



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
FLINT BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
January 19, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Fayette County Commissioner's Conference Room, Stonewall Complex in Fayetteville, GA.

Members Present

Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co Board of Comm.	Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co Farm Bureau
John Caldwell, Coweta Co WSA	Brice Martin, Coweta Co Stormwater
Ernest Curtis	Christine McGehee
Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville	Dale Phenicie, Fayette County Chamber
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental	Tim Thoms
Richard A. Greuel, BAC Chair	

Members Not Present

Bud Butcher, Coweta Co Farm Bureau	Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris Inc.
David Gerson, White Oaks Homeowners Assn.	Brant Keller, City of Griffin
Charles Gibson, Georgia Kayak Fishing	Richard Little
Todd Gullekson	Ted McCarter
Michael Harp, GA Farm Bureau	Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities

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

Flint BAC Chair Richard Gruel introduced Tim Thoms 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:

- AWWA audit software and leak detection systems are very important.
- It was clarified that capacity certification includes both the wastewater plant and the size of the pipe.

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 can only take us so far.
- Speed up the reservoir permitting process.
- There is plenty of rainfall; we just have to capture it. We do not have a water supply problem; we have a water storage problem.
- What about wells? They are less of an environmental issue.
- How can we permit more reservoirs?
- Public education on water supply is important.
- What is more efficient: 10 huge reservoirs, or 1000 small reservoirs? What are the costs and environmental issues involved with both options?
- Where does the money come from for reservoirs, and how can we minimize the cost of building them?
- Educate the public, children especially, on the value of water.
- Look at redundant environmental reporting requirements and streamline those programs.
- Add water supply education to the public education curriculum.
- The water reuse issue comes down to acceptability of the practice.
- It was suggested that local governments put their own discharge above their intake to police their own locality.
- Has there been any thought into using GEFA money to do exploratory research?
- Have we looked at old rock quarries for possible reservoir sites?
- How much are local governments subsidizing the cost of drinking water? Is it a true cost to consumers?

“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:

- How will we get the word out about the website?
- Have you asked teacher input?
- Has EMC been approached to use this site? They provide scholarships and other support.
- Provide a link on the “Some of the Stories” page that would allow people to send in a story. It may inspire them to then take the pledge
- Is the water calculator data stored or does it go away?
- Have you thought about having a mobile application for the iPhone developed for the website? A mobile version of the water use calculator would be a good use of the technology.
- How are you going to keep people from thinking this is “Big Brother” looking in on what you are doing? Provide a disclaimer.
- We need a public education curriculum for water supply.

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:

- What is the incentive for home owners to fix their own lateral line problems?
- The utility should act as the agent. Let them provide a list of approved contractors and facilitate the use of grants.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be April 20, 2011.