

Lower Neuse Basin Association®
Neuse River Compliance Association®

Post Office Box 1410
Clayton, North Carolina 27528 - 1410

April 17, 2017

North Carolina Sea Grant
850 Main Campus Drive, Suite 105, Toxicology Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695
(919) 515-9104
Fax: (919) 515-7095

RE: NCSG Core Funding Grant Proposal – ‘The missing link? The role dissolved organic nitrogen plays in structuring phytoplankton community composition in the Neuse River Estuary, NC’

Dear North Carolina Sea Grant,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Lower Neuse Basin Association (LNBA) and the Neuse River Compliance Association (NRCA) and fully support the above referenced research project.

The LNBA and NRCA members are comprised of local governments and other major owners of wastewater treatment facilities (see attached member list) in the Neuse River basin. Our members have continued to improve water quality in the Neuse River and its estuary by reducing their nitrogen as a group well over 70% since 1995. We are committed to maintaining good water quality that promotes the economic viability and environmental health of communities in the lower Neuse River Basin. Over the past two decades our constituent municipalities, public, and private agencies have invested substantial resources to alleviate excess nitrogen loading to the Neuse River. An improved understanding of how these nutrient reductions have impacted water quality in the Neuse River Estuary is of great interest to our organization.

The proposed work is timely given the recent expansion of poultry farming in the basin and increasing septic sources both in the river and estuarine watershed. We are greatly concerned that these proposed operations and continued development will undermine our efforts at nutrient load reductions and may lead to a recurrence of harmful algal blooms due to changing nitrogen source loading. The determinations and understandings from this research project will provide substantial insight into how changes in nutrient loading, as changes in nitrogen source loading from largely inorganic forms to largely organic forms, may stimulate phytoplankton primary productivity and change community composition.

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We strongly encourage your consideration of funding this research project because the findings could, additionally, provide insight for nutrient management strategies in coastal systems in North Carolina that have reached or will reach impairment in the near future from excessive and changing nutrient load.

If you have any questions, or need any further information, please contact me at (919) 796-8049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haywood M. Phthisic, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a stylized "M". There is a small mark resembling a checkmark or a flourish at the end of the signature.

Haywood M. Phthisic, III
Executive Director

Attachment

Cc: LNBA/NRCA Boards

*Lower Neuse Basin Association/Neuse River Compliance Association
Membership*

Town of Apex

Town of Benson

Town of Cary

Town of Clayton

Contentnea MSD

Town of Farmville

Dupont-Kinston

Duke Energy Progress

Town of Fuquay-Varina

Aqua, North Carolina

Craven County

South Granville Water and Sewer Authority

City of Goldsboro

Town of Havelock

Johnston County

Town of Kenly

Town of LaGrange

City of New Bern

City of Raleigh

City of Wilson

City of Kinston

Marine Corp Air Station - Cherry Point

Utilities, Inc.