



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board  
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES  
October 2, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, October 2, 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  
Mayor Rick Roberts, City of Ball Ground  
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood  
Commissioner Jack Smith, Fayette County  
Mr. Steven Woodruff  
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter

Bartow County Designee: Gene Camp  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel  
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert  
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Peter Frost  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Chris Browning  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Tim Perkins  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. James Scarbrough  
Hall County Designee: Mr. J. Carlyle Cox  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Ken Phillips

**Members NOT Present**

Commissioner Roy Middlebrooks, Rockdale County  
Mr. Gardiner Garrard  
Mr. Bob Fountain

**Basin Advisory Council Officers Present**

Dart Kendall, Etowah BAC Vice-Chair  
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 August 7, 2008 Governing Board meeting were approved without opposition.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap invited several speakers to give status updates and announcements on issues pertinent to the Board.

Pat Stevens gave an update on drought conditions and reservoir levels in the Metro Water District. She highlighted storage levels in reservoirs operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a number of smaller water supply reservoirs throughout the region.

Mayor Boyd Austin gave a report from the Legislative Committee meeting held via conference call on September 29, 2008. He announced the Committee had discussed that several border cities were interested in being removed from the Metro Water District and joining other newly formed Water Planning Councils. He reported the Committee recommended talking to Georgia EPD about the issue and had agreed that water and wastewater connections between border cities and other District jurisdictions must be considered. Mayor Austin reported the Committee suggested opposing any legislative efforts during the 2009 General Assembly to require historical water use on water bills. He also reported the Metro Water District would only be requesting \$250,000 for continuing funds from the state in 2009. Mayor Austin announced David Word would be asked to continue to consult during 2009.

Matt Harper directed the Board to the provided handout on recent and upcoming activities related to the Statewide Water Plan. He announced the draft Water Conservation Implementation Plan and the proposed Rules for Water Planning Councils would be released for public comment in October. Mr. Harper reported that technical consultants had been interviewed for various projects but no formal selection announcements have occurred. He noted that Georgia EPD had submitted candidates to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House for consideration as appointments to the Water Planning Councils. The Water Planning Councils should be in place by the first part of 2009.

Brad Currey spoke briefly to the Board about the need to "keep score" on water conservation progress. He advocated for the Metro Water District to annually track data. Mr. Currey called for the Technical Coordinating Committee to meet and determine the best methods to measure conservation progress.

Birdel Jackson encouraged Board members to review the provided handout on the recently produced *Liquid Assets* documentary. He noted that this program will be shown on public television channels during the month of October.

Chairman Dunlap announced that the tax free holiday on WaterSense products began today and would continue through October 5, 2008. She encouraged Board members to share the information on the provided flyer with others.

Larissa Thomas, Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council Chairperson, provided written and verbal comments on the Metro Water District's planning process. She encouraged the Board to consider three issues in the next round of plan updates: 1) the need for more independent data, 2) the use of vague language in the plans, and 3) lack of consideration of growth.

### **Plan Update Status Report**

Kim Shorter of Metcalf & Eddy presented a status report on the plan update process. She reported that the Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Councils had provided valuable comments on the preliminary drafts of all three plans and revisions had begun based on those comments. She noted, however, that comments from Georgia EPD on the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan had been delayed 5 weeks and a schedule revision may be needed in order to appropriately address those comments once they arrive. Ms. Shorter noted that an executive summary, information on progress to date and implementation costs would be added to each of the three plans. She concluded by reviewing specific comments received on each of the three plans.

### **ACF Water Control Manual Update**

Vern Gwin of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined the meeting via conference call and presented a status report on efforts to update the Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basins. Mr. Gwin provided an overview of each basin and reviewed the history and background of the projects. He reviewed the elements of the Water Control Manuals that will be revised in the update and reviewed the anticipated project timeline and milestones. Mr. Gwin highlighted planned modeling, scoping and communications activities related to the manual updates. He concluded by encouraging everyone to track the update via a new Web site, [www.ACF-Manual.com](http://www.ACF-Manual.com), and to attend a scoping meeting in the Atlanta area in late October. Chairman Dunlap asked if studying the possibility of raising the lake level of Lake Lanier by two feet would be included in this study. Mr. Gwin reported that would not be studied during this process.

### **Regional Toilet Rebate Status Report**

Abby Owens provided an update on the Metro Water District's regional toilet rebate program. She reviewed the list of participating utilities, customer eligibility requirements and the general program process. Mrs. Owens reported that 3,588 rebates have been issued to date and that over 85% of customers are satisfied or extremely satisfied with their overall program experience. She noted that the most common reason for unsatisfied customers is that retailers sometimes provide incorrect information on which toilets are eligible for the rebate. Mrs. Owens also announced that the Metro Water District would increase promotion to retailers, continue recruitment of additional utilities and promote the WaterSense sales tax holiday. Board members asked that staff provide the total amount of money local governments have paid as part of the rebating toilets district wide. Water savings information was also requested to be included in the next status update presented to the Board. Board members also suggested that the staff include this type of information from other utilities in the Metro Water District that have an individual toilet rebate program so District-wide figures can be shown.

**Other Business**

Ellis Cadenhead thanked members of the District staff for helping Coweta County respond to concerns from downstream stakeholders regarding future water supply sources listed in the Preliminary Draft Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan.

The Board members requested having a Board work session before the draft plans are released for public comment. The Board requested that they receive a copy of the letter that is sent to GA EPD regarding the delay in receiving comments from them on the preliminary draft plans. The Board also requested that a thank-you letter be sent to Mr. Vern Gwin for presenting to the Board by conference call.

Chairman Dunlap announced the next Governing Board meeting would be held December 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loudermilk Center Amphitheater.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.