

Lower Neuse Basin Association®/Neuse River Compliance Association®
November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
City of Kinston, N. C.

Attending:

Chuck Smithwick (Chair)	Contentnea MSD	Jonathan Bulla	Town of Cary
Heather Adams (call in)	Town of Fuquay-Varina	Corrie Bondor	Town of Cary
Dan McLawhorn	McLawhorn Legal	Ed Buchan (V-Chair)	City of Raleigh
Steven Johnson	Aqua, N. C.	Lori Avent	Town of Apex
Justin Smith	City of Goldsboro	Anthony Stevens	Aqua, N. C.
Reggie Hicks (call in)	City of Durham	Robert Sherman	City of Goldsboro
David White	Town of Clayton	Adam Stephenson	Town of Fuquay-Varina
Marcus Lucas	City of Goldsboro	Zack Johnson	City of Kinston
Anthony Futrell	Carolina Water Service	James Blalock	Town of Clayton
Jimmy Pridgen (Treas)	City of Wilson	Shelby Arellano	CovationBio
Dan Wall	Johnston County	Laura Pruitt	City of Wilson
Mike Graham (call in)	Duke Energy	Jeff Mahagan (call in)	Town of Hillsborough
Ron Boquist	Waypoint Anal.	Brian Pridgen	Contentnea MSD
David Hill	DWR - Ecosystems	Barrett Jenkins	Restoration Systems
Kim Pickett (call in)	Town of Benson	Rick Day (call in)	City of Havelock
Ray Burgos	CovationBio	David Hodgkins (call in)	Town of Farmville
Haywood Phthisic	LNBA/NRCA		

The Chair, Chuck Smithwick, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The roll was called and there were 15 of 19 members present representing the LNBA and 18 of 24 members present representing the NRCA. There was a supermajority quorum (67%) present for both associations and guests were introduced and recognized.

Board Minutes – The Board Minutes for the September 5, 2024 meeting were presented. Being no revisions, the Minutes were approved by the Boards.

LNBA/NRCA Meeting Dates for 2025 – The proposed Board meetings for 2025 are: Feb. 6, May 1, Sept, 4, and Nov. 6. A motion was made by Ed Buchan to approve those dates, seconded by Dan Wall, and approved by the Boards.

LNBA and NRCA Bylaw Revisions for Consideration and Adoption – At the September 5th Board meeting the current bylaws were reviewed and proposed revisions were presented. The last revision to the associations' bylaws was in May, 2017. Recent events in the members retiring and/or leaving has caused issues with the ability to replace those officers (under the current bylaws). The Chair reviewed the pertinent revisions and the association's counsel, Dan McLawhorn, was able to answer in questions or concerns. Following discussion, Dan Wall made the motion to approve the bylaw revisions as presented, seconded by Jimmy Pridgen, and approved unanimously by both Boards. As noted earlier there was a supermajority presence by both Boards.

LNBA/NRCA Financials – Treasurer's Report – Jimmy Pridgen presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of September and October, 2024 to the Board. As of October 31st, the LNBA account balance is \$334,985.62 and NRCA account balance is \$396,156.64. Following discussion, Bert Sherman made the

motion to approve the reports as presented, seconded by Dan Wall, and approved by the Boards, respectively.

Haywood noted the LNBA/NRCA FY 2025-26 proposed budget and membership fees will be presented at the February 6th Board meeting.

Neuse Watershed Modeling Update – Haywood reported no new information was to report at this time. The draft model has been delivered to NCDWR for their review and work.

LNBA Updates –

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

September 2024

09/04/24 – J458000 (Swift Creek at SR 1152 near Smithfield) - Unable to collect due to road access being blocked. Resampled on September 17, 2024.

October 2024

10/17/24 – J4690000 (Middle Creek at SR 1152 near Holly Springs) – Unable to sample due to bridge construction.

10/15/24 – J6250000 (Neuse River at NC 55 near Graingers) – Closed due to new construction.

All invoices have been processed and paid (partial) through September, 2024.

David Hill was introduced as the new coalition coordinator for NCDWR.

NRCA Updates –

NRCA Permit Renewal Update – Haywood reported that the NRCA has not received notice of its permit renewal request and continues to contact DWR staff on this renewal process. When the draft permit goes to notice there will be an opportunity to resubmit comments provided there is a need (all original comments not addressed that the Board authorized). Following discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to review the draft permit that will be noticed and to submit comments if appropriate. Dan Wall made the motion to approve, seconded by James Blalock, and approved by the Board.

Nitrogen Leases for 2024 – Haywood reminded the members that nitrogen leases for 2024 must be executed and received by the executive director by December 31st, 2024 to be valid.

Operator Award Programs – Haywood reported to the membership that every year wastewater facility operators have an opportunity to receive awards for their operational excellence and skill. These awards are given on the State level as well as national level. The facilities on the Neuse Basin have the most experienced in biological nutrient removal processes. In order to receive an award, the operator must be nominated and application submitted to the reviewing organization. Haywood noted the associations should consider establishing a committee to nominate operators for the work and efforts.

LNBA/NRCA Training Workshop CEU Report – Haywood reported that many attendees did not receive timely credit for their CEUs for the annual workshop. Haywood noted he is working with the certification

group to find a solution for this issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2025 at 10:00 hosted by the City of Raleigh. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved