



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES
February 5, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, February 5, 2009, 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
Mayor Boyd Austin, City of Dallas
Mr. Bradley Currey
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood
Commissioner Jack Smith, Fayette County
Mr. Steven Woodruff
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp

Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala
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
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Lee Pope

Members NOT Present

Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Bob Fountain

Mr. Gardiner Garrard
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board. Chairman Dunlap noted that four people had requested to speak as a result of the new public comment policy adopted at the last Board meeting.

Public Comment

Chairman Dunlap opened the floor for a ten minute public comment period.

1. Shana Udvardy of the Georgia Conservancy provided comments on the draft Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. She encouraged the Board to reconsider the policy goals and adaptive management practices in the plan; to embrace conservation and reevaluate the DSS model used in the plan; and to include the state's Water Conservation Implementation Plan goals and benchmarks in the plan.
2. Sally Bethea of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper provided comments on the three draft water management plans. She informed the Board that her organization had closely followed the plan update process and spent considerable time developing comments and raising awareness of the Metro Water District plans. She expressed concern about the lack of consideration given to interest groups and citizens in the planning process and encouraged greater creativity and accountability in the plans to immediately address conservation.
3. Joe Cook of the Coosa River Basin Initiative provided comments on the draft Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. He expressed concern about the interbasin transfer (IBT) numbers in the Coosa basin and urged the Board to accurately account for all IBTs in the plan and to provide more narrative on how IBT numbers were calculated and outline specific projects to reduce IBTs.
4. Deborah Sheppard of the Altamaha Riverkeeper provided comments on the three draft water management plans. She informed the Board that she drove over five hours to speak to them as a representative of all downstream neighbors. She urged the Board to consider how the draft plans impact the rest of Georgia and to provide leadership on water management decisions. She expressed concern that the plans are over-reliant on new water sources rather than conservation.

Chairman Dunlap thanked the stakeholders for highlighting the Metro Water District's work and giving us the opportunity to share our water conservation success story.

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

The meeting notes and minutes from the December 4, 2008 Board meeting were approved without opposition. Commissioner Jack Smith abstained from the vote.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap briefly reviewed the meeting handouts and then called on Pat Stevens to present a water conditions status report. Ms. Stevens reviewed current drought conditions and lake levels around the region. She also gave an overview of two-year conditional inflow forecasts for Lake Lanier.

Joy Hinkle provided an update on Basin Advisory Council (BAC) membership. Ms. Hinkle reviewed meeting attendance trends and outlined steps to encourage participation. She encouraged Board members to share the BAC membership application with anyone who might be interested in participating with the Councils. A question was asked about the role of Board members in convening BAC meetings, and Chairman Dunlap encouraged all Board members to be as involved as possible.

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick volunteered to help. Board members requested that the current BAC membership lists be provided in order to help identify potential new members.

Pat Stevens reported on a recent meeting of the Board Working Group on Water Conservation Metrics & Benchmarks. Board members who participated in the working group provided comments:

- Data collection should begin immediately, rather than waiting until next year.
- It is very important to start collecting data now because even if the data is not perfect, we need to understand what kind of data we can actually collect.
- We need quality data that is consistent and not just any data. Data must be QA/QC'd so we know the data is valid.
- Working group needs participation from rural/newly developed areas of the District. Chairman Dunlap appointed Peter Frost to the Working Group.
- Utilize Technical Coordinating Committee meetings as a forum for water suppliers to share their experience with the AWWA ILI methodology for determining water system loss.
- Need to capitalize on the cheap and easy measures and data that can be easily reported.
- Need to report data by system

Abby Owens provided an update on toilet rebate programs in the region. She reviewed the list of the 22 local water providers in the Metro Water District who offer toilet rebates. Ms. Owens noted that 17,800 toilets were rebated in 2008 with an estimated daily water savings of 303,000 gallons. She noted the cost to the water systems was estimated to be \$1.5 million and the cost to the consumers was estimated to be \$2.6 million.

Legislative Committee Report

Chairman Dunlap introduced Mayor Boyd Austin as the Chair of the Legislative Committee. Mayor Austin noted that the Legislative Policy Committee met earlier this week and approved the legislative agenda included in the Board's meeting materials. Mayor Austin reviewed the legislative agenda and gave an overview of the bills the Metro Water District would be supporting or opposing. Mayor Austin clarified that the funding from Local Governments listed on the handout does not include the local governments' cost to implement the plans. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to adopt the legislative agenda. Mayor Austin announced the agenda and a new two-page informational flyer about the Metro Water District would be sent to all members of the General Assembly.

Water Conservation Campaign Presentation

Pat Stevens reminded the Board that education and outreach is a priority of the water management plans. She announced that Grey Advertising had offered over \$65,000 in pro-bono work to develop a new water conservation campaign. She introduced Steven McCormick of Grey Advertising, who gave a presentation on the new "I'm In" water conservation campaign concept. Chairman Dunlap thanked Mr. McCormick for their efforts on developing this campaign concept. Chairman Dunlap then asked for volunteers to assist in the fund raising effort. The following Board members will be working to

raise funds to implement the new campaign: Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood and Mr. Rob Hunter.

Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP)

Alice Miller Keyes of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) gave a presentation on the Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP) that is a part of the State-wide Water Plan process. Ms. Keyes reiterated that the WCIP was designed to cultivate a culture of conservation in Georgia. She explained that the document was organized into three main sections: 1) sector information, 2) benchmarks, and 3) best practices and the document will be used to educate and inform the Regional Planning Councils. Ms. Keyes clarified the WCIP will not be a formal Department of Natural Resources (DNR) rule, but the DNR Board will be briefed in March. Board members asked if there would be another public comment period on the WCIP and Ms. Keyes explained that a long-term public participation plan was being developed and the need for another comment period would be determined by the EPD Director.

Georgia Technology Assessment Protocols (GTAP)

Chairman Dunlap called Steve Haubner to present on the draft Georgia Technology Assessment Protocols (GTAP) for Evaluating Emerging Stormwater Treatment Technologies. Mr. Haubner explained that despite all the recent attention on the drought in Georgia, communities still need to address stormwater issues. He provided background on the reasons needing a process for evaluating commercial stormwater structural controls and noted that there is no mechanism in the state to address this need. Mr. Haubner clarified that the GTAP process is not intended to approve or reject a particular BMP, but serve as an evaluation tool to determine if a vendor's testing results are concurrent with the GTAP protocols. Mr. Haubner reviewed actions to date, which included: draft protocols presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee in May 2007, Board briefed in June 2007, public draft released for comment in April 2008, and protocols finalized in late 2008 based on comments. He concluded by outlining next steps, which include: Board endorsement of the process, publication of final protocols, formation of a Technical Review Committee, and posting information and results on the Metro Water District Web site. Mr. Haubner also noted the need for asking the Attorney General's office to review the protocols before the process begins.

Board members commented that the GTAP document was very well done and asked for clarification on the process and how the protocols might interface with the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to support the protocols and recommend that staff move forward with forming and implementing a Technical Review Committee for the Georgia Technology Assessment Protocols (GTAP) for Evaluating Emerging Stormwater Treatment Technologies.

Plan Update Status

Matt Harper presented a status report on the plan update process. Mr. Harper reminded the Board that the public comment period on the draft water management plans was held from December 15, 2008 –

January 31, 2009. He reported that the Metro Water District received comment letters from over 100 stakeholders and over 450 form letters from Georgia Environmental Action Network users. Mr. Harper explained that staff are working to read through and organize comments and will work with the TCC and BACs on necessary revisions to the plan to address the comments.

Mr. Harper reviewed the major comments received, which include: conservation metrics needed; more water conservation is needed; more assessment of water quality conditions is needed; use of watershed assessment monitoring to apply for long term trend monitoring requirements; and minor revisions to wastewater treatment facility phasing schedules. He concluded by announcing that comments will be reviewed in February and March and proposed changes to the plans will be brought to the Board in April.

Other Business

Chairman Dunlap announced the next Board meeting would take place on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. Board members offered the following final comments:

- Board needs plenty of time to look at all proposed revisions and changes to the draft plans.
- Board members need to be able to review changes to the plans in sections rather than having to review the final document all at once.
- Elected officials need to attend the meetings when the plans are approved. Designees need to work with their elected officials to get them up to speed and comfortable with the policies in the plans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.