



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
FLINT BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
January 20, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint Basin Advisory Council met on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, Georgia.

Members Present

Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co. Board of Comm.
John Caldwell, Coweta Co. WSA
David Gerson, White Oaks Homeowners
Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co. Farm Bureau
Todd Gullekson
Ted McCarter
Dale Phenicie, Fayette Co. Chamber of
Commerce

Bud Butcher, Coweta Co. Farm Bureau
Ernest Curtis
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental
Richard A. Greuel
Brice Martin, Coweta Co. Stormwater
Christine McGehee
Tim Thoms, BAC Chair

Members Not Present

Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville
Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris Inc.
Brant Keller, City of Griffin
Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities

Michael Harp, GA Farm Bureau
Paul Jones, GA Farm Bureau
Richard Little

Non Flint BAC Members Present

Russel Toning, GA Soil and Water Conservation Comm.

Metro Water District Staff Present

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

Welcome and Introductions

Tim Thoms, Flint BAC Chair, introduced Citizen Board Member Mr. Jack Elkins who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

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:

- Target adults, not school children. Children do not use grease.
- Most homeowners on septic know not to put grease down the drain because it causes septic problems.
- Produce refrigerator magnets to distribute to water customers. Having the message displayed in a location where cooking takes place would help remind people about proper grease disposal.
- School outreach is needed. Raising children's awareness is the best long term solution.
- Produce informational materials about where to recycle your grease. People like the idea of their grease going to make biodiesel or something else useful.
- Bill stuffers would need to be eye-catching so they aren't ignored.
- Look into partnerships with Department of Agriculture, dairy industry, cattle industry, etc. to get the message out. Also partnerships with grocery stores to place the message on free recipe cards.
- Can an agreement be made with grease and oil manufacturers to put information about proper disposal on the labels?
- Get information into homeowner association and apartment newsletters.
- Assigning a cost to grease management would help show the individual consumer how the problem impacts their water rates.
- Most grease problems are seen in sewer lines that are flat and slow moving.

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:

- Programs like toilet retrofit should be incentive based and apply to all homes, not just retrofit on resale.
- Politically you will have an easier time passing measures that are incentive based.
- Offering too many incentives will cause water rates to increase.
- Give people a three to six month time period after closing on a house to make required upgrades. After that period expires, begin to issue fines.
- Offer people a bonus for using less water than average for a typical household of that size.
- If people pay less and use less water, income for the water utilities will go down and they will have to raise rates.
- Can't they just raise the level of Lake Lanier?
- We must adjust the attitudes of the general public. In some jurisdictions, water use levels have not come back to where they were before the drought.
- Drought tolerant landscaping is a good idea but is difficult to implement. The definition of what constitutes a drought tolerant plant is subject to debate.

- What about using many small stormwater ponds (“pump storage”) for water supply?
- Small stormwater ponds are not desirable drinking water sources because of the water quality issues caused by water running off a parking lot. Setting up the infrastructure to treat the water would be difficult and costly.
- Include rainwater harvesting on the list.
- Include water reuse on the list.
- Water reuse needs to be incorporated into all aspects of the Metro Water District’s management plans, including watershed management. People need to be able to see how all three plans tie together.
- What about installing waterless urinals in large commercial venues? What is the potential water savings?
- Any conservation measure will cost money. We need to show homeowners what it costs versus how much these measures will save.
- Conservation measures need to address largest water use categories initially and move to the smallest use categories last.

BAC members were asked to email additional feedback on FOG public education and additional water conservation measures to Heather Moody by January 29th.

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.

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.

The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Facility Tour

Christine McGehee and Kent Frantz led members on a tour of the Southeast River Forecast Center and the Weather Service office.