



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
GOVERNING BOARD  
Minutes  
March 3, 2021**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. through an online web-conference.

**Members Present**

Mr. Glenn Page, Chairman  
Dr. Mark Berry, Secretary/Treasurer  
Hon. Harry Johnston  
Hon. Lisa Cupid  
Ms. Pamela Burnett  
Mr. Brad Currey  
Ms. Kit Dunlap  
Mr. Tim Thoms

City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Mikita Browning  
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Lamont Kiser  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Bernard Franks  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Reginald Wells  
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse  
Fayette County Designee: Ms. Vanessa Tigert  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Barry Lucas  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Kevin Farrell  
Hall County Designee: Ms. Linda MacGregor  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Tony Carnell  
Paulding County Designee: Mr. Boyd Austin

**Members Not Present**

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair  
Hon. Bob Blackburn  
Hon. Michael Thurmond

Hon. Oz Nesbitt  
Mr. Birdel Jackson  
Mr. Gerald Pouncey

Chairman Glenn Page called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comments were provided.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Page presented the December 2, 2020 meeting minutes for approval. No revisions were offered. Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Mark Berry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gil Shearouse and passed without opposition.

**Chairman's Update**

**Schedule for 2021**

Chairman Page noted the next Board meeting will be held on June 9, 2021 and presented the remaining schedule of Board meeting dates for 2021.

### **Board Retreat Planning**

Chairman Page announced that he has asked District staff to begin planning a Board retreat in the January/February 2022 timeframe. Chairman Page asked Board members to provide any ideas for the retreat location and share them with staff.

### **Board Protocols**

Chairman Page shared the protocols for meeting management that he would like to implement for future board meetings. They include the following:

Board members should virtually raise their hand or otherwise ask for recognition from the chair before speaking.

Discussion and action items will stay focused on the current agenda item and on any proposed motion, and Chairman Page will work through the agenda in order.

Once discussion (and motion when applicable) for an agenda item has concluded and discussion of the next agenda item begins, Chairman Page will not go back and revisit the concluded agenda item.

In regard to items that can be prepared in advance of the meeting, potential agenda items and anticipated motions should be discussed with the Chair no later than one week in advance of the meeting but preferably earlier. Any key materials supporting agenda items and anticipated motions should be provided to the Chair at least two weeks before the board meeting for possible inclusion in the board materials packet.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Education Update**

Ms. Sarah Skinner provided an update on the 2020 Middle School Essay Contest, the 2021 Water Drop Dash 5K race, the 2021 High School Video Contest, and a new partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting to host a Live Exploration targeted to 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on May 6, 2021.

#### **City of Fayetteville Groundwater Well Permitting**

Mr. Danny Johnson gave thanks to the staff of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) who collaborated throughout the process and followed up with District Board members who objected to the December 2, 2020 Plan amendment request from the City of Fayetteville to understand their concerns and develop permit language that would attempt to alleviate those concerns. Chairman Page intends to submit a thank you letter to EPD Director Dunn recognizing his staff's efforts.

#### **Septic Policy**

Mr. Johnson shared that staff will be evaluating the quantity and location of existing and forecasted septic flows over the next four months to frame future policy discussions for the Board.

#### **Drought Tolerant Sod Planning**

Mr. Johnson shared that staff have begun to research drought tolerant metrics for turfgrass and potential 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations that have the capabilities to qualify drought tolerant regionally specific grass types. District staff will reach out to interested Board members and stakeholders during the information gathering phase and will report back to the Board for future discussion.

### **2022 Water Resource Management Plan Update**

#### **Schedule and Coordination**

Mr. Johnson provided a schedule update for the 2022 Water Resource Management Plan Update and highlighted ongoing coordination efforts with the other Georgia regional water councils.

#### **Updates to Appendix B – County Level Summaries Process**

Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the major elements of Appendix B – County Level Summaries and how the appendix will be updated through the District stakeholder process.

#### **Action Item Development**

Ms. Celine Benoit presented an overview of water conservation and efficiency action item concepts that have been presented to the District's stakeholder groups and the upcoming schedule for consideration and development.

### **COVID Relief Funding Opportunities for District Utilities**

Mr. Andrew Morris presented an overview of the COVID relief opportunities in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the latest version of the America Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Water Supply Status / Litigation Update**

Ms. Katherine Zitsch reported that the regional reservoirs are full and that there are no drought conditions currently in the state of Georgia. Ms. Zitsch then presented an overview of the Lake Lanier Water Storage Contracts and the recent oral arguments held in the Florida v. Georgia Supreme Court case.

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