

Lower Neuse Basin Association®/Neuse River Compliance Association®
February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Town of Clayton, N. C.

Attending:

Chuck Smithwick (Chair)	Contentnea MSD	Jonathan Bulla (Treas)	Town of Cary
Robert Sherman	City of Goldsboro	Dan Wall	Johnston County
Lori Avent (Sec)	Town of Apex	J. D. Solomon	EMC Chair
Dan McLawhorn	Smith Anderson Law	Jimmy Pridgen (V-Chair)	City of Wilson
Reggie Hicks	City of Durham	Scott Smart (web)	City of Raleigh
David White	Town of Clayton	Darrell Crews (web)	City of Raleigh
Jim Wrenn	Smith Anderson Law	Corrie Bondar (web)	Town of Cary
Shelby Arellano (web)	CovationBio	James Blalock	Town of Clayton
Andrew Harris	Waypoint Anal.	Nathan Howell	City of Raleigh
Salvidor Valdiviezo	Town of Benson	Jay Sauber	Sauber Water Quality Consultant
Ruan Stewart (web)	MCAS – Cherry Point	Jeff Mahagan (web)	Town of Hillsborough
Mike Graham (web)	Duke Energy	Philip Smith (Web)	Town of Kenly
Martin Lebo (web)	WSP, Inc. (web)	David Hill (web)	DWR
Brian Pridgen	Contentnea MSD	Ben Overton (web)	City of Kinston
Ray Burgos (web)	CovationBio	Adam Stephenson (web)	Town of Fuquay-Varina
Ruan Stewart (web)	MCAS-CH	David Stabb (web)	City of Wilson
Elaine Wild (web)	NC DWR	Fenton Brown, Jr. (web)	NC DWR
Haywood Phthisic	LNBA/NRCA		

The Chair, Chuck Smithwick, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The roll was called and there were 14 of 19 members (quorum present) representing the LNBA and 15 of 24 members (quorum present) representing the NRCA. The Chair welcomed the Board members and guests.

Board Minutes – The Board Minutes for the November 6, 2025 meeting were presented. Being no revisions, Dan Wall made the motion to approve, seconded by David White and approved by the Boards.

Introduction of Jim Wrenn with Smith Anderson Law firm – The Chair introduced Jim Wrenn with Smith Anderson Law firm as the Associations' General Counsel. Dan McLawhorn has joined Smith Anderson and will service as supportive counsel to the associations.

LNBA/NRCA Financials – Treasurer's Reports – Jonathan presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of November, December, 2025 and January, 2026 to the Boards. As of January 31st, the LNBA account balance is \$320,011.47 and NRCA account balance is \$405,765.81. Following discussion, Jimmy Pridgen made the motion to approve as presented, seconded by Brian Pridgen, and approved, respectively, by the Boards.

FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget and Membership Dues – Jonathan presented the budget and membership fees for Fiscal Year 2026-27 for the Boards consideration. There is no proposed increase proposed for the LNBA but the NRCA is proposed to use \$450 from fund balance for increase in NPDES Permit dues. The membership dues do fluctuate do to permitted flow increases (for LNBA members) and increases in discharged total nitrogen pounds (for the NRCA). Following discussion, Jimmy Pridgen made the motion to

approve as presented, seconded by Robert Sherman, and approved by the Boards, respectively. The summary of year-to-date expenditures for FY 2025-26 was also reviewed.

Guest Speaker – J. D. Solomon, Chair, Environmental Management Commission (EMC) – The Chair, Chuck Smithwick, introduced J. D. Solomon to the Board members. Chair Solomon discussed the functions, duties, and responsibility of the EMC. He informed the Boards the EMC will be hiring staff, an Executive Director and support staff to coordinate the information and work flow of the EMC to provide for more efficient and productive environment for the Commission.

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, 2025, and January, 2026 with the following exception:

December 2025

12/09/25 – J3970000 (Walnut Creek at SR-2551 near Raleigh) – Unable to collect due to bridge construction/repair.

All sampling reports through December have been received. All invoices have been processed and paid through December, 2025.

Town of Fuquay-Varina Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Certificate Public Hearing – The Chair reported that the Executive Committee met with the Town of Fuquay-Varina staff on December 5th staff to discuss the proposed IBT from the Cape Fear River Basin to the Neuse River Basin. The Town currently purchases potable water from several provides including Harnett County, Johnston County, and other providers. The Town is seeking approval to transfer 6.17 mgd of water. Mike Wagner, the Town's Utility Director reviewed the steps taken by through the process. Currently, the Town can not return the treated water back to the Cape Fear at this time as it is a \$200 million project to do so. After further discussion no action was taken.

Neuse River Basin Modeling Update – The Chair, as follow up to the on going discussions on the Neuse Watershed Modeling, reported to the Board members there was no new information to report. Haywood received information that the modeling contractor had provided comments to DWR (on public comments), DWR seems likely to defer any decisions on the new delivery factors until the next review cycle not likely to begin before 2027, it is unlikely the new factors will be used to recalculate the current allocation factors, and DWR will likely solicit public comment on use of the new factors.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and the host will be the City of Kinston. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.