



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER/OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
October 20, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Elachee Nature Science Center in Gainesville, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Drew Addison
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Tim Merritt
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.

Oconee BAC Members Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Steve Payne, Braselton Utilities

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

Carroll Castleberry
Mary Jones
Larry Long
Val Perry, BAC Chair
Ike Swofford

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Chris Yancey

Non Lanier/Oconee BAC Members Present

Robert Evans, Property Creations, Inc.

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist

Welcome and Introductions

Heather Moody introduced Ms. Kit Dunlap, Chairman of the Metro Water District Board, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Board. Ms. Dunlap voiced concern that the recent rains and full lake will take attention away from the water crisis and the need to conserve water. She also asked the group to complete the 1071 coalition survey about Lake Lanier for residents and businesses.

About the Metro Water District

Heather Moody gave a brief presentation on key aspects of the Metro Water District. She first explained where the District acquires its funding. Ms. Moody then provided more information on the Implementation Survey process and described the structure of the Annual Report. Lastly, she

gave members an overview of the Georgia EPD audit process and how it relates to Metro Water District plan enforcement.

A BAC member asked who receives the Implementation Surveys. Matt Harper explained that every local jurisdiction in the District will receive the stormwater survey, wastewater providers will receive the wastewater survey and water providers will receive the water supply and water conservation survey. He went on to say that these surveys are designed to gauge levels of plan implementation among the jurisdictions and are very different from the Georgia EPD audit process.

Review of the Watershed Management Plan

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff reviewed the newly adopted Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Harper presented an overview of key watershed management issues and showed the BAC where to find specific information in the Plan. All BAC members were provided with a hard copy of the District's Watershed Management Plan.

A member asked for clarification of the intentions behind the optional measures included in the plan. Matt Harper explained that the optional measures give the plan more flexibility if certain jurisdictions want to go a step further.

A question was raised regarding how the District addresses the issue of differing levels of water services provided by the jurisdictions within a county. Matt Harper said that Service Delivery Agreements are often used by the jurisdictions as a way to pool their resources. The Council member also asked if local jurisdictions still comply with the plans when their water services are provided by someone else. Mr. Harper stated that if a jurisdiction has no permits and never seeks federal funding through GEFA, they will not be audited by Georgia EPD for plan compliance. However, the District plans do capture nearly 100% of the population in the 15 county area.

A BAC member asked for a definition of impairment due to biota as written in the Watershed Management Plan. Matt Harper explained that biota impacted streams mean they have a reduced capacity to support aquatic life and that the condition usually results from heavy sedimentation. A section of stream is determined to be impacted through chemical and biological monitoring conducted primarily by Georgia EPD.

A member asked about fertilizer application training requirements for landscape management companies. A BAC member who works in the green industry replied that there is a state test to become a licensed as a lawn chemical applicator and this test must be taken yearly. The member advised citizens to call the landscape management company if they witness misapplication of fertilizer.

Discussion

BAC Member and ACF Stakeholders interim president Wilton Rooks updated the Council on the Stakeholder group's activities and timeline.

Heather Moody announced that new members were still being sought for the Lanier and Oconee BACs because the groups are not yet filled to capacity. She stated that applications for 2010

membership need to be received by mid November to be approved by the Metro Water District Board at their next meeting.

Ideas were also discussed for future BAC meetings. Suggestions included:

- Holding a panel discussion of local government water professionals
- The District's Legislative Agenda
- Implementation Report results
- Future metrics for the Implementation Surveys

Facility Tour

Natural Resource Manager Cynthia Taylor gave a presentation about Elachee Nature Science Center's work to restore the 2,700-acre Chicopee Woods Watershed. She outlined the scope of the project, described their stream restoration methods and shared the results of their efforts. Ms. Taylor then led the group outside to show the Council Elachee's rain gardens and rainwater catchment system.