MINUTES --Jordan Lake One Water Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting (Hybrid)
April 14, 2026; 10:30 to 12:00PM
Orange County Ag Center - Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agricultural Center BLDG, Microsoft Teams

Attendee Name	Organization
Lori Bush	Town of Cary (elected), Chair
Tammi Thurm	City of Greensboro (elected), Vice Chair
Liz Johnson	Town of Morrisville (elected)
Melissa McCullough	Town of Chapel Hill (elected)
Kristine Williams	City of Greensboro
Elijah Williams	City of Greensboro
Erin Crouse	NC Conservation Fund
Andy McDaniel	NCDOT
Grady O'Brien	NC Conservation Network

Keith Larick	NC Farm Bureau Federation
Kim Phillips	TREBIC
Caleb Lippard	Orange Soil & Water Conservation District
Matt Kopac	City of Durham (elected)
Jonathan Jacobs	Town of Apex
Terri Buckner	Individual
Anne Coan	NC Farm Bureau Federation
Ben Mills	Town of Morrisville
Davis Conners	NCDEQ
Daniel Ramsay	Restoration Ecology
Jesse Day	Piedmont Triad Regional Council (staff to JLOW)
Brian Lipscomb	NCDOT
Lisa Booze	Town of Cary
Jamie Revels	Town of Cary
Matthew Wetherell	City of Durham (elected)
David Stancil	Orange County
Aarin Miles	City of Durham (legal staff)

Ryan Mullins	NCDOT Hydraulics Unit
Nancy Daly	Wake County
David Phlegar	City of Greensboro
Sushama Pradhan	NC DHHS
Ellie Rauh	NC DWR
Jamie Smedsmo	UNC Chapel Hill
Kevin Boyer	Urban Sustainability Solutions
Susannah Goldston	Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District
Terry Mahaffey	Town of Apex (elected)
Kieu Tran	City of Durham
Vishnu Gangadharan	OWASA
Ryan Eaves	Durham County
Wesley Poole	Orange County
Ginger Booker	Attorney to JLOW
Lindsay Whitson	Central Pines Regional Council (staff to JLOW)
Hope Stuart	Piedmont Triad Regional Council (staff to JLOW)

<u>Welcome and Agenda Review</u> (Lori Bush, CHAIR & Tammi Thurm, VICE CHAIR)

Hope Stuart (PTRC) and Lindsay Whitson (CPRC) opened the hybrid board meeting, with Hope Stuart facilitating in person and Lindsay Whitson managing online participation. Chair Lori Bush welcomed members and reviewed the agenda, noting that information on the upcoming Environmental Management Commission (EMC) meeting would also be shared.

Remembrance of Member Kim Nimmer (Lori Bush, CHAIR)

The Chair led a moment of silence in honor of member Kim Nimmer, who had recently passed away. Members reflected on her involvement with Jordan Lake One Water dating back to its founding in 2017 and the integrity, enthusiasm, and commitment to clean water she brought to OWASA and the entire watershed community.Vishnu Gangadharan, Director of Engineering at OWASA, was introduced as OWASA's new representative to the coalition and thanked the board for honoring Kim's memory and impact across the water industry.

Meeting Procedures (Lori Bush, CHAIR)

The Chair reviewed voting procedures and confirmed that a quorum of board members was present between in-person and online attendees, allowing the board to conduct official business.

Minutes Review & Approval: January 13, 2026 (Lori Bush, CHAIR)

The Chair asked for any comments on the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Hearing none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Melissa McCullough (Chapel Hill) and seconded by Liz Johnson (Morrisville). The January minutes were approved by majority vote of the board.

Membership VOTE: Passed

Chair & Vice Chair: Membership Vote (Lori Bush, CHAIR & Tammi Thurm, VICE CHAIR)

Lindsay Whitson (CPRC) and Hope Stuart (PTRC) facilitated the conversation on the Chair and Vice Chair membership vote. Outgoing Chair Lori Bush reviewed the leadership transition process, noting that the bylaws stipulate that the Chair and Vice Chair must be elected officials and that the Vice Chair customarily moves into the Chair role.

After thanking the board for the opportunity to serve as Chair of an organization she has been involved with since 2017, Lori Bush nominated Vice Chair Tammi Thurm to serve as the new Chair, praising her partnership, wise counsel, and experience. The nomination was seconded by Kim Phillips (TREBIC) and approved by a majority of the board (11 in person plus board members online).

For the Vice Chair position, Lori Bush indicated her willingness to serve as Vice Chair for the coming year if no other elected official wished to step forward. With no other nominations, Terry Mahaffey (Apex) motioned to approve Lori Bush as Vice Chair, seconded by Liz Johnson (Morrisville). The board approved the nomination (12 in person plus online support).

Membership VOTE: Passed

Conflict of Interest Form: BOD VOTE (Tammi Thurm, CHAIR & Lori Bush, VICE CHAIR)

Ginger Booker, attorney to JLOW, presented the revised Conflict-of-Interest Policy and form. She reminded the board that a written conflict-of-interest policy is required for JLOW's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, and that the original IRS template has since been customized to reflect board feedback and the coalition's hybrid composition of individual members, nonprofit representatives, and elected officials. The redlined version distributed with the agenda packet incorporated all edits from the board and Executive Committee reviews.

Staff clarified that only members of the Board of Directors and their alternates are required to sign the form, and that signatures will be collected through DocuSign, with accommodations available for anyone unable to use that route.

A motion to approve the redlined Conflict-of-Interest form as presented was made by Lori Bush and seconded by Matt Kopac (Durham). The Board of Directors approved the form, including both board members online.

BOD VOTE: Passed

FY2026-27 Budget Approval: BOD VOTE (Tammi Thurm, CHAIR & Lori Bush, VICE CHAIR)

Lindsay Whitson presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, noting that amendments may be made during the year through the proper channels.

Membership dues for the coming fiscal year are estimated at $82,100, unchanged from FY25, assuming all current members continue. In addition, an appropriated fund balance of $24,694 is projected to roll over, consisting of $20,725 in contractual funds and $3,969 in outreach and education funds, bringing the estimated total available balance to $106,794 for the new fiscal year. On the expense side, legal costs are expected to remain the same as the current year, while the dues and subscriptions line item was increased slightly to cover annual fees for the IRS filing, website, insurance, and CRM.

Proposed Changes:

- An increase in the CPRC contract from $35,000 to $36,000
- An increase in the Piedmont Triad contract from $14,000 to $15,000
- An increase of approximately $700 to the Outreach and Education Committee budget
- An increase in the contractual services line item from $20,000 to $40,000, allowing the coalition to engage a compliance or marketing contractor at the board's direction
- A new $1,200 annual meeting expense to support a fall gathering

The board then reviewed a separate illustrative draft budget showing the funding gap that would result from adding a part-time Executive Director. With an estimated $85,000 in personnel costs plus increased travel and office expenses, total expenses would rise to approximately $178,900, compared to available revenue of $160,000 in member fees plus rollover funds. Members noted that the coalition would realistically need to raise an additional $80,000 to$100,000 to support the position. A fee increase of that size would need to be approved with sufficient lead time for local governments to incorporate it into their budget cycles. The Organizational Development Committee is continuing to research the fee structures of similar water organizations to inform future decisions.

Discussion Points:

- The potential to offset costs by transferring some of CPRC's and PTRC's current responsibilities to an Executive Director
- The role an Executive Director could play in fundraising
- The modest additional revenue (approximately $2,000) that could come from recruiting non-member counties in the upper Cape Fear basin
- The connection between establishing a future compliance organization and securing long-term funding

A motion to approve the FY2026 to27 budget as presented was made by Lori Bush (Cary) and seconded by Terri Buckner (individual). The budget was approved with 12 votes in the room and both board members online.

BOD VOTE: Passed

Updated Fee Schedule: BOD VOTE (Tammi Thurm, CHAIR & Lori Bush, VICE CHAIR)

The board reviewed the updated fee schedule, which was recommended for approval by the Executive Committee following discussion at the January meeting. Staff clarified that the update includes no fee increases; it is a clarification of which entities fall into, which membership category and how allocations are structured.

A motion to approve the updated fee schedule was made by Lori Bush and seconded by Liz Johnson (Morrisville). The fee schedule was approved with 12 votes in the room and both board members online.

BOD VOTE: Passed

Jordan Lake Rules/Policy Committee Update

David Phlegar (Greensboro) reported that the Rules/Policy Committee is working to consolidate member comments. The committee's most recent meeting focused on the existing development rule, now referred to as the Existing Managed Lands (EML) rule.

Ellie Rauh (NC DWR) provided an update on the rule, which offers ***three compliance pathways:***

- Individual accounting-based compliance
- Individual programmatic-level compliance
- Group compliance option

The group compliance option aligns with what JLOW has been advocating, and the committee will continue working with DWR to integrate the coalition's comments. The goal would be to position JLOW to serve as a compliance organization covering the EML and agriculture rules and, potentially, additional rules in the future.

There has been movement on the new development rule, where compliance options appear to be built around the SNAP tool. Communities implementing both Falls Lake and nutrient management rules have provided helpful comments on coordinating implementation with the Jordan rules to keep programs consistent across the Triad and Triangle so that local governments are not administering conflicting programs.

Kristine Williams (Greensboro) shared that EMC Chair Solomon has invited JLOW to present its vision for integrated water management to the EMC's new executive director, the chair of the EMC Water Quality Committee, and senior DEQ staff. This same opportunity was extended to UNRBA through the Falls Lake process. Invited participants represent a cross-section of the coalition: Greensboro, Cary, Durham, American Rivers, TREBIC, and Piedmont Conservation Council.

Jordan Lake Organizational Development Committee Update

Peter Raabe (American Rivers) and Elijah Williams (Greensboro) led an update for the Organizational & Development Committee. The committee has completed a Committee Description & Responsibilities document, which will be posted to the website for member-only viewing, and a draft job description for a JLOW Executive Director. Work is nearly complete on a draft Standard Operating Procedures document, a living document outlining JLOW's guiding principles, purpose and goals, governance structure, meeting structure, and standard decision-making processes, which will be presented to the Executive Committee and full board for review once finalized.

The committee was also asked to research fee structures and budgets of comparable one water organizations, including out-of-state models and resources from the US Water Alliance, and members emphasized the need to define an Executive Director scope of services through the strategic plan before proposing fee changes.

Jordan Lake Outreach & Education Committee Update

Lindsay Whitson led an update for the Outreach & Education Committee. Items discussed included developing a new members' welcome packet, revamping newsletters, website improvements, and continued conversations around messaging, member recruitment, and future communications strategies.

The committee has also explored grant opportunities to fund communications efforts, such as through the SECU foundation. The group plans to repurpose a prior 205j grant application for the SECU application due in the fall, pending approval by the Executive Committee.

Follow Up Tasks:

- Circulate the approved Conflict-of-Interest form to all board members and alternates via DocuSign, with alternative arrangements for anyone unable to sign electronically (Lindsay, Ginger)
- Coordinate JLOW's presentation to EMC Chair Solomon and DEQ leadership with invited representatives (Greensboro, Cary, Durham, American Rivers, TREBIC, Piedmont Conservation Council)
- Rules/Policy Committee to continue monthly meetings and work with NC DWR on integrating JLOW comments into the EML group compliance option and SNAP tool-based new development compliance (David Phlegar, Donna Myers)
- Share the upcoming EMC meeting date/information with members (Lindsay)

Closing Remarks, Set Agenda for Next Meeting

- Board Meetings:
    - October 13, 2026
    - January 13, 2027

ADJOURNED