



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES
March 6, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Ms. Kit Dunlap, Chairman
Commissioner Sam Olens, Vice Chairman
Mayor Boyd Austin, City of Dallas
Mr. Bob Fountain
Mr. Gardiner Garrard
Mr. Birdel Jackson
Commissioner Charlie Laughinghouse,
Forsyth County
Commissioner Roy Middlebrooks,
Rockdale County
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mayor Rick Roberts, City of Ball Ground

Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood
Mr. Steven Woodruff
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mike Patton
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Chris Browning
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. James Scarbrough
Hall County Designee: Mr. Kelly Randall
Walton County Designee: Chad Oelstrom

Members NOT Present

Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Bradley Currey
Commissioner Jason Harper, Henry County
Commissioner Jack Smith, Fayette County

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board. The meeting notes and minutes from the December 6, 2007 Governing Board meeting were approved without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap welcomed Mayor Rick Roberts of the City of Ball Ground to the Board as the new representative from Cherokee County. Chairman Dunlap acknowledged several announcements in the meeting materials package for upcoming water-topic events. Secretary-Treasurer Birdel Jackson briefly commented on these events and asked all members to consider attending. Chairman Dunlap also called attention to the 2007 Annual Report and announced that extra copies are available. Chairman Dunlap announced the formation of a new 5-member committee to help identify candidates for new Board officers, who will be elected at the June Board meeting.

Chairman Dunlap asked Pat Stevens to give an update on the status of the drought. Ms. Stevens reviewed rainfall data and commented on lake levels in the ACF basin. Several Board members commented on the severity of the situation at Lake Lanier. There was a motion and a second to draft a resolution urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' to reduce releases from Lake Lanier and calling for more responsible management of the system. The motion passed without opposition. Board members recommended including graphs of lake levels with the resolution when sent to the Corps and state and national elected officials.

Executive Committee Report

Matt Harper announced the Executive Committee had reviewed the *Public Comment Report* and final recommendation for a minor amendment to the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan for the City of Loganville. He reported the Executive Committee approved the amendment without opposition.

Legislative Committee Report

Chairman Dunlap asked David Word to provide an update on water legislation being considered by the Georgia General Assembly. Mr. Word announced that the Legislative Committee recommended opposing three potentially problematic bills: HB 1117, HB 1292 and HB 1281. He provided an overview of these bills and how they may impact local government's ability to set water rates and impose watering restrictions. Discussion from Board members followed. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to amend the Metro Water District's legislative agenda to oppose HB 1117 and 1292. There was a motion and a second to also amend the legislative agenda to oppose HB 1281. The motion passed with one opposed. The dissenting vote would have preferred to amend HB 1281 rather than opposing it entirely.

Mr. Word continued the legislative update by reviewing a list of other water-related bills. He announced the funding for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District was still included in the state budget. Mr. Word also informed the Board that the Governor signed the Statewide Water Plan and included \$11 million in the state budget for plan implementation. He concluded his report by summarizing changes to the state's reservoir funding and permitting process as outlined in SB 342.

Toilet Rebate Program Kickoff

Pat Stevens officially “rolled out” the Metro Water District’s regional toilet rebate program and encouraged everyone with a pre-1993 home to “take the plunge” and replace their old toilets. Ms. Stevens recognized representatives from Home Depot for their support of the program. She also thanked study committee members (Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County; Rob Hunter and Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta; Horace Gee, City of Gainesville; Mike Thomas, Clayton County WA; and David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA) and staff member Abby Stevenson for their work in getting the program up and running. Ms. Stevens reviewed the process to receive a rebate and highlighted the water savings of replacing old fixtures. Board members participating in the regional program commented how easy it was for utilities to implement and market the program to their customers.

Status of Tri-State Water Issues

Patricia Barmeyer of King and Spalding reported on the tri-state water issues. Ms. Barmeyer announced that since the governors of Alabama, Florida and Georgia could not reach agreement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will work together to develop a plan for new flow requirements in the ACF basin. She stressed that the new plan must be based on facts and sound science rather than politics. Ms. Barmeyer reiterated that water use in metro Atlanta is not the root cause of the problem, but that the Corps has mismanaged Lake Lanier and the entire system. She backed this claim with statistics on the metro area’s water use compared to the lower basin area. Ms. Barmeyer reminded the Board that eight cases remain in three separate courts to determine water use in the ACF basin and that litigation is also pending in the ACT basin. Board members asked several questions, commented generally on tri-state issues and asked to be kept informed of any progress in the litigation.

Plan Update Status

Pam Burnett of Metcalf & Eddy updated the Board on the status of the plan updates. She gave an overview of the consulting team and schedule and provided highlights from recent coordination meetings with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. She commented on guidance given on integrating the plan updates with the Statewide Water Plan. Ms. Burnett thanked local governments for providing water billing data needed to update the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. She concluded by outlining the next steps for all three plans in order to have a draft plan prepared by June 2008.

Other Business

Chairman Dunlap announced the next Governing Board meeting would be held June, 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loudermilk Center Amphitheater.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.