



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
January 20, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Georgia Association of Water Professionals office in Marietta, GA.

Members Present

Femi Adesanya
Rick Blackwell, Let's Go Fishing USA
Harry Boone
William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors
Bob Bunker, RM Bunker Associates LLC
David Chastant, City of Sandy Springs
Steve Foster
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
James Hawkins, Black & Veatch, Cobb Citizen
Travis Eugene Henry, Douglas Farm Bureau
Warren Howe
Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County
F. Keith Laguaite, EcoLogix

John Lawrence
Jo Ann Macrina, DeKalb County
James Martell, MDCS, LLC
Doug Miell
William Millkey
Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.
John Oliver, URS Corporation
Eric Olson, BAC Chair
Glenn Page, CCMWA (Becky Mixon, Alt.)
George Taylor Jr., Oglethorpe Power Corp.
Billy Turner
Wayne Waldrip, Keep Smyrna Beautiful
Butch Watson III, Croy Engineering
Van Yon, ReMax Executives, Inc.

Members Not Present

Keith Bentley, Keep Smyrna Beautiful
Patty Berkovitz, Watershed Alliance
Ginger Blackstone, GA Dept. of Labor
Ellis Cadenhead, Coweta W&S Authority
Howard Carson Jr., Carson Developments, Inc.
Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning Enter's Inc.
Steven Culp, Veolia Water NA
Jared Daley
Katherine Feeman, Big Trees Forest Preserve
Martin George
Jill Glascock
Patrick Heerdt
Mike Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica

George Martin, Georgia Power
Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group
Charles McMullen III
Michael Morton
Catherine Pruitt, Stevenson & Palmer Eng.
K. Scott Robertson, Sweetwater Environmental
Wes Rogers
Nathan Shields
Yomi Sholarin, Comm. Board of Realtors
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
Mark Wolff
Kenneth Wood, Planners and Engineers Coll.
Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica

Board Members Present

Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County Designee
Charles Lambert, DeKalb County Designee

Others Present

Suzanne Pylant, ASCE

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist
Corey Babb, Senior Environmental Planner
Charlene Njoroge, Education and Public Awareness Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions

Chattahoochee BAC Chair Eric Olson welcomed the group and introduced Jim Scarbrough as the Metro Water District Board representative to convene the meeting. Corey Babb initiated group introductions. Matt Harper announced that Sarah Simmons has been hired to replace Heather Moody as the staff person responsible for managing the Metro Water District's BAC process.

2010 Annual Report & Implementation Report

Corey Babb gave an overview of the Metro Water District's 2010 Annual Report and Implementation Report. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Have the number of overflows been reduced?
- There is no reference to the state doing anything about floodplain mapping along joint boarders.
- What about new floodplains for the Chattahoochee River?
- There were numerous requests for quantifiable data that the District plans are making a difference. It was clarified that a metrics report is being compiled and that it should be available soon.
- Is there FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) educational materials available that can be shared with homeowners associations?

Water Supply Options Discussion

Matt Harper informed the BAC that the Metro Water District Board is interested in an ongoing conversation about water supply options. Mr. Harper asked the group what they think the Board should be discussing moving forward. BAC members had the following comments:

- The Board should keep all options open. There is not just one solution.
- We have to look at capturing more water. Raise existing dams and minimize regulations for reservoir development.
- Water pricing: When do we get to the point when pricing begins to have an effect on usage?
- Better metrics: Where are the numbers?
- What happened to talks about the TN/GA line?
- We should get the District law changed to allow getting Tennessee River water. Allow for practical judgment to influence the political process and whether or not we can consider cross border transfers.

- What about a state-wide water plan? We need to address issues across the state, not just within the region.
- We need to incorporate putting the water back into the river system. We must include a return plan to the basin of origin when looking at interbasin transfer.
- Need to look at consumptive loss when considering water supply.
- The District should push the idea of having EPD use the parallel water council plans to develop one state-wide plan.
- Atlanta and Chattanooga should work together to share water and economic growth.
- Perhaps use Tennessee River Basin water from north Georgia.
- Promote reuse, green infrastructure, and low impact development.
- Aquifer storage and recovery can be used in some parts of the state like the Lower Flint Basin.
- We should look at the costs of piping desalinized sea water.

“I’m In” Water Conservation Campaign Update

Charlene Njoroge presented an overview of the Metro Water District’s new water conservation education campaign called “I’m In”. She explained the history of the campaign development and gave an overview of the “I’m In” website. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Can we show on the calculator how their numbers compare with average use?
- Provide links to local water provider websites.
- Don’t use the term “Pledge”. It sounds like we are asking people to pay money.
- See if you can develop a mobile website application, perhaps the water use calculator.
- Put a lot of thought into the social media side of things.
- Schedule a test period for the website. Use people who have not seen it before.
- Develop a way to promote and draw traffic to the website.

DeKalb County’s Consent Order

Guest speaker, Charles Lambert of DeKalb County gave a brief overview of the consent decree, a process which started in 2007. He explained that, although each consent decree is unique, DeKalb County’s is the first to require reporting of basement and building backups if caused by the sewer system. If caused by the sewer system, it is now a reportable spill. The decree does not include incidents where the homeowner caused the backup by clogging their own line. Mr. Lambert encouraged utilities and local governments to pay attention to backup issues. BAC members had the following questions and comments during the presentation:

- It was clarified that grease was the culprit of 75% of the backups reported in DeKalb County.

The agenda item discussing private wastewater lateral repair programs was not discussed due to time constraints. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2011.