



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
October 19, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa/Etowah Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the West Cobb Library in Kennesaw, GA.

Members Present

Doris Cook, Etowah W&S	Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
James Durham	Sean Nicholl
Nolton Johnson	Donald Salkman
Dart Kendall, GOWA	Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
David Kubala, Cherokee W&SA	Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Barry Mansell, BAC Chair	Roy Taylor
H. Luke Mayes, Cobb Co Farm Bureau	Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
Donald McClure	Martha Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

Members Not Present

Bob Endress, PBSJ	Celia Klardie, City of Canton
William Francis, GAWP	Aylin Lewallen, Brown & Caldwell
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co. Farm Bureau	Robert Morrison, LAPA
John Hicks, LAPA	Ed Mullinax, LAPA/Cartersville Water Dept

Non Coosa/Etowah BAC Members Present

David Braswell
Becky Mixon, Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System

Metro Water District Staff Present

Pat Stevens, Environmental Protection Division Chief
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist
Marissa Duff, Senior Environmental Planner

Welcome and Introductions

Barry Mansell, Coosa/Etowah BAC Chair welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. He then introduced David Kubala, Cherokee County Board Designee, who began the meeting by thanking Barry for service and by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

Update on Tri-State Litigation

Pat Stevens with the Metro Water District provided members with an update on recent developments in the Tri-State Water Wars Litigation. Members discussed the status of the Phase 1 Appeal, Judge Magnuson's Phase 2 Ruling and the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to reinstate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

- Will they really turn off the water? *It is hard to visualize that a federal judge will completely turn off the water, but if it is not resolved we would try to get an injunction; no harm assessment has been completed. The Corps would do as ordered by the federal court.*
- What is the difference between withdrawing from the Chattahoochee River vs. withdrawing from Lake Lanier? *Withdraws from the river would not be stopped by the court ruling. However, Lake Lanier would still have to be replaced for storage.*
- Would there have to be fair sharing on the Chattahoochee River? *Yes, there would be fair sharing with lots of modeling to ensure this fact.*
- Is Lake Allatoona involved? *No, Allatoona Lake is not specifically involved with this litigation, but there is a separate litigation on the ACT.*
- Does the existence of the Dam worsen the volatility of water levels? *No, the Dam helps with flood control and can provide supplemental flow.*

Public Comment Period on Additional Water Conservation Measures

Pat Stevens with the Metro Water District presented an overview the Additional Water Conservation Measures recommended for consideration as plan amendments to the Metro Water District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan. Ms. Stevens discussed the formation of the Chattahoochee-Lanier Working Group and outlined the deliberation process used to develop the recommendations. She explained that most of the recommendations would only apply to water providers whose supply would be limited by the Judge Magnuson ruling.

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

- Is there any consideration given to the quality of fixtures (i.e. some low-flow toilets require two flushes)? *We could require that fixtures be certified by WaterSense from the EPA.*
- What research shows the loss figures for fire lines? *It is based on the experience of the water systems.*
- New detector check technology allows you to monitor fire lines.
- We need to be unified as a State on this issue. The economy of Atlanta benefits all of Georgia and vice versa.
- The retrofit on reconnect puts a burden on the closing process and it is impractical. It is effective on only a small percentage of homes so a rebate program would be more effective.
- This is the worst of all times to implement these measures because of the economy.
- Give the homeowner a choice on retrofit on reconnect to choose any two fixtures to retrofit.
- We have looked at this issue as a water department but we need to look at it from a different standpoint.
- Push for tax breaks such as the PACE energy tax credit.
- Covenants against rain barrels need to be addressed. Rainwater can be collected and used.
- The issue is money; we need a funding mechanism.
- We need to educate our commissioners and county officials on alternative ways to conserve water.
- For retrofit on reconnect, a tax exemption on the first year of taxes, up to the cost of the retrofit, could provide more incentive.

- Conservation is easy as long as it doesn't affect "me." We all have to pay for it sooner or later. Even rebates and incentives have to be financed by someone.
- Have we taken an additional look at conservation pricing?
- Watering one's lawn is optional; irrigation is not addressed in these measures.

Presentation of WaterSense New Homes Program by Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County

Kathy Nguyen of Cobb County presented the WaterSense New Homes program and the research being done to adapt it to our region. Ms. Nguyen highlighted the need to adapt the WaterSense outdoor water guidelines to better reflect the conditions in our District. During the discussion, Ms. Nguyen answered several questions from the BAC members about the mandate and timing of the program.

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

- There are concerns about the timing and nature of these mandates. Homebuilder groups are strong proponents of voluntary programs. It is time to promote WaterSense as a voluntary program.
- It was agreed that the timeline for the WaterSense New Homes program should be extended.
- Some current ordinances fly in the face of green building and conflict with the mandate. Many building regulations are not in line with green building standards.

BAC Chairman Elections

Three members of the Coosa BAC expressed interest in running for Chairman of the Coosa/Etowah BAC. Statements from the three candidates had been emailed to the group for review prior to the meeting. Heather Moody invited the BAC Chair candidates to say a few words to the Council prior to voting. Ballots were cast and counted and it was determined that there had been a tie. Metro Water District staff decided that a run-off election would take place by sending email notification to the entire BAC membership. Doris Cook was later voted in as Chair of the Coosa/Etowah BAC. Ms. Cook will serve a one year term.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2011.