



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
Water Supply-Water Conservation  
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary  
November 17, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply-Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Attendance**

Nick Ammons, Fulton County  
Gwen Brinkley, Fulton County  
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County  
Ernest Earn, Cobb County Water System  
Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville  
Catherine Fox, FOX Environmental, LLC  
Peter Frost, Douglasville-Douglas County  
Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA)  
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville  
Steve Green, DDCWSA  
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County Water  
and Sewer Authority  
Keith Higgs, DDCWSA  
Chris Hindman, City of Fayetteville  
Donna Joe, Gwinnett County  
Russell Kelly, Paulding County Water System  
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA  
Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta Department  
of Watershed Management  
Chris Kumnick, Georgia Department of Public  
Health  
Becky Mixon, Cobb County-Marietta Water  
Authority

Heather Moody, Gwinnett County  
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System  
Jackson Myers, City of College Park  
Tim Perkins, Forsyth County  
Ron Peters, Gwinnett County  
Lee Pope, Rockdale County  
Timothy Pugh, Paulding County Water  
System  
Richard Randolph, City of East Point  
Russell Ray, Fayette County Water System  
Monica Robinson, Fulton County  
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnet County Water  
Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities  
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County  
Michelle Vincent, Georgia Environmental  
Protection Division  
Keith Watkins, Clayton County Water  
Authority  
James Webb, Fulton County  
Emily Wingo, Georgia Environmental  
Protection Division

Marissa Duff of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**2011 Implementation Survey Review**

Marissa Duff presented the preliminary results from the 2011 Implementation Surveys. Water utilities were given their individual surveys from 2010 and asked to update their responses to reflect any changes in 2011. This year, 55 out of 56 water providers in the Metro Water District returned updated surveys. This year, there was an increase in utility participation for all water conservation measures. In particular, an additional eight utilities now include rain sensor shut-offs on their building inspection

## **Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Technical Committee Meeting Notes**

**November 17, 2011**

**Page 2**

checklists and an additional five utilities completed system water audits using the AWWA Free Water Audit Software<sup>®</sup>. A total of 38 jurisdictions have offered toilet rebate programs. Since the start of the program, more than 67,500 toilets have been replaced. In terms of water loss, more than 70% of utilities have set their water loss goals and approximately 15,000 leaks were repaired in 2011. Overall, the implementation results from 2011 do not vary significantly from 2010 and the group was asked to consider if changes should be made to next year's implementation reporting method or presentation of results. The group explained that they would like to see the report be used to meet Georgia EPD's reporting requirements for implementation progress.

### **Elementary School Water Use Data Project**

Ms. Duff presented an overview of public elementary school water use within the Metro Water District. She explained what information is needed to benchmark water use in schools including the number of students and faculty, building age, square footage, and the number of school days. Ms. Duff also presented typical elementary school use benchmarks published in national studies. The Metro Water District surveyed public elementary schools for their 2010 calendar year water use. A total of 345 schools were surveyed. Ms. Duff showed the group graphs of 2010 average monthly water use and per capita water use in the elementary schools surveyed. The elementary schools in the Metro Water District are average or often better than average when compared to national benchmarks. This data will not be published but can be used as a tool to help target educational programs within school districts. One group member asked if water conservation programs for school facilities are needed if benchmarks show good results. While we may not need a rigorous program targeted towards school facilities, it is evident that the children are an important target audience for the message of water conservation. This data confirms the progress of water conservation in schools and is a positive story to promote among our communities.

### **Douglasville-Douglas County Pipeline Project**

Peter Frost, the executive director of the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA) presented the group with an overview of their new flow augmentation line. When DDCWSA was formed in 1985, permits did not require minimum release requirements. As they sought to expand the Dog River Reservoir they were required to meet a minimum release of 5.8 MGD. In order to meet this requirement without having to release additional water from the reservoir, DDCWSA proposed a flow augmentation line designed to transport the treated water from their new wastewater treatment plant to the stream below their dam. The project provides additional days of storage and allows DDCWSA to keep more water in their reservoir.

### **Drought Update**

Marissa Duff updated the group on the status of the drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the southern portion of the Metro Water District remains in extreme drought conditions while the northern portion ranges from moderate to severe. The region is experiencing a 10.3 inch deficit in precipitation to date. Lake Lanier's elevation is at 1057.9 feet which is approximately 6 feet below the long-term average for this time of year. Conversely, Allatoona Lake is at 829.6 feet which is above the full winter pool of 823 feet. The smaller reservoirs in the region are averaging at 70% storage capacity. Ms. Duff explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Basin based on four zones of composite storage. They attempt to balance the zones between the four reservoirs. Lake Lanier, West Point Lake, and W.F. George Lake are all in zone three and trending toward zone four. One group member asked why the state has not issued a drought notice. Another group member explained that it is difficult to require restrictions in the entire state with such variability in drought conditions. One member emphasized the importance of being good stewards of water in each utility's respective community. Pat Stevens commented that discharges from Lake Lanier are more than what is required by the Atlanta region and have been

used to compensate for drought conditions in south Georgia. One group member asked that we send the message that the water being discharged from Lake Lanier is not used solely for the Atlanta area.

**Georgia EPD Draft Rules for Drought Management and Water Conservation**

Marissa Duff explained to the group that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has sent out draft rules on drought management and water conservation and are requesting stakeholder input and comments by December 5, 2011. One group member explained that the draft rule for drought management sets mandated reductions based on varying drought levels; the percent reductions are based on conditions at a local utility level. The benchmark used to evaluate the percent reduction is based on water production trends from 2005 onward. A group member expressed concern that this benchmark must be reevaluated since water conservation efforts were already in effect and it will be difficult to reach reduction levels as outlined by drought levels IV and V. Another group member expressed concern that restricted watering behaviors in the previous drought are now exempt which will make reduction difficult. One group member stated that the draft rule for drought management needs more clarification. In regards to the draft rule on water conservation, one group member expressed the need to discuss with Georgia EPD the potential to use the implementation reporting process by the Metro Water District to meet their requirements. Pat Stevens suggested that group members share their comments on the draft rules with each other and asked for volunteers to head up that process. The comments can be given to the District Board on December 1, 2011.

**Other**

Marissa Duff asked the group to review the draft Governor's Water Supply Program Report recently sent out by the Water Supply Task Force. The report presents the approaches to developing new water supply facilities and provides overview of financing options, partnerships, and the selection process of new water supply projects. To access a copy of the report visit:

[www.georgiawatersupply.org](http://www.georgiawatersupply.org).

Ms. Duff announced to the group that "Fix-a-Leak" Week will take place from March 12<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>. This year, to kick-off the week, a 5k will be held to combine the individual efforts of utilities throughout the District and draw more attention to the message of water conservation. The 5k will be held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center followed by an educational fair. More details and information will be forthcoming.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.