



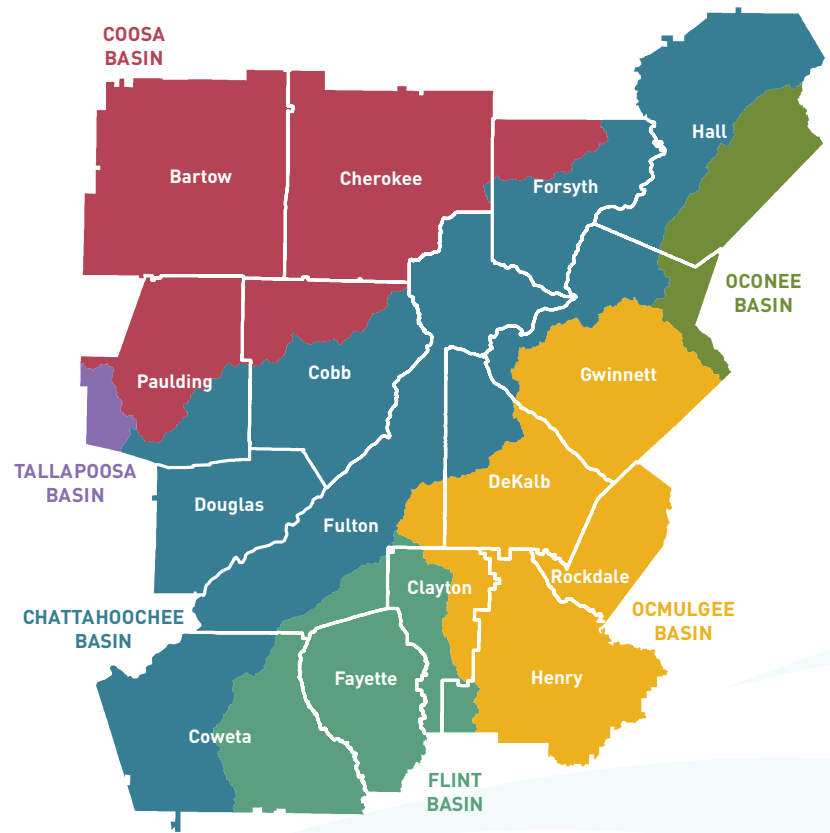
2016 Activities & Progress Report

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District



About the District

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 2001 as a regional water resources planning agency. The District develops comprehensive plans and strategies for the management of water supply and water conservation, wastewater and stormwater for the 15-county, 93-city metro Atlanta area. The first suite of plans was adopted in 2003 and updated in 2009. The District is currently working on the second update of the plans, a process that began in 2014 with visioning and goal-setting exercises with our stakeholders and technical experts. For the first time, the three separate plans will be combined into a single, integrated Water Resource Management Plan. The plan is scheduled to be adopted in 2017.



2016 Governing Board Members

— Elected Officials —

The Hon. Boyd Austin, Jr. (District Chair)
Mayor, City of Dallas, Paulding County

The Hon. Kasim Reed
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Hon. Larry Owens
Mayor, City of Senoia, Coweta County

The Hon. John Eaves
Chairman, Fulton County Commission

The Hon. Matt Santini
Mayor, City of Cartersville, Bartow County

The Hon. Lee May
Interim CEO, DeKalb County

The Hon. Charlotte Nash
Chairman, Gwinnett County Commission

The Hon. L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr.
Chairman, Cherokee County Commission

The Hon. Tom Worthan
Chairman, Douglas County Commission

The Hon. Richard Mecum
Chairman, Hall County Commission

The Hon. Jeff Turner
Chairman, Clayton County Commission

The Hon. Edward Johnson
Mayor, City of Fayetteville, Fayette County

The Hon. Tommy Smith
Chairman, Henry County Commission

The Hon. Tim Lee
Chairman, Cobb County Commission

The Hon. H. Ford Gravitt
Mayor, City of Cumming, Forsyth County

The Hon. Richard Oden
Chairman & CEO, Rockdale County Commission

— Citizen Members —

Katie Kirkpatrick (*Vice Chair*), Atlanta
Birdel Jackson (*Secretary/Treasurer*), Atlanta
Mark Berry, Atlanta

Pam Burnett, Marietta
Bradley Currey, Jr., Atlanta
Kit Dunlap, Gainesville
Chuck Huling, Mableton

Gerald Pouncey, Jr., Atlanta
Tim Thoms, Fayetteville
Steven Woodruff, Canton

A Message from Our Chairman

This has been a remarkable year for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District). Most notably, we celebrated our 15th anniversary in June with an event that honored the innovative work of our partner utilities and water authorities that have built the region and the Metro Water District into a national leader in water resource management.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as chairman of the Metro Water District since June 2011. As I near the end of my term as chair, I reflect on how far we have come in the past 15 years. We have had an incredible track record of water conservation and efficiency. Our robust water conservation program has helped reduce water demand by 10 percent since 2001, even as population increased by more than one million. Meanwhile, we are experiencing fewer sewer spills as maintenance and grease management programs near 100 percent implementation.

And our comprehensive suite of stormwater model ordinances contributes significantly to better stormwater pollution prevention practices and sediment reduction. The District also continues to find innovative ways to grow its education and outreach programs, including events and contests that reach all age groups with impactful messaging and family-friendly fun.

Our collective successes over the years are impressive, but the past year stands out for the challenges we met and the ideas we introduced. In 2016, we created the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), which consolidated our existing assistance and outreach efforts to our partners into a comprehensive, integrated program. We are focused on growing our relationships with our regional partners and working together to reduce water demand and improve water quality.

This year, as we worked toward the update of our Water Resource Management Plan, we dug deeper into plan action items and determined how utilities are implementing them. And, as we approached the end of this drought year, we focused our attention on decreasing outdoor water use.

We are proud to have been recognized in Georgia and nationally for our outstanding work and success in water resource management. In October of this year, the Metro Water District received U.S. EPA's prestigious **2016 WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year Award** for outstanding

contributions as a promotional partner. The District also received Southface's inaugural **Fulcrum Award** for excellence in promoting a regenerative economy, responsible resource use, social equality and a healthy built environment for all. We were also a finalist in Metro Atlanta Chamber's **E3 Award** for our role in reducing water use in the 15-county metro area.

But even as we celebrate our achievements and track our successes, we are reminded that issues surrounding water resource management can be highly contentious. At different times over the last 30 years, Georgia has been involved in legal battles over water resources in both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) basins. Remarks on our water litigation status and an update on the Corps' Water Control Manual for the ACF basin can be found on page 22 of this annual report.

The past year has been full of new challenges that we have met with great enthusiasm. Despite the accolades and success we have achieved, we can't rest on our laurels. We must continue to push the envelope with our new Water Resource Management Plan, our new strategies for technical assistance to increase plan implementation, and our innovative education and outreach campaigns.

We look forward to an exciting 2017. I am confident that the good work of the Metro Water District will continue for many years to come.



Mayor Boyd Austin
Metro Water District Chair



Inaugural STREAM Awards for Programs and Projects of Excellence

Since 2001, Metro Water District utilities, local governments and authorities have completed and put into action many game-changing projects and programs. In an effort to recognize the achievements of our partners over the past 15 years, the District created the STREAM Awards for Programs and Projects of Excellence, which were presented at our 15th Anniversary Celebration held in June.

The District asked partners to nominate programs and projects that exemplified the STREAM criteria: 1) set an example for environmentally SUSTAINABLE practices; 2) are THOUGHTFUL and innovative in design, or use innovative techniques for outreach; 3) are REGIONAL in scale and show a positive impact on both

the metro area and downstream; 4) actively ENGAGE the community and stakeholders; 5) have principles that are APPLICABLE to other communities; and 6) can show MEASURED success.

A selection committee chose six winners and two honorable mentions from the 31 programs and projects that were nominated. Descriptions of the winners are found throughout this report.

The Metro Water District is thankful for all of the great work of our partner local governments, utilities and authorities. The District received many outstanding applications, which made it difficult for the selection committee to choose the winners.



Coordination Project of Excellence

WINNER

Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River Comprehensive Watershed Study - Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority, Bartow County, Cherokee County, Cobb County, Dawson County, Forsyth County, Lumpkin County, Pickens County, Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority and the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority.

The Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah study developed a technically sound and comprehensive analysis of the entire Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River watershed. This enabled improved decision making and resource protection through plans for comprehensive monitoring, watershed assessment and watershed protection.

“Projects like this one prove that good and thoughtful analysis up front will give us better decision-making abilities in the future. Good data and good science lead to better answers.” – Juror comments





HONORABLE MENTION

Hall County Green Alliance - City of Gainesville, Hall County and the City of Oakwood.

The Hall County Green Alliance was established in 2010 as a county-wide, voluntary network of 35 partners who work together toward common environmental goals. The alliance has enabled environmental organizations and programs to have a greater impact than they could have had alone.

“This program is doing an amazing job of getting such a large and diverse number of volunteer groups, government departments and agencies together and all working in the same direction. This type of interjurisdictional coordination is what we are promoting for the future.” – Juror comments



River Runs Through it by Chris Dahl of Acworth

Measured and Meaningful Success in Water Supply Management and Water Conservation Initiatives

The Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan details the Metro Water District's strategies and framework for reducing the region's water demand and ensuring an adequate water supply, both for today and in the future. The plan includes 19 conservation measures to help metro area utilities, residents and businesses reduce water consumption.

Local implementation of these measures, along with concentrated education and outreach that have changed water use behaviors, has enabled the Metro Water District to see a dramatic reduction in both our water use and projected future demand. Since 2000, total water use in the region has dropped by more than 10 percent, even as the population has increased by 1 million.

Meanwhile, per capita water use in the Metro Water District dropped by more than 30 percent over the same period. Additionally, a long-range forecast developed to inform the 2017 Plan Update indicated that Metro Atlanta residents will use approximately 25 percent less water in 2050 than was projected in 2009 for the last plan update. These figures underscore metro Atlanta's proven national leadership in water stewardship and water loss prevention.



Water Supply and Water Conservation Program of Excellence

WINNER

Green Cities Program – Cobb County Water System

The Green Cities Program is a budget-neutral, direct-install loan program that enables multi-family complexes and lodging facilities to completely retrofit their properties with high-efficiency fixtures. The program uses local Green Plumbers, and mandatory recycling ensures that no removed fixtures or packing products go to the landfill.

"The savings tracked through this program are incredible. Green Cities has great potential to be carried out on a mass scale in the 15-county District. Additionally, this program really broadens the efforts to conserve water across a variety of sectors." – Juror comments



Detailed and Data-Driven Wastewater and Septic Management

The Wastewater Management Plan details strategies and recommendations for comprehensive wastewater management to meet future demands for wastewater treatment across the metro area. The plan includes initiatives focused on the management of privately owned septic systems, grease management, local master planning and sewer system asset management. The plan addresses the management of 92 publicly owned treatment facilities, more than 16,000 miles of sanitary sewer, more than 45,000 manholes and 500,000 septic systems in the region.

Metro Water District utilities and authorities have done an excellent job of implementing the plan over the past 15 years. A vast majority have a sewer system maintenance program in place, along with a prioritization system for needed rehabilitation. Additionally, most jurisdictions have a local wastewater master plan as well as a written sewer overflow emergency

response program. As a result, the District has seen a 50 percent reduction in the number of sewer spills since 2001.

As the District prepared for the 2017 plan update, a model was developed to project wastewater demand for the year 2050. Because the region's future water demand has decreased, the region's demand for wastewater treatment capacity has fallen as well. The District saw a significant reduction in the 2050 projected wastewater demand compared to the 2009 update to the 2017 update. This is important to note because it allows District utilities and water authorities to delay facility expansion, while reducing strain on infrastructure.

A dedicated technical group has been created to focus on current issues, new education materials have developed, septic system mapping has been improved, and coordination among state and local public health officials has been established.



Wastewater Project of Excellence

WINNER

Constructed Wetlands – Clayton County Water Authority

Clayton County Water Authority uses constructed wetlands, which has a treatment capacity of more than 20 million gallons per day, for indirect potable reuse. This project added efficiency and capacity to a reuse program that was already in place. Together, the wetlands and existing reuse program have reduced dependence on raw water supplied by the Flint and Ocmulgee watersheds, making them much more resilient in times of drought.

"This project was very innovative. The Flint River basin is in need of this kind of out-of-the-box thinking and leadership. Additionally, in the terrible drought of 2007, Clayton County had great resiliency." – Juror comments





Photo provided by Clayton County Water Authority



Photo provided by City of Atlanta

WINNER

Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance – City of Atlanta

The City of Atlanta's Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance, which requires green infrastructure, is the first of its kind in the region and one of the most far-reaching in the country. The city has embraced the use of green infrastructure to relieve sewers, restore ecosystems, stimulate the economy and improve water quality.

"This ordinance has a repeating impact on every development project that occurs now and into the future. This type of program changes the way we think from grey infrastructure to green infrastructure and holds both public and private development to a higher standard." – Juror comments

Comprehensive and Cross-Discipline Watershed Management

The Watershed Management Plan provides the framework for water resources protection within the 15-county region. The plan's stormwater management and watershed protection programs are among the most comprehensive and holistic in the nation. The plan's integrated approach prescribes both required and recommended measures for effective stormwater and watershed management to foster healthy watersheds and improved water quality.

Over the past 15 years, the District has been faced with a number of water resource challenges that reinforce the need for active watershed management efforts including: mitigating the impact of increased stormwater runoff associated with

metro Atlanta's continued growth and changing landscape; protecting drinking water supply sources both within the region as well as downstream; ensuring adequate capacity in our rivers, lakes and streams for wastewater returns to support future growth; and addressing stormwater pollution and state water quality standards for more than 1,500 miles of rivers and streams in the region. Moving forward, the District plans to work with jurisdictions to support planning strategies that encourage green infrastructure to address many of these issues. Improving water quality remains a main focus of the Metro Water District and its partners.

STREAM AWARDS

Stormwater/Watershed Program and Project of Excellence (tied)

WINNER

Rock Mill Park – City of Alpharetta

Rock Mill Park is an environmental education and outreach center that incorporates green infrastructure and highlights the natural beauty of Big Creek. The park includes engineered wetlands, enhanced swales, bioretention, a greenroof facility and native planting materials. The city also preserved many large stands of trees and wildlife habitat.

"This project provides ordinary citizens free and easy access to interact with water education in a meaningful way. This type of project goes above and beyond the requirements. The city and community stakeholders had the vision and foresight needed to see what kind of benefits a park like this could bring to the community." – Juror comments



A History of the Metro Water District



The District is created by the Georgia General Assembly (SB 130).

First suite of long-term management plans is created to address Water Supply and Water Conservation, Wastewater and Stormwater Management.



The District begins to look critically at planning for septic systems in the metro area.



Major drought changes how local utilities and authorities think about their water supply, and also changes customers' water-use behaviors.

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

The long-term management plans are launched into action by our partner utilities, authorities and jurisdictions.

The Georgia General Assembly passes the Comprehensive Water Management Planning Act, charging GA EPD with drafting Georgia's first comprehensive statewide water plan.



The Toilet Rebate Program is created to encourage the replacement of inefficient, water-guzzling toilets.

The first Short-term Wastewater Plan is created to address immediate concerns with returns to the watershed.



All local governments in the District are required to adopt the suite of six model stormwater ordinances.

The District undertakes the first update of the plans, which include additional conservation measures.

Major flooding event highlights the variability of metro Atlanta's average rainfall.



The District launches My Drop Counts, a water conservation campaign to encourage water saving in homes, schools and businesses in the metro area.



The District hosts first annual Water Drop Dash 5K Race and Festival.

The District holds first joint meeting of the region's six Basin Advisory Councils.

District utilities reach the collective milestone of replacing 100,000 toilets, saving approximately 900 million gallons a year.

Projected water demands for 2050 decrease significantly compared to previous projections.



The Georgia Water Stewardship Act is signed, requiring all local governments to adopt or amend local ordinances to uniformly restrict outdoor water use for landscapes between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., as well as updating the local plumbing code to include WaterSense labeled high-efficiency fixtures.

The Water Supply / Water Conservation Plan is amended to include additional conservation measures for Lanier and Chattahoochee basins.

The District hosts first annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol.



The District staff begin working with stakeholders on the second update of the plans.

The District undertakes a Climate Resiliency Study to inform the plan update.

The District rebrands with a new, modern logo.

The District launches the Technical Assistance Program for local governments, utilities and authorities.

The District celebrates 15 years with the inaugural STREAM Awards for Programs and Projects of Excellence.

The District utilities have replaced nearly 120,000 toilets to date, saving approximately one billion gallons of water per year.

The District hosts first Storm The Watershed 5K/15K.

Innovative and Nationally Recognized Education and Outreach Program

Informing residents about sustainable water use is a critical component of Metro Water District planning. For 15 years, the District has provided the highest quality educational resources to our partner utilities and authorities. In 2016 alone, 56,000 educational materials were given to local governments to distribute to residents during events and other outreach efforts. This year, a new initiative developed materials on septic system identification, care and maintenance and created a plan for local associations of real estate agents to share this information with new homebuyers. The District is also developing a puppet show for elementary students in the region about the importance of water conservation and stormwater pollution prevention.

The **My Drop Counts Water Conservation Campaign** and **Clean Water Campaign** for stormwater pollution prevention

are both going strong, with solid local participation and recognition at the national level. Three signature contests, the Middle School Essay Contest, the High School Video Contest and the Water Reflections Calendar Photo Contest, continue to have quality participation. The Water Drop Dash 5K Race and Water Festival, held each March, has proved to be so successful at sharing the District's message that another race was added, the Storm the Watershed 15k/5k Trail Race, which was held for the first time in October.

Also in October, the Metro Water District was honored to accept U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **2016 WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year Award** for innovative conservation programming and close collaboration across their extensive network of partners.



Education/Outreach Program of Excellence

WINNER

Cubihatcha Kids – Henry County Water Authority

Each year, the Henry County Water Authority hosts field trips to its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center for all third grade students in Henry County Schools. The Cubihatcha Kids program was developed to provide opportunities for hands-on learning for students through approved, accredited science curricula. In the past 12 years, more than 36,000 children and participating adults have been reached.

"This program has an incredible and extensive reach for kids in the county. Third grade is a very appropriate age to target kids with messages of natural resource appreciation and sustainability of water resources." – Juror comments





HONORABLE MENTION

Residents Education Program on New Stormwater Fee – Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority

When Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA) issued a new stormwater fee to residents and businesses, they knew it would be a point of contention within the community if the general public did not understand the impact of stormwater and what kind of projects the fee would fund. Thus, DDCWSA launched a community-wide education effort to get customers informed about stormwater and its effect on their everyday lives. Regular interaction with customers has significantly contributed to a successful stormwater management program.

“The most impressive thing about this education program is that DDCWSA anticipated the potential blowback and was able to plan for it. Their program is successful because of how they engaged the community early on and how they continue to do so. Additionally, it’s a program that shows that community outreach and customer education is complementary to a kid’s education program.” – Juror comments



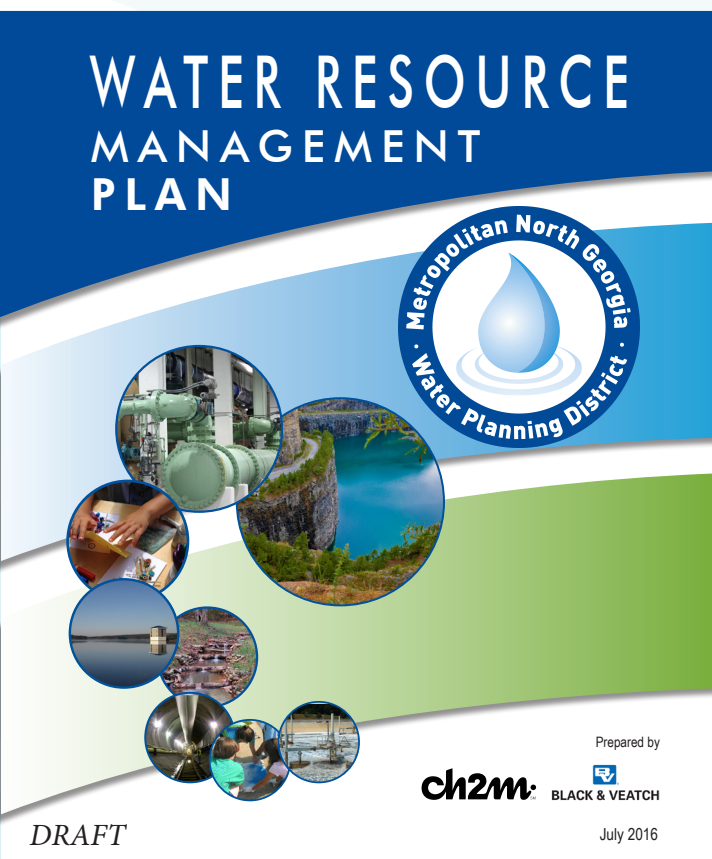
Status of 2017 Plan Update Activities

Metro Water District staff began the lengthy process of updating the three water resource management plans in January 2014. Approximately every five years the District undertakes the task of updating the plans to ensure cutting-edge regional water resource planning with the most current information and data available. This is the second update of the plans, the first taking place in 2009. The 2017 update will combine three previously separate plans into one integrated document that encourages and requires intragovernmental and cross-divisional coordination.

Over the last three years, Metro Water District staff has worked closely with consultants and experts to produce reliable population projections and forecasts for water withdrawals and wastewater returns for the planning horizon of 2050. With steadfast attention to water conservation, reducing water lost to leaks and increasing return flows to the watershed, the District and its partner jurisdictions can plan for continued growth in the region within the parameters of a limited resource.

Specific updates to the plan include further strengthening strategies for water conservation by expanding existing and adding new conservation measures. For watershed planning, the District reduced redundancy in reporting requirements by combining several action items. Additionally, the District brought together land use planners, county boards of health staff and stormwater staff to discuss a variety of watershed management coordination issues. Finally, education and outreach, which previously was a piece (albeit critical) of each of the three plans, will now be a stand-alone, yet integrated, section.

The District's stakeholders have proved to be an invaluable resource during this process. Their wealth of knowledge and years of combined experience have contributed to the crafting of action items that will continue to move the region forward. Next steps include final staff and stakeholder review, followed by a public comment period.



It Starts with a Plan

When the Metro Water District began the process of updating the 2009 water resource management plans, District staff initiated visioning and goal-setting exercises by asking the members of the Basin Advisory Councils, “As we embark on the update of the plans for the District, what do you think our top goals should be?” Frequent answers were: better coordination with other regional water councils to advance common goals; continued focus on water conservation; improve quality of water supply; identify current resources versus current and future demands; and embed the local planning process into the plan. These ideas were used to generate the final vision for the plan update process. District staff made it a goal to address all of these comments and more throughout the update process.

Pictured at left is a draft image of the cover of the new integrated Water Resource Management Plan.

Technical Assistance Program for Local Governments



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

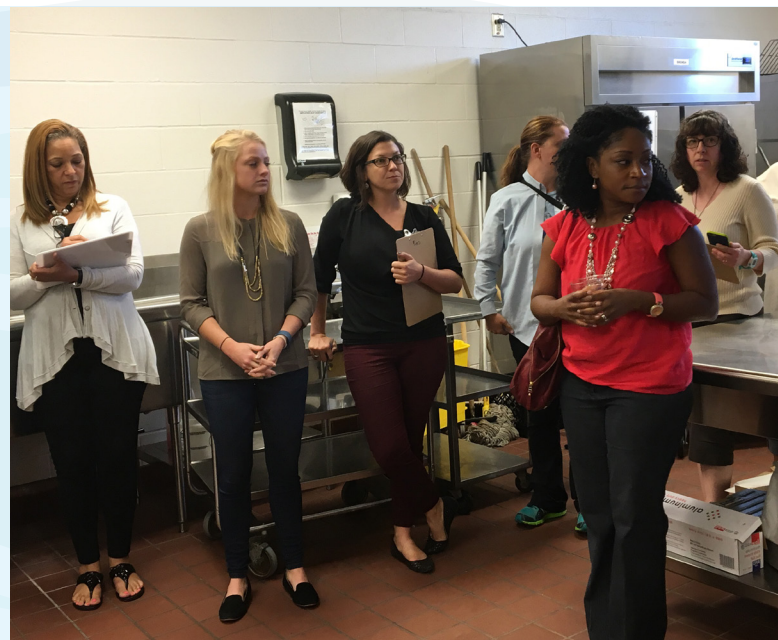
The Metro Water District has always provided assistance to our member local governments, utilities and authorities. Examples of technical assistance include: the long-running Toilet Rebate Program, which enables local utilities to offer rebates to customers on their water bills for replacing old, inefficient toilets; the provision of model ordinances for better stormwater management that were written for ready adoption by our local governments; and workshops on various topics throughout the years.

In 2016, the District formally launched the **Technical Assistance Program** (TAP) by consolidating all current offerings under one, centralized program and creating opportunities for better implementation of the plan. TAP ensures high-quality, well-integrated plan implementation by helping communities plan projects, identify resources and develop strategies to address specific problems.

With this program, the District has taken an even more proactive role in assistance activities. In 2016, the District provided training and education to its partners through workshops and work sessions and connected peer jurisdictions working on similar issues. Additionally, the District started a dialogue on the importance of intragovernmental and interdepartmental coordination, such as bringing together local departments of public health and wastewater utilities. Other topics included the planning and development / stormwater runoff nexus.

Going Above and Beyond

As the Metro Water District has enhanced its efforts for technical assistance through TAP, it has accelerated its opportunities to reach partner utilities and authorities, as well as other professionals with a stake in sustainable water resource management, through workshops and a drought-specific toolkit and webinar. Since September 2016, the District provided experiential learning and message sharing to over 300 individuals through five workshops and a webinar on topics including level 2 drought response, cross-divisional coordination on stormwater issues, efficient water use in schools, training on the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, septic system coordination and septic system care and maintenance for real estate agents.





Successful Stakeholder Engagement

The Metro Water District relies on three separate and functionally different groups that work in unison to create, vet and approve plan action items. The **Governing Board** is made up of 16 elected officials from each of the 15 counties in the region and the City of Atlanta, and 10 citizen members who are appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House. The Governing Board directs policy and planning decisions and sets directives during each plan cycle.

In addition to the Governing Board, the District depends on two advisory groups to provide local, basin-specific knowledge, public opinion and technical expertise to the planning process. The **Basin Advisory Councils** are public stakeholder groups in each of the six water basins in the District. They represent a diversity of interests and knowledge, ensuring that the plans are balanced and include a variety of perspectives.

The **Technical Coordinating Committee** is made up of professionals from each of the District's city and county utilities and water authorities. They are charged with providing feedback on plan elements and action items at critical points in plan development. The District relies on their expertise and experience for recommendations and professional knowledge of how plan elements will work in real-time.

The District is fortunate to have such an experienced group of volunteers and professionals provide input throughout the planning process. As the District works toward the 2017 update of the plan, District staff looks forward to continued collaboration with stakeholders to formulate solid, implementable, well-vetted action items that address regional issues and broad-level concerns while also taking into consideration the needs, constraints and resources available at the local level.

Join Our Stakeholder Group

The Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) offer guidance in the development and implementation of policy-related and basin-specific issues. They provide input on plan content to the Governing Board, Technical Coordinating Committee and District staff. The BACs are comprised of a diverse membership of basin stakeholders including water professionals, business leaders, environmental advocates and other interested individuals and groups. We would love to have you aboard. If you are interested in providing feedback to the District plans, visit northgeorgiawater.org/applynow to apply for membership in your basin.





Final Remarks from Our Chairman Regarding Interstate Water Issues

As 2016 comes to a close and as we celebrate the many successes and accomplishments of this year, we must keep an eye on Georgia's water future. At different times over the last 30 years, Georgia has been involved in legal battles over water resources in both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) basins.

Currently, in the Florida v. Georgia case (ACF basin) before the U.S. Supreme Court, Florida is seeking an equitable apportionment of the waters of the river basin that would dramatically limit Georgia's water supplies. The trial before the special master appointed by the Supreme Court ended just this December, and we expect a preliminary recommendation in 2017. The Supreme Court will then make a final decision after receiving input from the parties.

As this case moves forward, I am confident that our water use is reasonable and efficient and that it is not the cause of environmental issues downstream in Florida. Indeed, thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people throughout the State — and the very significant public and private investments in conservation and efficiency — Georgia uses only a small fraction of the water in the ACF Basin to provide ample clean drinking water to more than 5.1 million people, support vibrant communities throughout the State, and generate billions of dollars in economic activity.

There are two separate cases involving the ACT river basin challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (the Corps) updated water control manual, which sets the parameters for the operation of Corps projects in the basin. In one case, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, and the State of Georgia have sued the Corps because the updated manual did not address water supply requests at Allatoona Lake that have been pending since 1981. The suit asks the court to direct the Corps to answer the water supply requests in a reasonable period of time.

Additionally, Alabama and Alabama Power have filed suit against the Corps in Washington, D.C., challenging whether the updated manual complied with the National Environmental Policy Act as well as the Corps' decisions on Allatoona Lake operations adjusting the hydropower release

schedules and its alleged failure to mitigate water quality impacts from wastewater discharges downstream in Alabama.

Finally, I am excited to report that on December 8, 2016, the Army released its long-awaited update to the Master Water Control Manual for Lake Lanier and the other ACF reservoirs. This update, which has been decades in coming, confirms that Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River will be available to provide a secure water supply for Metro Atlanta long into the future while also protecting the environment and other needs of our downstream neighbors. In short, after years of careful study by the Corps and other agencies, the Corps has found that the effects of meeting Metro Atlanta's future needs will be "negligible," and that future water uses by Metro Atlanta will have "no appreciable incremental effects on flow conditions in the Apalachicola River."



Financials

Financials for 2016

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District operated on a calendar-year budget, with the majority of revenues coming from local government dues (\$773,239) and state of Georgia allocations (\$250,000). In December 2016, the Metro Water District Governing Board adopted a revision to the 2016 budget to account for a change in revenues from the state from \$750,000 to \$250,000. This change was needed to reflect the end of fiscal year 2015 audit report which credited the one-time \$500,000 in state funding to fiscal year 2015 instead of 2016 which was the year in which the money was invoiced to the state. For 2016, local government dues were \$0.16 per capita (based on the 2010 Census).

Adjacent is a review of the revenues and expenses for 2016. This accounting is subject to adjustment after fiscal year-end close and an independent audit.

Financials for 2017

In June of 2016, the Metro Water District Governing Board adopted a final budget of \$1,523,274 for 2017, with the majority of revenues coming from local governments (\$966,549) and the state (\$250,000). Local government dues for 2017 will be \$0.20 per capita (based on the 2010 Census). This is an increase from the 2016 dues of \$0.16 per capita which were offset by an increase in state funding of \$500,000 for the update of the District's Integrated Water Management Plan.

The budget was revised in December 2016 in response to the 2016 Year end Budget Revision. The 2017 budget revision includes an increase in contract expenses to reallocate budgeted funds from 2016 to 2017 for Drought Management Technical Assistance and contingency funds for the 2017 Plan Update. The 2017 budget revision also includes an increase in miscellaneous operating and overhead, and a reduction in miscellaneous fees.

The District strives to maintain a minimum fund balance of \$300,000 for operating contingencies.

	2016 Budget <small>(Adopted June 16, 2015)</small>	2016 End of Year Budget Revision <small>(Adopted December 7, 2016)</small>
Beginning General Fund Balance	\$602,570	\$1,000,229
Revenues		
Direct State Funding	\$750,000	\$250,000
Local Dues (2010 Census at \$0.16 per capita).	\$773,239	\$773,239
Interest Income	\$2,000	\$2,000
Misc. Fees	\$60,000	\$40,000
Total Revenues	\$1,585,239	\$1,065,239
Expenses by Type		
Chairman's Allowance	\$3,000	\$1,000
District Planning Function		
Salaries	\$433,434	\$440,342
Fringe Benefits	\$234,054	\$237,785
Contracts	\$635,000	\$258,000
Overhead	\$273,670	\$278,032
Miscellaneous Operating.	\$96,000	\$96,000
Public Awareness / Education.	\$150,000	\$40,000
Total Expenses	\$1,825,159	\$1,351,159
Projected Ending Fund Balance	\$362,650	\$714,309



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is staffed by the Atlanta Regional Commission and manages a comprehensive, integrated plan for water supply and water conservation, wastewater and watershed management in the 15-county metro Atlanta region.

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Water Planning District



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