



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
STORMWATER
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
August 20, 2009

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committee (SW TCC) met on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Jill Bazinet, City of Alpharetta
Vanessa Birrell, Fayette County
David Breaden, Cobb County
Billy Buckhalt, City of Snellville
Michael Carter, Paulding County
Ada Caston, City of College Park
Kennisha Collins, City of Peachtree City
Charles Corbin, Austell, Buford, Palmetto,
Union City, Hapeville
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County
Melinda Davies, City of Stockbridge
Catherine Fox, Dallas/Paulding County
Mary Gazaway, Georgia EPD
Jameson Green, City of Villa Rica
Anita Gunnoe, City of Stockbridge
Connie Haynes, Georgia EPD
Lee Hearn, City of McDonough
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County
William Higgins, Cobb County
Rob Hill, City of Newnan
Renee Hoge, Forsyth County
Lamont Kaiser, Bartow County
Richard King, City of Marietta
William Klahr, City of Newnan

Kaaba Johnson, City of East Point
Michelle Lawrence, Fulton County
Brice Martin, Coweta County
James Moore, Henry County
Andy Mycroft, Fulton County
Shelia Nealy, Clayton County WA
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County
Tony Parrott, Fayette County
Steve Payne, Town of Braselton
Timothy Pugh, Paulding County
Bates Rambow, City of Holly Springs
Barbara Seal, Gwinnett County
Daniel Schultz, City of Chamblee
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock
Jack Tanner, City of McDonough
Mike Thomas, Clayton County WA
Julie Todd, City of Atlanta
Beth Vaughn, Town of Tyrone
Tammie Walker, Hall County
Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville
James Wilgus, City of Marietta
Randy Willis, City of Stockbridge
Emily Wingo, Georgia EPD

Steve Haubner of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Discussion of Regional Cooperative Purchase Program for Aerial Photography and GIS Data

Tim Maguire of the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Research Division led a discussion on the possibility of a regional cooperative purchase program for aerial photography and GIS data. The data would include both aerial images as well as LIDAR coverage of the 15 - county Metro Water District.

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Mr. Maguire then introduced Keith McFadden of the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mr. McFadden reviewed the role of the USGS in the purchase agreement and reviewed the technical aspects of the software and opportunities for local governments to buy into the program.

2009 Plan Implementation Survey

Steve Haubner briefly walked the group through the 2009 Plan Implementation Survey that was sent out to local jurisdictions. This survey tracks the Metro Water District's measurement of progress and is used for the Metro Water District's annual report to the Governor's office due by December of each year.

Mr. Haubner explained that this was sent out to the primary contact for the Watershed Plan in each jurisdiction and that TCC members should coordinate with District staff if they are the responsible party and didn't receive the survey. As the deadline for submittal is September 1, local governments are being asked to submit their completed survey as soon as possible.

Georgia Technology Assistance Protocols (GTAP) Update

Steve Haubner informed the group that comments on the GTAP guidance on proprietary stormwater structural control testing had been received from the Georgia Attorney General's office and that staff were making final revisions for publication of the protocols. Mr. Haubner said that both TCC members and product vendors would receive an email as soon as it is available on the Metro Water District website.

Stormwater Asset Management Presentation and Discussion

Based upon the discussion at the previous meeting concerning training or information needs on Watershed Management Plan implementation, Mr. Haubner said that asset management was one of the key topics mentioned. He then introduced Peter Oram from AECOM, Barbara Seal from Gwinnett County and Rick Brownlow from CH2M Hill to provide an overview of stormwater asset management and key issues for local governments.

Peter Oram gave an introduction to the concept of asset management and how it is based on the lifecycle of a community's infrastructure. An asset management approach recognizes that all infrastructure components have a finite lifespan and focuses on what, when and how maintenance and eventual replacement is undertaken. Often this is done by determining the level of service requirements for various parts of the system and then evaluating the most effective operations and maintenance and capital improvements strategies. This requires an asset conditions assessment or inventory, as well as some method of evaluating likelihood and consequences of failure of an asset.

Barbara Seal shared the experiences of Gwinnett County which has been moving to an asset management approach for their stormwater infrastructure. After looking at an asset management program originally geared for wastewater systems, they realized that stormwater was a "different animal." They used a committee to develop a risk management model that defined the criteria that affected premature failure. This included both the likelihood criteria (will it fail soon?) as well as the consequences criteria (what happens if it fails). By calculating and plotting likeliness against consequence scores, Gwinnett County developed a methodology for determining relative risk of asset failure which will drive their maintenance and replacement efforts. Ms. Seal also touched upon the importance of "quality vs. quantity" in asset inspections, and that if the County is going to do an inspection they would rather do an informative inspection even if it is a more expensive endeavor.

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Finally, Rick Brownlow presented the work that CH2M Hill is currently doing with the City of Sandy Springs. The City looked at the requirements under both the Phase II MS4 program and the Metro Water District Watershed Plan to drive their asset management approach which includes an inventory and visual inspections, floodplain mapping and watershed improvement planning. Citizen requests are another important source of information and component for project prioritization. Sandy Springs uses a computer maintenance management system (CMMS) to help develop and evaluate a maintenance list and capital improvements project list.

Mr. Brownlow also discussed a basis for setting priorities that included the two basic elements of reducing risk and minimizing costs. Looking at both elements together can provide communities with a cost-benefit analysis for capital projects. He also explained that often times most of the difficult work is determining the relative weighting of factors used in the analysis, as these can often have a dramatic effect on the outcome of these analyses. Mr. Brownlow stressed that one size does not fit all in asset management programs and, though while it may look daunting, communities should take the plunge in moving to stormwater asset management as it will be most cost effective for them in the long term.

Steve Haubner concluded the discussion by asking for any further topics that TCC members would like elaborated on or included in a longer workshop or seminar on asset management.