



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Joint Meeting of the Wastewater & Septic System Subcommittees
MEETING NOTES
February 7, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Wastewater & Septic System Subcommittees met on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch	Patrick Koffman, Cobb-Douglas Env Health
Chris Browning, Fulton Co	David Kubala, Cherokee Co WSA
Todd Cleaver, Gwinnett Co	Charles Lambert, DeKalb Co
Charles Corbin, Austell / Buford / Palmetto / Union City	Tonja Mincey, Henry Co WSA
Bruce Coyle, Paulding Co	Stephen Peace, City of Atlanta
Jimmy Dean, City of Flowery Branch	Tim Perkins, Forsyth Co
Rick Fehr, Fayette Co Env Health	Jim Poff, Clayton Co Water Authority
Jim Free, GA Onsite WW Assoc.	Russell Ray, Fayette Co Water System
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville	Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Co
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee Co	Barbara Seal, Gwinnett Co
Donna Joe, Gwinnett Co	Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock
Judy Jones, Cobb Co	Jim Stafford, City of Cartersville
Michael Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica	Emily Wingo, GA EPD

Matt Harper welcomed the group. After brief introductions, the meeting focused on issues for the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan update.

Updated Section 3 Discussion

Matt Harper asked the group if there were any comments on the updated Section 3 of the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan that the consultant had developed. Matt Harper reminded the group that this section of the plan describes the existing wastewater management conditions in the District. The committee commented that the treatment capacity for private systems in the District seemed too low. Various committee members stated they would work with the consultant to develop a better accounting of the private system treatment capacity in the District. The comment was made that the District plans should require anyone who submits a plan amendment to have modeling done to demonstrate what effect the plan amendment will have on upstream and downstream users. Another committee member stated that the District should evaluate the plan amendment and let GA EPD handle the modeling and permit limits.

Various committee members had comments on the treatment capacity numbers listed on Table 3-2 and committed to work with the consultant to correct the capacities. Matt Harper asked the committee to send any other comments on Section 3 to him by February 13th.

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Wastewater Management Issues

Matt Harper introduced Pam Burnett with Metcalf & Eddy to lead the discussion that will help the consultant develop the content needed to update Section 5 of the wastewater plan. Kim Shorter discussed the nutrient standards for lakes and the Chlorophyll a TMDL issues in the region. Kim then introduced Dr. Mark Laquidara to discuss treatment technologies used for nutrient removal. The committee questioned if the plan update would have information about treatment technologies or if this discussion was just to provide background knowledge. Metcalf and Eddy stated that this discussion was simply to talk about the issues and this would only show up in the plan as part of the big picture. The committee asked if the strength of the influent and the effect that has on treatment capacity will be addressed in the plan. M&E said it would be looked at and added to the plan. Dr. Mark Laquidara then discussed Contaminants of Concern with the group.

Pam Burnett then led a discussion about consumptive use and water reuse. Pam mentioned that consumptive use budgets were not part of the State Water Plan but were instead put off until the resource assessments were done. The comment was made that the plan needs to clarify which groups are included in determining the 58% return target. The comment was made that we need to start focusing on reducing water use not just offsetting potable water use with reuse water. There was also concern that grey water reuse for irrigation is still a consumptive use and probably not a good thing. M&E was asked to define grey water and other reuse terms to help clarify the issues. A committee member representing a county health department said that the health departments feel that using grey water indoors represents a public health concern. GA DHR, the state agency over county health departments has a policy to prohibit surface application of grey water. M&E informed the committee that GA EPD has asked the District to make the District plans agree with the State water plan in regards to how consumptive septic systems should be considered.

Private Wastewater System Policy Discussion

Jeremy Koch reviewed the draft private system policy with the group. M&E explained that this policy would apply to all privately owned community septic systems and private package plants. The committee made a couple of recommendations on revising the policy and suggesting developing an example policy for communities to use if they needed a policy.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.