool
 - Identified as priority among multiple subcommittees
 - Water county has matrix of water supply sources in county: County private wells, municipal utilities, private water providers
 - Purpose
 - Facilitate communication among local governments
 - Support customer service with identifying contacts for water supply, wastewater and stormwater
 - Inform future public facing application
 - Phase 1-Discovery-COMplete; reached out to municipalities (GIS contacts and water contacts) to confirm contacts
 - Phase 2-Proof of Concept-In progress

- Phase 3-Water Partnership Data Integration/Testing
- Phase4-Public Facing Application
- Proof of Concept-2025
 - Focus on Wake County and Raleigh data
- Application capabilities
 - Search function by address
 - Pan and zoom
 - Select (by tax parcel)
 - Pop up information for water, sewer and stormwater contacts
- Education and Outreach
 - Iron Horse Farms
 - Neuse Resource Recovery Facility
- Wake One Water
 - Wrapping up Task 2-Detailed Technical Assessment
 - Finalizing Baseline Analysis and Groundwater Assessment
 - Task 3-Plan Development
 - Completed three strategy workshops (stormwater, wastewater and nutrient management, groundwater and surface water resources)
 - Climate Strategy Workshop scheduled for 2/18
 - Next Steps
 - Community meetings in March and April
 - Public Survey in April to May
 - Final Plan-Winter 2026

Item Title: Membership Priority Survey

1:30

Nancy Daly, Wake County Water Resources Manager

- Received 17 of 22 responses to survey
- Top two water resource priorities
 - Stormwater management (including GSI)
 - Water quality pollution
- Water Partnership most appropriate to collaboratively advance
 - Stormwater management (including GSI)
 - Water quality
 - Coordination on state and local rules
 - Water supply for future growth
- Additional topics to address:
 - Stormwater
 - Impervious cover and stormwater management
 - Transitional buffers (urban/ag interface)
 - Stormwater runoff impacts on farm ponds
 - Groundwater
 - Development and groundwater extraction
 - Utility connections for private wells
 - Other
 - Watershed protection
 - Regional/national water quality issues
 - Ordinances and funding
 - Regulatory coordination

- Site visits/field trips
- Overall rating=4.7 out of 5.0
- What can we do to increase the value?
 - Play more of an advisory role; clarity on how to move recommendations forward
 - Lead and serve as catalyst for new water management strategies
 - Set achievable goals
 - Celebrate accomplishments
 - Strengthen collaboration across sectors
 - Increase public visibility
 - Brewery tour

BREAK

1:45

Item Title: Subcommittee Breakouts

2:00

Education and Outreach-Steven Quarcelino, Chair
 GSI- Leah Harrison, Chair
 Comprehensive Planning-Marc Collins, Chair
 Coordination-Jeff Adkin, Chair

Item Title: Subcommittee Report Outs

3:15

- Education and Outreach-Steven Quarcelino, Chair
 - Ensure are staying ahead and supporting education and outreach for well water testing
 - Water Resource Navigation Tool-consider future information to share through tool
 - Field Tours
 - Eastern Wake Tech in Wendell
 - Beech Bluff Park
- GSI- Leah Harrison, Chair
 - Compilation of updates on previously developed materials (Stormwater and GSI Best Practice Summary); update with list of potential grants; update GSI story map
 - Work together with Ed and Outreach to identify best ways to communicate information to public; communication plan
 - Develop additional fact sheet
- Comprehensive Planning-Marc Collins, Chair
 - Flood resiliency-better coordinate efforts; limited studies exist for FEMA flood maps; see if there is a combined effort needed for higher risk updates
 - Jurisdictional report outs on comprehensive plans and UDOs
 - Learning from best practices of others
 - Tree canopy study
 - Urban forestry and tree city programs exist across county
 - Coordinate efforts and identify point of contact for Urban Tree Canopy Group
 - Brewery Tour
 - Water User
 - Potential sponsor for One Water Campaign

Item Title: Town of Morrisville Stormwater Overview and Regional Wetland Tour

3:30

Mark Spanioli P.E, Town of Morrisville Director of Engineering
Ben Mills, P.E., Town of Morrisville Stormwater Engineering Manager

- Town Center Wetland idea developed several years ago to support Town Center future development-more dense downtown area
- Construction initiated in 2020; \$1.7 million
- Added greenway and extended water line
- Project won APWA Project of the Year
- Public-private partnership; incentive for private development-they did not have to pay for stormwater; extension of park; diversity of plants; linear in shape

Adjourn

4:00