



METROPOLITAN NORTH GEORGIA WATER PLANNING DISTRICT

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS REPORT 2002



December 31, 2002

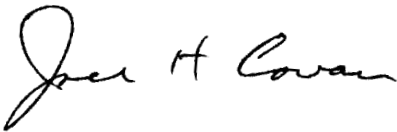
The governing board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and its supporters are leading the way into a new era of water resources management for the Metropolitan North Georgia region. This district continues to look carefully at the issues that this growing region faces related to watershed management, stormwater, water supply, water conservation and wastewater capacity and treatment. As the chairman of the governing board, I am proud of what the district has accomplished in 2002 and look forward to another year of hard work in 2003 when we will complete our planning efforts.

Our planning process fosters empowerment of the people of the district. Local elected officials and community leaders appointed to the governing board, local water experts serving on the Technical Coordinating Committee and hundreds of citizens taking part in our six Basin Advisory Councils or providing input at public meetings, all contribute to our efforts. They are extremely valuable to the district and its work, and I applaud their ownership of this process.

The governing legislation for the district requires that within one year of its formation, the district “prepare for public comment one or more model ordinances for local governments designed to provide for effective stormwater management.” The district board unanimously adopted a comprehensive suite of Model Stormwater Management Ordinances, tools that will be used by local governments to implement and enforce effective stormwater management.

The legislation also charges the district within its first year to “develop a short-term plan to ease immediate wastewater capacity constraints and to reduce the need for sewer tap moratoria.” The governing board approved the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan that will address the immediate wastewater capacity needs of district jurisdictions. This plan ensures that we will have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the cities and counties within the district until our long-term wastewater plan is put in place.

The district’s work is progressing rapidly. With two major projects under its belt, the district is currently focused on analyzing the alternatives for long-term water resources management. The district is also developing a water allocation model that it can use to facilitate difficult policy decisions. These alternatives and tools will ultimately determine the future of this region’s potential growth and quality of the life. We welcome your continued interest and support of this vital effort.



Joel H. Cowan, Chairman
Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

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Official Code of Georgia § 12-5-586 provides,

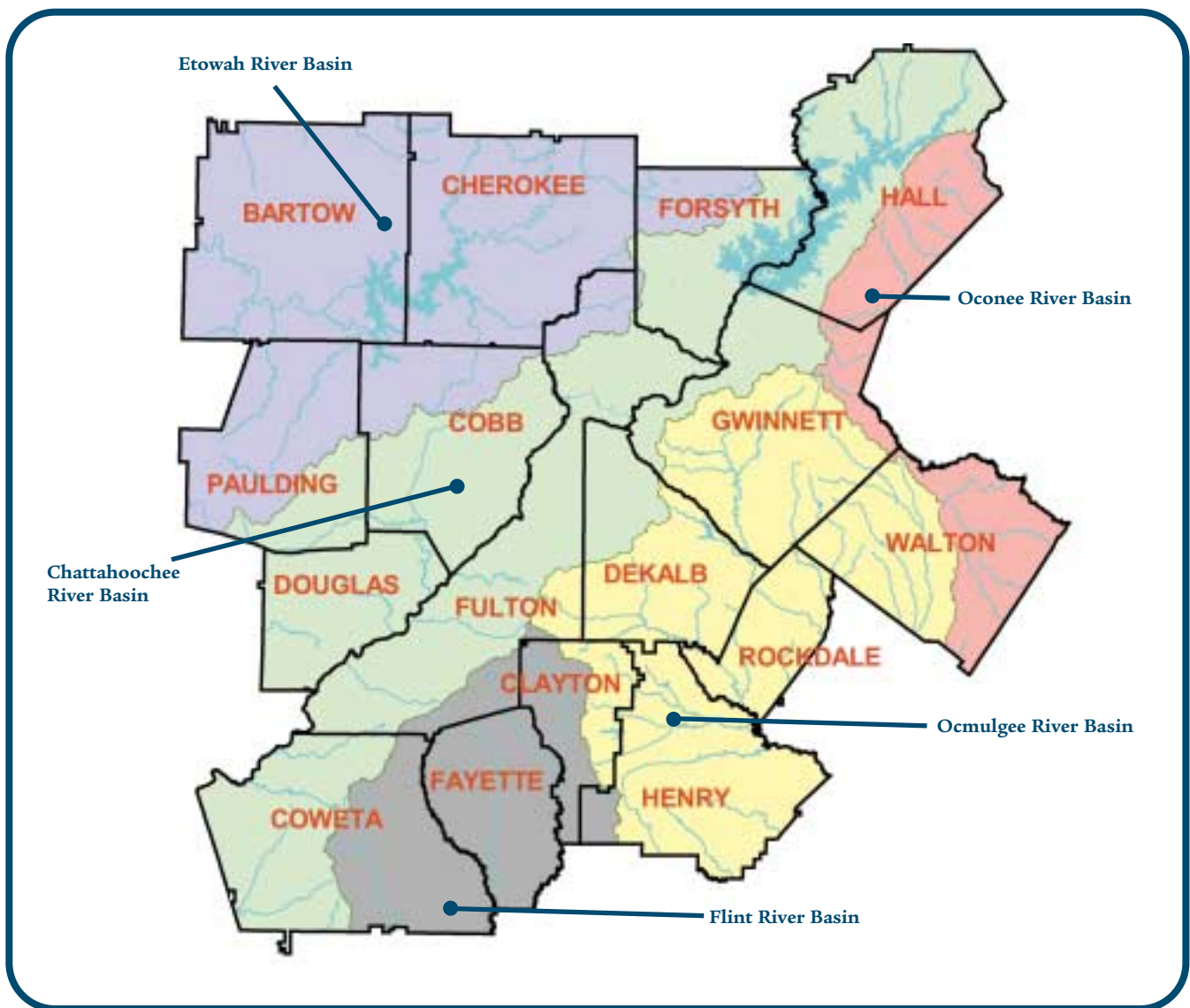
The district shall submit a written report not later than December 31 of each year to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, which report shall contain a detailed account of the activities and progress of the district throughout the previous year and an accurate accounting of all funds received and expended by the district and of the implementation of plans and attainment of goals.

OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT

With limited water resources and a population of nearly four million and growing, metropolitan Atlanta faces increasing challenges in managing its vital water resources. Recognizing the need to carefully and cooperatively manage and protect the rivers and streams of the metropolitan Atlanta region, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 130 in 2001. Governor Roy Barnes subsequently signed the bill into law, creating the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

The district is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and watershed-specific plans to be implemented by local governments in the district. It is composed of 16 counties, including Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton. These counties lie within the boundaries of five major river basins: Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee.

Since its inception, the district has worked to meet the requirements of its enabling legislation as it develops plans for watershed management, wastewater management and water supply and water conservation management. The district's planning staff is carrying out this work along with planning and engineering consultants, including Brown & Caldwell, CH2M Hill, Jordan Jones & Goulding and MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (formerly LAW Engineering). The district governing board adopted two of the district's five major planning efforts in 2002, the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Management Ordinances. The board relied heavily in decision-making on technical input from its Technical Coordinating Committee and public comment, primarily from the district's six Basin Advisory Councils.



VISION, PURPOSE & DISTRICT POLICY GOALS

OUR VISION

We want to leave as our legacy: water where our children can swim, waters we can safely fish, and water that we can drink.

OUR MISSION

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and watershed-specific water resources plans to be implemented by local governments in the district. These plans will protect water quality and public water supplies in and downstream of the region, protect recreational values of the waters in and downstream of the region and minimize potential adverse impacts of development on waters in and downstream of the region.

OUR PURPOSE

The general purposes of the district are to:

- Establish policy, create plans and promote intergovernmental coordination for all water issues in the district;
- Facilitate multi-jurisdictional water related projects;
- Enhance access to funding for water-related projects among local governments in the district area.

The primary purpose of the district is to develop regional and watershed-specific plans to be implemented by local governments in the district for:

- Stormwater management;
- Wastewater treatment;
- Water supply and water conservation;
- The general protection of water quality.

The district is developing its major plans under overarching policy goals established early in the planning process. The governing board adopted these policy goals on March 7, 2002. They are a driving force in the district's process. The district uses these policy goals to develop and evaluate recommended alternatives. The goals will eventually serve as the standard by which the district measures the effectiveness of its plans.

GOAL ONE SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Provide for water supplies and treatment and distribution capacity to meet projected growth through normal conditions and critical drought periods
- Provide for wastewater treatment levels and wastewater collection and treatment capacity to support the needs of the District
- Provide communities with tools to address damaging and life endangering floods
- Provide for efficient water use through tools such as education, conservation, incentives, reuse and pricing structures
- Recognize that a sustainable economy must include quality of life considerations such as recreation and protection of aquatic resources

GOAL TWO IMPROVE AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY

- Provide for the protection of public drinking water supplies
- Ensure the development, design, and maintenance of reliable wastewater collection and conveyance systems that have adequate capacity and do not leak or overflow
- Define implications for the use and management of septic tanks and other land application systems within the integrated water management strategy
- Manage water supply withdrawals and returns to maintain minimum in-stream flows necessary to protect water quality, biodiversity and recreational uses
- Manage point source and nonpoint source pollutant loadings to meet water quality standards and support designated uses, taking into account watershed management requirements, land uses and pollution control measures
- Enhance watershed management requirements to minimize physical impacts to streams and lakes
- Create framework for compliance with federal and state standards for water quality including current and future TMDLs





GOAL THREE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE BENEFITS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS

- Within the constraints of the water resource, seek to create as level a playing field as possible with respect to growth, water availability and allocation among present and future users and in-stream uses
- Avoid penalizing entities that have planned and made significant investments to date
- Establish financial and institutional incentives for multi-jurisdictional collaboration
- Propose allocation scenarios of district water supplies among jurisdictions
- Create equitable solutions for watershed management across jurisdictions that balance the differing impacts of a variety of sources on stream quality.
- Identify opportunities to secure state and federal financial assistance for water infrastructure development and demand-side management practices

GOAL FOUR DEFINE PRACTICAL, INTEGRATED MEASURES FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

- Manage water as a single resource by integrating watershed management, wastewater treatment and water supply and water conservation plans
- Balance local needs and district solutions in the plan

- Leverage existing institutional structures and minimize reorganization of water resources management programs
- Schedule infrastructure and program development (e.g. water supply, wastewater and watershed management) to match projected growth in service demands and challenges to environmental sustainability
- Balance regulatory approaches with incentives for environmentally sustainable land use development

GOAL FIVE PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Provide the public access to information during the planning process
- The plan and process will provide for coordination and collaboration with others in water resources education
- Provide opportunities for interested stakeholders to learn about water resources management challenges and provide input to district decision-makers
- Develop a strategy to build the public will and understanding that is needed to implement the plan recommendations
- Provide district decision-makers tools to engage interested parties and disseminate information on water resource issues and district programs
- Develop a plan for public education on the critical issues of the watershed, long-term wastewater, and water supply and conservation management plans



DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

A 27-member board manages the business and affairs of the district. Governor Roy Barnes appointed Atlanta developer and environmentalist Joel Cowan as chair and Kathryn “Kit” Dunlap, president and CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce as vice chair. The board membership is composed of county commission chairs in counties with populations of 200,000 or more (Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett), the mayor of the district’s most populous city (Atlanta), the county commission chair or mayor of the city from the remaining 11 jurisdictions with a water or sewer system and 10 citizen members, 6 of whom were appointed by the Governor, two by the Lieutenant Governor and two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The full governing board met eight times in 2002. Key activities of the governing board included selection of major planning consultants, adoption of policy goals, approval of 2003 budget and adoption of Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Management Ordinances.

Members of the board participate on various committees that focus on specific topics.

Executive Committee. The executive committee consists of 12 board members and makes recommendations to the board in areas such as the staffing needs of the district, nominations to fill officer vacancies, committees and advisory councils and budgetary functions.

Finance Committee. This committee is chaired by Secretary-Treasurer J. T. Williams and focuses on financial matters such as budgets, funding structures for district projects and making reports to the board on the financial condition of the district

Ethics Committee. This committee was chaired by Gardiner Garrard and charged with the responsibility of developing an ethics policy for the board. Several draft policies were prepared and reviewed, and the board adopted its ethics policy at its June 6, 2002 meeting.

Legal Committee. This committee was created to review legal issues surrounding the district’s Model Stormwater Management Ordinances. It is chaired by Senator Mike Egan, and its membership will provide additional advice to the board as the major plans are developed.

2002 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS Officers

Joel Cowan, Chair
Kathryn “Kit” Dunlap, Vice Chair
J. T. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

Elected Officials

Shirley Franklin, Mayor, City of Atlanta
Clarence Brown, County Commission Chair, Bartow County
Rick Roberts, Mayor of Ball Ground, Cherokee County
Crandle Bray, County Commission Chair, Clayton County
Sam Olens, County Commission Chair, Cobb County
Robert Wood, County Commission Chair, Coweta County
Vernon Jones, Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County
Rita Rainwater, County Commission Chair, Douglas County
Greg Dunn, County Commission Chair, Fayette County
John Kieffer, County Commission Chair, Forsyth County
Mike Kenn, County Commission Chair, Fulton County
Wayne Hill, County Commission Chair, Gwinnett County
Myrtle Figueras, Mayor of Gainesville, Hall County
Leland Maddox, County Commission Chair, Henry County
Jerry Shearin, County Commission Chair, Paulding County
Norman Wheeler, County Commission Chair, Rockdale County
Kevin Little, County Commission Chair, Walton County

Citizen Members

Rebecca “Becky” Champion
Michael J. Egan
Gardiner Garrard
Douglas R. Hooker
Robert “Bob” Cheeley
Robert L. Moultrie Sr.
Laura Turner Seydel





TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The district’s enabling legislation requires that the “Board shall create a technical coordinating committee comprised primarily of water and wastewater officials from counties, cities and authorities in the district.”

The board created this committee in June of 2001. Water and wastewater officials from local governments in the district as well as representatives from additional agencies and technical experts comprise this committee.

Board-adopted criteria provide for up to three technical representatives appointed by each county in the district area and any city in the district area with a population of 200,000 or more, one representative from other cities in the district and additional members as necessary from other agencies, jurisdictions or who supply additional technical expertise.

The TCC is organized into three subcommittees: wastewater, stormwater and water supply and conservation. These subcommittees provide technical expertise to the governing board and the planning staff in the three major planning areas: water treatment, wastewater treatment and watershed/stormwater management. The subcommittees submit technical recommendations on the planning work to the governing board and district planning staff. The full TCC and its subcommittees provided detailed input to the district and its consultants at its 33 meetings in 2002.

A full listing of the members of the district Technical Coordinating Committee is attached in Appendix A.

BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS

The enabling legislation further mandates that the governing board create “separate advisory councils for the Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Oconee and Ocmulgee river basins and the Lake Lanier basin.” The Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) support the board by providing stakeholder and public input throughout the course of the water planning process. The district board nominated the initial BAC members during the fall of 2001 and increased participation by adding nearly 40 new members during the fall of 2002. Each council is composed

of individuals who reside within the Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Lake Lanier, Oconee and Ocmulgee watersheds. As the district develops plans, the Basin Advisory Councils review and comment on the content of the plans.

The Basin Advisory Councils maintained an active meeting schedule in 2002, each council met 10 times (more than double the statutory minimum of four meetings) for a total of 60 BAC meetings in 2002. A full listing of the members of the district Basin Advisory Councils is attached in Appendix B.

DISTRICT PLANNING STAFF AND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE STAFF

The Environmental Planning Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has provided staff support for the district since its inception. Beginning in August 2001, the district executive office added further staff support. The staff as a whole oversees the daily operations of the district and helps it to fulfill all legal and logistical responsibilities. MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (formerly LAW Engineering) serves as chief planning consultant and provides assistance to the district planning staff relating to coordination and scheduling of consultant activities associated with the three long-term planning efforts.





ADOPTION OF MODEL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES

Effective stormwater management and watershed protection are critical for the protection of water resources, environmental health and the quality of life in the metropolitan Atlanta region. Local ordinances are important tools that can help stormwater and nonpoint source pollution control programs meet their objectives.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the district to date is the adoption of a suite of model stormwater management ordinances. Though most communities in the district have implemented some level of stormwater regulation, many have not addressed the issue comprehensively. Therefore, the planning staff (provided by ARC) prepared a suite of model stormwater management ordinances in order to give district localities a package of tools that effectively addresses stormwater management issues and provides for consistent regulations across the 16-county area.

At the outset, the planning staff worked with the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and BACs to identify the stormwater management needs that the ordinances should address. Based upon feedback received, the staff determined that several model ordinances would be necessary to address the many different aspects of the stormwater management problem. After developing a needs summary, the district staff thoroughly reviewed existing ordinances from district communities and other parts of the country.

The planning staff provided a summary of this review to the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and BACs. Based upon the needs summary and ordinance review, district staff prepared an outline of potential ordinances for comment. They used this outline to prepare a set of preliminary draft ordinances. Feedback on preliminary draft ordinances was used to prepare Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances for public review.

Staff presented the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances to the district board at their May 2, 2002 meeting and released them for formal public comment from May 6 to June 19, 2002. Following the public comment period, the staff then worked with the district Stormwater Technical Subcommittee to incorporate comments.

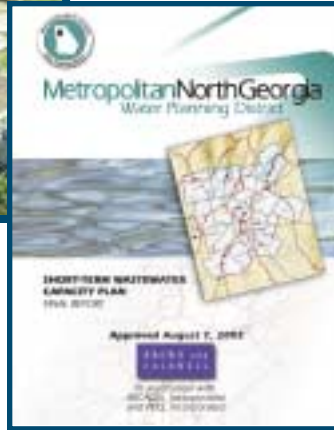
The governing board adopted the model ordinances on October 3, 2002.

- **Model Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment** provides for post-development controls for stormwater runoff quantity and quality. This ordinance outlines performance criteria and requires long-term inspection and maintenance of stormwater controls.
- **Model Floodplain Management/Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance** involves protection of floodplains, the designation of flood-prone areas, management of their uses, and minimization of modifications to streams.
- **Model Conservation Subdivision/Open Space Development Ordinance** provides for conservation subdivisions in residential zones and for the preservation of open space and greenspace.
- **Model Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance** provides communities with the authority to deal with illicit discharges by establishing enforcement actions.
- **Model Litter Control Ordinance** provides a prohibition against littering and an enforcement mechanism with penalties for communities to deal with violations.

State law requires that local governments in the district implement these model ordinances. Implementation of the ordinances will be ensured in two ways: (1) Local governments that do not fully adopt the model ordinances, or something at least as effective, will be ineligible for state grants or loans for stormwater related projects, as determined by EPD; (2) EPD will use its permitting authority to ensure that communities implement the model ordinances.

The full text of all Model Stormwater Management Ordinances is available on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) or by request from the district planning staff.

In 2003, the district will be conducting a training seminar for local elected officials and other local personnel on the ordinances. The model ordinances will also be integrated into the district-wide Watershed Management Plan during 2003.



the development of plans to meet the need. Four areas lacked adequate plans: Forsyth County, North Fulton, South Fulton and Rockdale County. The Short-Term Wastewater Capacity Plan includes alternatives for satisfying the projected short-term capacity needs in these four areas.

Key Findings:

- The vast majority of the wastewater utilities in the district have workable plans in place that will satisfy their short-term capacity needs.
- A significant amount of interjurisdictional cooperation already exists in the district.
- Localities within the district must continue to implement existing high-level sewer maintenance programs to minimize sanitary system overflows and preserve existing treatment capacity.
- There are temporary, short-term options available to satisfy immediate needs.

ADOPTION OF THE SHORT-TERM WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN

Growth in the metropolitan Atlanta area, combined with the need to preserve water quality in the region’s streams and lakes, presents a difficult challenge to local wastewater utilities. Pursuant to the enabling legislation, one of the district’s first tasks was to develop a short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan that focuses on the immediate capacity needs of local wastewater systems. The plan includes recommendations for addressing those needs. A consulting team led by Brown & Caldwell worked from October 2001 through August 2002 to prepare the short-term plan.

The Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan is important because a number of wastewater systems in the district operate at or near their capacity. Addressing the short-term needs of these cities and counties is essential in the face of projected growth in population and the need to maintain water quality.

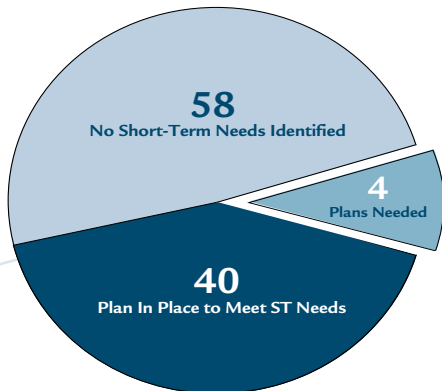
The Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan has resulted in a comprehensive plan that addresses immediate wastewater capacity problems of the district while protecting water quality. Although a time horizon of 2008 was used for developing this plan, the plan’s recommendations are intended to meet only immediate needs until the district governing board adopts the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan.

The governing board adopted the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan on August 7, 2002. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has indicated that it will use the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan to assist in NPDES permit decision making for those jurisdictions that face immediate wastewater capacity problems or are under sewer tap moratoria.

The full text of the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan is available on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) or by request from the district planning staff.

INVENTORY SUMMARY

102 PUBLICLY-OWNED FACILITIES



The planning effort showed that of the 102 wastewater treatment systems in the district, 44 will require additional capacity by the year 2008. Of those, 40 have a plan in place or are sufficiently along in

Critical Implementation Elements

- Elimination of Georgia Power heat load from Chattahoochee River
- Completion of City of Atlanta’s Nancy Creek Capacity Management Project
- Completion of Gwinnett County’s 40 MGD discharge to Lake Lanier
- Permitting and implementation of DeKalb’s Snapfinger/ Pole Bridge into regional treatment facilities

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Technological and Public Education/ Awareness Activities

The district has also been working with the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Geographic Information Systems to develop an automated system for depicting and measuring impervious surfaces for the 16 counties. The amount of impervious surface in a watershed is the single most important factor in estimating the amount and timing of stormwater runoff. It is also an important determinant of water quality. Thus, the district must have current, state-of-the-art information on the amount and location of impervious surfaces within the watersheds that comprise its planning area.

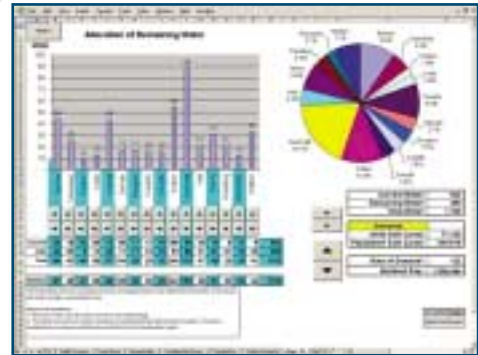
The GIS Center has used the Direct Extraction Method to generate fine-grained maps of impervious surfaces directly from aerial photography. This method provides estimates of impervious surface to the sub-watershed level and potentially to the individual land parcel. These areas can be aggregated to any larger region of interest using GIS overlay techniques. In addition, the Direct Extraction Method produces maps that depict the size and shape of the impervious surface. These visual representations of the impervious surface are powerful tools for public education and outreach efforts.

Federal Grant Research

The district has also been working with the law firm of Holland and Knight to study potential federal funding opportunities that could help address environmental and infrastructure challenges in Northern Georgia. Because individual water and sewer systems have similar requirements, the district has undertaken this effort in order to develop a joint strategy to pursue federal funds. The City of Atlanta, the Clayton County Water Authority, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Fulton and DeKalb counties and the City of Gainesville have committed funds towards this effort.

Since Congress adjourned for the year without having passed 11 of the 13 fiscal year 2003 appropriations bills, work on the original request made on behalf of the district continues. The district was able to secure

\$1 million in the House VA HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill for water and wastewater infrastructure projects and is working to guarantee and possibly increase that amount in the conference report that will likely be passed in January 2003. These circumstances are extraordinary – the last time Congress adjourned without passing the spending bills was 1980. However, we are confident that the district will receive funding as a result of this work.



Zero Sum Allocation Model

Probably the most critical and possibly the most controversial aspect of the district's work relates to future water allocations. The district is developing a water allocation model to facilitate difficult policy decisions. The fixed limits of our water resources require allocation, and allocation of water requires a theory or methodology. The Zero Sum Allocation Model bases allocation on land remaining to be developed within a jurisdiction. It projects new densities (or incorporates historical densities) on undeveloped land for "first round development." It also involves setting aside 20 percent of undeveloped lands as greenspace.





The district is especially proud of its achievements in public involvement in 2002. Throughout the planning process, citizens in the district have had numerous opportunities to give input through either the district's standing committees (the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Basin Advisory Councils) or at public meetings. The planning staff used this feedback to make substantial improvements to both the Model Stormwater Ordinances and Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan.

The district also made strides in publishing educational materials and has maintained a web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) that makes available extensive information about the district.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) and other Stakeholders Review

The district seeks to gain broad public acceptance and successful implementation of the final plans and ordinances. Thus, a top priority is the collection and consideration of input from the public at regular intervals throughout the planning process. Feedback from the TCC and BACs was especially critical as the consultants and the district planning staff developed the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Ordinances.

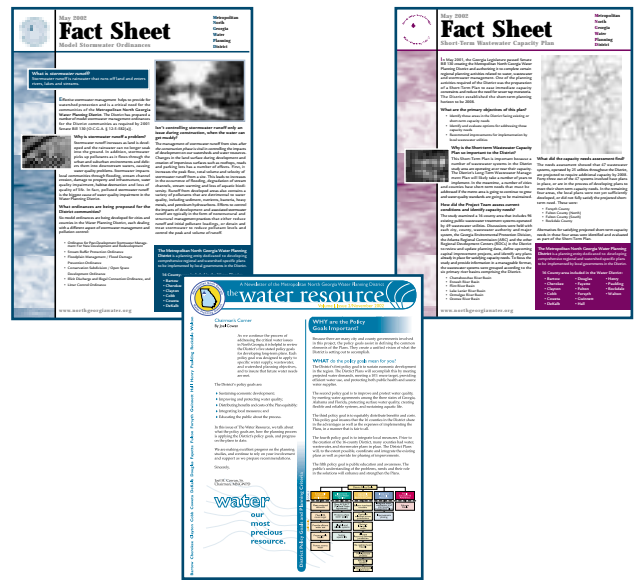
During the preparation of the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan, there was extensive public involvement. Consultants and staff held a total of 12 meetings with the BACs between January and March 2002 to present information and receive comments. The district planning staff and consultant team also conducted six meetings with the Wastewater Subcommittee to present findings and gather feedback on the various tasks of the plan. Additional meetings were held with EPD during the course of the short-term plan development.

Key to the successful development of the Model Stormwater Management Ordinances was the in-depth involvement of stakeholders who provided important information and feedback throughout the planning process. Staff and consultants held 18 BAC meetings, 7 meetings with the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and additional meetings with other stakeholders. The draft model ordinances were also posted on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org).

Public Review and Comment and Public Meetings

Between May 6 and June 19, 2002, the district conducted a successful public review and comment period for both the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances and the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan Final Draft Report. In June 2002, the district hosted six public meetings across the district with approximately 200 attendees.

The district planning staff strove to ensure that the 45-day review and comment period would be meaningful to the public. Meetings were held in each of the six district basins. Project fact sheets were developed. The public and the media were notified through mailing lists, media advisories, legal notices, display ads and through access to the work products at various public places. The district received close to 1,000 individual comments from nearly 150 different parties on both projects. At the conclusion of the public review and comment period, the planning staff worked thoroughly to consider every individual comment received, recording them and their responses in *"Public Review Process & Comments and Responses for the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan Final Draft Report"* and *"Public Review Process, Comments and Responses for the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances."*



Outreach Materials

Through display boards and maps, presentations, fact sheets, electronic and paper newsletters, the district has used outreach tools to communicate to its stakeholders and to the public in 2002. The district produced two issues of its official newsletter, the *Water Resource*, and its electronic newsletter, *Water eNews*. Both publications including essential information about the district, news about the planning process and updates on the district's major planning efforts.

Web Site

All of the district's latest deliverables, meeting schedules, and archived materials can be found on its web site at www.northgeorgiawater.org. This tool has served as an essential source of information and materials dissemination for district stakeholders in 2002, and will continue to serve to promote general public awareness about the district and about water resource issues in North Georgia.

PROGRESS ON LONG-TERM PLANS

The district has made significant progress in 2002 toward developing the district's long-term plans. Work on these plans began in early 2002 with the development and adoption of policy goals by the board on March 7, 2002. These goals are guiding the work of the consultants.

WATER SUPPLY/WATER CONSERVATION AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT

In 2002, the district began work on the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Consultants inventoried the district's current water demands and supply sources. The study looked at existing sources, potential limitations on water supply resources and the volume of treatment plant discharges. Future water demands (and associated wastewater demands) were forecast through 2030 using a water use model. The model used a high population growth rate to estimate future water demand. By 2030, water use in the district, without aggressive water conservation, could total almost 1.2 billion gallons per day.

Water conservation should be a central component of water supply planning. Forecasts project a baseline reduction in water use due to plumbing codes and replacement of existing fixtures and appliances. Further, an additional reduction in water use is recommended through aggressive water conservation planning measures. Other measures under consideration for meeting our water supply and wastewater needs include returning treated water back to its source for reuse and new water supply reservoirs for off-stream storage of water resources.

As the anticipated wastewater treatment capacity needs are being developed, the district is working to develop (1) recommendations concerning future upgrades and expansions of existing wastewater treatment facilities, (2) measures to maximize efficiency through multi-jurisdictional approaches and (3) identification of opportunities for gray-water reuse and other technologies to increase wastewater treatment capacity or efficiency.

WATER CONSERVATION RECOMMENDED MEASURES

Retrofit with low flow fixtures at home resale

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Rain sensors on irrigation systems

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Conservation pricing

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Public education and incentive programs

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Water Audits

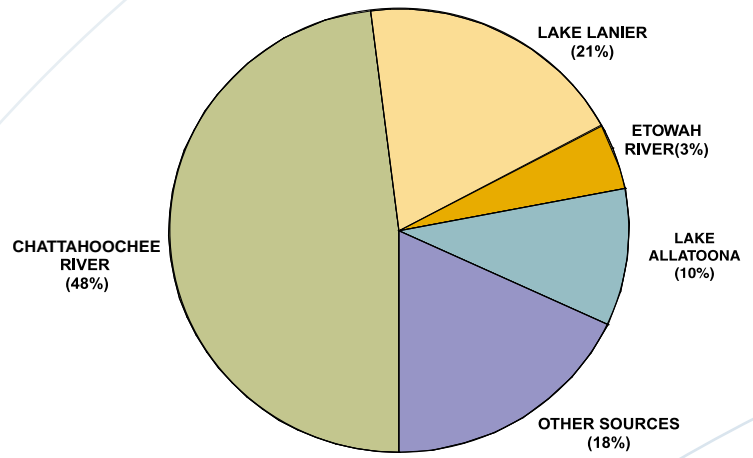
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ULF Urinals

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Multi-family Submetering

WATER SUPPLY SOURCES IN THE 16-COUNTY METRO AREA



In the fall of 2002, the district began discussions of three alternative solutions packages to meet its water supply and wastewater needs through 2030. The alternatives are:

- **Solution A:** This solution integrates current local jurisdiction plans for 2030 into a comprehensive plan to meet projected demands for 2030.
- **Solution B:** This solution uses existing infrastructure and targets new investments to fewer larger plants to benefit from economies of scale. This solution represents the most drastic departure from current water planning because it requires a district-wide perspective and places the greatest emphasis on interjurisdictional collaboration.
- **Solution C:** This solution focuses on basin water resources and emphasizes limiting changes to the current system of interbasin transfers. The two central themes of this solution are (1) to supply the water needs of a basin through sources within the basin, and (2) to return treated wastewater to the basin where the water originated. This solution is similar to Solution A. However, it takes a more district-wide perspective on water resource management.

The staff and board will analyze and refine these solutions once the consultants develop cost estimates and the district receives all feedback from the TCC and BACs. The final step in recommending the preferred solution for the district will be to develop implementation strategies.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STORMWATER

In 2002, the district also began work on the district-wide Watershed Management Plan. The watershed management plan builds upon existing watershed planning efforts in the district and includes a number of key recommendations that are essential to the protection of the district's watersheds.

The overall goal of the Watershed Management Plan is to meet and maintain water quality standards and designated uses of streams and water bodies within the district.

Key 2002 Watershed Plan Activities

- Forecasted pollutant loads
- Identified and ranked best management practices
- Developed strategies for TMDLs and source water protection
- Developed draft environmental monitoring plan
- Drafted long-term strategies

The district has recommended two levels of watershed management activities to classify subwatersheds within the district:



(1) **Category 1 Watersheds** – based on current extent of impervious conditions. These watersheds constitute approximately 80 percent of the district. The goal of maintaining water quality and aquatic habitat can be met in these areas through the implementation of ordinances and programmatic activities.



(2) **Category 2 Watersheds** – watershed with levels of imperviousness and existing development beyond Category 1 watersheds. These watersheds constitute approximately 20 percent of the district and will require some level of retrofit or restoration activities to meet water quality standards and designated uses.

The district is currently discussing a set of recommended strategies for the district-wide Watershed Management Plan. Key components of these recommendations include:

- All watersheds/jurisdictions will implement programmatic stormwater control measures;



- Source water watersheds will implement water supply protection activities;
- Watersheds with TMDL-listed waterways will perform TMDL implementation activities;
- Watersheds with existing effective impervious areas greater than 10 percent will develop and implement a watershed improvement plan.

The district recognizes that successful implementation of these watershed management recommendations will hinge on the ability to fund the recommended activities. The district will develop an implementation plan to address these issues in 2003.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE DISTRICT?

In 2003, the District will complete its work on the district-wide Watershed Management Plan, Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Once these plans are approved by Georgia EPD and adopted by the governing board, local governments within the district will be responsible for their implementation.

The district will have a role during implementation as well. These activities include:

- The development of a public education and awareness program reaching 75-90 percent of the district's population by 2006;
- The administration of a training program for local government elected officials and local personnel on the Model Stormwater Management Ordinances;
- Conduct of annual reviews of district plans and their implementation; and
- Submittal of reports to Georgia EPD on the progress and implementation of the district's goals.

The Water Planning District is structured to operate according to a calendar year fiscal year. On August 17, 2001, the board approved the budget for the operation of the district during 2002. A detailed accounting of the funds received and expended as of December 15, 2002 is shown below.

PROJECTS FUNDING STRUCTURE

As the major district plans required by the statute have not been completed, the Finance Committee does not have recommendations concerning the financing of projects included in district plans at this time. The district has met with the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to discuss the financing of projects included in district plans and will continue these discussions as the plans are completed.

FEDERAL GRANT RESEARCH

In 2003, the district plans to continue its work begun in 2002 with the law firm of Holland and Knight to study potential federal funding opportunities that could be used to address environmental and infrastructure challenges in Northern Georgia. Because individual water and sewer systems have similar requirements, the district has made this a joint undertaking with the respective systems in order to develop a strategy to pursue these federal funds. The City of Atlanta, the Clayton County Water Authority, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Fulton and DeKalb counties, and the City of Gainesville committed funds towards this effort in 2002.

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

During 2002, the Board and its committees discussed issues surrounding the funding of the district's calendar year 2003 budget (\$3,191,064). The board ultimately selected the per capita assessment option at a figure of \$.55 per capita on June 6, 2002. This figure provides for \$2,186,064 in local dues for district calendar year 2003 budget.

The board has requested a state funding level of \$1,000,000 (roughly 30% of the 2003 budget) for state fiscal year 2004. This figure continues the \$1,000,000 amount provided in FY2003.

MNGWPD Accounting of Funds Received and Expended (Unaudited)

FUNDS EXPENDED (as of December 15, 2002)

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2002 Budget</u>	<u>Expended or Under Contract Through 12/15/2002</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
District Executive Office & Staff	175,000	152,510	22,490
Executive Office Special Projects	440,000	153,556	286,444
Direct Salaries (District Planning Staff)	292,150	275,077	17,073
Fringe Benefits (District Planning Staff)	145,699	104,512	41,187
Water Board Contracts*	3,842,152	2,792,101	1,050,051
Equipment Depreciation	2,400	0	2,400
Indirect Cost	276,284	244,456	31,828
Miscellaneous Operating	113,400	67,631	45,769
Travel	10,000	2,701	7,299
Subgrants and Participants*	80,000	60,000	20,000
Totals	\$5,377,085	\$3,852,544	\$1,524,541

*Water Board Contract and Subgrant expenses have been contractually obligated and will be expended in 2002.

FUNDS RECEIVED (as of December 15, 2002)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payor</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Special Purpose Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
1/9/02	Gwinnett County			148,050.00		148,050.00
1/9/02	Henry County			30,026.00		30,026.00
1/11/02	Forsyth County			33,753.50		33,753.50
1/11/02	Paulding County			28,015.50		28,015.50
1/17/02	Clayton County			129,707.00		129,707.00
1/31/02	Jan. Interest Income	4,078.75				4,078.75
2/5/02	Paulding County			7,465.00		7,465.00
2/28/02	Feb. Interest Income	3,437.74				3,437.74
3/1/02	Forsyth County			8,994.50		8,994.50
3/1/02	Paulding County			7,465.50		7,465.50
3/13/02	Forsyth County			8,994.50		8,994.50
3/13/02	City of Atlanta			114,198.00	35,000.00	149,198.00
3/18/02	Cherokee County			74,612.00		74,612.00
3/18/02	Forsyth County			8,774.50		8,774.50
3/21/02	Gwinnett County			161,354.49		161,354.49
3/21/02	Paulding County			7,465.50		7,465.50
3/21/02	Dekalb County			174,417.50		174,417.50
3/27/02	Gwinnett County			53,784.83		53,784.83
3/29/02	Mar. Interest Income	4,083.76				4,083.76
4/30/02	Apr. Interest Income	4,450.98				4,450.98
5/6/02	Forsyth County			8,994.50		8,994.50
5/6/02	Paulding County			7,465.50		7,465.50
5/15/02	Gwinnett County			53,784.84		53,784.84
5/21/02	GA Dept. of Natural Resources		200,000.00			200,000.00
5/29/02	Forsyth County			8,994.50		8,994.50
5/31/02	May Interest Income	3,681.48				3,681.48
6/4/02	City of Atlanta			76,132.00		76,132.00
6/4/02	Gwinnett County			53,784.84		53,784.84
6/11/02	Henry County			65,447.00		65,447.00
6/11/02	GA DOAS-Refund of Salary exp.					5,637.06
6/11/02	Habersham-Refund of Rent					2,346.65
6/28/02	June Interest Income	3,148.52				3,148.52
7/1/02	GA Dept. of Natural Resources				40,872.00	40,872.00
7/17/02	Paulding County			7,466.00		7,466.00
7/17/02	Cherokee County			38,911.00		38,911.00
7/31/02	July Interest Income	2,878.39				2,878.39
8/26/02	City of Atlanta			38,066.00		38,066.00
8/28/02	GA Dept. of Natural Resources		1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
8/31/02	August Interest Income	2,442.54				2,442.54
9/30/02	September Interest Income	2,626.69				2,626.69
10/1/02	GA Dept. of Natural Resources				40,000.00	40,000.00
10/31/02	October Interest Income	2,551.37				2,551.37
11/7/02	Fulton County Commission			236,119.00		236,119.00
11/14/02	Cobb County			334,263.00		334,263.00
11/18/02	Fayette County			22,961.00		22,961.00
11/18/02	Rockdale County			17,639.00		17,639.00
11/29/02	November Interest Income	2,311.67				2,311.67
11/27/02	Clayton County			130,084.00		130,084.00
11/27/02	Gwinnett County			323,646.00		323,646.00
12/5/02	Walton County			15,268.00		15,268.00
Totals		\$35,692	\$1,200,000	\$2,436,105	\$115,872	\$3,795,652

Judy Adler, *P2AD*
 Nick Ammons, *Fulton County*
 Laurie Ashmore, *Rockdale County*
 Johnny Barron, *Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority*
 Troy Besseche, *Peachtree City*
 Dennis Benz, *Palmetto, Fairburn, Woodstock, Buford*
 Wade Brannan, *Clayton County Water Authority*
 Bob Brice, *Cobb County Water System*
 Chris Browning, *Fulton County*
 Dudley Buchanan, *Newnan W&L Commission*
 Aaron Buckner, *Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority*
 Earl Burrell, *Fulton County*
 Gene Camp, *Bartow County*
 Steve Cannon, *Rockdale County*
 David Chastant, *Gwinnett County*
 Philip Cochran, *City of Douglasville*
 Cheryl Contant, *Georgia Institute of Technology*
 Charles Corbin, *Cities of Palmetto & Buford*
 Rick Daniel, *DeKalb County*
 Remy del Rosario, *City of Atlanta*
 Terry Demeo, *Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia*
 Steve Dempsey, *Forsyth County*
 David Dockery, *City of Gainesville Water & Wastewater*
 Dan Easterbrook, *City of Fayetteville*
 Rick Eastin, *City of Fayetteville*
 Mark Ennis, *Monroe Utilities Network*
 Tim Equels, *Fulton County*
 Lindy Farmer, *Henry County*
 Marvin Flanigan, *City of Conyers*
 Roy Fowler, *Cobb-Marietta Water Authority*
 Catherine Fox, *EPA*
 Pete Frost, *Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority*
 Tommy Furlow, *Gwinnett County*
 Marie Garrett, *City of Canton*
 Wendell H. Geiger, *Walton County Water Authority*
 John W. Griffin, *City of Atlanta*
 Tim Grizzard, *Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority*
 Sam Gueller, *DeKalb County*
 Kathryn Hatcher, *University of Georgia*
 Charles Hawkins, *City of Social Circle*
 Doug Hawkins, *City of Social Circle*
 Thomas Heard, *Cherokee County Water Authority*
 Jonathon Heard, *City of Cumming*
 Pat Hembree, *Henry County Water Authority*
 Stan Herring, *Bartow County*
 Bill Higgins, *Cobb County Water System*
 Jamie Higgins, *U. S. Army, Southern Regional Environmental Office*
 Renee Hoge, *Forsyth County*
 Harry Hughes, *Coweta County Water and Sewer*
 Lee Hunt, *City of Atlanta, Department of Water*
 Michael Jones, *Paulding County Public Works*
 Ronnie Jones, *Henry County*
 Larry Kaiser, *Rockdale County*
 Brant Keller, *City of Griffin*
 Wayne Kennedy, *Coweta County*
 Bill King, *City of Cartersville*
 David Kubala, *Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority*
 Brandon Lovett, *Newnan Utilities*
 Barry Lucas, *Forsyth County*
 John Marshall, *Forsyth County*
 James Maughon, *Forsyth County*
 Steve McCullers, *Cobb County*
 Rebecca McDonough, *City of Alpharetta*
 Woody McFarlin, *City of Kennesaw*
 Alex Mohajer, *DeKalb County*
 William Moore, *City of College Park*
 Stuart Moring, *City of Roswell*
 Becky Nixon, *Cobb-Marietta Water Authority*
 Phil Nungesser, *Forsyth County*
 Tom O'Bryant, *GA Mountains Regional Development Center*
 Glenn Page, *Cobb County Marietta Water Authority*
 Ron Papaleoni, *Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority*
 Tony Parrott, *Fayette County Water System*
 Mike Patton, *Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority*
 Steve Payne, *City of Gainesville*
 Craig Pendergrast, *Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker*
 Tim Perkins, *Forsyth County*
 David Peters, *City of Atlanta*
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 John Reinhardt, *City of Atlanta*
 Charles Richards, *City of Roswell*
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 Paul Rose, *City of Acworth/LAPA*
 Colby Rutledge, *Paulding County*
 Jim Scarbrough, *Gwinnett County*
 Tom Sills, *Chatt-Flint Regional Development Center*
 Jim Stafford, *Cartersville Water Department*
 Frank Stephens, *Gwinnett County*
 Ed Strong, *Newnan Utilities*
 Dennis Taylor, *Forsyth County*
 Kristan Taylor, *Coosa Valley Regional Development Center*
 Mike Thomas, *Clayton County Water Authority*
 Joe Tichy, *Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center*
 Andrew Tsivoglou, *HDR/WLJordan*
 Larry Turner, *Peachtree City Water & Sewer Authority*
 Miguel Valentin, *City of Decatur*
 Chris Venice, *Fayette County*
 Janet Vick, *Gwinnett County*
 Neal Wellons, *Clayton County Water Authority*
 David Whitson, *Henry County Water Authority*
 Keith Williams, *City of Douglasville*
 Eric Wilmarth, *City of Ball Ground*
 Pete Wright, *Gwinnett County*
 Mak Yari, *City of Gainesville*
 Kim Zimmerman, *Clayton County Water Authority*

Chattahoochee Basin

Joel Ames
 Michael Bennett
 Sally Bethea
 Rick Blackwell
 Mark Boner
 Basil Campbell
 Lamonte Carr
 Howard Carson
 Doug Carter
 John Cheek
 Lisa Collins
 Bill Couch
 Jodie Cox
 John Culbreth
 Mary Davis
 Mike Dobbins
 Mike Dunn
 James Durrett
 Prescott Eaton
 Michael Farmer
 Bob Fox
 Dieter Franz
 Peter Frost
 Douglas Fulle
 Doug Gatlin
 Art Geter
 Bob Giannetti
 Karen Handel
 Tal Harber
 Debbie Hardy
 Linda Heard
 Jamie Higgins
 Bill Jones
 Jo Jones
 Rick Jones
 Abby Jordan
 David Kuechenmeister
 John Lawrence
 Eric Linton
 Russ Marane
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 Mack Martin
 Jim Mathis
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 John Sibley
 Kelvin Simmons
 Monte Simpson
 Victoria Sweeny
 Bob Tant
 Ben Taube
 George Taylor
 Karen Thurman
 David Tolleson
 John Turner
 Wayne Vashaw
 Dewey White
 Connie Wiggins
 Virgil Williams
 Lauri Young
 Karen Zarin

Etowah Basin

Sandy Adams
 Gary Ayers
 Stan Bearden
 Bruce Biasetti
 Wayne Biasetti
 Jennifer Bowers
 Jonathan Braden
 Herb Burnsed
 Dan Clark
 Elyse Cochran
 Joe Cox
 Marvin D. Cox
 Carlos Dyer
 Stan England
 Angie Farsee
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 Doug Gilmore
 Don Gordon
 Curtis D. Hart
 Thomas Heard
 Joe Horton
 Dexter Jones
 Kevin Kirby
 John Knox
 Paul Kreager
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 Ilona Sanders
 Steve Simpson
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 Candace Stoughton
 Bob Sutton
 Dianne Tate
 Skip Teaster
 Ford Thigpen
 Drew Tonsmiere
 Marty Williams
 Louis Zunguze

Flint Basin

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 Dennis Chase
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 Lance Clark
 Jerry Donovan
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 Ron Feldner
 Chad Floyd
 Scott Formel
 Carol Fritz
 Glen Gosa
 Randy Harrison
 Marilyn Johnson
 Ken Martin
 Garney Reid
 Tori Stivers
 Bryan Taft
 Keith Wood
 John Woody

Lake Lanier Basin

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 Tommy Bagwell
 William Bagwell
 Darcie Boden
 Keith Breedlove
 Bobby Bumbalough
 Sherry Burns
 Jim Callison
 John Cunard
 Kristin Daniel
 Mack De Vine

Denise Deal
 Augie DeAugustinus
 Steve Eiberger
 Rex Farmer
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 Thomas Furlow
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 Fred Gould
 Connie Hagler
 James Hazelwood
 Tom Hensley
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 Jackie Joseph
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 Joni Owens
 Reggie Perry
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 Kirby Scheimann
 Ron Seder
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 Martha Simmons
 Tyler Smith
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 Frank Turk
 John Watson
 Daren Wayne
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 Sheryl Williams

Ocmulgee Basin

Laurie Anderson
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 Paul Bowan
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 Robert Burroughs
 Steve Cannon
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 Phil Cuthbertson
 Beverly Dockeray-Ojo
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Oconee Basin

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