



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Etowah Basin Advisory Council
MEETING SUMMARY
August 19, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Monday, August 19, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Public Library in Woodstock, Georgia.

Members Present

Dart Kendall, Vice Chair
Robert Morrison
Julian Powell
Marilyn Stapleton
Roy Taylor

Welcome and Introductions

Joy Hinkle of the Metro Water District staff welcomed the Council and initiated introductions. She explained the purpose of the meeting was to be an informal question and answer session on the preliminary draft plans and encouraged Council members to ask questions and provide feedback.

Preliminary Draft Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan

Maia Davis of the Metro Water District staff gave an overview of the Preliminary Draft Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Council members provided the following questions and comments:

- Need to acknowledge how much water Georgia Power uses.
- Figure 3-6 needs to include all supply and demand lines like the figure from the 2003 plan.
- If the assumptions from the 2003 plan were wrong, need to include a chapter explaining why it was wrong and how the update will correct it.
- Demand total must include all uses because all water is public and we have a responsibility to account for it all.
- Low flow fixtures have been around for over 15 years – how can the plan claim this as additional water savings? The conservation numbers don't seem to add up.

- The water conservation program is status-quo. Low flow fixtures won't save enough water that we need to save.
- Include recommendation to the U.S. Corps of Engineers to increase hydro generation at Allatoona so that Plant Bowen wouldn't need to produce as much power and would therefore have a lower water demand.
- Cherokee County WSA rates aren't really water conservation rates because there isn't enough of a price increase to encourage conservation. Rates should be set to encourage business and industries to make their operations more efficient.
- Include new reservoir site in Forsyth in table 6-3.
- Need to make correlation between land use plans and water supply planning. Plan needs a stronger "grow responsibly" message. People need to understand that higher density growth allows for land preservation for water table recharge areas.

Preliminary Draft Wastewater Management Plan

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff gave an overview of the Preliminary Draft Wastewater Management Plan. Council members provided the following questions and comments:

- The Watershed Management Plan focuses on infiltration, but the Wastewater Management Plan focuses on returning water to rivers. The plans don't seem to be in line with each other.
- There are new studies from UGA on phosphorus levels at Lake Allatoona – they should help inform the plan.
- Plan needs to better address phosphorus loading issues in Lake Allatoona. The current total allocation is not being used, by wastewater treatment plants, but TMDL limits are already being exceeded.
- Population projections don't justify two new wastewater treatment plants. Capacity doesn't need to increase 100% - the plan over-projects need for new sewers.
- Do not want any more discharges into Lake Allatoona until it is off the 303(d) list. Need to sell effluent water for irrigation reuse. Every gallon we reuse doubles our water supply.
- This is a public sewer plant building plan. Need more integrated and creative solutions to wastewater/water supply/water quality problems.
- Include more public education on phosphorus issues.
- Septic actions don't address septic problems. Need to strengthen 10-3 recommendation.
- Need to make changes to the critical areas table.
- "Consumptive Use" is an incorrect term. Need to redefine terms based on real science, not political rhetoric.
- Plan needs more recommendations for sub-surface irrigation and rain water harvesting because people are going to keep watering their lawns.

Ms. Hinkle encouraged Council members to look for email reminders and to check the Web site for next meeting and plan update information. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.