



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
August 13, 2014**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Technical Coordinating Committee met on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ballroom Room, on "B" level of the Atlanta Regional Commission in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Nick Ammons – Fulton County
Reginald Anderson – City of Chamblee
Jennifer Arp – Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority
Vanessa Birrell – Fayette County
Bob Bourne – Cobb County Water System
Tara Brown – Henry County WSA
Pam Burnett – GAWP
John Butler – Gwinnett County
Jennifer Carlile – City of Atlanta
Charles Corbin – Keck and Wood, Inc.
Bruce Coyle – Paulding County
Tammie Croy – Hall County
Vicki Culbreth – City of Roswell
Kevin Farrell – Gwinnett Co Dept. of Water Resources
Sumner Gann – Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, Inc.
Mary Gazaway – GAEPD
Horace Gee – City of Gainesville
Steve Green – Douglasville-Douglas Co WSA
Jonathon Heard – City of Cumming
Keith Higgs – Douglasville – Douglas Co WSA
Renee Hoge – Forsyth County
Nolton Johnson – City of Atlanta
Samuel Jones – DeKalb County
Russell Kelly – Paulding Co Water & Sewer
Chris Kumnick – GA Dept. of Public Health
Charles Lambert – DeKalb County
Barry Lucas – Forsyth County

Katherine Macias – Douglasville-Douglas County
Will Martin – Bartow County
Jim Martinez – Cherokee County
Mike Mason – City of College Park
Betsy Massie – CH2M Hill-Atlanta
Kevin McInturff – Hall County
Jennifer McLaurin – Fulton County
Heather Moody – Gwinnett Co Water Resources
William Moore – City of College Park
Kathy Nguyen – Cobb County Water Authority
Kevin Osbey – Clayton County Water Authority
Julie Owens – City of Atlanta
Tim Perkins – Forsyth County
Guy Pihera – Clayton County Water Authority
Jim Poff – Clayton County Water Authority
Tim Pugh – Paulding County Water System
Richard Randolph – City of East Point
Ken Rearden – Hall County
Michele Robbins – City of Sandy Springs
Jerri Russell – City of Atlanta
Barbara Seal – Gwinnett County
Kelen Shostak – City of Woodstock
Brian Skeens – CH2M Hill, Inc.
Kelli Uyesugi-Turner – Rockdale County
Michelle Vincent - Jacobs
Matt Vinson – GA Onsite Wastewater Association, Natural Systems Utilities, LLC.
Emily Wingo – GAEPD

Mr. Danny Johnson, Manager of the Metro Water District opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Plan Update Scope of Work Review and Comments

Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the scope of work. The following comments from the TCC members on the scope of work were then given, followed by a comment or answer from Mr. Johnson. Further wording suggestions can be seen in the attached document.

General Comment: Can we wait to release the RFP until after the state gives us direction because we need to see what they are going to do.

Mr. Johnson: It will be difficult to set our schedule based on the release of the State's guidance because we don't know exactly when we will receive their guidance. We anticipate guidance will come in multiple packages over the next few months.

Task 1 Integration: Are we going to go from three plans to one?

Mr. Johnson: We have not locked in a final decision on how the plan will be formatted but there has been discussion of going to one plan with three sections.

Task 1 - Integration: Is it possible that some tasks would have the three water resource areas in one section?

Mr. Johnson: My preference would be to provide references to other water resource related sections.

Task 1 - Integration (Line 91): The paragraph above asks the consultant to review the 2009 plan, and then it talks about reviewing the surveys and information from the District, but in this last sentence it doesn't really say which findings it will summarize.

Task 1 - Integration (Line 91): Substituting "for" for "of" will make the last sentence less confusing.

Task 2 - Water Supply/ Water Conservation Management: Utilizing OPB numbers for population growth troubles me. Which year of OPB projections will be used for reference?

Mr. Johnson: We are anticipating guidance from the State that will require us to use OPB projections in parallel with the other 10 regional water councils. We will likely be using the most recent numbers.

Task 2 - Water Supply/ Water Conservation Management (Line 238): Here it explicitly excludes interbasin transfers from outside the District. In general I agree, but there might be some periphery situations that should be allowed. That language might need to be softened a little bit.

Mr. Johnson: This is a reference to the state law that says we can't look at water sources from outside the District.

Task 3 - Wastewater Management: There were multiple topics addressed regarding septic in the 2009 plan. Can you expound on what you expect local governments to go further with?

Mr. Johnson: It's more of a reaction to what we are hearing. The comments that we kept getting from our stakeholders is that people are pushing for better septic management. The comments were not very specific so we need to try and identify ways we can improve. Some potential improvements could be better public outreach and education for septic system management or looking at ways we can improve the disposal of septic solids to regulated receiving locations instead of manholes and storm sewers.

Task 4 - Watershed Management: We are developing our own watershed plan and then there is the District's overriding watershed plan, can you expand on how we will keep ourselves out of trouble in this regard?

Mr. Johnson: At the District level, the plans provide overarching action items that identify the requirements that should go into your master plans. If you already have a master plan and you have a

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conflict with new action items, we expect the plan update process to be very interactive with the TCC to be able to discuss those concerns.

Task 4 - Watershed Management: Is there anything in the RFP that lists or delists impaired water sources?

Mr. Johnson: The RFP does not directly address this but there is an ongoing subcommittee who has made recommendations to EPD on how the listing guidance could be improved. As the dialogue with EPD continues, we will be looking to add recommendations into this plan that EPD should consider.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Line 380): We are trying to develop watershed based plans that qualify for grant money. Will the plan update address the nine qualifications that EPA has to get the 319 H grants? This might be a good place for the plan to think about watersheds and not just jurisdictions.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Line 380): Any thoughts as to the size or number of sub basins?

Mr. Chris Faulkner: There is not a discrete size in the current plan. The only basin in the District plan that is broken up is the Chattahoochee, and so the next update will probably include a similar scale.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Lines 382-383): Who specifically is selecting the basin water quality issues and identifying them?

Mr. Johnson: The consultant will initially work to compile the basin issues. Then they will be looking to the TCCs for feedback.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Line 392-393): Are we looking at making the Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan items mandatory in the plan?

Mr. Johnson: That plan was not adopted so we will strike that from the list.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Line 395): In thinking about comprehensive plans and master plans and population projections, they don't line up with the Office of Planning and Budget. There might need to be some analysis of any strong disagreements between these things, and we lay those on the table of why or what numbers are being used.

Task 4 - Watershed Management (Line 395): Atlanta is the only place with CSO related aspects and the language seems very strong that this is something that will definitely be dealt with.

Task 5 - Communication: This seems to be the only area where detail goes into what the BAC and TCCs are and it seems like this should be in the beginning of the document.

Task 5 - Communication: Once we have the integrated plan, will the recording checklists also be integrated or will we still be doing separate reports?

Mr. Johnson: I think we will try to keep things as reasonable as possible. This is something that will need to be considered as we move forward.

Task 5 - Communication: Is there anything here that starts us down the path of integrating with Alabama and Florida? There needs to be an update on water wars somewhere in the plan.

Task 5 - Communication (Lines 427-428): You will want to include a lot of stakeholder meetings in the RFP. This plan seems like it is going to be significantly different, so we need to have a lot of meetings on how things will be documented.

Mr. Johnson stated that Comments on the scope will be due by August 29th and then an updated draft will be sent to the other stakeholders.

2014 Essay Contest

Ms. Kostoula Vallianos discussed the 2014 Middle School Water Essay Contest where the theme is "Explain why water quantity (how much water we have) and water quality (how clean the water is) are equally important." TCC members were encouraged to spread the word about the contest.

Door Hangers and Postcards

Ms. Vallianos reminded TCC members to pick up their F.O.G. door hangers and discussed outreach material that is currently being drafted.

Social Media Update

Mr. Andy Cornwell from the Metro Water District gave an update on how the District is starting to make more use of social media. Mr. Cornwell showed the District Facebook and Twitter pages and encouraged members to join and contribute suggestions.

Utility Climate Resiliency Study Update

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the initial data gathering phase of the Utility Climate Resiliency Study. Work began in July 2014 and is anticipated to be complete during the spring of 2015. Mr. Johnson discussed the watersheds and reservoirs that are currently being evaluated.

ARC's MetroQuest Survey

Ms. Melissa Roberts from the Atlanta Regional Commission gave a presentation on ARC's MetroQuest Survey for the Regional Plan. Ms. Roberts went through the online survey during her presentation and gave members the opportunity to complete the survey after the meeting. The question was asked "How are you advertising and are you advertising in schools?" Ms. Roberts responded that they are emailing through ARC emails, through specific work partners, relationships with a few non-profits, and sample Facebook blurbs. ARC has not started reaching out to schools because it has been summer.

Other

A reminder was given for the Implementation Survey due date. As well as for the Governing Board meeting which is on August 27th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.