



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
EDUCATION
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary
February 9, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present:

Laura Aikens, City of Roswell	Fernell Patterson, Fulton County
Ellen Bauske, UGA Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture	Alicia Pennie, DeKalb County
Susan Brown, Clayton County	Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta
Bob Bourne, Cobb County	Tim Pugh, Paulding County
Erica Dunbar, Paulding County	Paul Pugliese, Cherokee County Extension
Kevin Finney, City of Gainesville	Lisa Robbins, Gwinnett County
Mary Gazaway, Georgia EPD	Marry Sheffield, Paulding County Extension
Harold Harbert, Georgia EPD	Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock
Stephanie Lewis, Cobb County	Michael Strickland, Clayton County
Shayla Nealy, Clayton County	Steven Strickland, City of Doraville
	Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville

Charlene Njoroge opened the meeting by welcoming the Education TCC members, initiating self introductions and giving an overview of the agenda. The purpose of the meeting was to review suggestions and comments from the Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) about grease management, review the 2009 public education telephone poll results and have a follow-up discussion regarding the 2010 Clean Water Campaign Media Plan.

Planned and Ongoing Workshops

The following is a list of outreach activities taking place throughout the region by water educators:

- Clayton County is planning a series of events such as a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off and the Wild Azalea Festival.
- Paulding County is preparing for the upcoming Spring Gardening Workshop series and is in the process of developing septic system educational materials which will be available by Fall 2010.
- City of Woodstock is partnering with the City Summer Concert Series to offer stormwater information to concert goers.
- Gwinnett County is working on releasing "Fix a Leak" Week materials encouraging residents to detect and fix leaks inside homes and offices in Gwinnett County.
- Cobb County Water Systems partnered with Cobb County Public Safety, Kaiser Permanente of Georgia, Cobb Senior Services and Keep Cobb Beautiful to host a Drug Amnesty Day. This event gave residents an opportunity to safely dispose of outdated, unused over the counter and prescription medications.
- Cobb County is also targeting schools during "Fix a Leak" Week encouraging schools to detect and fix leaks.

- As part of Fulton County's F.O.G Program, two workshops are planned and F.O.G. PSAs will be aired on Fulton County's local access channel.
- Adopt-A-Stream is hosting their annual Confluence Conference 2010 on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at Stone Mountain Park.
- Rivers Alive will also have their annual award ceremony on Thursday, April 22nd.
- DeKalb County will be celebrating Public Works Week May 16-22 by hosting public works educational events throughout DeKalb County Schools. DeKalb County C.E.O. Burrell Ellis has launched a neighborhood summit. DeKalb County Department of Public Works and the Department of Watershed Management Public Education Department have been charged with going into the neighborhoods and keeping the neighbors informed about neighborhood projects.
- City of Alpharetta is hosting a series of workshops and events such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, Non-point Source Day, Make and Take Rain Barrel, U-Fix It Workshop, Lawn Care Workshop and many more.
- City of Roswell is finishing up their coloring book contest and hosting a rain barrel workshop.

Public Awareness Discussion

In January, the Metro Water District BACs met and discussed methods to educate the public about the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease. Corey Babb reported the Metro Water District recently completed the 2009 Metro Water District Plan Implementation Review and the review revealed grease is the number one cause of sanitary sewer line blockages. Mr. Babb said in order to reduce the grease impact on sewer systems educational material will be developed. As a result Mr. Babb began a discussion with the BACs about how to educate customers and residents about proper disposal of fats, oils and grease. The feedback from BAC members were recorded and distributed during the Education TCC meeting.

Each year the Metro Water District hires a company to conduct a telephone poll. The purpose of this poll is to call 400 residents within the Metro Water District and gauge their level of awareness about water quality and water conservation issues. After reviewing the poll results, TCC members agreed educating the public about basic stormwater and water use messages is needed.

As a follow up from the December TCC meeting, Ms. Njoroge gave a quick overview of the proposed 2010 Clean Water Campaign Media Plan. During the December meeting the TCC discussed the messages, target audiences and suggested media for the 2010 Clean Water Campaign Media Plan. As a follow up, Ms. Njoroge asked the TCC to think about recent poll results and asked if we should modify the messages or suggested media. The TCC agreed basic water quality and conservation should be the focus for the 2010 CWC Media Plan and mentioned they favored television and radio as a form of advertising the messages. It was further suggested we look into advertising on local access channels, gas pumps signage and at checkout counters.

Ms. Njoroge reminded the TCC members WaterSense "Fix a Leak" Week is the third week in March and reminded everyone to promote this event within their jurisdictions. The "Fix a Leak" Week promotional packets were emailed for everyone to download.

The next education subcommittee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 10AM.**

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.