



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
Water Supply-Water Conservation  
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary  
November 18, 2010**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Wastewater and Water Supply-Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committees met on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Attendance**

Corlette Banks, Fulton County  
Chris Boyd, City of Roswell  
John Butler, Gwinnett County  
Charles Corbin, Keck & Wood, Inc.  
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County  
Ernest Earn, Cobb County Water System  
Wanda Floyd, City of Canton  
Catherine Fox, FOX Environmental, LLC  
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville  
Terrell Gibbs, Rockdale County  
Steve Green, Douglasville-Douglas County  
Water and Sewerage Authority  
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County Water  
and Sewerage Authority  
Chris Hindman, City of Fayetteville  
Donna Joe, Gwinnett County  
Sam Krishnan, City of Atlanta  
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA  
Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta Department  
of Watershed Management  
Don McKenzie, City of Locust Grove

Jennifer McLaurin, Fulton County  
Becky Mixon, Cobb County-Marietta Water  
Authority  
William Moore, City of College Park  
Anderson Mycroft, Fulton County  
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System  
Jodi O'Brien, Gwinnett County  
Tony Parrott, Fayette County Water System  
Steve Payne, Town of Braselton  
Tim Perkins, Forsyth County  
Guy Pihera, Clayton County Water Authority  
Timothy Pugh, Paulding County Water  
System  
Ken Rearden, Hall County  
George Kaffezakis, Gwinnett County  
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock  
Brian Skeens, CH2M Hill, Inc.  
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County  
Tammie Walker, Hall County  
Emily Wingo, Georgia Environmental  
Protection Division

Abby Owens of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comments.

**City of Atlanta Multifamily Toilet Rebate Program**

Melinda Langston of the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management presented the City of Atlanta's multifamily toilet rebate program that was launched on October 28, 2010. Multifamily customers account for approximately 20% of Atlanta's daily water production. Multifamily is defined as more than one housing unit on a single meter. The City of Atlanta rebates WaterSense certified toilets that are 1.28 gpf or less. A rebate of \$100.00 is credited to the master meter account, per toilet replaced. Recycling of old toilets is required. Mrs. Langston listed two Atlanta area recyclers for old

toilets: Patterson Industries and Stephens MDS, LP. One group member asked if the City of Atlanta was planning to inspect every installation and Mrs. Langston explained that they would be inspecting 10% of all installations.

### **Coweta County Meter Program**

Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority, presented Coweta County's water conservation program to the group. Coweta County has implemented a tiered rate billing system, a toilet rebate program, a leak detection program, a meter change out and calibration program, as well as public education. Mrs. Thigpen explained that all service connections, including fire lines, are metered which has reduced water loss and increased revenue. One group member asked whether metering fire lines was against fire code and Mrs. Thigpen explained that she has not seen it in the code and has worked closely with many fire department personnel. Another group member asked how often meter data was collected. Mrs. Thigpen stated that data can be collected from all meters in one day; this has helped customers to be more aware of leaks. She explained that these meters can collect 3 months worth of data and detect low level leaks. They have been able to notify customers within one day that a leak has been detected. Mrs. Thigpen stated that Coweta County has 25,000 customers and the majority of meters were replaced with AMR technology all at one time, but are now replaced as needed. Approximately 75% of their system has been replaced with AMR meters. In addition to their meter program, Mrs. Thigpen discussed Coweta County's public education program which includes the County Fair, Town Hall meetings, as well as school outreach activities.

### **Review of Public Comments and Recommendations on Additional Water Conservation Measures**

Pat Stevens presented the public comments and recommendations on the additional water conservation measures considered as plan amendments to the Metro Water District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan. Ms. Stevens directed the group to the Public Involvement Report for a summary of the public comments and a record of public comments received. She directed the group to the memo for a summary of the proposed revisions to the additional water conservation measures. Based on feedback received during the public comment period as well as the Basin Advisory Council meetings in October, it was decided that measures CL-3 and D-1 be tabled for further study and development. Ms. Stevens asked the group for comments regarding the revisions to these measures. One group member commented that the language of measure CL-2 suggests 100% inspection of multifamily toilet replacements for the rebate program is required and suggested the measure be changed to more generally require an inspection program. A question was asked whether the monitoring of billing reports was acceptable for measure CL-4. Ms. Stevens explained that the installation of meters with point of use leak detection can highlight the small leaks whereas monitoring of billing reports with the old meter technology cannot. At a minimum, a pilot program must be implemented to evaluate the technology. The District asks systems to at least evaluate the newer technology but the flexibility remains with the local water system to choose their own type of meters. Another group member asked whether all AMR meters met the requirement for measure CL-4. Kimberly Shorter of AECOM explained manufacturers have two meters with AMR technology and one is slightly higher priced with continuous leak detection capabilities. Another question was asked regarding the error rate with these new meters. Tim Perkins of Forsyth County explained that they have utilized this technology for a long time and they have had no problems with inaccuracy. A final question was asked regarding the implementation date of the water waste policy outlined in measure D-2. Ms. Stevens explained that the first subtask had been revised to require the adoption of a water waste policy in 2012. One group member commented that although the cost represents a 30-year time span, the real cost upfront will be higher; a large proportion of the total cost will be required within a short time span. Ms. Stevens explained that conservation is still cost effective compared to replacing the storage capacity of Lake Lanier. Ms. Stevens said that if there were no further

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comments, the measures as modified would be presented to the Board for adoption on December 2, 2010. There were no further comments.

### **GEFA Water System Interconnection, Redundancy and Reliability Act Study**

Kevin Kelly, Program Manager with GEFA, presented information about GEFA's Water System Interconnection, Redundancy and Reliability Act study. This study will identify a detailed emergency plan including sources of water in the District, revenue issues, and the steps needed to share water. Mr. Kelly emphasized that the goal of this study is to create something of lasting value. He explained that the study will start in December 2010 and will be completed by September 2011. GEFA commits to coordinate with the District TCC by attending meetings to review the progress of the plan. Mr. Kelly provided a list of qualified systems, which are any public water system owned and operated by a city, county, or water authority in the District and that has current surface water withdrawal permits or more than 20,000 retail accounts. He explained to the group that they will be sending out a data request which will most likely take the form of an online tool to upload data. Some of the data needed include: system description, population, water demand, top ten users, water sources, water withdrawal permits, water treatment facility information, distribution maps, etc. A group member asked Mr. Kelly to send out a list of data and he explained that once it is finalized, a list will be sent to the group. One group member suggested that the online tool allow for pdf attachments. Another group member asked about the possibility of an ftp site if GIS data is required. A question about security in regards to data transfer was brought to attention to which Mr. Kelly explained security will be a priority. Mr. Kelly explained that the timeframe for data collection will most likely be from December through February.

### **Review of Data for District Water Metrics Report**

Marissa Duff presented the group with water withdrawal and wastewater data from the Water Metrics Report. She explained each of the tables presented and asked that the group contact her with any revisions to the data. One group member asked if the state was restricting groundwater access and Ms. Duff explained that the state is not restricting groundwater access. Ms. Duff stated that the wastewater data provided is particularly rough and she requested input from the group.

### **Draft 2010 Plan Implementation Review Report and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates Survey**

Abby Owens explained to the group that drafts of the 2010 Plan Implementation Review Report and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates Survey are online. She requested that group members review both reports and notify Heather Moody of any changes by November 24, 2010.

### **Other**

Marissa Duff announced to the group that the Metro Water District is conducting three hotel water audit workshops on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at various locations. The workshop will provide local water providers and hotel staff with the training to perform hotel water audits through a hands-on facility walk-through and water calculations to estimate water and cost savings.

The meeting was adjourned.