

Consensus Principles II

October 2023



HILLSBOROUGH
NORTH CAROLINA

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Current Falls Lake Rules

- Regulates different sectors (wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, etc.)
- Each sector must find and fund their own reductions
- Reduction requirements are quantified in pounds of nutrients
- Nutrient Reductions set in 2 stages
- Stage I of the current rules are currently being met
- Current Stage II reductions are not feasible and would not significantly reduce nutrient loading to Falls Lake



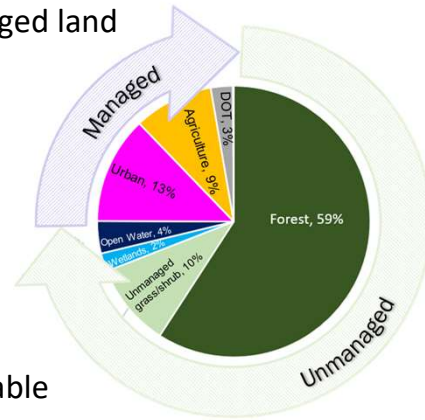
HILLSBOROUGH

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UNRBA Key Findings

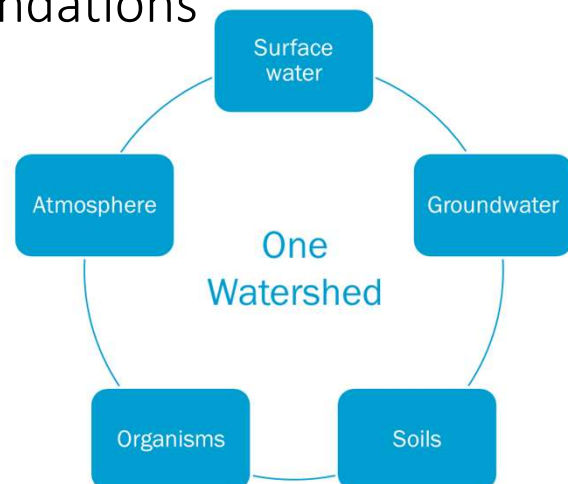


- 75 percent of the watershed is natural, unmanaged land (like forests)
- Nutrient loads to Falls Lake have been reduced significantly since 2006 (baseline year of rules)
- Soils store and cycle nutrients for decades
- Rainfall is key driver of nutrient loads
- The designated uses of Falls Lake are being met (recreation, drinking water supply, aquatic life)
- Water quality and algae levels in the lake are stable



Concepts and Recommendations

- Additional large-scale nutrient load reductions are not achievable
- Long-term nutrient management is most effective approach
- Protecting forests and other natural areas is key to long-term management of Falls Lake
- Collaborative action is needed to protect this resource and maintain uses
- A Watershed Organization is recommended to coordinate activities and partnerships



Does the UNRBA's Approach Benefit Hillsborough?

- No new requirements for the WWTP unless we expand capacity
- Provides for a broad range of projects including climate and resiliency
- Investment based joint compliance allows projects to be completed locally
- Projects can provide multiple values that directly benefit town residents



The Award-Winning Odie Street Stormwater Green Infrastructure Project



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Consensus Principles II

- The Consensus Principles II have been developed and vetted through town staff and our town attorney
- The Consensus Principles II were unanimously approved by the UNRBA Board of Directors
- Staff recommends approving the resolution and the Consensus Principles II



Falls Lake Reservoir



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Consensus Principles II (continued)

1. Falls Lake needs to be protected
2. Revised rules should be passed expeditiously
3. Focus on watershed health
4. Incorporate adaptive management
5. Investment-based, joint compliance
6. Avoid requirements for natural areas
7. Promote land conservation
8. Establish a watershed organization



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Consensus Principles II (continued)

9. Continue implementing new development rules with refinements
10. Include requirements for new or expanded wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs)
11. Optimize treatment performance and evaluate emerging technologies for existing WWTPs
12. Allow investment credits for addressing poorly performing onsite wastewater treatment systems
13. Avoid separate management plans for other impoundments in the watershed
14. Expand list of eligible activities and potential partners
15. Promote opportunities for equitable stakeholder participation
16. Evaluate chlorophyll-a water quality standard and assessment methodology



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Questions/Discussion/Action

