



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**  
**LAKE LANIER & OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 15, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Friday April 15, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hall County Public Library in Gainesville, GA.

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Present**

Val Perry, Lake Lanier Assoc., BAC Chair  
Drew Addison  
Richard Check  
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants

**Oconee BAC Members Present**

Jill Stachura, Brown & Caldwell, BAC Chair  
Bill Finnick, GAFM  
Sheryl Wells, UGA

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present**

Bob Evans, GA Green Industry Association  
Steven Garton, UGA Cooperative Extension  
James Hatcher, Georgia Mountain Air  
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company  
Mary Jones  
Larry Long  
Tim Merritt  
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.  
Kevin Smith, Forsyth County  
Ike Swofford

**Oconee BAC Members Not Present**

J. Steven Landers, Land Planning Consultants  
Steve Payne, Braselton Utilities  
Kyle Webb, Breedlove Planning Inc.  
Chris Yancey

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner  
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist  
Marissa Duff, Senior Environmental Planner

**Board Members Present**

Carlyle Cox, Hall County Designee  
Jon Heard, Forsyth County Designee

**Welcome and Introductions**

Lake Lanier BAC Chair Val Perry introduced Hall County Board Representative Carlyle Cox, who welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially began the meeting with a brief introduction of his experiences working with water resources in Hall County. He also thanked those present for taking an interest in water resources. Sarah Simmons initiated group introductions. She then introduced the "I'm In" Business Cards and asked members to help spread the word about the campaign. Ms. Simmons asked the members to make sure they visit the website and take the water conservation pledge as a business, government, organization, or individual.

### **BAC Membership Drive**

Sarah Simmons informed the group that the 2011 BAC Membership Drive is currently underway. The District is asking that all members reapply for membership this year to ensure that we have a variety of interests represented on each of the councils, and to get all members on the same timeframe for membership. She informed the group that the deadline is May 13<sup>th</sup> and that applications are on the handouts table at the back of the room, should anyone want to fill one out at the meeting or take a stack to hand out to others who may be interested in BAC membership. Ms. Simmons also informed the group of the process through which applications will be approved. The BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How can we get more people to attend these meetings?
- It was confirmed that the law states that a BAC member must live in the basin, but not necessarily within the District area.

### **Status of WaterSense New Homes Conservation Measure**

Marissa Duff gave a presentation on the status of WaterSense New Homes Conservation Measure. She presented a supplementary guidance document developed by a subcommittee made up of representatives of homebuilders, the green industry, US EPA, UGA, and local water systems that outlines outdoor best management practices to be used by builders/developers as they implement the water budget tool outlined by WaterSense. In addition Ms. Duff presented the revised WaterSense New Homes draft conservation measures. This measure has been revised to be an incentive based program, requiring local governments to adopt an incentive policy for builders to construct homes that meet the WaterSense specifications. She explained that the WaterSense New Homes conservation measure is still in the beginning stages and will be presented to the WSWC TCC and District Board for review.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How much beyond the requirements of the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and International Electrical Code (IEC) does this measure go? It was confirmed that the measure does go beyond IPC and IEC, but the requirements are implementable.
- It was confirmed that the Georgia Plumbing Code is ratified from the IPC and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) reviews it.
- The District should solicit feedback from DCA.

### **Multifamily FOG Educational Material**

Matt Harper gave an overview of the Multifamily FOG Educational Material and the efforts being made to reduce the buildup of fats, oils, and grease in the sewer systems of metro Atlanta. This particular material will be presented in the form of a door hanger, and will be given to residents of multifamily units.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- This is a good idea.
- It was recommended that the material be translated into Spanish.
- Have you thought about putting this material on a magnet or 3M sticky note paper so that it can be displayed in the home, on the refrigerator or in the cabinet under the kitchen sink?
- Do you have a plan for schools and/or take-home material for the students to give to their parents?

- Perhaps make it a little more specific to an apartment sink, i.e. slow draining, odor, etc. Let the residents know how it can specifically affect them.
- Can you turn this into a school contest?
- It was suggested that the District contact the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors and/or Builders Owners and Managers Association to get in contact with brokers and property managers who would have direct contact with tenants.

### **Discussion of 1073**

Lanier BAC Chair Val Perry gave a presentation on the background and impetus for raising the level of Lake Lanier to 1073 feet and informed the group that he would like to create a resolution to push 1073 through the District and get the support of the Board and other BACs.

The BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Is Buford Dam designed to capture the 100 year flood?
- There is no interest in changing the release schedule, only to increase the amount of storage in Lake Lanier.
- It was determined that a quorum was not present and the BAC would not be able to adopt a formal position at this time. A resolution will be drafted and sent out to the BAC for review by email.

### **Panel Discussion on Water Resource Education**

For the April round of BACs, it was suggested that we focus on what is being done in the District regarding educating students and the public about water resources and water conservation. District staff assembled a panel of representatives from local schools, governments and non-profits to speak about their efforts. The following panelists were chosen for their outstanding work in water education:

- Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville
- Peter Gordon, Elachee Nature Center
- Jon Heard, City of Cumming

Each panelist gave a brief presentation and the floor was open to the BAC members for questions.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How many employees do you have at the Elachee Nature Center? *Seven full time and 20 part time employees.*
- It was suggested that this type of presentation should be made in front of the Board so that they can see what is being done, as well.

### **Water Metrics Report Overview**

Marissa Duff gave an overview of the Water Metrics Report. This report presents water use data, wastewater return trends, and water quality data. She explained that water demand is affected by a variety of factors and care should be taken when comparing the Atlanta region to other communities. In the past decade, population has increased while overall water use and per capita water use have decreased. Wastewater returns to each basin are increasing and water quality has been maintained or improved despite a significant population increase since the 1970s when monitoring began. She explained that the water metrics report confirms our progress in the

implementation of best management practices as they relate to water supply and conservation, wastewater, and watershed management.

The BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- The chart on per capita use needs to be published.
- It was confirmed that there are charts for each county in the Metrics Report document.
- This is an outstanding pitch for the efforts of the District.

### **Other**

Matt Harper gave a status update of the 2011 Legislative Session and several state water studies. This information was provided in the form of a handout. BAC members had no questions or comments regarding the status update.

The next meeting will be a joint BAC meeting and will be held on July 22, 2011 at the Loudermilk Conference Center in Atlanta. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

### **Tour of Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy Smartville Gardens**

Interested BAC members attended a tour of Smartville Gardens led by Jennifer Westbrook, Enota Instructional Coach, and Mildred Pinnell, Horticulture Director Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Smartville Gardens volunteer. Members learned about how Enota is incorporating their native/low impact landscape into the curriculum and everyday learning. Smartville Gardens also has a water storage system to use in times of drought.