



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER & OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
October 12, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday October 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Gainesville, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
Drew Addison
James Boff, Forsyth County
Richard Check
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Eugene Holmes
Mary Jones
Norman McGinnis
Cleghorn Penn
Cole Shaffer, CPCU Society
David True

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

James Baxter
Foster FitzHugh
Rebecca Hacke
Jon Heard, City of Cumming
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Greg Sistrunk
Kevin Smith, Keep Forsyth Co Beautiful
Wilfred Sommer
Ike Swofford
Carrie Toth

Oconee BAC Members Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Shirley Cooley
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Steven Landers
Mark Risse
Matthew Vinson, GOWA
Kyle Webb, Breedlove Land Planning, Inc.
Sheryl Wells, University of Georgia

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist
Steve Haubner, Principal Planner

Board Representatives Present

Kelly Randall, Hall County Designee

Non-Members Present

Kevin McInturff, Hall County
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville
Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville

Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville
Betsy Massie, CH2M Hill

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Sarah Simmons introduced Hall County Board Designee, Kelly Randall who welcomed the group to the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility and officially convened the meeting. Mr. Randall spoke about the current work of the City of Gainesville and said that he is excited about the

watershed protection projects the City of Gainesville is planning. He then turned the meeting over to Val Perry, Lake Lanier BAC Chair, who spoke briefly on the need for a BAC resolution to support the Corps of Engineers to raise the elevation of Lake Lanier 2 feet to 1073. Mr. Perry started group introductions.

Tri-State Water Conflict Update

Mr. Kelly Randall and Mr. Steve Haubner gave an update of the Tri-State Water Conflict and a summary on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals Decision. Mr. Haubner explained that the appeal to the full 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case in September was denied. Mr. Randall explained that the Corps has one year from September 16, 2011 to determine the amount of water allocation from the various federal water supply acts. He outlined the possible next steps. Alabama has 90 days from September 16 to appeal to U.S. Supreme Court.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Will the Supreme Court agree to hear the appeal?
- Should we hold off on building/expanding sewer systems until the credit for return flows issue is decided. It was suggested that we keep returning water to the lake to sustain lake levels and use for power generation.

District Overview

Ms. Sarah Simmons gave an overview of the District. She explained why the District was created, described the three plans and the process of plan implementation and enforcement. She also gave a brief overview of the District budget process.

Election of BAC Chairs

Ms. Sarah Simmons informed the group that she sent an email in September asking for nominations for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons received nominations for Mr. Val Perry as Lake Lanier BAC Chair and Ms. Jill Stachura as Oconee BAC Chair. Ms. Simmons announced that she would accept nominations at that time. There were no other nominations.

The BAC Operating Procedures state that, "A quorum (50 percent plus one) of the BAC membership is required for a vote". Neither the Lanier nor the Oconee BAC had a quorum of members to take a vote for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons announced that she would send an email to the group asking members to place a vote for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons received the necessary votes in each of the BACs by October 21 and announced that Val Perry will continue to serve as Lake Lanier BAC Chair and Jill Stachura will continue to serve as Oconee BAC Chair.

Drought Update

Mr. Matt Harper gave an update on the current drought conditions in the state and highlighted drought conditions for the Lake Lanier and Oconee basins, specifically. Drought conditions have progressed in the metro area during the late summer and early fall months, and most of Georgia is still experiencing extreme drought conditions. The U.S. Army Corps' predicted the lake level for Lake Allatoona is in line with yearly averages, but the Corps predicts Lake Lanier to drop in the coming weeks.

BAC members had the following comment:

- The water wars lawsuit has been going on for 21 years. The ACF group has begun fundraising effort to help the Army Corps build a model for drought monitoring.

Watershed Management Plan Overview

Mr. Steve Haubner gave an overview of the Watershed Management Plan, highlighted some of the key regional issues with stormwater management and provided an in-depth explanation of each of the model ordinances and their role in watershed protection.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How does septic fit in to the plan, or is it a stormwater issue? Coordination is required for local government stormwater staff to talk to health department staff to identify potential water quality problems due to septic failure.
- There is a section on septic systems in the Wastewater Management Plan.

West Fork, Little River Stormwater Detention and Stream Restoration Project

Mr. Kevin McInturff, County Engineer for Hall County gave a presentation on the West Fork, Little River Stormwater Detention and Stream Restoration Project located in north Hall County. He played a video showing before and after footage of the site and project process and benefits to the watershed.

Flat Creek Stormwater Regional Detention and Stream Restoration Project

Horace Gee, City of Gainesville Environmental Services Administrator presented on the Flat Creek Stormwater Regional Detention and Stream Restoration Project located in the City of Gainesville. He showed images from the construction of the site and gave an overview of the timeline of both phases of the project. The meeting was followed with a visit of the site.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- What was the availability of grants for this project? The City of Gainesville worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on funding for this project.
- It was confirmed that the stormwater filtration system is installed underground and filters thru the drain line that goes back to the stream.
- Does the filtration system have to be maintained?
- This project has helped with the pollution issue at Flat Creek.

Other

The 2012 Lanier and Oconee BAC meetings are listed on the agenda. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.