



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
EDUCATION  
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary  
June 9, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Members Present:**

Chris Edelstein, City of Griffin  
Scarlett Fuller, City of Gainesville  
Nancy Howard, Fayette County  
Damon Johnson, DeKalb County  
Stephanie Lewis, Cobb County  
Julie Paguin, City of Johns Creek

Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta  
Lisa Robbins, Gwinnett County  
Meredith Rundle, Gwinnett County  
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock  
Emily Wingo, GA EPD  
Seth Yurman, City of Johns Creek

Charlene Njoroge welcomed the Education TCC members. Mrs. Njoroge informed the committee a fellow Education TCC member, John Beale of Clayton County Water Authority, died the previous week while serving our country in Afghanistan. Mrs. Njoroge asked the group to pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of John Beale. Matt Harper announced that this year's Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely Essay Contest would be dedicated to the memory of John Beale. The committee agreed that would be a nice way to honor his memory.

Mrs. Njoroge gave a short overview of the purpose and details of the annual stormwater education report for Phase 1 MS4 permit holders. Mrs. Njoroge sought clarification on how this report would be used by the Phase 1 MS4 communities. Committee members stated they typically cut and paste the annual report provided by the Water District and submit with their annual report to EPD or attach the Water District report as an appendix to their annual report. Mrs. Njoroge informed the group that the Clean Water Campaign annual report is nearing completion and will be sent out shortly.

**Planned and Ongoing Workshops**

The following is a list of outreach activities taking place within the next couple of months throughout the district by water educators:

- City of Gainesville will host a lunch and learn Rain Barrel Workshop on June 18, 2009 and two evening rain barrel workshops on July 14 and August 20.
- Gwinnett County is hosting three workshops during the summer months, Lawn Care with IPM, Xeriscaping and Grease Management Workshop.
- City of Alpharetta will host several Rain Barrel Workshops this summer.
- Fayette County is hosting a Septic Maintenance Workshop on June 23.
- City of Johns Creek is planning a storm drain event and Rivers Alive Cleanup soon.
- DeKalb County is planning a community appreciation event which will include a silent auction and awards ceremony for homeowners associations who demonstrate outstanding community service.

### **Public Awareness Discussion**

The Water District Water Management Plans have been adopted and approved by the Water District Governing Board and the Water District staff is surveying each TCC for their input on materials and training they will need to carry out the requirements outlined in each water management plan.

Mrs. Njoroge started the discussion with the Water Supply and Water Conservation Water Management Plan. Currently, the Metro Water District is using Water Use It Wisely educational materials to meet the education requirements for this plan. The Metro Water District, the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Natural Resources are in the process of developing the "I'm In" campaign. Matt Harper gave a quick overview of the I'm In" concept. "I'm In" is a water conservation public education campaign which includes two main tracks: advertising and community outreach. The "I'm In" concept was created pro bono by Grey Advertising. In addition to the educational materials being prepared as part of the "I'm In" campaign, Mrs. Njoroge asked if there were any training needed for the Metro Water District to provide to TCC members to help meet education requirements of the Water Supply and Water Conservation Water Management Plan. No training for the Water Supply and Water Conservation plan was suggested, but the committee suggested the following education materials:

- Editing the Do-It-Yourself Household Water assessment brochure to support retrofit kits
- Provide a how-to brochure and video on building and using Rain Barrels.
- Water bill education
- Educate local government officials on finding and fixing leaks within government building and water system distribution systems.

Next, the TCC was asked to review the current stormwater education materials and suggest updates and additions to the current stormwater education library. The following suggestions were given by committee members:

- The Clean Water Campaign materials currently do not address the question "why". For example, the brochures should answer why we are asking the public to pick up the after their pets, check their septic system and minimize fertilizer on lawns.
- In addition to answering the question "why", explain and show pictures of effects of not properly maintaining septic system, pouring grease oils and fats down the drain and not picking up after your pet.
- Create the following brochures:
  - Grease Traps- two separate brochures for homeowners and the food industry (bi-lingual)
  - Train the Trainer materials which focuses on stormwater, auto repair and illicit discharge
  - Train the trainer program for local governments to train their staff
  - Variety of Septic Systems and its components
  - How to properly dispose of leaves; the connection between stormwater and leaves disposal
  - Detention Pond Maintenance-homeowners

- Complete Grease Management Program

The Education Committee decided the top priorities for the next year are two folds:

1) revise current Clean Water Campaign materials to answer the question, “why we should make behavior changes” and 2) create a grease management program, complete with bi-lingual brochures, videos and posters.

**Meeting Announcements**

The next education subcommittee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 10AM.**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.