



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Meeting Notes and Minutes
September 2, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, September 2, 2010 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
Mayor Boyd Austin, Vice Chair
Hon. Buzz Ahrens
Hon. Tim Lee
Mayor Ken Steele
Mr. Brad Currey
Mr. William Thomas Craig
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Tim Thoms

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Ed Mullinax
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Peter Frost
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Jon Heard
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough
Hall County Designee: Mr. J. Carlyle Cox
Henry County Designee: Mr. Don McKenzie
Rockdale County Designee: Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Hon. John Eaves
Mayor Kasim Reed
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Bob Fountain
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order. The meeting notes and minutes from the July 3, 2010 Board meeting were approved.

Public Comment

Ms. Laura Hartt, Water Policy Director for the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper expressed her enthusiasm for the water conservation focus of the recent Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. She stated that the Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper is fully supportive of the Metro Water District's recommendation of additional water conservation measures. She encouraged the Governing Board to put the package out for public comment to demonstrate that the Region is making good faith efforts to conserve water.

Jenny Hoffner, Director of the Water Supply Program for American Rivers stated that aggressive water efficiency is a smart way to manage water. She said that the Metro Water District is a leader and has worked for years to advance conservation efforts. However, in light of the Judge Magnuson ruling, the region is mandated to do more. To promote good relations and show we are doing all we can, Ms. Hoffner encouraged the Board to take the next step and put the additional water conservation measures out for public comment.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kit Dunlap announced that three new members had joined the Governing Board since the previous meeting. Mr. Tim Thoms was appointed by the Speaker of the House to fill the board seat left vacant by the passing of Mr. Jack Elkins. Chairman Dunlap also welcomed new Cobb County Commission Chairman Tim Lee and new Cherokee County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens.

Ms. Pat Stevens gave an update on Metro Water District staff member Matt Harper. She reported that Matt is recovering from surgery and encouraged everyone to visit his Caring Bridge website to express their support. Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick commended Mr. Harper for his valuable work with the Joint Water Planning Councils. She said that the other Water Councils have been extremely complimentary of the Metro Water District. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that their positive impression was a direct result of Mr. Harper's outreach efforts and that his work has gone a long way to bridge the gap between the Metro Water District and the other Water Councils.

Mr. Lewis Jones, with King & Spalding, gave the Board an update on the Tri-State Litigation. He described the two phases of the litigation; Phase 1 dealing with the operation of Lake Lanier for water supply and Phase 2 dealing with endangered species. He noted that the Phase 1 decision by Judge Magnuson was still under appeal and the next step would be for the Court to hear oral arguments. In regards to the Phase 2 ruling, on July 21, 2010, Judge Magnuson rejected challenges brought under the Endangered Species Act saying that Florida's claims of harm were not adequately proven.

Chairman Dunlap referred the Board members to a handout regarding low cost outreach activities. She advised everyone to read over the compiled suggestions and to contact the Metro Water District staff with any additions or comments.

Kit Dunlap requested a motion to approve Kyle Breedlove's application to join the Oconee Basin Advisory Council. The motion passed without opposition and Ms. Dunlap thanked Mr. Webb for his willingness to serve.

Referencing a handout from Georgia EPD included in the meeting packet, Chairman Dunlap said volunteers would be needed to attend the Regional Water Councils Joint Meeting on October 6, 2010. Pat Stevens said that Metro Water District staff would send a follow-up email to request names of participants and panel topic suggestions.

Update on GA EPD Activities

Linda MacGregor, GA EPD Watershed Protection Branch Chief provided an update on Georgia's water management activities. Ms. Macgregor explained that SB370 emphasizes the imminent need to create a culture of water conservation in Georgia and for all agencies to work together toward that goal. She stated that the Metro Water District and its water providers are leaders in water conservation and she is encouraged that we are taking additional steps. GA EPD appreciates the Metro Water District's efforts to reach out to the other water planning councils and encouraged us to continue attending the Regional Water Planning Council meetings.

Update on GEFA Activities

Greg Mason, GEFA Chief Operating Officer presented an overview of GEFA services and provided an update on levels of job creation and programmatic activity funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mr. Mason also discussed the passing of Senate Bill 380, the Water System Interconnection, Redundancy and Reliability Act. He explained that it calls for a thorough and detailed engineering study to develop an emergency water supply plan for the Metro Water District. Proposals are due October 1 and the planned contract start date is December 2010.

Recommendation to Request Public Comment on Additional Water Conservation Measures

Pat Stevens directed the Board to a memo in the packet detailing the Additional Water Conservation Measures recommended for consideration as plan amendments to the Metro Water District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan. Ms. Stevens discussed the formation of the Chattahoochee-Lanier Working Group and outlined the deliberation process used to develop the recommendations. She explained that most of the recommendations would only apply to water providers whose supply would be limited by the Judge Magnuson ruling. The list does include two District-wide conservation measures and additional education measures to be implemented by Metro Water District staff.

Charles Lambert with DeKalb County Watershed Management gave the board an overview of DeKalb County's Toilet Retrofit on Reconnect Program. He explained the history and purpose of the program and provided details about how the program is administered. Although there was initial opposition to the program, it is now generally well-accepted by residents. It has resulted in 2,194 internal and over 2,200 external county inspection requests.

Kathy Nguyen from Cobb County Water System spoke to the Board about the WaterSense New Homes program. She explained that WaterSense is a national program that reduces water use in single-family new homes by 20% through indoor and outdoor water saving strategies. The program also aims to educate homeowners about continuing water-efficient behaviors and encourages community infrastructure savings. WaterSense is the first national new home labeling program for water efficiency and is backed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Metro Water District has convened a small group of technical experts to produce two guidance documents specific to metro Atlanta. Ms. Nguyen stated that the program has excellent potential to grow and help preserve the region's water resources while still providing the quality of life that residents desire.

Pat Stevens said the Metro Water District staff is recommending that the measures be made available for public comment from September 17th – October 22nd. She reminded the Board that they were not voting to approve the specific measures, only to approve releasing the package for public comment. The motion passed without opposition.

Draft Car Wash Ordinance

Ms. Stevens informed the group that comments received during the public comment period for the draft Model Car Wash Ordinance could be found in the meeting packet. Based on the comments, three changes were made to the ordinance. First, in-bay car washes are exempt from this ordinance because they are typically attached to convenience stores/gas stations, wash significantly fewer cars than stand alone car washes and are typically not attended. A number of comments received suggested that a requirement be placed on the amount of recycled water; therefore, the language “A minimum of 50% of water utilized will be recycled” was added to Section 3.1. Finally, “regardless of the water source” was moved to the end of Section 1.1.1 for clarification purposes. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the Car Wash Model Ordinance. The motion was voted on and passed with 19 Board members for and two against.

Report on Ongoing Metro Water District Planning Activities

Mr. Brad Currey updated the Board on the activities of the ACF Stakeholders group. He said they have been busy assembling facts and looking at water resource management models. The group is also looking into various funding proposals and reaching out to experts from area universities to broaden the group’s research potential. Mr. Currey said great progress is being made.

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, December 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.