



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
LAKE LANIER & OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS  
Meeting Summary  
January 13, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Spout Springs Public Library in Flowery Branch, GA.

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Present**

Drew Addison  
Bob Evans, GA Green Industry Association  
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants  
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company  
Larry Long  
Tim Merritt  
Val Perry, BAC Chair  
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.  
Ike Swofford

**Oconee BAC Members Present**

J. Steven Landers, Land Planning Consultants  
Steve Payne, Braselton Utilities  
Sheryl Wells, UGA

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present**

Carroll Castleberry  
Mary Jones

**Oconee BAC Members Not Present**

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair  
Becki van der Walt, GA Green Industry Association  
Chris Yancey

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner  
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist  
Corey Babb, Senior Environmental Planner

**Welcome and Introductions**

Lanier BAC Chair Val Perry welcomed the group and asked the members to introduce themselves. He then introduced Hall County Board Designee Kelly Randall, who officially began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board. Mr. Randall thanked the BAC members for attending and being involved.

**Joint Water Council Meetings / State Resource Assessment Update**

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District provided an overview of the upcoming Joint Water Council meetings and State Resource Assessments. Mr. Harper informed the group that the resource assessments will be the basis for the state water planning process moving forward and will guide

permitting decisions in the future. He explained that the state is conducting three different resource assessments for each river basin in the state; a surface water quality assessment, a surface water quantity assessment and a groundwater availability assessment. He told the group that the resource assessments will affect the Metro Water District and that staff will follow the process.

Mr. Harper explained that GA EPD is planning two rounds of Joint Water Planning Council meetings; one in January to present the assessments based on current use and another round later this spring to discuss the assessments based on future use. GA EPD will release a formal report in February for the current resource assessments followed by a public comment period. He told the group that staff will forward the resource assessment documents to the BAC members when they become available.

### **Metro Water District's 2010 Legislative Agenda**

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District reviewed the 2010 Metro Water District Legislative Agenda. The BAC members were provided with a copy of the 2010 Legislative Agenda adopted by the Metro Water District Board on December 3, 2009.

### **2009 Annual Report & Implementation Report**

Heather Moody of the Metro Water District reviewed the 2009 Annual Report and the 2009 Plan Implementation Review. She described the two documents and how they interrelate and showed members where to locate information. The group asked questions about the structure and financing of the Metro Water District and how that compares to the State Water Planning Councils.

### **Grease Management Public Education**

Corey Babb of the Metro Water District presented ideas for a new public education initiative about the harmful impacts of fats, oils and grease (FOG) on local sewer systems and asked the BAC members for their suggestions.

BAC members shared the following ideas and suggestions:

- Educate school children about grease. They will influence their parents and grow up to be more knowledgeable adults.
- School children already bring home so much, it may just get lost in the shuffle.
- Bill stuffers might be effective.
- Bill stuffers would not reach multi-family building residents if they do not receive a direct water bill.
- Multi-family residents could be reached by distributing door-hangers or by placing articles in tenant newsletters.
- Jurisdictions need to identify the locations that are the greatest source of FOG (single family, multi-family or commercial properties).
- Restaurants and commercial properties are not the problem. They are already regulated and tested by local governments.
- Local governments could utilize existing grease or education staff to expand the outreach effort.
- Don't dictate how local governments should conduct their educational outreach. The Metro Water District should only provide materials and guidance.

- The educational outreach campaign should be multi-pronged and include public service announcements along with a variety of print media.
- Maybe the onus should be put on the landlords by charging them for spills caused by grease traced back to their property.

### **Discussion of Potential New Water Conservation Measures**

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District lead a discussion on potential new water conservation measures that are being considered in addition to those already included in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. He explained that this is a proactive step in response to Judge Magnuson's ruling regarding Lake Lanier and the 2012 deadline.

BAC members shared the following ideas and suggestions:

- It should be made clear that water reuse is not a form of water conservation. Reuse uses less expensive water but it does not use less water.
- Zeriscaping should be encouraged for commercial buildings and private residences. Irrigation systems are often a maintenance headache.
- As an education tool, require sub meters on residential irrigation systems that would allow the homeowner to determine levels of water use and detect leaks in their irrigation system themselves.
- Water providers should offer irrigation audits to ensure that irrigation practices are efficient.
- Consider if a retrofit on reconnect measure would apply to commercial and industrial buildings.

BAC members were asked to email additional feedback on FOG public education and additional water conservation measures to Heather Moody by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.