



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Water Supply-Water Conservation
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
May 19, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply-Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Nick Ammons, Fulton County
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County
Catherine Fox, FOX Environmental, LLC
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville
Steve Green, Douglasville-Douglas County
Water and Sewerage Authority
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County Water
and Sewerage Authority
Katrina Hester, City of East Point
Chris Hindman, City of Fayetteville
Donna Joe, Gwinnett County
Nolton Johnson, City of Atlanta
Russell Kelly, Paulding County Water System
Sam Krishnan, City of Atlanta
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA
Charles Lambert, Dekalb County Watershed
Management
Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta Department
of Watershed Management

Becky Mixon, Cobb County-Marietta Water
Authority
Mike Moffit, Keck & Wood, Inc.
Heather Moody, Gwinnett County
Terry Moy, Clayton County Water Authority
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System
Steve Payne, Town of Braselton
Guy Pihera, Clayton County Water Authority
Lee Pope, Rockdale County
Timothy Pugh, Paulding County Water
System
Richard Randolph, City of East Point
Russell Ray, Fayette County Water System
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnet County Water
Brian Skeens, CH2M Hill, Inc.
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County
Keith Watkins, Clayton County Water
Authority
Emily Wingo, Georgia Environmental
Protection Division

Marissa Duff of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

GEFA Water System Interconnection, Redundancy and Reliability Act Study

Kevin Kelly, Water Resources Director with GEFA, and project manager for GEFA's Water System Interconnection, Redundancy and Reliability Act study thanked the group for their cooperation thus far on the project. He explained that the goal of this project is to create a study of value to the utilities and they welcome feedback on the results presented at today's meeting. Mr. Kelly introduced Steve Lavinder, Regional Vice President of CH2M Hill.

Mr. Lavinder presented an update of the project's status to the group. Data collection for all 33 systems has been completed. General observations resulting from data collection were that two thirds

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of systems have redundant raw water sources, pumps, or reservoirs and that there are extensive interconnections already in place. Mr. Lavinder explained that they are aware of the concern about the security of information collected and he told the group that all data and information is tightly controlled by staff. Base maps have been completed for all qualified systems and will be used as a base for hydraulic modeling. In addition, eight emergency scenarios have been modeled to calculate water deficits (in mgd) for each system. The estimated deficits for each system do not take into account the ability of a system to purchase water from outside interconnections or permitting variances that might take place during emergency situations. Mr. Lavinder explained the eight "traditional" and "special" emergency scenarios and the key assumptions used for each. He explained that most systems can address the deficits associated with the "traditional" short-term scenarios by using existing emergency interconnections. A group member asked how this information will be used and if there is a plan on how the recommendations will be implemented. Mr. Lavinder explained that improvement projects will be prioritized and officially presented but that there are no requirements for implementation of these projects. Another member asked how the models take into account the stress on a system when it is required to supplement another system's water source. It was explained that in the "traditional" scenarios, it is understood that systems can only supplement water for short periods of time; the specific characteristics of each system are taken into account during modeling. A member asked if each system would receive a detailed report with more system-specific information than will be found in the final report. Mr. Lavinder explained that individual reports for each system will not be provided; however, the data, assumptions, and details of each system will be provided in the appendix of the final report. Maps will be available to each system, including the working maps not included in the final report. Another member asked if a caveat statement should be included in the final report which explains that the current level of engineering is still superficial and that the recommended projects will require significant more engineering. Mr. Lavinder agreed and confirmed that the recommended projects are conceptual designs and will require more detailed engineering; there are no requirements for implementation of these projects.

The group broke out into three different groups, each representing systems in different regions of the District, to further discuss the interconnections, deficits, and characteristics modeled for each system. The next step in the project is the development and prioritization of potential improvement projects. A draft report will be completed in July.

WaterSense New Homes Draft Conservation Measure

Marissa Duff presented updates to the WaterSense New Homes water conservation measure. This measure was presented to the TCC in September 2010 and based on comments from the BACs, TCC, Metro Water District Board, and public comment period, the conservation measure was tabled for further review. The Metro Water District created a subcommittee made up of representatives of homebuilders, the green industry, US EPA, UGA, and local water systems, to review the EPA's WaterSense New Homes program with specific emphasis on the outdoor component. The subcommittee developed a supplemental guidance document outlining outdoor best management practices for water efficiency that are applicable to our region and can assist builders and developers in following WaterSense specifications. Ms. Duff asked for feedback from the group. No comments were made regarding the supplemental guidance document.

In addition, Ms. Duff presented the group with a revised draft of the WaterSense New Homes water conservation measure. The revised draft approach is to make WaterSense New Homes an incentive based program. She explained that under this approach, local governments would be required to adopt a policy that provides incentives to builders to construct new single-family homes using the WaterSense New Homes specifications. Example incentives that are already being implemented by some jurisdictions for green building certifications include expedited site plan review, reduced or

waived plan review and development fees, priority home inspection process, or reduced water and/or sewer tap fees. The group discussed the pros and cons of incentives. One member pointed out that since this measure particularly affects local governments, additional members of the local government, especially those involved with permitting, need to be present for the discussion. In addition, a member pointed out that approval from community development departments would be needed and that the types of incentives suggested in this draft measure are outside the scope of water providers. A member pointed out that permit fees are only used to recover costs and should not be involved with this measure. It was suggested that the group look at permitting for irrigation systems and offering incentives related to the outdoor component of the WaterSense program. One member asked what additional costs would be incurred to builders who follow WaterSense specifications. Another member asked about what long-term water and cost savings would be incurred by the builder, water utility, and homeowner. One member explained that it is increasingly difficult for new homes to be built so incentives for homebuilders are needed. It was suggested that homeowners need incentives to keep their water-using fixtures and equipment working properly. One member pointed out that this program could become inequitable if the choice of incentives is left up to local governments. Another member asked how GA EPD would interpret this measure when conducting their audits.

Ms. Duff encouraged the group to provide her with feedback regarding the draft measure and supplemental guidance document.

Review of 2011 Implementation Survey Questionnaire

Marissa Duff explained to the group that this year each jurisdiction within the Metro Water District will be sent a copy of their responses to the previous year's Implementation Survey questionnaire. Each jurisdiction will be asked to review and provide changes based on this year's progress. The group agreed to this process and commented that this would be a significant time saver.

Other

Marissa Duff provided updates to the group regarding the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Water Audit Guidance Document. The chapter outline will be ready for public review and a webpage will outline background information on the audit process, deadlines, etc. A notification letter will be sent out for those systems that are required to conduct and complete a water audit by January 1, 2012. The formal training workshops on the audit manual are still scheduled to occur in September or October 2011.

The State has announced that the 10 Regional Water Planning Councils have developed draft regional water plans that are ready for public review. The public comment period for the draft regional water plans began on May 9, 2011 and will conclude on June 23, 2011. Comments may be submitted through their collection website, via mail, e-mail or fax. To view the regional water plans visit: http://georgiawaterplanning.org/pages/regional_water_planning/initial_recommended_regional_water_plans.php.

The meeting was adjourned.