



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
June 6, 2013**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 6, 2013 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

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Jeff Turner
Hon. Tim Lee
Hon. Pete Amos
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Brad Currey
Mr. Chuck Huling

Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mr. Tim Thoms
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Fayette County Designee: Mr. Greg Clifton
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Ron Peters
Henry County Designee: Mr. Lindy Farmer
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Hon. Kasim Reed
Hon. Steve Taylor
Hon. Bob Blackburn
Hon. Tom Worthan

Hon. Dick Mecum
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. William Thomas Craig

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the March 7, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Kit Dunlap, seconded by Mr. Gerald Pouncey and passed without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Austin recognized Mr. Danny Johnson as the new District Manager and welcomed him on behalf of the Board. Chairman Austin also introduced Ms. Jane Hayse as the new Director of the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC's) Center for Livable Communities. The District looks forward to working with ARC in the protection and management of our shared water resources.

Ms. Katherine Zitsch gave a brief update on drought conditions and lake levels. Lake Lanier is entering the summer season at full pool. Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) is predicting the next three months to be drought free. This is good news for metro Atlanta's water supply.

The Board next discussed the option of changing the meeting dates to coincide with meetings of the ARC Board. The impetus for this is to encourage more elected officials to attend Metro Water District Board meetings. Changing the meeting date may help those members who sit on both boards to more easily schedule their time. A letter from the Chairman explaining the benefits of changing the meeting date was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the board meeting date change was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Ms. Kit Dunlap and passed without opposition.

It was announced that copies of the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit were available for those interested in reviewing. Treasurer and Secretary Birdel Jackson explained that the audit was clean and that there were no findings.

Executive Committee Report

Chairman Austin provided a wrap up of the 2013 Legislative Agenda. The District Legislative Committee will continue to monitor those bills that did not pass in this year's session. One bill that will be up for discussion next session will be SB213. It is important for the members of the Board to be aware of the District's stance on the bills on the agenda and to promote the interests of the District.

Chairman Austin opened the discussion on the 2014 budget and work program. The Finance Committee met and approved the 2014 budget on Wednesday, June 5. Beginning in the next fiscal year, the District will be increasing the dues of member counties and the City of Atlanta in preparation for the 2016 Plan Update. District staff and the Finance Committee agreed that a staggered dues increase over the next three years would be the best way to handle the dues increase. The District will be working to procure state funding to supplement the budgetary needs and to minimize the financial obligations of the members. Chairman Austin encouraged all Board members to speak with their legislators to help secure state funding.

Mr. Birdel Jackson explained that the budget remains fairly constant. However, the increase is needed to account for the cost of contracts on three additional studies. He also explained that the fund balance was built with the expectation of entering a plan update period. The rate is set by adoption of the budget and then billed to the member counties and the City of Atlanta. Hon. Tim Lee made a motion that staff send supporting documents. Staff clarified that documents will be sent explaining what the costs of the plan update is expected to be and what percentage of the budget will be allotted for the plan update.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the 2014 budget and work program. Chairman Austin explained that a recommendation of a committee of the Board does not require a second. Cherokee County Designee, Mr. David Kubala, opposed the 2014 Budget on behalf of Cherokee County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens. The 2014 budget passed.

Chairman Austin explained that the Executive Committee approved 172 Basin Advisory Council members for a two year term. Sixty-four of the applicants are new to the process, with 108 returning members. The Joint Basin Advisory Council meeting will be held at the Loudermilk Center Ballroom on Thursday, July 18th. All Governing Board members and designees are invited to attend.

Chairman Austin opened the discussion on plan amendments and administrative changes. He noted that no amendments are necessary for changes in timelines. At their earlier meeting, the Executive Committee voted to approve the administrative change requested by Clayton County. A motion was made by Mr. David Kubala to approve the administrative change as requested, seconded by Mr. Birdel Jackson and passed without opposition. Additionally, the Executive Committee approved the Henry County amendment request and the Clayton County amendment request as minor amendments, each requiring a 15-day public comment period. The committee approved the City of Dallas amendment request as a major amendment, which requires a 30-day public comment period. The Governing Board will be voting on the Henry County, Clayton County and City of Dallas amendment requests at the August meeting.

The Executive Committee voted to table the discussion of the Revised Final Draft of the Model Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance amendment request made by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It was determined that more time was needed to fully understand all the changes. This does not mean that staff will be opening a formal public comment period. The delay in discussion will simply allow for more understanding.

Update on Water Resources Development Act

Ms. Zitsch gave a brief update on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and mentioned that two sections are of particular concern: 1) Section 2014 regarding dam optimization and; 2) Section 2015 regarding Committee concerns over Corps' operations of the projects in the ACT and ACF river systems. Georgia's Senators were successful in stopping the first version of the Section 2015 language, which was a direct attack on Metropolitan Atlanta's water supply and would have limited use of both Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona. The Senators made sure that the original section got pulled from the current WRDA bill. The current bill includes language, however, that is still a concern for Metropolitan Atlanta in that it expresses concerns over Corps' operations of the systems. Florida Representatives on the House Committee are urging similar language in the House version of the bill. Ms. Zitsch emphasized that WRDA is not the place for interstate disputes over water.

Water Drop Dash 5K and Water Festival

Ms. Lora Amedu provided a wrap up of the 2013 Water Drop Dash 5K and Water Festival held on Saturday, March 16 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Over 300 runners participated in the activities. Chairman Austin recognized Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority for having 19 participants, the most participants from a single organization.

Ms. Amedu is already planning for the 2014 Water Drop Dash and is hopeful that we will have even more participants in the future.

My Drop Counts Final Creatives and Media Buys

Ms. Kostoula Vallianos presented the final My Drop Counts water conservation campaign creatives and media buys. The three media spot creatives will soon be running on local cable access channels throughout the District. They are aimed at helping local citizens understand how much water they use and determine how they can use less.

Other

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28th, followed by the ARC Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.