



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
July 23, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Clayton County Huie Administration Building in Jonesboro, Georgia.

**Members Present**

Michael Blackburn  
Jimmy Carter, Jr.  
Jennifer Christman, CERM  
Scott Cole, Sr.  
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater  
Chee Hill  
Deirdre Faye Lyons-Gary, League of Women Voters  
Jay Marlow

Vikki McReynolds, BAC Chair  
Tonja Halton Mincey, Henry Co W&SA  
Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.  
Petra Parker, Atlanta Board of Realtors  
Michael Walker  
Steve Williams, Building Greener LLC  
Kirk Wimber, Orenco

**Members Not Present**

Larry Allen  
Cassandra Barber  
Richard Edinger, Jr.  
Glenn Fountain, Southwest Water - Thomaston  
Tom Harrison, H2O Reps  
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Farm Bureau  
Wayne Haynie, Jordan, Jones & Goulding Inc.  
Shirley House

Angel Jones, Dekalb Co Roads Drainage  
Lawrence Kaiser, CIS, Inc.  
Mark Landers, U.S. Geological Survey  
Martin McElhenny  
Jack Tanner, City of McDonough  
Luis Torres  
Susan Varlamoff, UGA

**Non Ocmulgee BAC Members Present**

Russell Toning, GA Soil & Water Conservation Commission

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ocmulgee BAC Chair Vikki McReynolds welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. She then introduced Mr. Mike Thomas, Clayton 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> and said BAC members could submit their official comments via email.

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

- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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 of 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:

- Why are we not conducting direct potable reuse in the Metro Water District? *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.*
- Wouldn't it be good planning to build the infrastructure needed for direct potable reuse now? *We follow the State Wide Water Plan directives for reuse. Definitions and priorities surrounding water reuse may be influenced by the outcome of the Judge Magnuson ruling.*
- Rivers and lakes can only assimilate so much wastewater discharge. Somewhere down the line direct potable reuse will need to be considered.

**Local Government Presentation on Water Reuse Projects**

Mr. Jim Poff with CCWA described the various water reuse projects being implemented by Clayton County and explained the innovative natural treatment processes conducted at the Huie and Panhandle Road Constructed Wetlands.

During the discussion, Mr. Poff answered technical questions from the BAC members about Clayton County's water reuse program and the operation of the Wetlands.

The next meeting will be held on October 22, 2010. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to begin the tour.

**Tour of the Huie Constructed Wetlands**

Jim Poff led the BAC members on an informative tour of the Huie Wetlands and explained how the treatment system functions as a form of indirect potable water reuse. The group viewed both the Phase One and the newly created Phase Four locations. This provided Council members with the opportunity to compare the two sites and see how the natural filtration components develop over time.