



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
GOVERNING BOARD  
Minutes  
December 13, 2023**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Board Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission office in Atlanta, Georgia and via Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present**

Mr. Glenn Page, Chairman  
Hon. Nicole Love Hendrickson, Vice Chair  
Dr. Mark Berry, Secretary/Treasurer  
Hon. Harry Johnston  
Hon. Dub Pearman  
Ms. Pamela Burnett  
Mr. Gerald Pouncey  
Mr. Tim Thoms  
Mr. Dave Williams  
City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Mikita Browning

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Sidney Forsyth  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Bernard Franks  
Cobb County Designee: Mr. Eric Olson  
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Barry Lucas  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons  
Hall County Designee: Mr. Srikanth Yamala  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Tony Carnell  
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Kimbry Peek

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Mike Thurmond  
Hon. Edward Johnson  
Hon. James Kelly  
Mr. Birdel Jackson

Chairman Glenn Page called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment Period**

Mr. Chris Manganiello provided comments encouraging local governments and water utilities to take advantage of Climate Pollution Reduction Grants by submitting proposals to ARC, which will compile the proposals from around the region into one submittal to the US EPA.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Page presented the September 13, 2023, meeting minutes for approval. No revisions were offered. Mr. Gerald Pouncey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Srikanth Yamala and passed without opposition.

## **Chairman's Update**

### **Board Member Update**

Chairman Page announced that House Speaker Jon Burns has reappointed Tim Thoms for another three-year term on the Board. Speaker Burns has also appointed Dave Williams, Senior Vice President, Public Policy at the Metro Atlanta Chamber, for a three-year term on the Board.

### **Legislative Policy Committee Membership**

Chairman Page presented the recommended slate of Legislative Policy Committee members for 2024. The recommendation does not require the formal vote of the board.

### **Bradley N. Currey Jr. Award Update**

Chairman Page provided a brief update from the Bradley N. Currey Jr. Award committee. The committee met a year ago and made its selection for the first recipient of the award. Since the selection was made, additional time has been needed to coordinate on the award announcement plans.

### **Revisions to Schedule for 2024**

Due to a scheduling conflict, our March Executive and Board meeting date has been changed to Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the District will host the Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol in room 216.

## **Water Supply / Litigation / Legislative Update / Supreme Court Sackett Decision**

Ms. Shellby Miller provided an update on rainfall and lake levels across the District. Ms. Katherine Zitsch presented an update on litigation within the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River basin, as well as a legislative update. Finally, Mr. Pouncey provided an update of the Supreme Court Sackett Decision.

## **Executive Report**

### **Finance Committee Membership**

Chairman Page presented the proposed slate of Finance Committee members for 2024. Per the District Bylaws, the Board must approve the Finance Committee membership each year. Mr. Tony Carnell made a motion to approve membership. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerald Pouncey and passed without opposition.

### **2023 Year End Budget Revision and 2024 Budget Revision**

Chairman Page presented the 2023 Year End Budget Revision and 2024 Budget Revision. The Finance Committee met on October 31 to consider and approve the two budget revisions which moved to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved both budget revisions,

which moved to the Board for approval. Hon. Harry Johnston made a motion to approve the 2023 Year End Budget Revision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gil Shearouse and passed without opposition. Mr. Nick Ammons made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Revision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnell and passed without opposition.

### **BAC New Member Approval**

Chairman Page presented 12 applications for Basin Advisory Council membership. The Executive Committee voted to approve the members. The Executive Committee is responsible for approving new BAC members, therefore there is no required action of the Board.

## **Staff Updates**

### **District Staffing**

Chairman Page welcomed new staff member, Ms. Maya Goldman, who will be working with Ms. Katherine Atteberry on stormwater planning initiatives and will be leading the District's Technical Assistance Program.

### **Council for Quality Growth Partnership**

Ms. Atteberry provided an update of the District's ongoing partnership with the Council for Quality Growth which will address stormwater management and flooding challenges in the metro Atlanta region. A half-day Stormwater Workshop is planned for January 11, 2024, to bring together leaders from local government and the development community.

### **Education and Outreach**

Ms. Sarah Skinner provided an overview of ongoing education activities and events including the announcement that the District was awarded the 2023 WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award. She also announced the winners of the 2023 Water Reflections Calendar Contest. The 2023 Middle School Essay Contest was a success with over 600 essays submitted on the topic "Rep Your Watershed." Winners will be announced at a reception at the State Capitol on December 14, 2023.

### **MNGWPD Efficiency Code**

Ms. Celine Benoit provided an update on the Water Efficiency Code requirements and a reminder of the deadline to adopt the code by January 1, 2024. She shared a list of local governments that are included on the Georgia Department of Community Affairs website as having passed the code requirements.

### **Wet Weather Septic System Impacts to Surface Water Quality Study**

Mr. Danny Johnson presented preliminary results of the study completed in partnership with UGA. The study was completed to give District staff insight on the need to go beyond current policy requirements regarding septic management. Full results will be shared with all District stakeholders on a webinar on February 6, 2024.

## **EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants**

Mr. Danny Johnson provided an overview of the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants and ARC's role as the lead agency for the Atlanta MSA of 29 counties and 150 cities. ARC will be responsible for compiling local government proposals. If local governments plan to apply for grants, it is important that they be involved in this step to be eligible. Applications are due to US EPA on April 1, 2024; however, ARC is asking that all local governments submit proposals by March 1, 2024.

## **Adjourn**

Before adjourning the meeting, Chairman Page made some announcements. All Board members are required to file state ethics requirements by January 31, 2024. The online forms will open on January 1, 2024.

Chairman Page recognized Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, immediate past Vice Chair, for her service and dedication to the District Board. Ms. Kirkpatrick's leadership and impact on the District since her appointment in 2008 has been profound.

Chairman Page recognized Cobb County Designee, Mr. Eric Olson for his long career dedicated to the water industry and his service to the District since the first organizing meeting of the District in June 2001. Mr. Olson will be retiring in 2024.

Chairman Page recognized longstanding member of the Basin Advisory Council, Ms. Bettie Sleeth, who passed away in October 2023. Ms. Sleeth was an invaluable partner to the District and supported District planning efforts, providing insight and perspective as a representative of the Georgia Home Builders Association.

There being no further business, Chairman Page adjourned the meeting.