



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
 International Tower | 229 Peachtree St., NE | Suite 100 | Atlanta, GA 30303

**Education Technical Coordinating Committee -  
 Meeting Agenda**

**August 11, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**[Microsoft Teams – JOIN WITH THIS LINK](#)**

*(You can join and view this meeting in your browser or on the app -  
 you do not have to have a Teams account)*  
**To call into the meeting:** 470-419-6063 | Conference ID: 972 127 262#

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

<b>Members and Guests:</b>	
Lyndsey Sargent	Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority
Tracy Thigpen	Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority
Angie Marcus	Cobb County Water System
Mike Kahle	Cobb County Water System
Bob Bourne	Cobb County Water System
Michael Musser	Marietta Water
Michael O’Shield	DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management
Brenda Winston	DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management
Jennifer McLaurin	DeKalb County Roads and Drainage
Will England	Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority
Lori Forrester	Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority
Kristen Howard	City of Gainesville
Tyler Simms	City of Gainesville
Brian Wiley	City of Gainesville
Lolita Jackson	City of Atlanta
Amy Warnock	Fulton County Water
Andrew Hickey	Gwinnett County Water Resources
Terry Porter	City of Alpharetta
Tember Christopher	Paulding County Water
Jennifer Kobylus	Powder Springs
Eddie Basilio	GA EPD
Chris Manganiello	Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Brian Skeens	Jacobs
<b>District Staff:</b>	
Danny Johnson	MWD, Manager
Sarah Skinner	MWD, Education and Stakeholder Awareness
Justine Schwartz	MWD, Education and Stakeholder Engagement

\*\*A 10-minute period for public comments is designated at the beginning of each regular TCC meeting. Each speaker must sign-up 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time by emailing [comments@northgeorgiawater.com](mailto:comments@northgeorgiawater.com). Each speaker will be limited to two minutes. If the comment period expires before all citizens have an opportunity to comment, speakers will be invited to provide their comments in writing.

Katherine Atteberry	MWD, Stormwater Planning Manager
Celine Benoit	MWD, Water Efficiency and Toilet Rebate Program
Ansley Murphy	MWD, GIS Intern

## II. Public Comment Period\*\*

*No public comments*

## III. Announcements

- Plan Update Schedule Update – Please direct all questions or comments about the plan update to [planupdate@northgeorgiawater.com](mailto:planupdate@northgeorgiawater.com)  
*Danny Johnson provided an update of the planning schedule and an overview of changes to the new format for action items. In the updated plan, action items will be reformatted to remove the ‘In Coordination With’ column, which will reduce confusion. Additionally, ‘Considerations of Enhanced Implementation’ for all action items will be moved to a separate document. Sarah Skinner provided an overview of specific changes to the Education Action Item. No major changes are expected, and there will be no new requirements for utilities. There will be additions to the key messages and message delivery methods. Redline changes will be sent to the TCC within the month and members will have an opportunity to provide comments at the Education TCC meeting scheduled for November.*
- [Water Drop Dash](#) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (March 19)  
*Justine Schwartz shared with members that the District is planning for special features for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Drop Dash, including a virtual 10K and a website update. The District is currently planning an in-person 5K race and water festival in the gym following the race but will continue to monitor news and guidelines related to COVID-19.*
- [Middle School Essay Contest](#) opening soon – Please share  
*The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle School Essay Contest is now open. Students can choose one of two topics, both related to the recent Georgia Water Live project in partnership with GPB. Utility partners from Rockdale, Paulding, and Bartow (in particular) are encouraged to share, as participation from these counties has been small in recent years.*
- Drought Options Menu Update  
*Celine Benoit provided a brief update of the new Drought Options Menu that District staff is currently developing. The menu will be referenced in the plan update and will serve as a comprehensive approach to drought planning and outreach from pre-planning to level 3 plus. It will help water providers better navigate the process and meet various legal requirements under state and federal law. The document is a District product and will not be formally approved by EPD, but once complete the District will share it with EPD.*
- Lake Level Update  
*Both Lake Lanier and Allatoona Lake are at or very close to full summer pool. The US Drought Monitor map shows no dry or drought conditions for the state. Rainfall for the metro area has been above average since April.*
- Ask-A-Peer (your time to ask your peers about difficult outreach/messaging issues you may be experiencing)  
*No questions or comments.*
- Announcements – what is going on in your area?  
*Celine Benoit shared an opportunity for members to learn about funding through Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which will allow utilities to provide aid to customers in the form of bill assistance, to avoid shutoffs, and allow for reconnections associate with non-payments. To receive funds, utilities must sign up through DFACS.*  
*Sarah Skinner asked members about their plans for in-person programming at schools. Cherokee County’s schedule is full, both in-classroom and outside. Fulton County’s COVID policies were updated, and employees are only allowed to do programming out of the classroom. Schools are also not allowing visitors, but they are hoping to share materials and programming. Cobb County will provide the puppet show virtually to*



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*schools and teachers. Individual schools are making their own policies on in-person education from visitors versus virtual.*

*Cherokee County created a video with the District's puppet show that utilities are welcome to share with their schools.*

- Request materials at any time using [this link](#)  
*If any partners are still using the old EmailMe form to order materials, that form is no longer available. All requests need to be made through the form on the District's website (link above).*

#### IV. New Messaging for Irrigation, Material Updates, and New Resources

- Sarah Skinner, Justine Schwartz, Celine Benoit – Metro Water District staff

*Celine Benoit provided an update about a new messaging strategy for our educational materials related to irrigation and outdoor watering. We will now be including information on the drought-tolerant turfgrass TifTuf in the Landscape Irrigation Watering Guide, the WaterWise Landscape Guide, and the DIY Household Audit.*

*Sarah Skinner shared that the Menu for a Healthier Environment was recently updated and ready for distribution. The District will also be recreating the storm drain stencil with better messaging and instructions for the user. Stencils will be ready for distribution soon.*

*Justine Schwartz shared progress on educational resource sheets that will focus on the five video clips produced for Georgia Water Live. The resource sheets will include a link to the one video clip along with elementary and middle school curriculum-related activities. These resources will be available later in the fall.*

#### V. Appendix A: River Basin Profiles 2022 Update and Story Maps

- Allie Orrego and Ansley Murphy – Metro Water District Staff

*Ansley Murphy presented the updates to the River Basin Profiles in Appendix A of the Plan. In the 2022 Plan update, the District will be providing digital river basin profiles in the form of online, interactive story maps which will provide a dynamic and interesting way of showing the data. District staff will also be able to more easily and frequently update the data. The new stormwater forecast will inform some of the data included in the digital river basin profiles.*

#### VI. Discussion: Return to In-Person Children's Water Festival...Maybe... Hopefully! Options and Backup Plans

- *Please come prepared with any information you can gather from your teachers, schools, and school districts about their willingness or ability to allow children to attend off-site events.*

*After a lengthy and informative discussion, it was determined that it is too early to know if we will be able to host the Children's Water Festival in person, however an in-person event is much preferred. District staff will plan a skeleton in-person regional event and continue to monitor news and guidelines related to COVID but will also work with utilities on planning local options as a back-up.*

#### VII. Next meetings: Wednesday, November 17, 10am-12pm, location TBD

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