



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER & OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
October 9, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday October 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Spout Springs Public Library in Flowery Branch, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
Richard Check
Thomas Corbin
Jerry Gardner
Diane Grinstead
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Nancy Lovingood
Norman McGinnis
Cleghorn Penn
David Porter
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
David True, True & Company, LLC

Oconee BAC Members Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Shirley Cooley, Rockdale Pipeline
Mark Risse
Matthew Vinson, GOWA

Metro Water District Staff Present

Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

Drew Addison
Bryan Bearden, P&C Insurance
James Boff, Forsyth County
Joanna Cloud
Foster FitzHugh
Rebecca Hacke
Jon Heard
Eugene Holmes, Consultant
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company
Stephen Jenn
Mary Jones
Tracy Robar
Cole Shaffer, FEMA, CPCU Society
Carrie Toth, Forsyth Co Parks
Stephen Tyler

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Julian Byrd
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Steve Haubner, Principal Engineer

Welcome and Introductions

As District Board representation was not able to attend the meeting, Ms. Sarah Simmons opened the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda. Lake Lanier BAC Chair Val Perry welcomed new members to both the Lake Lanier and Oconee BACs and started group introductions.

Election of BAC Chairs

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 the meeting. 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". A quorum of members was present for the Oconee BAC. As no additional nominations were made, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Risse to re-elect Jill Stachura as chair of the Oconee BAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Vinson. Ms. Stachura was named as chair of the Oconee BAC for another one year term ending October 2013.

There was not a quorum of members present for the Lanier BAC. Ms. Simmons announced that she would send an email to the Lake Lanier BAC asking members to place a vote for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons received the necessary quorum of votes of the BACs by the October 11 deadline and announced that Val Perry will continue to serve as Lake Lanier BAC Chair through October 2013.

Public Review and Comment Period: Amendment to the Floodplain Model Ordinance of the Stormwater Management Plan

Mr. Steve Haubner provided a brief overview of the Metro Water District's Floodplain Model Ordinance and the reasoning for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) requested amendments. FEMA assisted the District in developing the Floodplain Model Ordinance in 2006 based on the state of Georgia's floodplain ordinance. A local jurisdiction is required to adopt the Floodplain Model Ordinance so that private property owners in that jurisdiction can apply for flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program.

In the summer of 2012, FEMA approached the District with amendments to the already adopted Floodplain Model Ordinance to bring the ordinance up to date with current definitions and federal guidelines. District staff brought these requested changes to the Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) at their August meeting for guidance. The TCC had questions and clarifications which were addressed again by FEMA and District staff. District staff brought a final version of requested amendments to the District Executive Committee at their meeting in September. At that time, the Executive Committee assessed the changes as a major amendment to the model ordinance and released the changes for a 30 day public review and comment period. The public comment period started September 17 and will last through October 16, 2012. Ms. Simmons requested that all formal public comments be submitted by email to her.

BAC members had the following comments and questions:

- Local jurisdictions in the District are already implementing this model ordinance.
- The amendments include mostly small changes. Once they are approved by the Board, local governments will be required to adopt the changes if they have previously adopted the model ordinance.

- How will local governments be constrained in permitting new development?
- Is there anything in the ordinance that tells local jurisdictions they have to conform to FEMA maps?
- Future conditions floodplain mapping is important because floodplain boundaries are continuously changing due to development.
- This ordinance meets the simultaneous goals of protecting water quality and the floodplain.

Drought Update

Ms. Simmons gave an update on the current drought conditions in the state and highlighted the current status of federal reservoir levels. Drought conditions have continued in the metro area through the late summer and early fall months, and much of middle and north Georgia is still experiencing extreme drought conditions. Although the downpour Metro Atlanta experienced in the first part of October brought a significant amount of rain, drought conditions persist and lake levels are still at or below the long-term average. BAC members had no questions or comments.

Current Topics for Discussion

Mr. Wilton Rooks with the Lake Lanier Association was asked to speak to the group about current lake levels of Lake Lanier and how the Association plans to deal with lower levels moving forward while still maintaining their mission. Currently, the Association is working with historical data, taking into account the decrease in rainfall over the last fifty years, as well as the anticipated increase in demand from population growth.

Mr. Rooks also provided an update on the work of the ACF Stakeholders group now that the focus of the group has been shifted away from litigation and toward water sharing discussions. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- From a stakeholder's perspective reservoirs are a good idea when planning for water supply.
- At the stakeholder's group meeting, every decision has to be a consensus.

Topics for 2013 BAC Agendas

Ms. Simmons asked the group to recommend topics for the 2013 BAC agendas. District staff wants to bring speakers and topics of interest to the BAC meetings that have a particular relevance to the BAC members, as these topics related to the District plans.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Lake Lanier Association's new program on lake safety.
- Would like to discuss septic tanks, consumptive use and water quality.
- GA EPD nutrient standards.
- Sediment deposition in Lake Lanier and what, if anything, is being done to slow sedimentation. Also, enforcement of erosion laws could alleviate some of the issues.
- Would like to discuss how improper sewage handling on the lake affects water quality.

Other

Ms. Simmons provided a meeting wrap up and informed the group that a list of the 2013 meetings was at the bottom of the agenda. The next meeting will be on January 8, 2013. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.