



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
April 19, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Fulton Annex in Sandy Springs, GA.

**Members Present**

Charles McKinney, BAC Chair	Celia Klardie, City of Sandy Springs
Wayne Waldrip, BAC Vice Chair	Charles Laughinghouse
Femi Adesanya	John Lawrence
Hal Benner	Richard Lisska
Patty Berkovitz, Watershed All of Sandy Springs	Doug Miell
William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors	Bill Millkey
Robert Bunker	Michael Morton, Chattahoochee Hills
Denise Carleton, Reaping Nature	Fred Nixon
David Chastant	Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.
Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning	John Oliver, URS Corporation
Teresa Crisp	Randy Payne, Tyson Foods, Inc.
James Crowder	Angus Reed
Roland de Liniere	Trish Reifenberger
Lee Duncan	Theodore Ruff
Debra Ewing, D. Clark Harris, Inc.	Nathan Shields, Michael Baker Jr. Corp
Donald Fry, Engineering Design Technologies	Yomi Sholarin
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corp	Trudy Slaby Eissler
Jimmy Garrison III, DPE, Inc.	Charles Surasky, Smith Currie & Hancock
Jack Gleason, Friends of Caney Creek.org	George Taylor, Oglethorpe Power Corp
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper	Frankie Thompson
James Hawkins	Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
Patrick Heerdt	Billy Turner, Columbus Water Works
Colin Holden	Butch Watson, Croy Engineering, LLC
Warren Howe	Richard Wells, Georgia Power Company
Phillip Hutfilz	Mark Wolff, City of Roswell
Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County	Van Yon, Atl Comm Board of Realtors

**Members Not Present**

Laura Aikens	Travis Henry, Douglas Co Farm Bureau
Peter Berk	Matthew Houser, UPCCA

Chad Braswell  
Emily Buffington, Cox Enterprises  
D. Scott Cole  
Steven Culp, Garney Construction  
Edward DeHart, Jr.  
Joseph Epherson  
Steven Foster  
Stephen Garton, UGA Extension Forsyth Co  
Jessica Guinn, The Collaborative Firm, LLC  
Bob Harbort

Thomas Kohler, Carroll Co Water Auth  
George Martin, Georgia Power  
Mitzi Moore  
Gil Puffer, Atkins  
K. Scott Robertson, SEC  
Mark Scheinfeld  
Sanford Stoke, Western Summit  
Dan Thalimer  
Kenneth Wood, Planners & Engineers  
Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica

#### **Metro Water District Staff Present**

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner  
Steve Haubner, Principle Engineer  
Neela Ram, Senior Planner

Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist  
Kostoula Vallianos, Education Specialist

#### **Board Representatives Present**

Jo Ann Macrina, City of Atlanta Alternate

#### **Non-Members Present**

Jim Boff

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

City of Atlanta Board Alternate, Jo Ann Macrina welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially convened the meeting. BAC Chair Charles McKinney initiated group introductions.

#### **BAC Membership Survey Results**

In February 2012 a membership survey was sent to all current Basin Advisory Council members to determine how to increase attendance and improve the overall experience for the members. Ms. Simmons presented the highlights of the survey including suggestions from members to make the meetings more interesting and effective. Ms. Simmons thanked those members who took the survey. The input received was very helpful in preparing today's meeting and will be used in the planning of future meetings.

#### **Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan Overview**

Mr. Matt Harper gave an overview of the District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. He discussed the elements of the plan, the important issues in planning for water supply and the schedule for implementing the plan. Additionally, Mr. Harper highlighted the progress made by local governments in implementing water conservation measures. He also discussed the District's education campaigns which educate residents on water conservation ([www.mydropcounts.org](http://www.mydropcounts.org)) and reducing stormwater pollution ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)). Members had the following questions and comments:

- Was the 2009 Plan revised based on the Magnuson decision? The District Plan was adopted before the Magnuson decision. Aggressive water conservation will always be a critical component of the District's plans.
- Will the District provide the Corps with updated water demand numbers that would be used in the determination of water allocation? The Corps is using the State of Georgia's 2000 request.
- Is the education requirement of the plan enforced by EPD? All plan components are enforced through an EPD audit process.
- Why are land application systems considered consumptive? We cannot measure the amount of water getting back to surface waters for our downstream neighbors' use.
- What exactly is a Land Application System (LAS)? A type of wastewater treatment system which applies reclaimed water directly to the land through some type of irrigation method.
- Has the District calculated the per capita water use data for 2010 and 2011, because that information would be helpful to local government planning? No, this information is not available.

### **Household Water Use Assessment Brochure**

Mr. Harper explained that the District would be changing and updating elements of the Household Water Use Assessment brochure. He asked the group to take the brochure home and use it to assess their own water use. The group was asked to provide comments on the brochure's ease of use. Members had the following questions and comments:

- You should emphasize that households can save money, rather than save water.
- You can reduce your water bill as much as possible, but it still takes money to run the plant. You may see rates level out in the long-term, but as utilities have to adjust to less revenues, rate payers may see higher rates in the short-term.

### **Morgan Falls Overview**

Ms. Courtenay O'Mara, a project engineer with Southern Company, gave a brief overview of the operations and management of Morgan Falls Dam. Ms. O'Mara explained how Morgan Falls Dam calculates their water releases based on water withdrawal needs downstream and incoming flows upstream. She also discussed how water moves through the system, from Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam and beyond and how Morgan Falls Dam serves as a balancing point for the large amount of water that is released from Buford Dam daily. Members had the following questions and comments:

- Is Big Creek included in the calculations for Morgan Falls releases? Big Creek is upstream of Morgan Falls so that flow is factored into Buford Dam releases.
- What really drives water releases, power or water flow requirements? For Morgan Falls, the driver is the water quality flow requirement at Peachtree Creek to insure enough water remains in the river to assimilate wastewater discharges downstream.
- Regarding the 750 cfs minimum flow at Peachtree Creek: can that number be higher if need be? The Corps can and often does exceed that minimum flow target.

- If South Georgia were in a serious flooding event, would you still have to let 750 cfs go? Morgan Falls would still be required to release 750 cfs to accommodate the numerous demands on the system.
- Is there ever a time when you are able to store electricity, for instance during the time when the large release from Buford Dam finally makes it down to Morgan Falls? All electricity generated gets sent out immediately to the power grid.

### **Other**

Ms. Simmons provided a meeting wrap up and informed the group on where to meet for the tour following the meeting. The next meeting will be on Friday, July 20, 2012 and will be a joint meeting of all the Basin Advisory Councils. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was followed by a tour of Morgan Falls Dam led by Ms. Courtenay O'Mara and Mr. Eldon Watts, Morgan Falls Plant Hydro Team Leader.