



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
October 21, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Lithia Springs, GA.

Members Present

Femi Adesanya
Patty Berkovitz, Watershed Al. of Sandy Springs
Alan Bowling, Cobb S&WC District
Ellis Cadenhead, Coweta W&S Authority
Steven Culp, Veolia Water NA
Matthew Floyd
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Jill Glascock
Patrick Heerdt
Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County
F. Keith Laguaite
Jo Ann Macrina, Dekalb County
Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group
William Millkey
Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.
Jason O'Rourke, Council for Quality Growth
James Patterson, Columbus Water Works
K. Scott Robertson, Sweetwater Environmental
George Taylor Jr., Oglethorpe Power Corp.
Shana Udvardy, The Georgia Conservancy
Butch Watson III, Croy Engineering

Keith Bentley, Keep Smyrna Beautiful
Rick Blackwell, Let's Go Fishing USA
Bob Bunker, RM Bunker Associates LLC
Howard Carson Jr., Carson Developments, Inc.
Jared Daley
Steve Foster
Martin George
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Warren Howe
Mike Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica
John Lawrence, BAC Chair
George Martin, Georgia Power
Charles McMullen III
Michael Morton
John Oliver, URS Corporation
Glenn Page
Catherine Pruitt, Stevenson & Palmer Eng.
Bob Sutton, Lake Allatoona Preservation Auth.
Billy Turner
Wayne Waldrip, Keep Smyrna Beautiful
Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica

Members Not Present

Ginger Blackstone, GA Dept. of Labor
William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors
Lee Duncan
Travis Eugene Henry, Douglas Farm Bureau
Edward Klaas, II, Southern Sprinkler Systems
James Martell
Eric Olson

Harry Boone
Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning Enter's Inc.
Katherine Feeman, Big Trees Forest Preserve
Gene Kelly
James Kurtz, NAMAR- Real Estate
Doug Miell
Larry Phillips

Dan Reeves, Hunter Industries
Yomi Sholarin, Comm. Board of Realtors
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
Stacey Williams, Ken Harris and Asso. Realty
Kenneth Wood, Planners and Engineers Coll.

Wes Rogers
Martin Smith
Bruce Widener, GA Onsite WW Assoc.
Albert M. Wilson III
Mary Kay Woodworth

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Steve Haubner, Principal Water Resources Engineer
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist

Welcome and Introductions

Heather Moody of the Metro Water District staff introduced Mr. Peter Frost, Douglas County Board Alternate, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board. He thanked the BAC members for being involved in the process. He noted that the Metro Water District leadership is supportive of this BAC process and also appreciates everyone's participation.

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 if the Annual Report would include the findings of the Governor's task force. Matt Harper explained that the Task Force is separate from the District and that the Annual Report will focus only on District's activities. Mr. Harper added that some Metro Water District officials are part of the Task Force.

BAC member Glenn Page also told the council more about the ACF Stakeholders group and its effort to recruit interested members from all parts of the ACF basin.

Review of the Watershed Management Plan

Steve Haubner of the Metro Water District staff reviewed the newly adopted Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Haubner 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 BAC member asked if the recent flooding is being considered a once in a lifetime event or if it revealed that upkeep and infrastructure was inadequate? Steve Haubner replied that although this was an extremely rare storm event, there were signs that certain actions could have been taken to lessen the impact of the flooding.

A question was raised asking if there will be a uniform approach to stormwater utility fees for the metro area in the future. Steve Haubner answered that the Metro Water District provides guidance to the jurisdictions but does not tell a community whether or not to set up a stormwater utility. He added that the utility fee development process is very specific to the needs of each community.

A member asked if it is possible for a jurisdiction to opt out of a certain sub-task in the plan and do something similar instead. Steve Haubner said that would be up to the EPD auditor to decide through a conversation with that local government. Jurisdictions are required to adopt each ordinance or something equally effective. In some cases there is a lot of flexibility in the plan but in other cases the ordinance is very specific.

In response to a question inquiring about the availability of educational presentations for adult groups focusing on the three plans, Matt Harper said that speakers are available by contacting the District.

In terms of overall water quality impacts on basin, is there anything in the watershed management plan that attempts to address broad issues like flooding and the drought cycle. Steve Haubner replied that the State is addressing those kinds of macro watershed assessment issues and will be working on them as part of the Statewide Water Planning Process. He added that the results will be released in January 2010.

A member asked for an update on the timeline for the development of new stormwater metrics. Steve Haubner said that the District has started working with the TCCs to develop those metrics and will talk about them with the BACs in detail once the process is further along. The new watershed metrics will be completed no later than the end of 2011.

Facility Tour

Sweetwater Creek State Park Ranger Don Scarborough gave the BAC members an enlightening tour of the Park's new LEED Platinum certified Visitor Center. Our guide highlighted many of the building's water conserving features including the rainwater harvesting and reuse system, the composting toilets and the green roof.