



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Meeting Notes and Minutes
December 3, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Ms. Kit Dunlap, Chairman
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor Boyd Austin
Mr. Brad Currey
Mr. Jack Elkins
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mayor Ken Steele
City of Atlanta Designee: Mr. Rob Hunter
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Jim Stafford
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala

Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Peter Frost
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Jon Heard
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Chris Browning
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough
Hall County Designee: Mr. Carlyle Cox
Henry County Designee: Mr. Don McKenzie
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Bob Fountain
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood
Mr. Steven Woodruff

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order. The meeting notes and minutes from the September 3, 2009 Board meeting were approved without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Dunlap invited Mrs. Beale to come forward to receive a plaque dedicating the 2009 Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely Essay Contest to her husband Sergeant First Class John C. Beale. John Beale was an employee of the Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) and a member of the Georgia Army National Guard who was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

John was an integral part of the CCWA's public education efforts. He enjoyed speaking to students of all ages about the cycle of water, careers in the water industry and preventing stormwater pollution. Mrs. Beale thanked the Board for honoring her husband's memory and she expressed how much John enjoyed working on stormwater education.

Chairman Dunlap informed the Board that EPD Director Allen Barnes was called away at the last minute and arrangements will be made to have him come to a future Board meeting. She then directed the Board members to their meeting packet and informed them about the public comment period for the Corps' NOI to update the water control manual for the ACF basin. She also talked about the upcoming joint water planning council meetings and told the Board to contact Matt Harper if they are interested in attending these meetings.

Chairman Dunlap then introduced Ms. Grace Trimble with ARC's Communication Department to hear an update on the "I'm In" water conservation educational campaign. Ms. Trimble reviewed the fund raising efforts to date and provided the Board with a copy of the presentation being used to talk about the campaign to potential donors. She then showed a video to the Board which was produced by Grey Advertising to explain the idea of the campaign. Chairman Dunlap thanked Ms. Trimble and Grey for their efforts. The Board liked the idea of the campaign and suggested that a part of the campaign focus on school aged children.

Executive Committee Report

Chairman Dunlap asked Mr. Birdel Jackson to review the proposed 2009 year end budget revision. Mr. Jackson referred the committee members to a memo dated December 2, 2009 in their meeting packet. Mr. Jackson explained that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board adopt this budget revision. A board member asked if the recent ACF court ruling would require a plan update in 2010 and the board was told that the plans may be updated in coming years but not in 2010. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2009 year end budget revision. The motion passed without opposition.

Chairman Dunlap asked Mayor Board Austin, the Chair of the Legislative Policy Committee to provide an update on proposed legislation which may affect the District. Mayor Austin referred the Committee to the November 9, 2009 Legislative Policy Committee meeting summary and 2010 Legislative Agenda included in their meeting packet. Mayor Austin reviewed the status of legislation that was included on the District's 2009 Legislative Agenda as well as reviewing new position statements for the 2010 Legislative Session. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2010 Legislative Agenda. The motion passed without opposition.

Water Contingency Task Force

Chairman Dunlap then introduced Mr. Tim Lowe, the Co-Chair of the Governor's Water Contingency Task Force to present the findings of the task force. Mr. Lowe expressed that the economic impact of Judge Magnuson's ruling will be felt statewide and that all of Georgia needs to understand this is not just a Metro Atlanta problem. He commented that the Metro Atlanta

area is already doing good work on water conservation but thought the entire state needs to push the envelope on doing more conservation.

A board member asked if there is any flexibility with the Judge's time frame of 2012. Mr. Lowe explained that was not a focus of the task force. Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick commented that the task force work was only possible because of all the efforts the District has made in water planning. Mayor Austin commented that the District has made great strides in water conservation and Mr. Lowe agreed that the District is a model for the rest of the state. Mr. Lowe clarified that while conservation is important we cannot solve the water supply problem without identifying new sources of water. One board member commented that the task force is looking at what more the District can add to an already strong conservation campaign. Ms. Pat Stevens informed the Board that the water suppliers affected by the ruling are working on additional water conservation measures. Ms. Stevens said that more information about the measures will be brought to the Board next year.

Chairman Dunlap thanked Mr. Lowe for his leadership on the task force.

Historical Flood of 2009

Chairman Dunlap then introduced Mr. Mark Landers with USGS to give an assessment of the recent record floods. Mr. Landers explained to the Board that the flooding was so severe that it exceeded a 500 year flood. He explained that in terms of magnitude of runoff per square mile that this was one of the top five storms that has occurred nationwide in the last 100 years. He further remarked that nearly 17,000 dwellings were impacted and 80% of those homes were outside the 100 year flood plain.

Mr. Landers spoke about the impact paved surfaces have on the amount of runoff a stream receives. He noted that paved surfaces impact stream flow in normal rain conditions but once you reach the 100 year flood rainfall amounts much of the forest land acts like a paved surface because the soil is so saturated. He also commented that the saturated runoff rates are the same on all lands and not higher in urban areas. Mr. Landers talked about the need for real time flood tracking to better educate homeowners about where they live in relation to the flood stage for their nearby waterway. Ms. Pat Stevens asked is there is anything the District can do to help. Mr. Landers appreciated the offer but they are in the early stages of planning and the next steps are not yet defined. Chairman Dunlap thanked Mr. Landers for his time and work on this critical issue.

Update from GA EPD on Resource Assessments

Chairman Dunlap introduced Mr. Tim Cash to give the Board an update on the resource assessments being produced as part of the State Water Plan process. He explained that there are three resource assessments being developed: surface water quality, surface water quantity, and groundwater availability. He informed the Board that the water planning councils will meet jointly in January 2010 to hear the findings of the current resource assessments. Later in the

spring there will be another round of joint meetings to discuss the future conditions resource assessments. GA EPD will formally announce these meetings soon and will send out more meeting details at that time.

The Board asked how EPD is determining how much water to leave in the stream and who makes these decisions. Mr. Cash responded that they are using existing requirements where available and the decisions for the non-regulated sections have not yet been made. Another Board member asked if they are looking at groundwater recharge and Mr. Cash explained that this is included in the groundwater availability resource assessment.

Mr. Cash explained that the other councils have met four times and they have all established bylaws, vision statements and signed an MOA with GA EPD and GA DCA. He stated that the water planning council plans are all scheduled to be completed by summer 2011. Chairman Dunlap thanked Mr. Cash for the update.

Update on TCC Meeting Discussion Topics

Ms. Pat Stevens gave the Board an update on the researching home owner's association requirements regarding outdoor water use. Ms. Stevens informed the Board that the research does not indicate a need to recommend any legislative changes at this time.

Next Meeting

Chairman Dunlap reminded the Board that the BAC meeting summaries were included in their packet and encouraged them to read those summaries. She announced the next Board meeting would take place on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.