



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER & OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
January 10, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday January 10, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at Spout Springs Public Library in Flowery Branch, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
Drew Addison
James Boff, Forsyth County
Richard Check
Rebecca Hacke
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Jon Heard, City of Cumming
Eugene Holmes
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company
Mary Jones
Norman McGinnis
Cleghorn Penn
Cole Shaffer, FEMA, NFIP
Carrie Toth, Forsyth Co Parks

Oconee BAC Members Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Shirley Cooley, Rockdale Pipeline
Mark Risse
Matthew Vinson, GOWA
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist
Corey Babb, Senior Planner

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Sarah Simmons introduced Forsyth County Board Designee, Jon Heard who welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially convened the meeting. Mr. Heard shared his experiences growing up in the area around Lake Lanier and his lifelong interests in protecting the resource. He spoke about the City's efforts to ensure a clean water supply for the residents of Cumming. He then turned the meeting over to Val Perry, Lake Lanier BAC Chair, who

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

James Baxter
Foster FitzHugh
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Greg Sistrunk
Kevin Smith, Keep Forsyth Co Beautiful
Wilfred Sommer
Ike Swofford
David True
Joe Wilson

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Steven Landers
Kyle Webb, Breedlove Land Planning, Inc.
Sheryl Wells, University of Georgia

spoke briefly on the need for a resolution to urge the Corps of Engineers to raise the elevation of Lake Lanier two feet to 1073. Mr. Perry initiated group introductions.

District's 2012 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Matt Harper gave an overview of each of the bills on the District's 2012 Legislative Agenda. He explained that these bills are still active in the Georgia General Assembly and that the District is tracking their progress at the capitol as they contain items/issues of particular interest for the District.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Will the \$300 million be awarded all in one year or will it take a while? How much will come from grants and how much from GEFA loans? Mr. Harper directed the BAC to the GEFA website for these answers (www.gefa.org).
- I think we get some return flow from septic systems but trying to quantify it is hard.

Discussion of Raising Lake Lanier Level

Mr. Val Perry gave a brief overview of the 1073 initiative and asked the group if they would be willing to take a vote for the Lake Lanier Basin Advisory Council to officially recommend the District Board adopt a position to support the Corps raising the level of Lake Lanier to 1073 feet. A quorum of members was present from both the Lake Lanier and Oconee BACs, therefore they could vote on this recommendation. The members decided to have a discussion on the issue before voting.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How do we keep the extra two feet of water in the lake after it is there? The Corps will just let it out.
- Should we wait until the Corps study is finished and then take a vote on this issue? The issue of how the Corps will release the water once the level is raised to 1073 feet is an important one.
- If the quorum is here now, we should vote. Getting a quorum of members at the meetings continues to be an issue. The operating procedures should be amended to include email and US mail voting.
- The operating procedures are in place to protect the value of these meetings and face-to-face discussion. Formal recommendations to the board should be taken seriously.
- We just need the Corps to support studying this issue.
- How does this affect the Oconee Basin? Many people residing in the Oconee Basin receive water from Lake Lanier.

Mr. Val Perry made a motion that, the Lake Lanier Basin Advisory Council and the Oconee Basin Advisory Council recommend the Metro Water District Board support and issue a position statement to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of raising the level of Lake Lanier to 1,073 feet. The motion was seconded and passed.

2011 Implementation Review and Annual Report

Ms. Sarah Simmons gave an overview of the Metro Water District's 2011 Plan Implementation Review and the 2011 Activities and Progress Report. She explained the two reports and highlighted information from the Plan Implementation Review.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- How did you get folks to respond? This is a volunteer survey. However, our local jurisdictions are willing to devote the time to tell the region's success stories.
- Are the other water councils doing this type of reporting? The District has been around for longer and we have a different mandate.
- The Plan Implementation Review should be used as a model for the state.

Wastewater Management Plan Overview

Mr. Corey Babb gave an overview of the Wastewater Management Plan, highlighted some of the key regional issues with wastewater management and discussed the measures of the plan of particular importance to local wastewater utilities as identified by the 2011 Plan Implementation Review.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Can you explain about the huge reuse systems in Florida?
- Some jurisdictions require residents on septic to pump every 5 years.
- Is there no consideration for a District-wide requirement to pump septic tanks every five years? It was considered in the original plan; however there are a lot of factors that would determine how often a tank should be pumped. The plan includes an Action Item 8.2 on critical area management and an Action Item 8.3 on septic system maintenance.

Other

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2012. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.