



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board  
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES  
August 7, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, August 7, 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  
Mayor Boyd Austin, City of Dallas  
Mr. William Thomas Craig  
Mr. Bradley Currey  
Mr. Birdel Jackson  
Mr. Gerald Pouncey  
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood  
Mr. Steven Woodruff  
Commissioner Tom Worthan, Douglas County  
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter

Bartow County Designee: Gene Camp  
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert  
Fayette County Designee: Mr. Tony Parrott  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Chris Browning  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. James Scarbrough  
Hall County Designee: Mr. J. Carlyle Cox

**Members NOT Present**

Mr. Bob Fountain  
Mr. Gardiner Garrard  
Commissioner Jason Harper, Henry County  
Commissioner Tim Higgins, Coweta County

Commissioner Charlie Laughinghouse,  
Forsyth County  
Commissioner Roy Middlebrooks,  
Rockdale County

**Basin Advisory Council Officers Present**

Dart Kendall, Etowah BAC Vice-Chair  
John Lawrence, Chattahoochee BAC Chair  
Larissa Thomas, Ocmulgee BAC 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 June 5, 2008 Governing Board meeting were approved without opposition.

### **Chairman's Report**

Pat Stevens gave an update on drought conditions, reservoir levels and current watering restrictions in the Metro Water District. She highlighted reservoir levels in four reservoirs operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Stevens suggested that Board members may want to consider requesting meetings with the Corps to voice any concerns over reservoir operations. A motion to send a letter to the Corps requesting small group meetings and detailing the Board's ongoing concerns about reservoir operations was made, seconded and approved without opposition.

Pat Stevens reminded the Board that a brochure explaining some of Metro Atlanta's water challenges has been developed and is available electronically and in print. A Board member recommended sending the brochure to members of the Georgia General Assembly along with a cover letter. Ms. Stevens concluded by calling attention to the handout explaining the latest modifications to Georgia EPD's outdoor watering restrictions.

Joy Hinkle gave an update on the status of the state Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP) being developed by Georgia EPD. She announced that Dr. Carol Couch had recently held a meeting with stakeholders to address 1) how the WCIP relates to the Statewide Water Plan, 2) how the WCIP will inform regional water plans, and 3) how the WCIP will inform permitting decisions. Ms. Hinkle reported that comments on the working draft would be accepted through August 13, 2008 and that a general public comment period would begin mid-September, with final approval by late January/early February 2009. Several Board members who attended the meeting commented on their experiences with the WCIP process and highlighted challenges in developing quantitative and qualitative goals and benchmarks for the WCIP.

Chairman Dunlap announced that Walton County's request to be reassigned to the newly formed Upper Oconee Water Planning Region was approved by Georgia EPD in July. She asked Board members to refer to the letters in the meeting packet for more details.

### **Septic Systems Return Flow Study Results**

Chairman Dunlap introduced Mark Landers from the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) to present findings from a recent USGS study on return flows from septic systems. Mr. Landers explained the purpose of the study was to develop a method to determine the consumptive use of septic systems using a paired watershed approach. He highlighted the factors that potentially increase and decrease groundwater recharge in urban areas and how these factors may impact the hydrology of septic system absorption fields. Mr. Landers described the paired watershed approach of comparing high-density areas (greater than 200 septic systems/mi<sup>2</sup>) to low-density areas (less than 100 septic systems/mi<sup>2</sup>) and gave an overview of the field measurements taken to determine baseflow.

Mr. Landers reported the study found average baseflow yield to be 100% greater in watersheds with high-density septic than watersheds with low-density septic. He explained the limitations and assumptions of the study, but reported the results of the study indicate that the paired watershed approach works and can defend at a 90% confidence interval that septic systems are not 100% septic. Mr. Landers emphasized, however, that the study results do not provide adequate information needed

to create policy on consumptive use of septic systems. He stressed the need for further investigation in different geologies/soils, different seasons, additional land uses and at different watershed scales. Mr. Landers reported this additional study could be done in the Metro Water District for approximately \$350,000 - \$400,000. He concluded by answering several questions from the Board about the study.

Matt Harper gave a brief overview of the policies and measures in the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan regarding septic systems. He highlighted changes to the updated plan since 2003, including changes in the pumpout requirement, education elements, critical areas determination and septic systems coordination measures.

### **Plan Update Status**

Matt Harper announced that the preliminary drafts of all three plans are available online and undergoing review by the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Basin Advisory Councils. He also gave a brief overview of the meeting schedule for when the Board would review the draft plans. Chairman Dunlap announced the Board would be having a work session on September 23, 2008 to review the draft plans. Board members asked to be provided with a list of changes since the 2003 and to include measures of success from the last five years in the plans.

Kim Shorter of Metcalf & Eddy presented a high-level summary of changes to the Watershed Management Plan, the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan since 2003. Ms. Shorter reviewed universal changes to all three plans, including: updated forecasts, updated action items, reorganization of chapters, compatibility with the Statewide Water Plan, focus on planning and coordination and emphasis on asset management. She also spoke specifically to changes to each of the plans. Chairman Dunlap announced that Ms. Shorter's presentation would be available on the Metro Water District website after the meeting.

### **Water Supply Sources and Storage Evaluation**

Kim Shorter provided greater detail on the evaluation of water supply storage options being considered for the update to the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Board members were provided copies of the preliminary draft "Section 6: Water Supply Sources" of the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Ms. Shorter discussed the reservoir sources considered for the plan, explaining that these sources were identified through discussions with local water providers and previous water supply evaluations. She concluded by reviewing ongoing efforts by Georgia EPD and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to help plan and fund water supply projects that will be needed to meet future water demands in the Metro Water District.

**Other Business**

Chairman Dunlap reminded the Board of the work session on September 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. and announced the next Governing Board meeting would be held October 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loudermilk Center Amphitheater.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.