



## Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

International Tower | 229 Peachtree St., NE | Suite 100 | Atlanta, GA 30303

### **LANIER and OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Summary May 2, 2018**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Gainesville, GA.

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Danny Johnson introduced Allison Henry as the new BAC Program Specialist.

Tom Vivelo, the Chairman of the Lanier BAC welcomed the group and began introductions.

#### **II. Education and Outreach Announcements**

*Allison Henry, Metro Water District*

##### **i. Water Drop Dash 5K**

The Water Drop Dash 5k was held on March 24, 2018 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Over 800 runners pre-registered for the event and of those approximately 600 participated in the race and attended the post-race Water Festival. There were also 100 volunteers who helped the event run smoothly.

##### **ii. BAC Facebook Groups**

The District has created six different Facebook groups so that BAC members can connect with each other outside of meetings and share information about what is happening in their watershed. Email [ahenry@atlantaregional.org](mailto:ahenry@atlantaregional.org) for more information.

iii. Water Reflections Photography Contest

The District announced that the Water Reflections Photography Calendar Contest will be opening in May. Each year, the Metro Water District holds a photography contest to promote awareness of the need to protect our shared water resources. Entries should capture the beauty, heritage, activities and character of metro Atlanta's water resources. In addition to 12 \$100 prizes awarded to the top pictures, an additional \$50 prize will be awarded that captures this year's feature issue related to illegal dumping to raise awareness of this problem counties in the District are facing. The district partnered with Hike Inn this year and will be providing a one-night stay for two to the grand prize winner who will also get an additional \$500.

iv. ARC Civic Dinners

The District announced that they will be hosting a Sustainability focused dinner in August. This dinner will be hosted under the Livability category of the Civic Dinners. There are three different categories: Livability, Mobility, and Prosperity. The format of a Civic Dinner includes a three-question guided conversation. For more information: [www.civicsdinner.com/ARC-livability](http://www.civicsdinner.com/ARC-livability).

v. Open Announcements

There were no additional announcements from the group.

**III. Metro Water District Updates**

*Danny Johnson, Metro Water District*

i. BAC Membership Drive

The District announced that the BAC Membership drive closed on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The District was seeking additional members in the Flint, Lanier, and Oconee river basins. The District Board will vote to approve the new members on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

ii. Drought/Water supply

The southeast portion of the state is currently experiencing drought conditions while the 15 counties of the District are currently experiencing normal conditions. Lake Lanier is currently full thanks to winter rains.

iii. Litigation

There are five active lawsuits across the Alabama/Coosa/Tallapoosa (ACT) and the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint (ACF) basins that could potentially affect the District's access to water supplies. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the Florida v. Georgia case before the end of June 2018. Two cases filed in Washington D.C. (Alabama v. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and National Wildlife Federation v. USACE) have been transferred to the Federal Court in the Northern District of Georgia.

iv. Messaging for Illegal Dumping

The District announced that the Education Technical Coordinating Subcommittee is seeking opportunities for education and outreach related to illegal dumping. BAC members are asked to share any local experiences or case studies with the District that could contribute to the initiative.

The group asked if siltation on the lake was being taken into consideration for illegal dumping. The District informed the group that the initiative would be focused on litter prevention and illegal dumping for non-point source pollution.

v. My Drop Counts Water Conservation Pledge Expansion

The District just launched a My Drop Counts Business pledge to expand its engagement to the commercial business community. The pledge is for building owners and building tenants and embraces the connection to the business's workforce and sharing the message of water conservation at home. The individual pledge was also revamped. BAC members were encouraged to take the My Drop Counts pledge for the business and for themselves on the website: [www.mydropcounts.org](http://www.mydropcounts.org).

vi. New Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program

The District announced that the New Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program is live on the website: <http://northgeorgiawater.org/conserves-our-water/toilet-rebate-program/>

**Campus Sustainability at University of Georgia**

*Kevin Kirsche, Director of Sustainability*

Kevin Kirsche, the Director of Sustainability at University of Georgia, provided an overview of the sustainability and water resource management activities on the University of Georgia campus. As part of the Watershed UGA Initiative, the

university has installed 75 bioretention/rain gardens, 15+ rainwater harvesting systems, recirculating water systems, condensate collection systems and greywater harvesting projects. Mr. Kirsche also discussed the Lily Branch Creek Restoration Project which will work to restore the urban stream through stream bank stabilization. The university is also working to restore Lake Harrick which was closed in 2002 due to water quality concerns. Overall, sustainability efforts have reduced the universities water footprint by 25% on an equivalent square foot basis. Mr. Kirsche recommends others looking to pursue similar projects should bring in a maintenance team early in the design.

#### **IV. DCA Plumbing Code Update, National Trends, and GA Possibilities**

*Danny Johnson, Metro Water District*

Mr. Johnson provided an overview of preliminary research performed by District staff which demonstrated that current sales of plumbing fixtures related to showerheads, lavatory and kitchen faucets are being widely sold in stores and installed in homes across the state with flow ratings that are more efficient than the current Georgia plumbing code. Mr. Johnson demonstrated potential savings associated with a reduction in fixture flowrates should the plumbing code be updated to meet more efficient standards. Recommendations to DCA are typically received during the summer period and then recommended changes would be drafted and approved during the fall and winter. District staff is taking additional time to research more stores and new construction to refine the background data, consider other plumbing code related topics such as backflow prevention updates that may be needed, and will then report back to the Board at the May 23, 2018 Board meeting with a final recommendation.

#### **V. Lake Lanier Update**

*Tom Vivelo, Lake Lanier Association*

Tom Vivelo, President of the Lake Lanier Association and Chair of the Lanier BAC, provided an update on the efforts of the Lake Lanier Association. Lake Lanier Association's motto is Clean Lake, Full Lake, Safe Lake. The annual Lake Lanier clean-up will be in September. The association is working on rip rapping the islands because they are disappearing due to siltation. The association is also working with NOAA to create an ACF drought projection. Additionally, the association lobbied for legislation this year to require boat titles making it easier to track abandoned boats back to their owners. The proposed bill did not pass as the session ran out of time. Wilton Rooks provided an overview of conversations the association has had with the Governor's office and discussed efforts to create a legislature directed study committee to look into pressures and solutions for Lake Lanier.

## **VI. Flat Creek Restoration**

*Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville Department of Water Resources*

Brian Wiley provided an overview on the work that is taking place on Flat Creek in the city of Gainesville, GA as well as showed the group drone footage of the progress. Flat Creek is at the headwaters of the Chattahoochee river basin and discharges into Lake Lanier. This is an ecosystem restoration project and is also part of the city's Illicit Discharge and Elimination Program. The design was completed by the Mobile office of the USACE under a Section 206 grant which required a 20% local match. The original scope was prepared by CH2M/Jacobs. Future projects in the watershed will include the creation of 3 detention ponds upstream combined with continued biological monitoring within the creek. The project is expected to be complete in November 2018.

### **Next Meeting: July 23, 2018**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2018 at 9:30am in the Harry West Conference Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Atlanta Regional Commission, 229 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. This is the joint BAC meeting.



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

## Lanier Basin Advisory Council

May 2, 2018

First Name	Last Name	Signature	Organization (if any)
Richard	Check		
James	Hazelwood, Jr.		
Eugene	Holmes		Environmental Consultant
Robert	Horne		
Duncan	Hughes		Soque River Watershed Association
Stephen	Jenn		SHJ Investments, LLC
Ed	Jumper		HydraMetrics
Norman	McGinnis		
Alok	Pandya		Brown and Caldwell
Ben	Parris		
David	Porter		
Thomas	Rasmussen		Redbud Project
Wilton	Rooks		
Ottie	Stringer		
Thomas	Vivelo		Lake Lanier Association



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## Oconee Basin Advisory Council

February 8, 2018

First Name	Last Name	Signature	Organization (if any)
Daniel	Brown		
Katherine	Lacksen		
Karl	Peper		Lake Oconee Water Watch
David	Radcliffe		University of Georgia
Robert	Sheldon		
Jill	Stachura		
Lynn	Thorndyke		
William	Tietjen		Lake Oconee Water Watch
Matt	Vinson		Sustainable Water
Robert	Wilson		

