



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
January 18, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa/Etowah Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority in Dawsonville, GA.

Members Present

Doris Cook, Etowah W&S, BAC Chair
Robert Endress, PBS&J
Nolton Johnson
Dart Kendall, GOWA
Celia Klardie, City of Canton
David Kubala, Cherokee W&SA
Aylin Lewallen, Brown and Caldwell

Donald McClure
Robert Morrison, LAPA
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association
Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
Martha Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

Members Not Present

James Durham, LAPA
William Francis, GAWP
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
John Hicks, LAPA
Barry Mansell
H. Luke Mayes, IV, Cobb Co Farm Bureau

Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
Ed Mullinax, LAPA/Cartersville Water Dept
Donald Salkman
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Roy Taylor

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist
Corey Babb, Senior Environmental Planner
Charlene Njoroge, Education and Public Awareness Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions

Doris Cook, Coosa/Etowah BAC Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the group to the new facility. She then introduced David Kubala as the Metro Water District Board representative to convene the meeting. Corey Babb initiated group introductions. Matt Harper announced that Sarah Simmons has been hired to replace Heather Moody as the staff person responsible for managing the Metro Water District's BAC process.

2010 Annual Report & Implementation Report

Corey Babb gave an overview of the Metro Water District's 2010 Annual Report and Implementation Report. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- It was clarified that the District is an EPA WaterSense partner.

- Capacity certification is an important part of wastewater management. Must have system mapping, size of pipe, capacity, etc. to know how much wastewater a collection system can safely handle.
- 15% seems like a high number of unknowns for the sources of wastewater system overflows.

Water Supply Options Discussion

Matt Harper informed the BAC that the Metro Water District Board is interested in an ongoing conversation about water supply options. Mr. Harper asked the group what they think the Board should be discussing moving forward. BAC members had the following comments:

- Conservation: an important issue regardless of if we have reservoirs available.
- More thought should go into water reuse, as it takes 10-15 years to build a reservoir.
- We cannot discount reservoirs. A lot of rain falls in this area and the Board should realize there is a benefit to storing the water that we get.
- There should be an emphasis on studying aquifer storage and recovery.
- Infiltration: plan detention/retention ponds so that water soaks into the aquifer. A lot of storm water is going straight into rivers without filtering. Water needs to be allowed to filter back through the ground.
- It's an education issue to tell people that it is good to hold water on site and infiltrate, not just getting it off the land as quickly as possible.
- Planning: water supply should be considered first along with and maybe before transportation planning.
- Reusing water: reuse water is not good for potable purposes, but is OK for irrigation and industrial purposes. Some members worried about the medical chemicals that may not be filtered from reuse water. Grey water reuse systems are expensive. The group did not like the idea of the toilet to tap reuse.
- Reuse is not a new/additional source of water. If you do not put it back into the river, the flow of the river is reduced.
- Infiltration will increase the consumptive use of a community.
- Storm water infiltration will help our base flows for drought supplies. But, will the north Georgia soils allow infiltration? It was suggested that it's the same as citing a septic system, it can be done.
- Small collection systems for rainwater on a development may reduce the size of detention ponds a developer has to build.
- Groundwater is not a big water source in north Georgia. Cherokee Co has spent millions of dollars to look and has found very little. We will have to capture water in a larger fashion.
- Need to build enough reservoirs so that we do not need interbasin transfers.
- Interbasin transfers need to balance at the state line. How we handle interbasin transfers within the state is a much easier issue than if we transfer across state lines.
- LAPA has stated that it wants no future or expanded interbasin transfers.
- The cheapest reservoir we have is the ground. Focus on infiltration.

"I'm In" Water Conservation Campaign Update

Charlene Njoroge presented an overview of the Metro Water District's new water conservation education campaign called "I'm In". She explained the history of the campaign development and

gave an overview of the “I’m In” website. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Regarding the home page, the “Pledge Now” button sounds as though we are asking for money. Maybe use the phrase “I’m In” or “Take the Pledge”.
- Google proved that people like simple web pages; perhaps the home page is too busy.
- Is there a water/energy conservation connection for the processing of natural gas? Is water used in the production of natural gas?
- Can anyone take the pledge?
- Make sure there are links to other water education campaigns like Cobb County’s program.
- Should we ask “Where did you hear about this campaign”?
- Water stewardship requires water conservation statewide. Perhaps we could send this campaign to other water utilities statewide and offer them to use it as well for their water conservation efforts.
- Using the term “Companies” in the categorization of those who pledge should be changed to “Organizations” to be more inclusive of non profits and other groups.
- Those who are already intrinsically motivated to save water will do so, but it may be hard to get others to commit to water conservation. May want to provide an incentive, perhaps competition with other regions or states.
- Provide a disclaimer that the email addresses will not be shared.
- Advertise the “I’m In” campaign at local recycling centers.
- A blog should be used for people to provide input.

Private Wastewater Lateral Repair Programs

Corey Babb discussed the impact that broken and leaky private sewer laterals have on water quality within the region and the options available for repair. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- We do not need any more regulations or mandatory repair options.
- Perhaps we need legislation to protect maintenance organizations.
- Laterals are a big source of infiltration and inflow.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2011.