



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
EDUCATION
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary
August 19, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present:

Ellen Bauske, UGA Coop. Ext. Agency
Bob Bourne, Cobb County
Kevin Finney, City of Gainesville
Scarlett Fuller, City of Gainesville
Harold Harbert, GA DNR
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County
Irish Horsey, Gwinnett County
Stephanie Lewis, Cobb County
Jennifer McCoy, Cobb County
Jennifer McLaurin, Fulton County
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County

Shayla Nealy, Clayton County
Alicia Pennie, DeKalb County
Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta
Timothy Pugh, Paulding County
Lisa Robbins, Gwinnett County
Meredith Rundle, Gwinnett County
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock
Michael Strickland, Clayton County
Emily Wingo, GA EPD
Cindy Wolfe, GA DNR

Charlene Njoroge began the meeting by welcoming the Education TCC members, initiating self introductions and giving an overview of the agenda. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss upcoming and ongoing community outreach campaigns and events.

Planned and Ongoing Workshops

The following is a list of outreach activities taking place throughout the region by water educators:

- City of Woodstock is hosting a Rivers Alive event on October 24 and an Adopt-A-Stream event on October 31.
- Fulton County is hosting a Rivers Alive event, Rain Barrel Workshop and Bulky Trash Amnesty Day event. Fulton County is also working on developing educational materials for their Residential F.O.G. Program.
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Green School Program is continuing water conservation lessons through school water audits.
- UGA Cooperative Extension Agency is working on an advanced training program for Master Gardeners.
- DeKalb County is hosting a Rivers Alive event on September 26.
- Clayton County Water Authority and Keep Clayton County Beautiful are hosting a Rivers Alive event on October 17.
- Gwinnett County will host a Tree Planting and Care workshop scheduled for September 30. Gwinnett County will have also a Rain Barrel display in the lobby of the main building of the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources. Gwinnett County has just developed a residential grease management education campaign,

called "Unclog the F.O.G.", which includes a PowerPoint, flyer, brochure, children's activities and promotional items.

- Cobb County is continuing their Green School Program.
- City of Gainesville is developing their recycling outreach campaign. City of Flowery Branch is hosting a community cleanup and City of Gainesville will have a service utility truck, games and activities about the importance of recycling.
- Cherokee County is working with the UGA Cooperative Extension Office to develop education materials on soil testing. The materials will be available on their web for the public to order online.
- City of Alpharetta is planning a series of workshops such as rain barrels, vegetable gardens, U-Fix It Workshop, electronic waste day and Rivers Alive event.
- Paulding County is hosting an Adopt-A-Stream workshop.

Project Wet is in the process of updating their entire program. Near the end of 2009 all facilitators and trainers will need to be recertified in order to become familiar with new Project Wet curriculum. Adopt-A-Stream also has a new website for water data and analysis as of August 1st.

Public Awareness Discussion

Ms. Njoroge encouraged TCC members to promote the Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely Essay Contest within their jurisdictions. This year's essay contest will be dedicated to former Clayton County employee and Education TCC member, John Beale. Ms. Njoroge asked the TCC members to think about other ways we can honor John's memory through our essay contest. The committee suggested including speaking points about John during every award presentation and a scholarship fund in the amount of \$500 for high school students.

Georgia's Water and Energy Efficient Tax Free Holiday is October 1-4. This holiday eliminates state and local tax on WaterSense and Energy Star labeled products priced under \$1500. The Metro Water District will provide promotional materials such as flyers, press releases and information on the Metro Water District website. Ms. Njoroge asked all committee members to use these materials to promote the tax free holiday within their jurisdictions.

Ms. Njoroge reminded the group about the annual Education and Outreach poll the Metro Water District conducts to measure the reach and effectiveness of water conservation and water quality messages among district residents. The poll will be conducted in October. Committee members had the opportunity to review questions and make comments. Marjorie Hicks from Cherokee County requested to add the following question, "Do you do a soil test or have a soil test done before fertilizing your lawn?"

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) has a Public Education Award that is awarded to three utilities (small, medium and large) for outstanding outreach efforts. Ms. Njoroge asked TCC members to please submit an entry by September 4. Award entry forms were distributed to committee members.

Meeting Announcements

The next education subcommittee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 10AM.**

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.