



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board
MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES
April 2, 2009

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, April 2, 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. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Bradley Currey
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
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. Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Mr. Bob Fountain
Mr. Gardiner Garrard
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood

Basin Advisory Council Officers Present

Mr. John Lawrence, Chattahoochee 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 February 5, 2009 Board meeting were approved without opposition.

Public Comment

Chairman Dunlap recognized three speakers during the 10-minutes public comment period:

1. Bryan Tolar of the Georgia Agribusiness Council spoke against including the “Return local home rule to local water providers for establishing drought restrictions based on their local conditions and understanding of their water system.” in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Mr. Tolar explained that his organization believes this issue is best handled by the state rather than by multiple water providers.
2. Laura Hartt of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper thanked the Board for its leadership in including the new green infrastructure measure and regional water quality monitoring in the Watershed Management Plan and including metrics in all three plans. She outlined ongoing concerns regarding the Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan, including questions about per capita water demands, lack of “Plan B” for Lake Lanier and concerns over pump and store options for the Chattahoochee basin.
3. Shana Udvardy of the Georgia Conservancy thanked the Board for including metrics in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan and encouraged the Board to finalize the metrics for the Wastewater Management Plan and the Watershed Management Plan. She commented on the review of the DSS model, assumptions in the DSS model, increasing the percent-reduction water use goals, including the Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan, updating pollutant loads, and improving language about threatened and endangered species.

Consideration of Recommended Changes to Draft Plans

Chairman Dunlap called for a change to the agenda to first consider the draft plans. Citizen member Tommy Craig announced he would not participate in the discussion and would abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff reviewed the plan update process and outlined key milestones and involvement from the Board, Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Council members. Mr. Harper explained that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division would be asked to certify the plans in April 2009 so that the Board could adopt the final certified plans in May 2009.

Kim Shorter of AECOM Water thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them and the public throughout the planning process. Ms. Shorter then provided an overview of the proposed changes to each of the three water management plans to address the comments received during the public comment period.

Board members offered the following comments following the presentation of recommended changes:

- Concerned about the timeline for developing metrics for the Wastewater Management and Watershed Management plans.

- Previous concerns about lack of benchmarks and metrics in previous drafts have been adequately addressed by the staff and consultants. Clarify dates for developing metrics in the Wastewater Management and Watershed Management plans to be 12/31/2010 and 12/31/2011 respectively.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution to transmit the plans to Georgia EPD for certification and to approve the list of recommended changes with the following two edits:

1. Deadline for developing wastewater plan metrics is December 31, 2010
2. Deadline for developing watershed plan metrics is December 31, 2011

Discussion on the motion included the following comments from the Board:

- Thank you to consultants and staff for keeping the planning process moving.
- For the next plan update, aim for a more public process for reviewing the DSS model.
- For the next plan update, consider outside review process for evaluating metrics and success factors.

The vote was called and the motion passed without opposition to adopt the resolution and approve the list of changes with the two edits. Mr. Craig abstained from the vote.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap called on Pat Stevens to present a water conditions status report. Ms. Stevens reviewed current drought conditions and lake levels around the region. Board members offered several questions and comments:

- How do changes in drought levels impact operations of Corps reservoirs?
- The Metro Water District should write a letter to Georgia EPD and/or the US Army Corps of Engineers to ask for an extension of reduced flows from Lake Lanier.

A motion was made, seconded and approved without opposition to write a letter of support to extend reduced releases from Buford Dam/Lake Lanier from the end of April to the end of May 2009.

Executive Committee Report

Chairman Dunlap called on Mayor Boyd Austin to give an update on the 2009 legislative agenda. Mayor Austin reviewed the status of bills that the Metro Water District supported and opposed during the session.

Chairman Dunlap announced that the Executive Committee adopted new Basin Advisory Council Operating Procedures at their meeting earlier in the morning. She explained that action by the full Board was not required, but that a copy of the approved procedures was included in the meeting handouts.

Next Meeting

Chairman Dunlap announced the next Board meeting would take place on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. Vice Chairman Olens noted that elected officials who also serve on the Atlanta Regional Commission Board will not be able to attend the May 7, 2009 meeting due to a schedule conflict; he stressed the importance of having a designee present at that meeting to adopt the final plans.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.