



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
January 20, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Friday, January 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Rockdale Water Resources, Central Maintenance Facility Training Room in Conyers, GA.

Members Present

Michael Walker, U.R. Planning Solutions, BAC Chair	Tom Harrison, H2O Reps
Larry Allen, Henry Co Farm Bureau	Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Farm Bureau
Jimmy Carter, Jr., HCWA and Henry Co Farm Bur.	Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers
Jennifer Christman, ADS	Jay Marlow
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater	Lee Pope, Rockdale Water Resources
Richard Edinger, Jr.	Steve Williams, Water Management Inc
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry Co WSA	Chris Yancey, City of Loganville

Members Not Present

Bob Carpenter, IAPMO	Elaine Nash, Rockdale Co WSA
Wayne Haynie, Jacobs	Ann Ray
Chee Hill, Dewberry & Davis	Wanda Saed
Shirley House	Phyllis Stewart
Angel Jones, DeKalb Co Roads Drainage	Jay Trevari, League of Women Voters
Faye Lyons-Gary, DeKalb Co LWV	Russell Toning, GSWCC
Vikki McReynolds, GUCA	Susan Varlamoff, UGA
Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.	Anthony Wiggins, CERM

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 Rockdale County Board Designee, Lee Pope, who welcomed the group to Rockdale Water Resources and officially convened the meeting on behalf of the governing board. Mr. Pope introduced BAC Chair, Mr. Mike Walker who began 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:

- The people who are advocating for a required look at the 22 criteria want to protect donor and receiving basins. When the government leaves it a choice to review the criteria, it could leave the basins at risk.
- For the people proposing interbasin transfer (IBT) bills; could it be that they have basins near them where IBTs would be an issue? Maybe they are looking at their own situations.
- These IBT bills are to keep metro Atlanta from taking water out of their basins.
- Regarding HB 131: DOT should be held to the same standards as local governments. What can we do to move opposition of this bill further along?
- The issue is that people are collecting the fines but not putting the money back to protect the resource that was the reason for the fine.
- It's harder to fine someone under the erosion/sediment ordinance. The violation has to be identified and the contractor is given 40 hours to fix the violation.
- DOT is better at implementing BMPs but they receive general permits for land development projects, not widespread projects (30-40 mile long stretches of road).
- The general plan permit does not take into account how roads are constructed, so it gets ignored.
- Regarding HB 153: How do you get people in certain areas off septic? Some people have no idea how to maintain them and don't often have the money to repair them in an emergency.
- Some local governments are helping people to tie in to sewer systems.
- We cannot blame the farmers for everything with E. coli.
- What is the District's policy on septic? Septic systems are a viable option if designed, sited, constructed and maintained properly.

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:

- Everyone needs more water quality data.
- How many stormwater utilities are there currently?
- Rockdale is setting up a stormwater utility now.

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:

- When a community approves a development, the utility has to certify that the wastewater system has capacity. How many actually do?
- Are apartments still a problem for grease? The District's grease flyer and fats, oils and grease door hanger are being distributed to Atlanta Apartment Association member apartments in the metro area.
- What about Henry County? Are our apartments members of the Atlanta Apartment Association?
- Is there an education piece for single family residential?
- How do we tackle this issue? The real question is 'how do we finance this?' It will be the rate payers who have to finance, not the federal government.
- The process for de-listing streams is slow.

Other

The next meeting will be on Friday, April 20, 2012. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.