



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
October 22, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Friday, October 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rockdale County Water Resources Central Maintenance Facility in Conyers, Georgia.

**Members Present**

Cassandra Barber  
Jennifer Christman, CERM  
Scott Cole, Sr.  
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater  
Tom Harrison, H2O Reps  
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Farm Bureau  
Chee Hill  
Shirley House

Angel Jones, Dekalb Co Roads Drainage  
Tonja Halton Mincey, Henry Co W&SA  
Petra Parker, Atlanta Board of Realtors  
Luis Torres  
Mike Walker, U&R Planning Solutions  
Steve Williams, Building Greener LLC  
Kirk Wimber, Orenco

**Members Not Present**

Larry Allen  
Michael Blackburn  
Jimmy Carter, Jr.  
Richard Edinger, Jr.  
Glenn Fountain, Southwest Water - Thomaston  
Deirdre Faye Lyons-Gary, League of Women Voters  
Wayne Haynie, Jordan, Jones & Goulding Inc.  
Lawrence Kaiser, CIS, Inc.

Mark Landers, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jay Marlow  
Martin McElhenny  
Vikki McReynolds, BAC Chair  
Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.  
Jack Tanner, City of McDonough  
Susan Varlamoff, UGA

**Non Ocmulgee BAC Members Present**

Tony Gotvald, USGS  
Russell Tinning, GA Soil & Water Conservation Commission

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Marisa Duff, Senior Environmental Planner  
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist  
Pat Stevens, Division Chief

**Welcome and Introductions**

Heather Moody with the Metro Water District welcomed the group and introduced Mr. Terrell Gibbs, Rockdale County Board Designee, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

### **Local Government Presentation**

Mr. Terrell Gibbs told the group about Rockdale County's latest plant improvement projects and water conservation initiatives. Mr. Gibbs described a process change-over at the Quigg Wastewater Treatment Plant that will increase the capacity to 8mgd by installing a CATABOL system. The CATABOL process is a strongly anaerobic system that produces fewer solids and requires less energy than traditional treatment systems. Rockdale County water will also install pressure reducing valves designed to reduce line breakage and will add pump stations to better manage their water distribution system.

BAC members had the following questions and comments during the presentation:

- How will the system improvement plans affect development in the County? *There is a comprehensive master planning process underway. Population numbers are lower than projected because of the recession.*
- Wouldn't the proposed MARTA station in Rockdale County affect growth? *There has been some conversation about bring mass transit to Rockdale. If that occurs, it will be reflected in the master plan.*
- Isn't there a moratorium on sewer taps in the County? *Yes, but the Quigg expansion will allow that moratorium to be lifted.*
- How many water system leaks have been identified and fixed. *Of the work order issued, approximately 98% have been remedied.*
- There has been talk of pumping treated effluent back to Pointer Lake. Has the large amount of silt in the lake affected capacity? *Yes, once the Quigg plant expands to 8mgd there is a recommendation to treat some water to reuse standards and discharge it to the lake headwaters. The estimated capacity loss due to silting is 15 to 20 percent. The county is looking into options for dredging and/or installing silt barriers.*
- Does the County require that new construction hook to public sewer? *No, currently because of limited capacity there is a moratorium on hooking to public sewer. There is currently no new development.*
- Are there any private package plants in the County? *Yes, but they are owned by Rockdale County and are scheduled to go offline in the next five years.*
- How effective are the porous pavers in front of this building? *There is no pooling or runoff where they are installed. It was cost prohibitive to install them throughout the parking area and they can only be used where there is no traffic from heavy trucks.*
- Does the County's stormwater fee go into the general fund? *No, it goes into a separate enterprise fund that is used primarily for road drainage, stormwater treatment, NPDS compliance and infrastructure maintenance.*
- Are there ways for homeowners to reduce their stormwater fees? *Yes, there is a credit system and special manual that lists things homeowners can do.*
- Has the stormwater utility been successful? *As successful as it can be. There are over 20,000 structures in the right of way and miles of pipe to maintain. We are playing catch-up.*
- Are curb and gutters required under the county code? *No, ditches and swales are also allowed.*
- When will the master plan be ready? *In the first quarter of 2011.*

- Dose Rockdale purchase any water from other jurisdictions? *No, we are completely self-sufficient.*
- Does Rockdale sell any water to other jurisdictions? *No but we would like to if the opportunities become available.*
- How was Rockdale County affected by the flooding? *Most of the damaged infrastructure was already scheduled to be replaced.*
- Is Rockdale County using any devices to capture trash and debris at inlets? *Not currently because of the cost and the amount of labor required to maintain them.*

### **BAC Chairman Elections**

There were four members who expressed interest in running for Chairman of the Ocmulgee BAC. Statements from the four candidates had been emailed to the group for review prior to the meeting. Heather Moody invited the BAC Chair candidates to say a few words to the Council prior to voting. Ballots were cast and Mike Walker was voted in as the new Chair of the Coosa/Etowah BAC. Mr. Walker will serve a one year term.

### **Update on Tri-State Litigation**

Pat Stevens with the Metro Water District provided members with an update on recent developments in the Tri-State Water Wars Litigation. Ms. Stevens discussed the status of the Phase 1 Appeal, Judge Magnuson's Phase 2 Ruling and the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to reinitiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

BAC members had the following questions and comments during the discussion:

- Has the ARC looked at population growth numbers in the event the ruling is enforced? *There will be limited growth in that scenario. The 2040 plan does take it under consideration.*
- Is there an infrastructure plan that addresses the potential water shortage? *The Georgia Parties are looking for alternative storage sites and potential strategies to share water.*
- Has there been a plan with Henry, Clayton and Rockdale to see how they can share water with the counties that would be affected by the ruling? *A GEFA study is looking at this. However, the scale difference between the large and small counties is so great that it isn't a practical solution.*

### **Public Comment Period on Additional Water Conservation Measures**

Pat Stevens with the Metro Water District presented an overview 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.

BAC members had the following questions and comments during the discussion:

- Rockdale County is replacing older meters with Neptune meters. They can be read via radio signals and customer service will be notified of unusually high use readings within 24 hours.

- What about older, low-income neighborhoods that may need financial assistance? *City of Atlanta has the Care and Share program that will replace old inefficient fixtures free of charge.*
- What about public fire hydrants? *Water providers already check them and train fire fighters on proper use.*
- When you crunch the numbers, how much water can be saved by these additional measures? *These are long-term measures, so all the savings won't be apparent right away. A conservative estimate is 50 mgd saved in the Chattahoochee basin by 2035.*
- Why are rebate incentives for high-efficiency washing machines not included? *They were considered but the water savings did not justify the cost. Another option could be a state mandate that only Energy Star appliances can be purchased in Georgia.*
- What about placing a purchase surcharge on inefficient fixtures and appliances? *Good idea.*
- Do any of these measures address wells or ground water? *No, our major municipal systems must rely on surface water. The District did recommend that state drought restrictions also apply to private well users.*
- Will these new measures also be tied into a jurisdiction's ability to get permits as is done with the other plan measures? *Yes, they will be incorporated into the permitting process.*
- How will all the jurisdictions in the District be made aware of these new requirements? *Once the Board approves the new measures, Georgia EPD must approve them and then they will become plan amendments. At that time, all of the jurisdictions in the Metro Water District will be notified of any changes that apply to them.*

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2011. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.