



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Wastewater / Septic System
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
July 10, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Wastewater / Septic System Technical Coordinating Committee (WW TCC) met on Thursday, July 10, 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

Chris Browning, Fulton County	Danny Ingram, City of Gainesville
Lance Buchanan, Paulding Co	Michael Kauffman, City of Villa Rica
Ellis Cadenhead, Coweta County	Patrick Koffman, Cobb/Douglas Health Dept
Gene Camp, Bartow County	David Kubala, Cherokee Co WSA
John Clark, USGS	Charles Lambert, DeKalb County WSA
Todd Cleaver, Gwinnett Co	Mark Landers, USGS
Charles Corbin, Austell, Buford, Palmetto, Union City, Hapeville	Billy Lunsford, City of East Point
Carlyle Cox, Hall County	Tim Pugh, Paulding Co
Ernie Earn, GA EPD	Monica Robinson, Fulton Co
Rick Eastin, City of Fayetteville	Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville	Keisha Thorpe, Peachtree City
Tom Heard, Cherokee Co WSA	Keith Watkins, Clayton Co Water Auth
Mark Hooks, GA Onsite WW Assoc.	Emily Wingo, GA EPD

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Schedule Change

Matt Harper briefly reviewed the new plan update schedule with the group. Matt noted that the schedule has been adjusted to allow local technical staff to have more time to review the preliminary draft wastewater plan which will now be available 2 weeks earlier than originally planned. The revised schedule also changes the date of the next Wastewater TCC meeting to August 5, 2008.

USGS Septic System Return Flow Study

Matt Harper introduced Mark Landers with USGS to present the results of their recent septic system study. He noted that the fieldwork was done last October. Mark gave an overview of the different urban factors that influence groundwater recharge and stream baseflow, these include: leaking water supply mains, septic system drainfields, excess irrigation, infiltration ponds, leaking storm sewer systems, reduced evapotranspiration. Mark explained that they looked at 24 different watersheds using a paired watershed approach; 12 to represent high density septic usage and 12 to represent low density septic system usage. In these 24 watersheds they measured streamflow, turbidity, conductance, and fluorescence. Fluorescence was measured to determine the presence of optical brighteners found in laundry detergents, this is a quick, inexpensive way to locate failing septic systems but, the study did not find any evidence of the failing septic systems. The study did find that the stream baseflow was higher in watersheds with high density septic system usage than those

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watersheds with low density septic system usage. Mark stated that to get a better idea of how much water was returned from septic systems more sample is needed in different seasons and in different geologic settings around Metro Atlanta.

Discussion of Draft Sections of the Wastewater Plan

Pam Burnett gave a brief summary of a meeting M&E and the District staff had with GA EPD staff to review the draft Wastewater Appendix B. In this meeting GA EPD mentioned the nutrient TMDL issues for Lakes Lanier and Allatoona and the high level of wastewater treatment that will likely be required in the future to discharge in these watersheds.

Pam introduced Jeremy Koch with M&E to review the draft Wastewater Appendix B and the implementation schedule section. There was discussion on how the wording in the plan would affect the way GA EPD conducts audits. A few members of the committee commented that they would prefer that GA EPD separate out the audit process and not tie the wastewater and water audit process to the watershed management audit process. Others thoughts that it was crucial to keep the water supply, wastewater, and watershed audit process linked together. There was general agreement that all the septic measures were good and needed to be done.

Other

Matt Harper announced that the next WW TCC meeting will be held on August 5th at 10 AM. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.