



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES
June 5, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 5, 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
Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Bradley Currey
Mr. Birdel Jackson
Commissioner Charlie Laughinghouse,
Forsyth County
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mr. Steven Woodruff

City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Jerri Russell
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. Thomas Heard
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Mike Patton
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. James Scarbrough
Hall County Designee: Mr. J. Carlyle Cox
Henry County Designee: Mr. Ken Philips
Walton County Designee: Mr. Wendell Geiger

Members NOT Present

Mayor Boyd Austin, City of Dallas
Commissioner Clarence Brown, Bartow County
Commissioner John Eaves, Fulton County
Mr. Bob Fountain
Mr. Gardiner Garrard

Commissioner Roy Middlebrooks,
Rockdale County
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood
Commissioner Jack Smith, Fayette County

Basin Advisory Council Officers Present

John Lawrence, Chattahoochee BAC Chair
Larissa Thomas, Ocmulgee BAC Chair
Shana Udvardy, Chattahoochee BAC Vice-Chair

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board. The meeting notes and minutes from the March 6, 2008 Governing Board meeting were approved without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap asked the Board to review the handout summarizing water legislation from the 2008 General Assembly. She called attention to the additional \$100,000 earmarked in the state FY2009 for the Metro Water District and the passage of the state water plan.

Greg Mason of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority gave an overview of the Georgia Reservoir and Water Supply Fund. Mr. Mason explained the context of the new program and GEFA's role in allocating \$40 million in grant funds to local governments and water and sewer authorities to develop water supply projects. He emphasized that the program focus is on readiness rather than planning and provided copies of the program guidelines. Mr. Mason encouraged local governments interested in the grant program to review information on GEFA's website (<http://www.gefa.org/Index.aspx?page=416>).

Pat Stevens gave an update on drought conditions and reservoir levels in the Metro Water District. She also explained some recent changes in the Interim Operations Plan and Water Control Plans for the ACF basin. Ms. Stevens concluded by reviewing current state watering restrictions.

Chairman Dunlap introduced Jerry Barnes, who was recently appointed by the Secretary of the Army to mediate the process to revise the operation manuals for the ACF and ACT basins. Mr. Barnes offered a number of observations about the first few months of the process:

- The Southeast is rich in water resources compared to other regions of the country.
- Conservation zones present interesting choices for storage in federal reservoirs.
- Federal projects do not allocate water – they only determine reservoir storage. Operation plans can not change states' sovereign right to allocate water.
- Project purposes often compete and tough decisions must be made.
- Updated operation manuals will not simply codify current operations and are not intended to solve all problems between competing water uses.

Mr. Barnes concluded by saying the process will take approximately three years to complete, with extensive public participation throughout.

Pat Stevens gave an update on the status of the Metro Water District's regional toilet rebate program. Ms. Stevens listed the participating water utilities and briefly reviewed customer eligibility and program logistics. She noted that certain local governments have requested that multifamily homes be eligible for the program and this possibility is being investigated. Ms. Stevens reported that 1,577 toilets have been rebated since the program began in March 2008. She also reported that since the program officially began, the Metro Water District has processed an average of 77 applications per week and responded to an average 20 emails and 93 customer service calls per week.

Board Officer Elections

Secretary-Treasurer Birdel Jackson announced that a search committee had met to discuss candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Governing Board. He reported this committee made a recommendation to the Executive Committee for Kit Dunlap to continue serving as Chairman and for Commissioner Sam Olens to continue serving as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Executive Committee nominated Kit Dunlap for Chairman and Sam Olens for Vice Chairman and asked for Board approval of these nominations. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to re-elect Kit Dunlap as Chairman and Commissioner Sam Olens as Vice Chairman of the Metro Water District for a three-year term.

Finance Committee Report

Secretary-Treasurer Birdel Jackson presented the proposed revision to the 2008 budget as recommended by the Finance and Executive Committees. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the proposed 2008 budget revision.

Mr. Jackson then presented the proposed 2009 budget. After reviewing the proposed budget totals, he specifically noted the proposed reduction in local dues from \$0.30 per capita to \$0.20 per capita. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the proposed 2009 budget.

Plan Update Status

Pam Burnett of Metcalf & Eddy presented a revised schedule for the plan updates. Ms. Burnett reported that while the plan update was progressing well, members of the Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Councils had expressed concern about limited time to review and discuss interim work products. She explained that a three month extension of the schedule would allow for more review time and extend public comment opportunities prior to adoption by the Board in March 2009.

Chairman Dunlap asked Board members to review the proposed resolution to extend the deadline for the three plan updates for a time period not to exceed six months. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the resolution and to send notice of the deadline extension to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

Other Business

Chairman Dunlap announced that the Chattahoochee, Etowah and Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Councils had recently elected new chairs and vice-chairs. John Lawrence will serve as Chair and Shana Udvardy will serve as Vice-Chair for the Chattahoochee BAC. Larissa Thomas will serve as Chair for the Ocmulgee BAC and Chip Hatcher will serve as the Vice-Chair. For the Etowah BAC, Ed Mullinax will serve as Chair and Dart Kendall will serve as the Vice-Chair.

Citizen Board member Brad Currey gave a brief update on the Water Conservation Implementation Plans being developed by Georgia EPD as part of the Statewide Water Plan.

Chairman Dunlap reminded the Board that Metro Water District staff had begun data collection for the 2009 Water and Sewer Rates Survey. She encouraged all utilities to return the survey as soon as possible.

Chairman Dunlap announced the next Governing Board meeting would be held August 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loudermilk Center Amphitheater.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.