



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board  
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES  
December 4, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, December 4, 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  
Commissioner Sam Olens, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mayor Boyd Austin, City of Dallas  
Mr. Bradley Currey  
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick  
Mayor Rick Roberts, City of Ball Ground  
Mr. Steven Woodruff  
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter  
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp

Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
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**

Mr. William Thomas Craig  
Mr. Bob Fountain  
Mr. Gardiner Garrard  
Commissioner Roy Middlebrooks, Rockdale County  
Mr. Gerald Pouncey  
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood  
Commissioner Jack Smith, Fayette County

**Basin Advisory Council Officers Present**

Mr. Chip Hatcher, Ocmulgee BAC Vice-Chair  
Mr. Dart Kendall, Etowah BAC Vice-Chair  
Mr. John Lawrence, Chattahoochee BAC Chair  
Ms. Larissa Thomas, Ocmulgee BAC Chair  
Ms. 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 October 2, 2008 Governing Board meeting were approved without opposition.

### **Draft Plans for Public Comment**

Kim Shorter with Metcalf & Eddy presented the November Draft Plans to the Board. Ms. Shorter gave an overview of the planning process and highlighted changes to each of the three plans. Regarding the Watershed Management Plan, Board members commented that Georgia EPD had recently announced changes to monitoring requirements under the Phase I MS4 program and asked that a statement be added to the draft plan to clarify that the plan content will be reevaluated to ensure the monitoring requirements in the plan are in line with the state requirements. The Board suggested a study group be formed during the public comment period to research this issue.

Chairman Dunlap referred Board members to the draft resolution to release the draft plans for public comment. She explained that the resolution called for a 45-day public review and comment period from December 15, 2008 – January 31, 2009. She reviewed the list of changes outlined in the resolution that would be made to the plans prior to be published as the “Public Comment Draft Plans.” The Board requested that the following statement be added to the list of changes in the draft resolution: Watershed Management Plan, Monitoring in Section 5: Add a statement that the watershed monitoring will be reevaluated in light of changes to GA EPD’s MS4 monitoring requirements. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution with the above change and then the Board made comments:

- While the draft plans need to be sent out for public comment, several matters need to be addressed before final adoption, including: more details on accomplishments since 2003; more interim goals to meet final 2035 conservation targets; more attention to unaccounted for water; more consistent use of numbers throughout the plan sections; and funding table in the plan needs to be clarified.
- There may not be enough time during the comment period to fully evaluate how to measure conservation results - recommend longer-term view to develop standard methodologies for measuring water savings over the next 2-3 years.

Chairman Dunlap called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The motion was approved without opposition to adopt the resolution to release the draft plans for public comment.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Dunlap announced that the “2008 Water and Wastewater Rates Survey” was now available on the Metro Water District Web site. She also called attention to the 2009 Governing Board meeting schedule included in the meeting materials.

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. Board members commented that utilities need to be aware that the region used 100% of the water flowing into Lake Lanier in 2008 and that the Metro

Water District needs metrics to track water conservation and water use. Ms. Stevens noted that, on a positive note, conservation pricing and toilet rebate measures were being implemented ahead of schedule. Ms. Stevens also noted that the Corps approved the reduced flow target near Peachtree Creek. This change will allow the Corps to reduce the releases from Buford Dam during the winter months.

Chairman Dunlap announced that a group of Governing Board members had recently met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss concerns over the Corps' operation of Lake Lanier. She reported that the Corps provided an overview of the public comment process for the ACF and ACT manual updates and said three years is the normal timeframe for revising a manual. Chairman Dunlap explained that Board members questioned the Corps' "Plan B" if the drought continues. The Corps said there were no alternatives but to draw down Lanier; however there is a 20% chance for Lanier to refill in 2009. Chairman Dunlap noted that it might be time to ask Jerry Barnes to come back and update the Board on the status of the manual updates.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Secretary-Treasurer Birdel Jackson reported that the Finance Committee had favorably reviewed the proposed 2008 budget revision and the Executive Committee recommends the Board adopt the budget revision. Mr. Jackson explained that the contracts expenditure reduction and the \$192,000 obligated contracts carryover for 2009 is a result of the schedule change caused by the delay in receiving GA EPD's comments on the preliminary water and wastewater draft plans. The public education campaign efforts for this year were reduced as a precautionary measure due to the lack of additional state funding. That combined with delayed meeting and printing costs associated with the plan updates that will now be incurred in 2009, account for the \$257,249 general fund carryover for 2009. In addition, \$20,000 of the general fund carryover for 2009 will be designated for participation in an economic impact study of low lake levels of Lake Lanier. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the revised 2008 budget.

Mr. Jackson reported that the Finance Committee had favorably reviewed the proposed distribution of funds awarded through the Metro Water District's federal funding project and the Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed distribution. Board members encouraged all jurisdictions to participate in this funding research effort. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the distribution of funds.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Matt Harper announced that the Executive Committee revised the proposed "Procedures for Addressing the Governing Board" at the committee meeting earlier that morning. Mr. Harper gave an overview of the policy and outlined the three amendments made by the Executive Committee. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the procedures as revised by the Executive Committee. Chairman Dunlap announced the procedures would take affect at the February 2009 meeting.

Mr. Harper announced that the Executive Committee also adopted the proposed “Procedures for Public Comment at Technical Coordinating Committee Meetings.” A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the procedures.

Mr. Harper noted that the Executive Committee had discussed proposed Basin Advisory Council Operating Procedures, but that no action was taken by the committee.

### **Results of GEFA Reservoir Citing Study**

Kevin Kelly of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority presented on the “Georgia Inventory and Survey of Feasible Sites for Water Supply Reservoirs.” Mr. Kelly reviewed the scope of the project, emphasizing that the study did not include field work. He explained the purpose of the study was to review and evaluate existing studies, identify key opportunities for maximizing water supply yield from existing, proposed or projects being considered, and develop a “road map” for future reservoir siting analysis. Mr. Kelly reviewed several maps from the study and encouraged everyone to review the full report on GEFA’s web site. He noted that as a part of the study GEFA reviewed the water systems and reservoirs which had problems during the 2007 drought. He closed by highlighting several other recent water supply activities conducted by GEFA. Mr. Kelly also answered questions from Governing Board members related to GEFA’s involvement in wetlands mitigation and the typical cost of a new reservoir, which the study found to be in the range of \$4-10 million per million gallons of water yield.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Dunlap reiterated that a study group would be formed to develop water conservation metrics to gage future progress. She thanked the staff of the Metro Water District and Metcalf & Eddy for their work on developing the draft plans. Chairman Dunlap closed by wishing everyone safe and happy holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.