



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
EDUCATION
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary
June 8, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Tuesday, June 8, 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
Suzanne Brown, Clayton County
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County
Nancy Howard, Fayette County
Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta
Stephanie Lewis, Cobb County
Jennifer McCoy, Cobb County
Nancy Moon, City of Holly Springs

Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County
Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta
Michael Strickland, Clayton County
Steven Strickland, City of Doraville
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County
Donald White, Coweta County Schools
Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville
Emily Wingo, GA EPD

Charlene Njoroge opened the meeting by welcoming the Education TCC members, initiating self introductions and giving an overview of the agenda.

Outreach Activities

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

- Cobb County is sponsoring a number of stream monitoring and rain barrel events. Cobb County is gearing up for the upcoming school year by providing Project Wet training to Cobb County teachers. Cobb County is also working on a series of town hall meetings targeted towards senior citizens called "What You Want to Know about H2O."
- Georgia Association of Water Professional (GAWP) sponsored a three day teacher workshop called "Cool Waters". This workshop educates teachers within the state about how to incorporate fun activities into their water quality and water conservation lesson plans. Cobb County, Fulton County, City of Roswell, Marietta Power and Water and many other jurisdictions joined together to educate the teachers using curriculums such as Project Wet.
- City of Roswell celebrated Drinking Water Week by opening their Roswell Water Plant to the public for tours.
- Cherokee County recently held a storm drain monitoring event with a local Girl Scout Troop and the ROTC group from Sequoyah High School.

- City of Alpharetta recently partnered with Fulton County and Keep Roswell Beautiful to host a Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale. During the six hour event, 700 compost and rain barrels were sold.
- Clayton County recently held a Household Hazardous Waste Day and approximately 300 cars dropped off hazardous materials. Clayton County is giving 30 science teachers a tour of their water plant as part of a summer program with Clayton County School System.
- Fayette County is in the process of mailing out septic system brochures and floodplain brochures to their residents.
- City of Atlanta recently completed their “Be Water Wise Atlanta” event sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and participated in World Ocean Day at the Georgia Aquarium and will partner with the Fulton County Library to participate in their summer program called “Make a Splash with Reading”.
- City of Gainesville is hosting water monitoring summer classes for high school students. A variety of events are scheduled for the upcoming months including river cleanups and rain barrel workshops.
- Coweta County School System has partnered with Coweta County to educate fourth grade students about water. The curriculum focuses heavily on water conservation and puts focus on water quality lesson plans. Coweta County School Systems received a total of \$6,000 in grants from Cargill plant and corporation to provide summer teacher workshops about water. For more information regarding the grant visit <http://www.cargill.com/corporate-responsibility/charitable-giving/how-we-give/index.jsp>.
- Coweta County recently received their WaterFirst certification from Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- City of Doraville is visiting neighborhood associations educating residents about water quality and water conservation.

Planning Your Public Education Campaign

Brian Wiley gave the important components in a public education campaign. These components are: 1) knowing your history and messages, 2) using the resources you have internally and 3) set up presentations and outreach activities whenever possible, which allows you to reach your target audiences. Brian Wiley mentioned he was able to execute his public education campaign on a \$1,000 a year budget. Some of the outreach activities include presentations at schools, workshops, contests, household water assessments and partnering with other community events.

Funding Your Public Education Campaign

Kathy Nguyen discussed how to execute your public education campaign on a small budget. Kathy’s presentations focused on three key elements: 1) partnerships, 2) free resources such as social media, local access channels and school

presentations and 3) save your budget for items that can make your public education “pop”. For example, large education pieces such as a mobile classroom or an Enviroscope Kit.

Be Water Wise Atlanta

Melinda Langston presented a recap of the recent Be Water Wise Atlanta event. This event was part of a pilot program started in Miami, FL. NEEF selects a city, solicits corporate and non-profits as funders and partners with an area water utility and school system in order to bring water conservation lessons into the school. This year 14 City of Atlanta schools were selected to take part in this event. Teachers and staff were educated about water conservation and trained on how to conduct a water audit within the school. The students conducted the school water audit and released the water use information along with suggestions on how to conserve water to political and school officials.

Other

Laura Aikens mentioned the City of Roswell is beginning to receive calls regarding the Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010. The Water Stewardship Act was created by Governor Perdue to encourage conservation, reduce wasteful water loss and incentivize innovation in both increasing water supply and lessening demand. Laura asked all committee members to briefly discuss the messages they are giving to their customers and media regarding the water restrictions mentioned in the Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010. The local governments below are doing the following regarding water restrictions:

- Cobb County is focusing on educating their residents about upcoming new water restrictions and after one year the county will change their water restrictions to comply with the Georgia Water Stewardship Act 2010. Cobb County has developed a list of frequently asked questions and has provided them to their residents and made available to other local governments.
- City of Gainesville is using the frequently asked questions developed by Cobb County to educate their residents about new water restrictions.
- Clayton County is keeping restrictions and messages the same until further notice.

Many of the committee members are in the processing of educating their internal departments about the Georgia Water Stewardship Act and will develop messages in the near future.

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

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.