



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Wastewater / Septic System
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
September 04, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Wastewater & Septic System Technical Coordinating Committee (WW TCC) met on Thursday, September 4, 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

Derek Angel, Cobb County	Billy Lunsford, City of East Point
Chris Browning, Fulton County	Dart Kendall, Ga Onsite WW Assoc.
Michael Carter, Paulding County	Tonja Mincey, Henry County WSA
David Chastant, Sandy Springs	Lance Norris, Cobb County
Todd Cleaver, Gwinnett County	Steve Payne, Town of Braselton
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County	Ron Peters, Gwinnett County
Ernie Earn, GA EPD	Jim Poff, Clayton County Water Authority
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville	Kelly Randall, City of Gainesville
Keith Higgs, DDCWSA	Monica Robinson, Fulton Co Health Dept
Donna W. Joe, Gwinnett County	Jerri Russell, City of Atlanta
Michael Kauffman, City of Villa Rica	Keisha Thorpe, Peachtree City
Patrick Koffman, Cobb/Douglas Co Health Dept	Franklin Wagner, City of Cumming
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA	Emily Wingo, GA EPD
Charles Lambert, DeKalb County	

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group. Mr. Harper noted that no one had signed up to speak during the 10 minute public comment period.

Discussion of Comments Received on Preliminary Draft WW Plan

Jeremy Koch, with Metcalf and Eddy (M&E), reviewed and the TCC discussed comments received on the preliminary drafts. The numbered items below are the comments received and the bulleted items that follow summarize the TCC discussion of that item.

1. Encouraging GA Power to use reuse water for their cooling tower needs.
 - GA Power had investigated this option but found that no additional wastewater treatment occurred as a result.
 - The State Water Plan has a goal of returning flows to surface waters and this reuse option may conflict with that goal.
2. Concern over new wastewater discharges in or above Lake Allatoona:
 - This plan is developed to plan for demand and needs to address future growth. Returning highly treated reclaimed wastewater is important. GA EPD is responsible for issuing permits and determining pollutant loads for a given water body.
3. Concern that the WW Plan needs to account for the WW treatment capacity needs of septage generated from pumped out septic tanks:

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- Septage pumped out of septic systems is highly concentrated and can cause a significant impact to wastewater treatment plants.
 - The consultant will use the projected 2035 septic system usage numbers to generate a potential septage loading create by these septic systems. The consultant will use a seven year pump out frequency to estimate the amount of septage generated. In areas that have a five year pump out requirement the consultant will use that as the interval for those jurisdictions. These numbers will be generated on a county by county basis and not for each and every facility. This information will be shown in a chart and added to the end of Section 3. The consultant will also develop language to add to action item 8.4 to explain the need for septage disposal in communities that permit growth on septic systems.
4. Confusion surrounding the 58% return flow for the Chattahoochee Basin:
 - It was clarified that this guidance from GA EPD was intended to be a basin wide goal and not apply to each jurisdiction individually.
 5. Establishing a specific minimum funding component for infrastructure replacement:
 - The asset management action item language already covers everything needed. There was strong opposition to any specific minimum funding requirement because of the variability of all of the systems.
 6. Stronger language is needed for local governments that do not comply with septic system requirements:
 - The plan already requires communities to provide or plan for disposal of septage.
 - It was noted that the cost that is charged for accepting septage does not reflect the true cost of treatment.
 - It was suggested that this could be addressed by a capacity certification program for septic systems. This would be a program implemented by the Health Department to require that a developer contacts a local wastewater facility and has them agree to accept septage from their septic system development prior to the health department issuing the septic system permits. It could be a recommendation to GA DHR in Section 10.
 7. Septic systems are not 100% consumptive
 - The consultant clarified that the plan does not consider septic systems 100% consumptive and there is no definitive research that identifies what percent consumptive septic systems actually are.
 - It was noted that the presentation given by USGS is not definitive and cannot be used as the final answer and more research still needs to be done.
 8. Comments requesting that private wastewater systems be included in the plan and that they are held to the same requirements as public systems
 - GA EPD noted that private systems do not fall under the criteria to be audited for District plan compliance.
 - A TCC member commented that the plan needs to make private systems accountable just like public wastewater systems. It was suggested that these systems be included in local wastewater management plans.
 9. Private system ordinance language needs to be clarified in Action Item 8.5:
 - The trust indenture language needs to be clear who needs to adopt an ordinance and where it applies.
 - It was suggested that instead of including design and construction criteria in the ordinance itself that the ordinance reference the city or county document detailing this criteria.

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- It was suggested that in Action Item 8.5 that “local wastewater provider” be replaced with “local jurisdiction issuing land disturbing permits”
10. We should not recommend that GA EPD requires private wastewater systems to complete a watershed protection plan:
- It was suggested we add language to the plan stating that private systems could be covered by local watershed assessments.
11. Independent studies are needed on the effects of pharmaceuticals:
- This is a national issue being addressed by US EPA and there are no local resources for doing these studies.
12. Buildings get built without having either a sewer connection or a septic system permit:
- There are already laws that should govern that this type of thing does not happen.

Matt Harper discussed the process for having the consultant make these changes and the schedule for the plan update. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.