



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
January 28, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Friday, January 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Clayton County Water Authority's Newman Wetlands Center in Hampton, GA.

Members Present

Jimmy Carter, Jr., HCWA and Henry Co Farm Bur.	Deirdre Faye Lyons-Gary, DeKalb Co LWV
Jennifer Christman, ADS	Jay Marlow
Scott Cole, Sr.	Vikki McReynolds, GUCA
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater	Tonja Halton Mincey, Henry Co W&SA
Richard Edinger, Jr.	Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.
Tom Harrison, H2O Reps	Mike Walker, BAC Chair
Wayne Haynie, Jordan, Jones & Goulding Inc.	Steve Williams, Building Greener LLC
Chee Hill, Dewberry & Davis	Kirk Wimber, Orenco Systems
Angel Jones, DeKalb Co Roads Drainage	

Members Not Present

Larry Allen	Lawrence Kaiser, CIS, Inc.
Cassandra Barber	Mark Landers, U.S. Geological Survey
Michael Blackburn	Petra Parker
Glenn Fountain, Southwest Water - Thomaston	Luis Torres
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Farm Bureau	Susan Varlamoff, UGA
Shirley House	

Board Members Present

Mike Thomas, Clayton County Designee
Charles Lambert, DeKalb County Designee

Others Present

Scott Brumelow, GUCA
Tony Wiggins, CERM

Metro Water District Staff Present

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

Welcome and Introductions

Mike Walker, BAC Chair introduced Mike Thomas as the Board representative to begin the meeting. Corey Babb initiated group introductions. Sarah Simmons introduced herself as Heather Moody's replacement and informed the group that she will be the point of contact for BAC

members moving forward.

Water Supply Options Discussion

In the interest of time, agenda items II and III were switched during the meeting while technical difficulties were resolved. Sarah Simmons informed the BAC that the Metro Water District Board is interested in an ongoing conversation about water supply options. She asked the group what they think the Board should be discussing moving forward. BAC members had the following comments:

- Tell me about the Water Stewardship Act. How is it different from what we are doing?
- Were you involved with the request for proposals (RFPs) from Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)?
- If you use all the rainwater, what fills up the reservoir again?
- As a BAC, we should engage citizens to focus in on the issue of water supply.
- Focus on getting funds for infrastructure needs.
- Need to focus on forming a valid legal argument for changing the TN/GA border to allow for use of Tennessee River water in Georgia.
- Put the ‘heat’ on the legislators- let our voices be heard!
- Put our money to use by implementing existing plans and new technologies, rather than fighting in court.
- Rain harvesting is not the solution for everything, but it does help on a small scale.
- Yes, we can reuse water for non-drinking purposes, but we still have to spend the money to install secondary systems. When these systems are installed, sometimes consumptive use increases.
- We need a concentrated regional growth policy.
- We should be thinking about coordination between land use planning and water planning.
- Find the watersheds with the source water and store it for times of drought.

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:

- Were there many line and/or meter breakages in the recent ice storm?
- It was clarified that information on system inspection and maintenance can be referenced by jurisdiction within the Implementation Report.
- Most of the grease issues are caused by residential, multifamily units.
- What entities and communities are pushing fats, oils, and grease (FOG) education?
- It was clarified that the permitting and fining associated with fats, oils, and grease are outlined in the FOG code for each community.

“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:

- Will there be information on how to read a water bill?

- It was suggested that there be a link to the local water utility website, but the pledge must be taken first.
- How will you get this campaign out to the public?
- Can you get involved with school clubs (e.g. key club or interact)?
- Will there be a baseline for how much people save?

DeKalb County's Consent Order

Guest speaker, Charles Lambert of DeKalb County gave a brief overview of the consent decree, a process which started in 2007. He explained that, although each consent decree is unique, DeKalb County's is the first to require reporting of basement and building backups if caused by the sewer system. This is now a reportable spill. The decree does not include incidents where the homeowner caused the backup by clogging their own line. BAC members had the following questions and comments during the presentation:

- Can the county's current staff handle this additional workload? It was clarified that the county will have to process much of the information in house, as well as outsource some of the work, to be able to meet decree requirements and timeframes.
- What are the results of the aerial survey work DeKalb County did to find failing septic systems? The study is not yet finalized.
- What is the difference between the DeKalb County and Atlanta decrees? It was clarified that DeKalb County's was a constructive decree, whereas Atlanta's was more directive.

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:

- When plumbing problems occur, coverage is determined by the individual insurance policy.
- The issue of broken laterals occurs typically in older communities.

Upper Ocmulgee RC&D 319(h) Grant Application Update

The speaker for this agenda item was unable to attend the meeting therefore the BAC did not discuss this item.

The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2011. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.