



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
GOVERNING BOARD  
Meeting Notes and Minutes  
June 2, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 2, 2011 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  
Hon. Boyd Austin, Vice Chair  
Hon. Buzz Ahrens  
Hon. Elizabeth 'BJ' Mathis  
Mr. William Thomas Craig  
Mr. Brad Currey  
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Tim Thoms  
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Ed Mullinax  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas

Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel  
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert  
Fayette County Designee: Mr. Don Easterbrook  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Jon Heard  
Fulton County Designee: Ms. Angela Parker  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough  
Hall County Designee: Mr. Carlyle Cox  
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks

**Members Not Present**

Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Hon. Kasim Reed  
Hon. Tom Worthan  
Mr. Chuck Huling

Mr. Gerald Pouncey  
Mr. Reggie Prime  
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood

**Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes**

Chairman Kit Dunlap called the meeting to order. The meeting notes and minutes from the March 3, 2011 Board meeting were approved.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Kit Dunlap introduced Ms. Grace Trimble to update the Board on the progress of the District's "I'm In" water conservation campaign. At the last Board meeting, 33 pledges had been made on the website, and presently 146 pledges have been made. The "I'm In" kickoff event was held at E. Rivers Elementary School on May 10, 2011. Ms. Trimble showed the Board a video of the kickoff event which included a song written by City of Pine Lake Councilwoman Melanie Hammett. Chairman Dunlap reminded the Board that they had approved \$300,000 for the

development of the “I’m In” campaign at a previous meeting and she would like to use the remaining \$247,000 to continue the development of the campaign. The next steps would be to hire a consultant to help develop advertising materials to promote the campaign. The Board must vote to contract with a consultant for any expenditure over \$100,000. Chairman Dunlap requested that the Board approve entering into a contract with a consultant for an amount not to exceed \$247,000. A motion to approve contracting for \$247,000 to continue developing the campaign was made and seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

Chairman Dunlap announced that the District is preparing for this year’s Clean Water Campaign and “I’m In” Essay Contest. She asked that the Board Members promote this contest within their jurisdictions.

Chairman Dunlap informed the Board that Mr. Brad Currey and Ms. Pat Stevens attended the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint (ACF) Stakeholders meeting. Mr. Currey explained that the group is working to raise funds to hire a consultant to develop a sustainable water management plan for the ACF. The District’s representative on the ACF Board is Mr. Brad Currey. In addition to Mr. Currey the following District Board Representatives have a seat on the ACF Board: Ellis Cadenhead, Mike Thomas, Tim Thoms and Katie Kirkpatrick.

Ms. Pat Stevens gave an update on the Tri-State Water Conflict. As of this date the Circuit Court of Appeals has not yet released an opinion. She also said that the decision on Phase II pertaining to endangered species is likely to be affected by a new report to be released by U.S. Fish and Wildlife in the fall.

Ms. Stevens gave an update on the state’s drought situation. Most of southern Georgia is currently experiencing extreme drought conditions. The drought in southwest Georgia may affect the releases from Lake Lanier if the Corps has to make Buford Dam releases to offset the dry conditions in the Flint River Basin.

Mr. Brad Currey responded that this is the earliest it has been this dry in South Georgia. There is concern that the aquifer will be drawn down before the summer heat really hits. Ms. Stevens reminded the group that Lake Lanier takes a long time to refill, compared with the lakes in South Georgia so the staff will continue to monitor the drought situation.

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick stated that corn prices are high right now, and South Georgia farmers may be heavily irrigating to produce a high yield. This combined with the drought is a reason for concern.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Chairman Dunlap announced that the 2010 Census numbers have been released and due to a population increase in both Cherokee and Henry Counties, they now have permanent representation on the Board and Executive Committee. Chairman Dunlap introduced and welcomed the Honorable Elizabeth “BJ” Mathis, Chairman of Henry County Commission.

Cherokee County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens is already a member of the Board, however now has a permanent seat.

Mr. Matt Harper with District staff presented the amendments to the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan and the Wastewater Management Plan that were proposed by Rockdale County. A motion was made and seconded to approve the plan amendments as proposed. The amendments were adopted without opposition.

Vice Chair Boyd Austin; Chair of the Legislative Policy Committee, reviewed the status of legislation of interest to the District. He reminded the Committee that bills which were not defeated this year are still active for the 2012 legislative session.

Vice Chair Boyd Austin reviewed the 2012 budget and District work program. He also reviewed two proposed financial policy statements: 1) the District will use the most current United States decennial census for calculating dues assessments; and 2) the District will establish and strive to maintain a minimum fund balance of \$300,000 for operating contingencies. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2012 Budget and Work Program based on new 2010 Census numbers and a \$0.16 per capita assessment. The motion passed without opposition. A motion was made and seconded to approve the two financial policy statements. The motion passed without opposition.

#### **Update on Water System Interconnection, Redundancy & Reliability Act Study and Overview of the Governor's Water Supply Program**

Mr. Kevin Kelly, Water Resources Director of GEFA gave a breakdown of GEFA funding sources, both federal and state, and highlighted the objectives of the Governor's Water Supply Program. The Governor's Water Supply Program was created on January 25, 2011 to develop a selection process to award \$300 million for water supply projects. He also noted that last month, GEFA's Board approved a one percent interest rate reduction for water conservation.

Mr. Kelly also reviewed the Water System Interconnection Study through which GEFA has developed an engineering study for emergency water supply planning. He noted that many water systems are already taking measures to ensure redundancy. Mr. Kelly announced that he would be willing to give an update on the project's progress at the September board meeting. He thanked the District and District Staff for assistance with this project.

#### **Update on State Water Council's Plans**

Linda MacGregor, GA EPD Watershed Protection Branch Chief gave a brief overview of some of the items included in the plans developed by the Water Councils. She announced that the public comment period for the Water Councils' Plans will end on June 23, 2011. The plans identify shortfalls in groundwater in some South Georgia aquifers.

Ms. MacGregor reviewed the next steps going forward in the State Water Planning process. After the June 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline, the public comments will be reviewed and any necessary changes will be made to the plans. Final plans will be adopted by the director of GA EPD. After the plans

are adopted, implementation of the plans will be carried out by permit holders. GA EPD is still formulating the next steps after implementation.

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick asked about the role of the State Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP). Ms. MacGregor said it was a guidance document.

Mr. Tim Thoms asked how the plans would be integrated. Ms. MacGregor responded through continuation of coordination efforts.

Mr. Brad Currey asked about GA EPD's method in dealing with the gap due to agriculture use on the Flint. He commented that the District is highly affected by how South Georgia manages agricultural water use. Ms. MacGregor stated that GA EPD will continue to work through that issue.

Ms. Stevens noted that the staff is in the process of reviewing the plans and will draft comments. Ms. MacGregor said that EPD will answer any questions to better inform Board comments.

Chairman Dunlap wanted to ensure that the District will be involved with council planning moving forward.

Mr. Currey noted that these are many individual plans and not yet one coordinated, consistent state water plan and asked when GA EPD will develop a water plan for the entire state. Ms. MacGregor responded that the plans are a huge step forward in state water planning. Vice Chairman Austin noted that agriculture has come a long way in their willingness to do their part.

### **Update on Metro Water District Activities**

Ms. Pat Stevens stated that comments will be drafted on other council plans and will be sent to the Board members for review. A special called Executive Committee meeting will be needed to decide on the comments to send.

Ms. Stevens informed the Board that the BACs and TCCs have made comments on the WaterSense New Homes Draft Conservation Measure and that District staff is addressing those comments. The staff is not recommending any board action at this time on that measure.

Ms. Stevens informed the Board that there is a handout on reservoirs in their packet. No comments were made at this time.

Finally, Ms. Stevens informed the Board of the process for the 2011 Implementation Report. District staff plans to send out last year's report and ask what, if anything, has changed this year. She said that District staff will wait a couple of years to update the Metrics Report.

**Election of New District Chair and Vice Chair**

Chairman Dunlap announced that the Executive Committee nominated the Honorable Boyd Austin as Chairman and Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick as Vice Chair. A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominations and elect both of the candidates. The motion passed without opposition. Newly elected Chairman Austin thanked the Board for trusting in him and said that he will build upon the leadership that Chairman Dunlap has exhibited. He thanked Chairman Dunlap for her service to the District and presented her with a glass sculpture as a token of appreciation for her service and leadership over the years.

**Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting will take place on Thursday September 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the R. Charles Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.