Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
FLINT BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, July 21, 2010

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint Basin Advisory Council met on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Peachtree City WASA Administration Building in Peachtree City, GA.

Members Present

Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co Board of Comm.
Charles Gibson, Georgia Kayak Fishing
Richard A. Greuel
Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co Farm Bureau
Michael Harp, GA Farm Bureau
Ted McCarter
Tim Thoms, BAC Chair

Members Not Present

Bud Butcher, Coweta Co Farm Bureau
John Caldwell, Coweta Co WSA
Ernest Curtis
Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville
David Gerson, White Oaks Homeowners
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental
Todd Gullekson
Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris Inc.
Brant Keller, City of Griffin
Richard Little
Brice Martin, Coweta Co Stormwater
Christine McGehee
Dale Phenicie, Fayette County Chamber
Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities

Metro Water District Staff Present

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

Welcome and Introductions

Tim Thoms, Flint BAC Chair and newly appointed Citizen Member of the Metro Water District Board, began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and facilitated introductions.

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:

- Does the ordinance provide regulation for hand car washes? Why not include them? *This particular ordinance addresses automatic, public car washes as an additional water conservation measure. Automatic car washes have been identified as using more water per wash than manual car washes. In-bay and conveyor washes typically use 50 and 35 gallons per wash respectively.*
- Will there be a performance measure added that explains what constitutes recycling? *The Georgia Car Wash Association has a certification program that 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.*
- Has the Metro Water District determined how much water will be saved by the ordinance? *Table 4-2 in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan provides an estimate of the average water saved by each conservation measure in the Plan. The table can be found on page 4-5.*
- Does the stormwater ordinance in the Plan cover illegal discharges from carwashes? *The Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance found in Section 5 of the Watershed Management Plan would apply anytime contaminated car wash water enters storm drains. Enforcement of the ordinance is the responsibility if local governments.*

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:

- What are the required treatment levels for reuse water? *Reuse water is treated to standards similar to wastewater effluent.*
- How is reuse defined for the 2035 projection in the Plan? *It is defined as indirect reuse, either planned or incidental.*
- Where do rainbarrels or rainwater harvesting fit? Is that considered water reuse? *No, based on widely accepted definitions, rainwater catchment is not considered to be a form of water reuse.*
- Where do the Clayton County Constructed Wetlands fall under the definition of reuse? *The wetlands provide an environmental buffer, eventually discharging into a potable water source. They are a form of indirect potable reuse.*
- Is direct potable reuse being done anywhere in Georgia? *No, not at this time.*
- How does water reuse impact levels of consumptive water use? Should we not reuse water because we don't want to impact streamflow? *Consumptive use is difficult to measure and define. We follow the Georgia State Wide Water Plan definitions for reuse and consumptive use. Some forms of reuse could be considered consumptive. However, the current priority is to return water to rivers and lakes for indirect potable reuse and to make it available for downstream use.*

- Will the State definitions of reuse and consumptive use change in the future? *Definitions and priorities surrounding water reuse may be influenced by the outcome of the Judge Magnuson ruling.*

Local Government Presentation on Water Reuse Projects

Susan Lee with the Peachtree City Water and Sewer Authority described the water reuse projects implemented by Peachtree City. Ms. Lee also provided an overview of the wastewater treatment processes conducted at the Line Creek and Rockaway Wastewater Treatment facilities.

During the discussion, Ms. Lee answered several questions from the BAC members about the technical operation of the two plants and about Peachtree City's water reuse program.

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to begin the tour.

Tour of Rockaway WWTP

Ms. Susan Lee led the BAC members on an informative tour of the Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Facility. As our guide explained each step of the treatment process, Council members followed the path of the water from its arrival point to the outfall into Line Creek.