



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
FLINT BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
April 20, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Reynolds Nature Preserve in Morrow, GA.

Members Present

Richard A. Greuel, BAC Chair	Brice Martin, Coweta Co Stormwater
Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co Board of Comm.	Dale Phenicie, Fayette County Chamber
Ernest Curtis	Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities
Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co Farm Bureau	Tim Thoms
Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris Inc.	

Members Not Present

Bud Butcher, Coweta Co Farm Bureau	Todd Gullekson
John Caldwell, Coweta Co WSA	Michael Harp, GA Farm Bureau
Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville	Richard Little
David Gerson, White Oaks Homeowners Assn.	Ted McCarter
Charles Gibson, Georgia Kayak Fishing	Christine McGehee
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental	

Metro Water District Staff Present

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

Welcome and Introductions

BAC Chair Richard Greuel introduced Board Representative Tim Thoms, who welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially began the meeting. Mr. Thoms then initiated group introductions. Mr. Greuel asked if anyone had any issues they wanted to bring forth for discussion. There being none, Sarah Simmons introduced the "I'm In" Business Cards as a kick off to the District's "I'm In" campaign. She asked the members to make sure they visit the website and make their pledge as a business, government, organization, or individual. Additionally, she asked the members to take a stack of cards to pass out and spread the word about the campaign.

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 13th 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:

- When are the plans updated? It was confirmed that updated plans will next be adopted in 2014.
- Everyone needs to reapply because this is how we affect policy.

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:

- Why does the Ocmulgee Basin have 150 percent returns? Several communities such as Gwinnett and DeKalb counties withdraw from the Chattahoochee and discharge to the Ocmulgee, so they discharge 100 percent of withdrawals.
- Can you distinguish between municipal, well and surface water?
- Can downstream people use this data against us?
- Better standards contributes most to a reduction in nutrient returns.

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 leeway will local governments be given to use the incentives, and can it be written in?
- I am concerned about making them commit to more regulations with fewer resources.
- What about local governments getting an incentive to keep it going? Local governments should get an incentive for adopting conservation measures.
- Work on incentives for local governments and investigate the costs to the builder.
- Will local governments be able to pick and choose which incentives they want to use?

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:

- For restaurants, you can spend hours educating the managers on the importance of properly disposing of FOG, but the managers rotate so often, it is hard to keep the education current.
- Are you doing any kind of FOG education at schools or festivals?
- This is also good for business inspection outreach. We need some material to hand out on inspections.
- Can you make it into an incentive program? Get the apartment complexes to put something together and give them a credit to reduce sewer costs.
- Surcharge a higher cost to apartments and if they install a grease trap, give them a lower cost.
- See if you can get corporate sponsors (i.e. grocery stores, home improvement stores) for this door hanger.
- How many door hangers are you going to have made?
- Would this be something the District contracts and distributed to local communities? Who will fund the printing?
- Magnets are fun. They are a great reminder and if one person in the house takes ownership of an idea, the whole house will do it.
- Is there any type of residential grease trap available?
- We need to get appliance companies to come up with better fixtures for handling FOG.

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:

- Donald White, Coweta County Schools
- Suzanne Brown, Clayton County Water Authority
- Chris Kodani, Clayton State University

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:

- We need to connect students with professionals in the water industry.
- Regarding Clayton County Water Authority programs:
 - What is your budget? The funding comes from a variety of sources and from a variety of departments within the Water Authority.

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. There were no questions regarding this material.

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.