

**Lower Neuse Basin Association®/Neuse River Compliance Association®**  
**February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
**City of Raleigh, Raleigh, N. C.**

**Attending:**

Chuck Smithwick (Chair)	Contentnea MSD	Jonathan Bulla	Town of Cary
Heather Adams	Town of Fuquay-Varina	Corrie Bondor	Town of Cary
Dan McLawhorn	McLawhorn Legal	Erica Bailey	City of Raleigh
Steven Johnson	Aqua, N. C.	Lori Avent	Town of Apex
Arthur Hough	City of New Bern	Jonathan Lucas	Aqua, N. C.
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham	Lisa Joesph	City of Raleigh
David White	Town of Clayton	Adam Stephenson	Town of Fuquay-Varina
Richard Hamilton	City of Goldsboro	William Beattie	Town of Apex
Kyle Manning	City of Wilson	James Blalock	Town of Clayton
Jimmy Pridgen (Treas)	City of Wilson	Kathy Cooper	City of Raleigh
Dan Wall	Johnston County	Laura Pruitt	City of Wilson
Benjamin Overton	City of Kinston	Karen Preston	NCDEQ DWR
Ron Boquist	Waypoint Anal.	Brian Pridgen	Contentnea MSD
David Hill	DWR - Ecosystems	Barrett Jenkins	Restoration Systems
Will Schneider	NCDEQ - DWR	Jay Sauber	Sauber WQC
Martin Lebo	WSP USA	John Kiviniemi	Hazen & Sawyer
Haywood Phthisic	LNBA/NRCA	Michele Mabry	WSO USA

The Chair, Chuck Smithwick, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The roll was called and there were 11 of 19 members present representing the LNBA and 13 of 24 members present representing the NRCA. The Chair welcomed the Board members and guests.

**Board Minutes** – The Board Minutes for the November 7, 2024 meeting were presented. Being no revisions, Dan Wall made the motion to approve, seconded by David White and approved by the Boards.

**Officer Election for the Position of Secretary** – The Chair open the floor for nominations for the Secretary position. It was noted that the nominee would fill the open position until May, 2025 when all officer positions would be elected (2 year cycle). Jimmy Pridgen nominated Jonathan Bulla with the Town of Cary for the position. Being no other nomination, Jimmy made the motion to approve Jonathan, seconded by Dan Wall, and approved by the Boards to fill the remainder of the term for Secretary.

**LNBA/NRCA Financials – Treasurer's Reports** – Jimmy Pridgen presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of November, December, 2024, and January, 2025 to the Boards. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, the LNBA account balance is \$300,414.49 and NRCA account balance is \$382,678.96. Following discussion, Jimmy Pridgen made the motion to approve the reports as presented, seconded by Dan Wall, and approved by the Boards, respectively.

**Year to Date (YTD) Expenditure Summary** – Haywood presented the YTD Expenditure Summary for both Associations. Both summaries were less than 50% of the budget amount at 6 months through the fiscal year.

**LNBA/NRCA FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget and Membership Fees** – Haywood presented the

FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget and Membership Fees for the LNBA and NRCA. The budgets for both associations are presented with no increase in expenditures for the next fiscal year. For the LNBA, there was no reported increase in permitted flow from any member so membership fees should remain relatively close to FY 2024-25. The NRCA had normal shifts in discharged total nitrogen discharges so small variations in dues are normal. Following discussion, Dan Wall made the motion to approve the budgets and membership dues as presented, seconded by David White, and approved by the Boards. Haywood noted the invoices will be mailed on or near the end of June, 2025.

**PFAS Regulations in N. C.** – Michele Mabry with WSP, USA presented an update on the status of PFAS regulation being proposed in North Carolina. She noted that there was currently significant fluctuation in the direction the regulations were headed due to the current tendency on the federal level as well as recent discussions on the State level.

**Neuse River Basin Modeling Update, Comment Due April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Dr. Marty Lebo with WSP, Inc. reviewed the latest review and comments on the Neuse River Watershed Model work which were included in the agenda package. There was a stakeholder meeting held by the Division of Water Resources on January 28<sup>th</sup> in which the staff presented the model results and asked for comments on the model to be sent to them by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The Chair noted that comments could not be written before this meeting so asked the Boards to authorization to allow the Executive Committee draft and submitted comments on behalf of the Boards. Following discussion, Dan Wall made the motion to authorize the Executive Committee, with the assistance of counsel and subject matter experts, to draft comments and submit, seconded by Reggie Hicks, and approved by the Boards.

**Tar Pamlico Proposed Rules Conflicts and Proposed Comments** – The Chair report that proposed rules for the Tar Pamlico Basin (for those wastewater facilities) was moving forward and could present issues for the Neuse Basin as written. Dan McLawhorn, counsel for the associations, presented proposed comments for the Boards' consideration. The comments were reviewed and following discussion, Jimmy Pridgen made the motion to submit the comments on the proposed rules, seconded by David White, and approved by the Boards.

#### **NRCA Updates -**

*NRCA Permit Renewal Update* – Haywood noted that the NRCA Executive Committee met with DWR on January 8<sup>th</sup> and discuss the issues with the draft NRCA NPDES permit. I received the revised permit this morning so provided our comments have been address the NRCA should receive its permit in short order.

*NRCA Annual Report* – Haywood noted the 2024 NRCA Annual Report is due to DWR (as required by the NRCA permit) on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

*State or National Operator Awards* – Haywood mentioned to the Bboards there is an opportunity to recognize the member operating staff for the great work that the NRCA facilities have and continue achieve in the reduction of total nitrogen to the Neuse Estuary.

#### **LNBA Updates –**

Work continues on the Lower Neuse River Monitoring Service Contract No. 6 with Waypoint Analytical. All sampling was completed by Waypoint in November, December, and January with the exceptions listed below:

## **November 2024**

11/06/24 - J4690000 (Middle Creek at SR-1152 near Holly Springs) - Site inaccessible due: no safe parking.

11/06/24 - J5002000 (Middle Creek at I-40 nr Edmonson) - Bridge access coned off due to maintenance (site was accessible and sampled in December - 12/2/24).

## **December 2024**

12/02/24 - J4690000 (Middle Creek at SR-1152 near Holly Springs) - Site inaccessible due: no safe parking.

## **January 2025**

01/13/25- J4690000 (Middle Creek at SR-1152 near Holly Springs) - Site inaccessible due: no safe parking.

All invoices have been processed and paid through December, 2024.

**LNBA/NRCA Training Workshop Committee** – The Chair appointed the following member sto work on the Training Workshop Committee:

Lori Avent, Town of Cary; Benjamin Overton, City of Kinston; and Anthony Futrell, Nexus Water Group.

They will join the current members: Chuck Smithwick, Jonathan Bulla, Jimmy Pridgen, and Nathan Howell.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1 2025 at 10:00 hosted by Contentnea MSD in Grifton, N. C. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.