



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 27, 2019

The Executive Committee of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the I. Emerson Bryan Conference Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Hon. Charlotte Nash, Chairman
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Hon. Harry Johnston
Hon. Mike Boyce

Clayton County Designee: Mr. Bernard Franks
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart
Fulton County Designee: Ms. Nick Ammons
Henry County Designee: Ms. Tony Carnell

Members Not Present

Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Keisha Lance Bottoms

Chairman Charlotte Nash called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Nash called for a motion to approve the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Tony Carnell, seconded by Mr. Ted Rhinehart and passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Ms. Camila Knowles provided an overview of legislative activity related to water resource bills and District funding requests. Ms. Knowles noted the following proposed legislation:

House Resolution 51 – This resolution would create a joint study committee to review the northern Georgia border dispute with North Carolina and Tennessee. The resolution passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

House Bill 49 – This bill relates to the specific language in the District Act that prohibits the District from studying or including in its plan, an interbasin transfers from outside of the District area. The proposed language would create an exception for interbasin transfers from a river with an average annual average flow of at least 15 billion gallons per day.

House Bill 465 – This bill would enact the Georgia Water Customer Bill of Rights Act which would provide for standards related to customer service and disclosures, refunds and credits, administrative and civil remedies and other related items.

Ms. Knowles noted that Cornerstone has been working to restore funding in the State's budget for the District. The House budget proposal currently includes \$100,000 for the District. Ms. Knowles stated that Cornerstone will continue to work with the Senate to seek the additional amount.

BAC New Member Approval

Chairman Nash began discussion on the Basin Advisory Council (BAC) Membership Drive. Mr. Danny Johnson noted that three new individuals applied for membership to the BAC. All three of the applicants are new to the process. Vice Chair Katie Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve five new BAC members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnell and passed unanimously.

Proposed Plan Amendment – City of Auburn

Chairman Nash opened discussion on the Water Resource Management Plan amendment from the City of Auburn to revise Table 5-2 and Appendix B to include the City of Auburn's proposed Raw Water Storage Pond and Water Treatment Plant in the Oconee River Basin. Mr. Danny Johnson noted that the District received two comments and follow up letters addressing various concerns.

Mr. Jack Wilson and Mr. Roger Wilhelm presented an overview of the proposed project on behalf of the City of Auburn and Mr. Aaron Meyer provided remarks in opposition on behalf of Barrow County.

The following questions were asked by the Executive Committee members:

Question: Did the City of Auburn receive any funding from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)?

Answer: Mr. Wilson replied that the City received a \$6,000,000 loan from GEFA.

Question: Why didn't the Upper Oconee River Basin Council provide comment on the amendment?

Answer: Mr. Meyer replied that the Upper Oconee River Basin Council did not have a scheduled meeting during the public comment period.

Question: Could the District defer to EPD to make the decision?

Answer: Ms. Katherine Zitsch noted that the District Act gives the District this responsibility.

Mr. Nick Ammons made a motion to approve the plan amendment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Katie Kirkpatrick and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.