MINUTES --Jordan Lake One Water Coalition
Board of Directors and Full Partnership Meeting
July 14, 2026; 10:30 to 12:00PM
Microsoft Teams

Attendee Name	Organization
Lori Bush	Town of Cary (elected), Vice Chair
Kristine Williams	City of Greensboro
Terry Mahaffey	Town of Apex (elected)
Marilyn Carter	Orange County Board of Commissioners (elected)
Terri Buckner	Individual
Anne Coan	NC Farm Bureau Federation
Donna Myers	American Rivers
Andy McDaniel	NCDOT
Brian Lipscomb	NCDOT
Wesley Poole	Orange County

J.V. Loperfido	City of Durham
Jamie Smedsmo	UNC Chapel Hill
Grady O'Brien	NC Conservation Network
David Phlegar	City of Greensboro
Ellie Rauh	NC DWR
Nancy Daly	Wake County
Ryan Eaves	Durham County
Ian Jewell	Freese and Nichols
Tara Tavana	Individual
Linwood Peele	NC DWR
David Hursey	Kimley-Horn (presenter)
Hope Stuart	Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Lindsay Whitson	Central Pines Regional Council
Sterling McDonald	Central Pines Regional Council

Welcome, Agenda Review & Meeting Procedures (Lori Bush, VICE CHAIR)

Vice Chair Lori Bush opened the meeting and noted that Chair Tammi Thurm was traveling, so she presided in her place. Staff confirmed a quorum.

Minutes Review & Approval: April 14, 2026 (Lori Bush, VICE CHAIR)

The April 14, 2026 minutes had been distributed in advance, and no updates were requested. The minutes were taken up early, ahead of the meeting procedures review. Marilyn Carter (Orange

County) motioned to approve and Brian Lipscomb (NCDOT) seconded. The minutes were approved by majority vote by raised hand.

Membership VOTE: Passed

Welcome New Members

Lindsay Whitson (CPRC) welcomed two new members: Freese and Nichols, a corporate member, and Tara Tavana, an individual member. Ian Jewell, a stormwater and environmental engineer with Freese and Nichols who works on watershed and stream restoration and serves as town engineer for the Town of Oak Ridge, said he will likely be the one attending meetings; the firm learned of JLOW through David Phlegar (Greensboro). Tara Tavana, who lives on the east side of Jordan Lake near the Cary and Chatham County planning boundary, listened in by phone. Both were invited to introduce themselves at the fall in-person meeting.

Administrative Items (Lindsay Whitson)

- FY2026-27 membership invoices will go out in the next week or two. They are slightly delayed because CPRC is switching finance systems.
- The Conflict of Interest form must be signed by Board of Directors members and their alternates only, each in their individual capacity. It will be sent by DocuSign from Sterling McDonald (CPRC) over the next couple of weeks, with a description identifying it as the Jordan Lake conflict of interest form.

Drought Discussion

Linwood Peele (NCDEQ), who supervises the water quantity programs at the NC Division of Water Resources, gave an overview of current drought conditions and Jordan Lake.

- **Conditions**: Drought status has changed little in recent weeks, though the Piedmont and Triangle have had rain over the last three to four weeks. Since the heavy rain from Tropical Storm Chantal in July 2025, a stalled jet stream has meant little of the usual fall and winter recovery. The Raleigh area is about 16 inches below normal since August 2025 (about 5.5 inches below year to date), and Wilmington about 24 inches below since August. As of the week of July 7, only the 2002 drought was worse for the Piedmont, and conditions were worse than 2007 at the same point in the year.
- **Jordan Lake**: April, May, and June 2026 were among the lowest inflows on record (first, second, and third lowest), though recent rain has improved that ranking. The lake was at about 213.01 feet against a normal elevation of 216, roughly 3 feet below the guide curve and still dropping slightly. The water supply pool is at 94%, but the water quality pool is dropping, which is the main concern. Last week the Army Corps reduced the downstream flow target from 450 cfs to 300 cfs under its drought contingency plan (normal is 600 cfs at Lillington), though recent downstream rain pushed actual flows about three times higher. Falls Lake flow was cut from 90 to 60 cfs on July 6.

- **Algae monitoring**: An algae report on June 22 was investigated June 26 with no bloom found. A second report on July 4 near Elizabethtown was sampled July 8 and was not toxic blue-green algae. Regional offices, the Corps, and the Nature Conservancy will continue weekly monitoring. Staff are concerned about low dissolved oxygen, high temperatures, and fish kills if triple-digit heat continues.
- **If the drought persists**: Water systems are required to have water shortage response plans with triggers that move from voluntary to mandatory to emergency measures and must monitor compliance. The state's Water Sources Task Force and Emergency Management are encouraging contingency plans and emergency supplies.

Questions and Discussion:

- Ellie Rauh (NC DWR) asked whether policies require local governments to limit development during drought. Linwood explained that long-term water supply plans and shorter-term water shortage response plans work together, but there is no automatic moratorium on development during a drought.
- Anne Coan (NC Farm Bureau) asked about agriculture. Linwood said the late, dry spring followed by triple-digit heat has hurt crops, with some farmers reporting 60 to 70% yield losses. The Drought Management Advisory Council and an Emergency Management task force are tracking agriculture, though DEQ's role is limited.
- Terry Mahaffey (Town of Apex) asked who decides Jordan Lake releases. Linwood said the Corps follows an established release plan developed with DWR and stakeholders, deviating when conditions require, and holds a weekly Tuesday call open to downstream and upstream municipalities that also covers flood and storm preparations.
- Marilyn Carter (Orange County) asked about cost impacts to water customers. Linwood said none at this time, but heat, low flow, and evaporation could change conditions quickly.
- Grady O'Brien (NC Conservation Network) asked about an after-action review. Linwood said systems must review their water shortage response plans every five years and after major events, and DEQ and Emergency Management will do an after-action review. He noted interbasin transfers are a trade-off of the interconnections built after 2002 and 2007.
- Nancy Daly (Wake County) asked about private wells. Linwood said DEQ has no authority over private wells, DHHS does not look at well water quantity, and the drought legislation bars the state from regulating or monitoring them, so some counties are acting on their own.

Staff will send Linwood's slides and contact information to members. In response to Lori Bush, Linwood noted that Falls Lake sits higher in the basin with a safe yield about half that of Jordan Lake, and that Raleigh's use exceeded its safe yield a month ago before it moved to Stage 1 and then Stage 2 restrictions.

Urban Stream Restoration - Project Highlights

David Hursey leads Kimley-Horn's stream restoration practice in the Raleigh office. He described how watershed master planning supports measurable outcomes (nutrient and sediment reductions, reduced flooding) that also strengthen grant applications, and presented two projects in the North Buffalo Creek watershed in Greensboro:

- **Greensboro Arboretum Stream Enhancement**: Regraded banks, tow protection, removal of invasive species, and native plantings, including a flowering mix suited to the arboretum setting. The project reduces bank erosion and gives pedestrians access to the stream.
- **College Branch Stream Enhancement**: Completed earlier this year with Piedmont Conservation Council and the City of Greensboro through a Land and Water grant, restoring roughly 1,600 feet of stream along a railroad corridor that is now the downtown Greenway. Work replaced concrete, riprap, and old railroad trestles with in-stream structures, culverts, and native vegetation.

He also described Greensboro's recently completed watershed master plans for North Buffalo, South Buffalo, and Horsepen Creeks, which used bank erosion hazard index (BEHI) scoring to quantify sediment and prioritize projects over a 10-to-15-year capital improvement plan window.

In response to Ellie Rauh's chat question about loss of buffer function when vegetation is dormant in winter, David said temporary vegetation helps, native growth can take six months to a year or more, and contracts should include one- to two-year contractor warranties (for example, 80% coverage) and early outreach to residents along project corridors.

Development of New Subcommittees

Hope Stuart (PTRC) announced two new subcommittees. Because the EMC rule adoption process is at a standstill, rule language work is temporarily paused while these groups get started.

- **Project Subcommittee**, led by David Phlegar: will develop a call for projects, compile existing and future ideal projects into a portfolio JLOW could fund and implement, and vet them against JLOW's goals using past work group documents.
- **Program Subcommittee**, led by Donna Myers (American Rivers): will develop a comprehensive program document of the kind other compliance organizations have. NC DWR (Ellie Rauh) has indicated it will be needed once JLOW becomes a compliance organization, and it aligns with the rules and supports JLOW's triple bottom line goals.

Anne Coan asked whether JLOW itself would be the compliance organization or whether there would be an associated one, as with UNRBA for Falls Lake. Hope Stuart and David Phlegar said an associated compliance organization is the expected approach, with JLOW keeping broader goals beyond nutrient rule compliance. Terri Buckner added that the compliance organization was key to JLOW's financial structure in earlier organizational planning, so the question needs a

strategic answer. Lori Bush noted that UNRBA took a long time to stand up its compliance component and that an upcoming meeting may include an update on how UNRBA did that work. Ryan Eaves (Durham County) also noted in the chat that UNRBA has a compliance organization.

Jordan Lake Rules & Policy Committee Update

No separate update was presented. See Development of New Subcommittees above for the pause in rule language work and the new subcommittee focus.

Jordan Lake Organizational & Development Committee Update

Elijah Williams (Greensboro) was not on the call, so Hope Stuart gave the update. The committee is finalizing its third document of the year, the operating procedures, a living document covering JLOW's functions, decision making, and organizational standards. The committee is led by Peter Raabe (American Rivers) and Elijah Williams and meets the third Thursday of each month; the next meeting is July 23 at 3:00 PM. Anyone interested in joining should contact Hope Stuart.

Jordan Lake Outreach & Education Committee Update

Terri Buckner, vice chair of the committee, presented in place of Chair Liz Johnson (Morrisville). The committee currently has four or five members and is looking for more. A website survey sent to over 100 people drew 22 responses. Results showed the website should target local governments and the public, show what JLOW does rather than just what it is, and use accessible language. Recommendations include adding a watershed map, facts, and updated meeting reports, redesigning the homepage, and adding a resource library. The committee is also preparing a new member package, planning for the fall membership meeting, and will later begin work on a newsletter.

Closing Remarks, Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Lori Bush recapped upcoming dates, and staff shared plans for the fall meeting.

- The October 13, 2026 Board of Directors and Fall All Stakeholder Meeting is being planned in person. Event location is not yet set but a save the date will go out in the next week or two.
- Staff and the Chair and Vice Chair are considering a data centers education session for the fall meeting, with all perspectives represented. Members were asked to suggest speakers.
- The Executive Committee is scheduled for August 6. Lori asked members to notify staff in advance if they cannot attend, since missed quorums have prevented committees from taking action.

Follow Up Tasks:

- Send the Conflict of Interest form via DocuSign to all board members and alternates over the next couple of weeks (Sterling)
- Send FY2026-27 membership invoices in the next week or two (CPRC)
- Email the membership about joining the Project and Program Subcommittees and send a Doodle poll to schedule the first meetings (Hope)
- Send the October 13 save the date and confirm a location outside the RTP area (CPRC & PTRC)
- Collect speaker suggestions for the fall data centers education session (all members; send to Lindsay, Hope, or Sterling)
- Invite new members Freese and Nichols and Tara Tavana to introduce themselves at the fall meeting (Lindsay)

Next Meetings:

- Board of Directors and Fall All Stakeholder Meeting: October 14, 2026 (location TBD)
- Executive Committee: August 6, 2026
- Organizational & Development Committee: July 23, 2026, 3:00 PM

ADJOURNED