



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

40 Courtland Street NE | Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
LANIER and OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
April 21, 2015**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint and Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the F. Wayne Hill Water Treatment Facility in Buford, GA.

**Lanier Members Present**

Alice Brock	Val Perry , Lake Lanier Association
Richard Check	David Porter
Jon Heard, City of Cumming	Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Stephen Jenn	Ottie Stringer
Norman McGinnis	David True
Adrian Mixson	Thomas Vivelo, Lake Lanier Association

**Lanier Members Not Present**

William Barber	Beverly Nicholls, LLA/GLS
James Boff, Forsyth County Government	Cleghorn Penn
James Hazelwood, Jr., StoneHenge Consultants	Harvey Phelps
Eugene Holmes	Cole Shaffer
Scott Lippman, Lanier Northwest Subdivision	Shane Taylor
Nancy Lovingood	

**Oconee Members Present**

Shirley Cooley, GUCA Past President	William Tietjen
Christopher Jones, H&H Insurance Services	Jerry Van de Water

**Oconee Members Not Present**

Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network	Jill Stachura
Jann Moore, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce	Matthew Vinson, GOWA, Natural Systems Utilities, LLC
Chris Oliver	Brian West
David Radcliffe, University of Georgia	

### **District Staff and Consultant Team Present**

Danny Johnson, District Manager	Kristen Rowles, Policy Works
Chris Faulkner, District	Steve Simpson, Black & Veatch
Sarah Skinner, District	Brian Skeens, CH2M
Rick Brownlow, CH2M Project Manager	Chrissy Thom, CH2M
Doug Baughman, CH2M	

### **Welcome and Introductions**

On Tuesday April 21, the Lanier and Oconee BACs met at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center. Lanier Chair Val Perry welcomed the group. Attendees included BAC members, District staff and the CH2MHill consultant team working on the 2016 District plan update.

### **2016 Water Resource Management Plan Schedule and Stakeholder Involvement Approach**

Danny Johnson (the District) reviewed slides that explained the Water Resource Management Plan schedule and process. He noted that most of the BAC members were not included in the last plan update and that will help to bring fresh ideas to the process. Danny said that this update will utilize the existing recommendations and identify any potential revisions or new actions that need to be included in the plan.

### **Water Resource Management Plans Policy Review**

Rick Brownlow is the project manager for the CH2MHill consultant team on the District's water plan update. He presented slides that provided a policy review for the 2009 plans. The slides highlighted policy changes and trends since the 2009 plans. They also identified implementation successes and opportunities for refinement and integration from the 2009 plan in each of the following areas: Water Supply, Wastewater, Watershed and Public Awareness and Education. This material will support the plan update in the review of the goals, objectives and evaluation criteria and the identification implementation actions.

Next, Kristin Rowles (Policy Works) with the consultant team facilitated a discussion with the BAC members on the plan review. She noted that the BAC's input was a source of information in preparing the policy review. She asked the members to comment on whether the implementation successes and opportunities for refinement and integration were accurate and whether the members would add anything to these lists. The following is a summary of the BAC members' feedback:

#### **Water Supply:**

- We should consider how to use existing reservoirs more.
- Reconsider the proposal to raise Lanier by two feet for more storage capacity. The BAC made this recommendation before.
- Use the modeling findings of the ACF Stakeholders work for their water resource management plan.
- Education of government officials should be in each planning area

- Details on interconnected study – better to self-insure with redundancy
- TN River water is off the table for the plan update and, in general, unnecessary. We don't need TN River water to meet water supply demand.

#### **Wastewater:**

- Should we really be considering reuse?
  - It does not contribute to return flows and promotes more evaporation.
  - It could be addressed in the integrated modeling.
  - Impacts of reuse depend upon the type of reuse. Direct potable reuse might have more value as a practice in this area than reuse for irrigation water.
  - Pricing of reuse water affects the incentives for this practice.
- More focus on indirect potable.
- We should get credit for our return flows.
- Will there be coordination between the District's targets for return flows and the return flows targeted in the state's water supply request to the US Army Corps of Engineers?
- We need better requirements for septic waste haulers.
- Incentives could be used to help cities/communities to install low pressure sewers and grinder pumps to encourage transition from septic systems to sewer. This would be especially helpful around Lanier. We might even consider setting goals for transitioning septic systems to sewer.
- We should consider a "decommissioning" fee for developers when they install septic systems.

#### **Education and Public Awareness:**

- Education of government officials is key for all areas of the plan.
- We need to emphasize the value of water in our education messages.

The discussion of the watershed plan review was deferred until later in the meeting, after the presentation of additional related slides. During the discussion, the following clarification items were noted:

- An interconnection study, funded by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, was completed since the last plan update. This study provides information on which utilities share interconnections, and this information will support improvements in water supply planning.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers will issue a draft of the ACF Water Control Manual in September.

#### **Watershed Management: River Basin Profiles and Review of Management Measures**

Doug Baughman (CH2MHill) presented slides on the approach to the watershed management plan update and on the basin profiles for the Lanier and Oconee watersheds. He said that in the 2016 plan update, the river basin profiles will be organized to support watershed management planning and to maximize relevance for local communities. His slides reviewed the change in

conditions in the two watersheds since 2009 including land cover, land use, and impaired waters. He also reviewed management issues in each river basin.

Next, Chrissy Thom (CH2MHill) presented a review of the 2009 plan's implementation actions related to watershed management. She also reviewed implementation successes and opportunities for refinement and integration related to watershed management. Then, Kristin Rowles facilitated a discussion of the BAC members of the watershed management plan review and implementation actions. The following is a summary of the BAC members' discussion:

- Need to set goals and develop incentives for better stormwater utilities.
- Need a standard for the post-development stormwater ordinance that requires redevelopment of existing impervious areas to install stormwater controls. Consider meeting a forested area standard in redevelopment of impervious areas. Incorporate green infrastructure in redevelopment requirements.
- Require restaurant dumpsters to include enclosures that drain to sewers instead of stormwater.
- Require trash haulers to plug trucks to hold liquids.
- Revise requirements for first flush. The revised Georgia Stormwater Management Manual might help with this.
- Need better enforcement of existing laws.
- Corruption can be an issue with enforcement.
- Planning officials that conduct integrated plan reviews need more education on stormwater requirements.
- There is a whistleblower call line available through the District to report violations. We need to educate people that this is available.
- Plan should include recommendations about how to fund implementation actions. Consider sales tax approach to take burden off property owners. Plan update process will include development of case studies on innovative financing approaches from elsewhere.
- Swimming pool discharge to the storm drain is a big issue.
- The plan should emphasize agricultural and livestock BMPs more.
- Check on the status of the bacteria requirements and related task force.
- Would like to have more information on stormwater complaints and violations.

### **Water Demand Forecasting Process**

Brian Skeens (CH2MHill) presented slides on the approach to forecasting water demands for the plan update. The forecasts will be presented to the District Board in June or August.

### **Next Steps**

The next BAC meeting will be a joint meeting in late June. At the next meeting, BAC members will discuss water and wastewater implementation actions as well as other items related to the plan update. A BAC meeting in July is also possible if needed due to the schedule of the plan update process. Details will be sent to members soon.