



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**October 21, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Dekalb County's Scott Candler Water Filter Plant in Doraville, GA.

**Members Present**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Femi Adesanya                                | Eric Olson                                   |
| Harry Boone                                  | Glenn Page, CCMWA (Becky Mixon, Alt.)        |
| Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning Enter's Inc.    | K. Scott Robertson, Sweetwater Environmental |
| Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation  | Nathan Shields                               |
| Jill Glascock                                | Yomi Sholarin, Comm. Board of Realtors       |
| Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper | Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council         |
| James Hawkins                                | Billy Turner                                 |
| Travis Eugene Henry, Douglas Farm Bureau     | Wayne Waldrip, Keep Smyrna Beautiful         |
| Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County                | Mark Wolff                                   |
| F. Keith Laguaite                            | Butch Watson III, Croy Engineering           |
| John Lawrence, BAC Chair                     | Kenneth Wood, Planners and Engineers Coll.   |
| Michael Morton                               | Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica               |
| John Oliver, URS Corporation                 | Van Yon, ReMax Executives Inc.               |

**Members Not Present**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Keith Bentley, Keep Smyrna Beautiful         | Warren Howe                               |
| Patty Berkovitz, Watershed Alliance          | Mike Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica        |
| Ginger Blackstone, GA Dept. of Labor         | Jo Ann Macrina, Dekalb County             |
| Rick Blackwell, Let's Go Fishing USA         | James Martell                             |
| William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors  | George Martin, Georgia Power              |
| Bob Bunker, RM Bunker Associates LLC         | Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group             |
| Ellis Cadenhead, Coweta W&S Authority        | Charles McMullen III                      |
| Howard Carson Jr., Carson Developments, Inc. | Doug Miell                                |
| David Chastant, City of Sandy Springs        | William Millkey                           |
| Steven Culp, Veolia Water NA                 | Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.      |
| Jared Daley                                  | Catherine Pruitt, Stevenson & Palmer Eng. |
| Steve Foster                                 | Wes Rogers                                |
| Martin George                                | George Taylor Jr., Oglethorpe Power Corp. |
| Patrick Heerdt                               |   |

**Non Chattahoochee BAC Members Present**

Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water  
Penelope Round, Atlanta Apartment Association

### **Metro Water District Staff Present**

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

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chattahoochee BAC Chair John Lawrence welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. He then introduced Mr. Charles Lambert, Cherokee County Board Designee, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

### **BAC Chairman Elections**

There were six members who expressed interest in running for Chairman of the Chattahoochee BAC. Statements from the six 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 counted and it was announced that there had been a tie. The members decided it was best to have a runoff election via email between the two candidates since some attendees had left the meeting early. The runoff was held by sending email notification to the entire BAC membership. Eric Olson was later voted in as Chair of the Chattahoochee BAC. Mr. Olson 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:

- Can you explain more about what is meant by the run of the river condition versus the alternative? *The question is what environmental baseline should be used to compare with the Corps' operation of the river.*
- The Middle Chattahoochee Water Council has completed their draft plan and everyone should take a look at it. They deliberated over 5,000cfs at Woodland Dam.

### **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:

- In reference to the water waste measure, it seems some jurisdictions are already doing that through their tiered rate structure. How is that working? *Kathy Wynn from Cobb County Water stated that they have seen a reduction of use but it is very difficult to pinpoint the exact savings. Rates are a driver for use, but some users can afford to be inefficient.*

*Charles Lambert from Dekalb County Water said it would need to be a visible waste of water outdoors. The offender would first receive a warning. The amount can become significant when multiplied over many individual water wasters.*

- How is water waste defined? *It starts with the Statewide Water Plan Definition – everyone has water for reasonable use. We want citizens to use water properly. We focus on visible leaks, continuous leaks and maintenance issues.*
- Is Dekalb obligated to have a water only charge irrigation meters? *We have to charge for the cost of service, what it costs us to deal with the water. For irrigation meters, that is the cost of water delivery, not sewage treatment. But we could charge higher water rates.*
- We need to start fixing pipes first, not toilets with minor leaks.
- Water providers are governed by the Water Stewardship Act. There is a lot of duplication between that Act and these additional conservation measures that you are proposing. The government is over-reaching by proposing these. We should let the water Stewardship Act Work first.
- It is an abomination to charge someone for water waste.
- How much will it cost for homeowners to meet the retrofit requirement? *The amount will vary based on the number of fixtures that need to be replaced and whether the homeowner can do the work themselves or if they must hire a plumber.*
- If you buy a low-end toilet, you may just have to flush more.
- EPA rates toilets on a flush-ability scale. Many \$100 toilets score well and will qualify for a \$100 rebate.
- The retrofit timeframe is not acceptable. People need to know in advance before they buy a house. *In Dekalb, notice is given before you buy a home.*
- Multi-family is where the bulk of inefficient toilets are. Who will replace those? *Multi-family building owners would replace them.*
- Atlanta is opening up their rebate program to multi-family residences. Many building owners are pleased and are ready to take advantage of the incentive.
- The language on the retrofit measure is confusing. The Atlanta Apartment Association would like to sit down with the District and discuss the measure.
- In the WaterSense New Homes measure, developers should have to present a plan for a low water use lawn. The measure loses credibility here. How can a builder ensure that the low water use landscaping sticks? *What is most important is how the developer prepares the site and plants the plants. Builder and homeowner education is the key.*
- Why not make a recommendation in the plan for percentage use? What counts is what you can manage and follow up on. Something like a measurable water budget for each residence.
- There is not much focus on septic tank consumptive use. *Dekalb has a septic tank elimination program that looks at the proximity of the sewer and determines the cost feasibility of transitioning areas to sewer connection. We are looking at ways to pay for it over time.*
- Cobb is 88% sewer and does not allow new septic.
- Developers want to connect their new properties to sewer but there are often many obstacles.
- Dekalb has worked with developers to share infrastructure costs for new sewer lines.
- What are the percentages of water use between industrial, commercial and residential? *District-wide - 40% single family, 13% multi-family, 25% commercial and 4% industrial.*

- Is there a program to take people off the water system and convert them to wells?  
*Groundwater is not a reliable major source of water in this area.*
- What about rainwater harvesting?
- Are we gathering any information about the effectiveness of the existing Plan measures?  
*Yes, we conduct annual surveys and the results are reported in the annual Implementation Report. We are also publishing a 2010 Metrics Report.*
- We have to teach citizens about water conservation. The water departments are just trying to economize and fairly share a limited resource.

### **Local Government Presentation**

Charles Lambert from the Dekalb County Department of Watershed Management described their Toilet Retrofit on Reconnect program. He explained the history and purpose of the program and provided details about how the program is administered. He stated that, although there was initial opposition to the program, it is now generally well-accepted by residents.

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

- What do you do with all the old toilets? *Typically they go to the landfill. There is one company that does crush and recycle them.*

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

### **Tour of Scott Candler Water Filter Plant**

Dekalb County staff took members of the BAC on an informative tour of the Scott Candler Plant. Guides led the group through the state of the art facility and described their filtration process.