



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
July 20, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa/Etawah Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Fitzgerald Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Woodstock, GA.

Members Present

Doris Cook, Etowah W&S	Barry Mansell, BAC Chair
Bob Endress, PBSJ	Donald McClure
William Francis, GAWP	Sean Nicholl
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co. Farm Bureau	Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Celia Klardie, City of Canton	Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Aylin Lewallen, Brown & Caldwell	Roy Taylor

Members Not Present

David Cervone, Obrien & Gere	Robert Morrison, LAPA
James Durham	Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
John Hicks, LAPA	Ed Mullinax, LAPA/Cartersville Water Dept
Nolton Johnson	Donald Salkman
Dart Kendall, GOWA	Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
David Kubala, Cherokee W&SA	Martha Williams, Georgia Lakes Society
H. Luke Mayes, Cobb Co Farm Bureau	

Non Coosa/Etawah BAC Members Present

Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County

Metro Water District Staff Present

Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist
Corey Babb, Senior Environmental Planner

Welcome and Introductions

Barry Mansell, Coosa/Etawah BAC Chair welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. He then introduced Ms. Judy Skeel, Cobb County Board Designee, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

Discussion of Example Ordinance to Require New Car Washes to Recycle Water

Heather Moody led a discussion of the example car wash ordinance developed to provide regulatory guidance for local governments in the Metro Water District. Measure 5.12 in the May 2009 Plan

update requires local governments to have ordinances or regulations requiring all new in-bay automatic and conveyor car washes to recycle water by 2010. Ms. Moody explained that a public comment period for the ordinance was open from July 1st – 30th and said BAC members could submit their official comments via email.

BAC members had the following questions and comments during the discussion:

- What percentage of the water is recycled? Does the ordinance require 100% recycling? *The Georgia Car Wash Association states that it is not possible to recycle 100% of the water used in the wash process. A certification program was developed in cooperation with Georgia EPD as a means for car washes to apply for exemption from water use restrictions during the drought. This certification requires car washes to recycle 50% of the water used in the wash process. The Metro Water District's example ordinance does not specify a percentage but local governments could choose to do so.*
- Does this ordinance apply to in-bay car washes? *Yes, this Plan requirement addresses automatic, public car washes, both in-bay automatic and conveyor systems. It does not include wand style manual car washes because they use much less water per wash cycle.*
- This ordinance does not address other issues such as water use by hand car washes and potential discharge of stormwater contaminants. A more comprehensive approach would make sense for this ordinance. *This particular ordinance only addresses automatic, public car washes. Hand washes may be subject to outdoor water use restrictions through Georgia EPD. The Illicit Discharge Ordinance found in section 5 of the Watershed Management Plan would also apply if wash water is being discharged into storm drains.*

Overview of Water Reuse

Corey Babb with the Metro Water District presented an overview of the basic terminology surrounding water reuse. He described the different types of water reuse and discussed the limitations and benefits of each technology.

BAC members had the following questions and comments during the presentation:

- Why is direct potable reuse not included in the plan? *The challenges are a lack of existing infrastructure, high costs associated with that infrastructure and lagging regulations concerning direct reuse. Also, the current priority is to return water to rivers and lakes for indirect potable reuse and to make it available for downstream use.*
- Why is direct potable reuse considered consumptive? *If water stays in the pipes, the time it takes for that water to return to the natural system and be available to downstream users is increased. We follow the State Wide Water Plan definitions for reuse.*
- Labeling direct potable and non-potable reuse as consumptive is a bad definition.

Local Government Presentation on Water Reuse Projects

Mike Venters with the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority described the water reuse projects implemented by Cherokee County. Mr. Venters also provided an overview of the treatment processes conducted at the Fitzgerald Creek facility.

During the discussion, Mr. Venters answered several questions from the BAC members about the technical operation of the plant and Cherokee's water reuse systems.

The next meeting will be held on October 19, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to begin the tour.

Tour of Fitzgerald Creek WWTP

Mr. Mike Venters led the BAC members on an informative tour of the Fitzgerald Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our guide took Council members through the impressive facility and explained each step of the wastewater treatment process.