



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
December 7, 2016

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Treasurer
Hon. Tim Lee
Hon. Charlotte Nash
Ms. Pamela Burnett
Mr. Brad Currey
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mr. Tim Thoms

Mr. Steven Woodruff
Cherokee County Designee: David Kubala
Clayton County Designee: Mike Thomas
DeKalb County Designee: Margaret Tanner
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse
Fulton County Designee: Nick Ammons
Hall County Designee: Ken Rearden
Henry County Designee: Tony Carnell
Rockdale County Designee: Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Hon. Kasim Reed
Hon. Mathew Santini
Hon. Larry Owens
Hon. Edward Johnson
Hon. Ford Gravitt

Mr. Mark Berry
Ms. Kit Dunlap

Vice Chair Katie Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the August 24, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Hon. Charlotte Nash and passed without opposition.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

Drought Conditions/Congress Update

Katherine Zitsch gave a brief overview of drought conditions across the metro region. Currently, half of the District is in “Extreme” and half in “Exceptional” drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The elevation of Lake Lanier is approximately 1061, or nine feet below the full winter pool elevation of 1070.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a warm and dry winter.

The following question was received:

Q: What is the average accuracy of the NOAA predictions?

A: NOAA’s predictions are probabilistic and they forecast what is likely rather than focusing in on only one outcome. While we haven’t looked at their accuracy in predicting warm and dry patterns like the one expected this winter, but NOAA’s predictions are generally considered to reflect the best data available. Based on this we use NOAA’s predictions for planning purposes. While doing so, we understand the impacts of any decision made to increase the drought response will have effects on many, including the green industry.

In Congress, the latest draft bill of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), formerly the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), rolled back the clause from the 2013 bill that was harmful to Georgia’s water access. The final bill is expected to pass in the upcoming days and be presented to the President for signature in the next week.

The Georgia delegation recently discovered potentially harmful language added into the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act from Florida Senator Nelson and is making efforts to remove this language before the bill moves toward to a final vote. The language would have required the National Water Center to study the impacts on reservoir operations in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basin based on recreation, and fish and wildlife, but did not include water supply or other authorized purposes, which was the cause for objection by the Georgia delegation.

We are also watching the Continuing Resolution that Congress is expected to pass by December 9th.

There are two cases pending in the Alabama/Coosa/Tallapoosa basin. The first case is the Georgia/Cobb-Marietta/ARC v. USACE lawsuit in the Northern District of Georgia. The second case is Alabama/Alabama Power v. USACE in Washington D.C. This trial will remain in Washington D.C. and separate from the Georgia lawsuit.

The Florida v. Georgia Supreme Court trial before the special master in Portland, Maine has concluded. Each party will have two weeks to file a post-trial brief followed by two weeks to file response briefs which are due December 30, 2016. There will be no final oral arguments before the special master. A final recommendation from the special master is expected in early 2017. The Supreme Court will likely rule in the fall of 2017.

Hon. Tim Lee recognized and praised Ms. Zitsch for her support and dedication to the region with respect to her work on protecting our region's water resources.

Calendar

Ms. Sarah Skinner presented the 2016 Calendar Photo Contest winning pictures.

BAC Chair Election Results

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick noted the results of the Basin Advisory Council Chair elections for 2017. The following were elected as Chair of their respective councils:

Teresa Crisp - Chattahoochee BAC
Bruce Coyle - Coosa/Etowah BAC
Bryan Keller - Flint BAC
Tom Vivello - Lake Lanier BAC
Steve Williams- Ocmulgee BAC Chair
Jill Stachura - Oconee BAC

Essay Contest Winners and Reception

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick announced that over 1,700 middle school students participated in the 2016 Middle School Water Essay Contest. Students were asked to answer the following question: Why is water conservation important to you and our region? The City of Atlanta and county winners will be recognized at an award reception in the South Wing of the Georgia State Capitol on Wednesday, December 14. In addition, the District-wide winner and runner up will be announced at the reception. Winners can be found on the District website northgeorgiawater.org.

Board Member Recognition

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick recognized Chairman Tim Lee (Cobb) and Chairman Richard Oden (Rockdale) for their service to the board. Chairman Lee has served the board since 2010 and Chairman Oden has served since 2009.

Board Meeting Schedule for 2017

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick announced the Governing Board meeting dates for 2017 as follows:

February 22, 2017

June 7, 2017

August 23, 2017

December 6, 2017

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2016 Year End Budget and 2017 Budget Revision

Mr. Birdel Jackson presented the Finance and Executive Committee's recommendations on the 2016 year end and 2017 budget revision. Vice Chair Kirkpatrick explained that

recommendations of a committee do not require a second. The 2016 year end and 2017 budget revision were both approved unanimously.

BAC Operating Procedures

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick noted the following changes made to the BAC Operating Procedures document as presented to the Executive Committee earlier today.

- The importance of a diverse membership is more specifically stated.
- The term for the BAC chairperson will be extended from 1 to 2 years taking effect following the 2017 fall election.
- The operating procedures will now allow for the formation of committees in each BAC in addition to the election of other officers as needed.

Post-Construction Stormwater Model Ordinance and MS4 Updates

Mr. Chris Faulkner presented an update to the regulatory changes advancing through Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) in regards to MS4 Phase 1 – Medium permits. EPD has held multiple stakeholder meetings this year to discuss changes to the permits. These changes include a focus on green infrastructure and low impact design to manage stormwater through runoff reduction. The District submitted comments to EPD which focused on the permit update process and implementing schedule. The final release and implementation schedule set by EPD will dictate considerations for a plan amendment or technical assistance from the District.

2017 Water Resources Plan Update Status

Mr. Danny Johnson provided an update on the 2017 Management Plan Update and noted that the deadline for plan approval is June 2017. Mr. Johnson also noted the direction given by the Governing Board in 2015 for the District to take a stronger role in enhanced technical assistance. In response to that directive, the District increased the number of workshops offered in 2016. The District provided multiple trainings related to the Georgia Stormwater Manual, septic training to Realtor's in DeKalb County, held one-on-one meetings with all 15 of the District's local Environmental Health Departments, and facilitated a workshop with the wastewater providers, environmental health officers, stormwater managers and city planners on the importance of coordinated efforts to manage development on septic. The District also held a green infrastructure forum with leaders in the Upper Flint basin and conducted a Water Efficiency for Schools workshop.

Green Communities Partnership Opportunities

Ms. Crystal Jackson with ARC presented an overview of the Green Communities program and discussed partnership opportunities for communities outside of the traditional 10-county ARC region.

The following questions were received:

Q: Is there an application for Green Communities?

A: Yes. The ARC website has the application and manual. Applications are due in May of 2017. Staff will review applications between May and November. Technical assistance is offered to help communities work their way through the process.

Q: How does the program stay consistent with the District's education and outreach requirements?

A: The program requirements for Green Communities are closely coordinated with the District Water Resource Management Plan requirements.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Kirkpatrick called for a motion to move to Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. David Kubala, seconded by Hon. Nash and passed without opposition.

Other

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, **Katie Kirkpatrick**, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- (1) I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District held on **December 7, 2016**.
- (2) That it is my understanding that §O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(a)(2) provides as follows: When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exceptions.
- (3) The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on **December 7, 2016**, which was closed for the purpose(s) of

Pending litigation in Florida v. Georgia before the Supreme Court in which the officers and employees of the Metro Water District are directly involved

as allowed by §O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

- (4) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of §O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b)(1) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 7th day of December 2016.


Chairman/Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7TH day of December, 2016.


Notary Public

