



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
EDUCATION  
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary  
February 8, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Members Present:**

Ellen Bauske, UGA Coop. Ext.

Bob Bourne, Cobb County

John Butler, Gwinnett County

Terrell Clark, Paulding County

Josue DeJesus, City of Conyers

Erica Dunbar, Paulding County

Cindy Eade, City of Milton

Kevin Finney, City of Gainesville

Harold Harbert, Georgia EPD

Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville

Mary Gazaway, Georgia EPD

Stephanie Lewis, Cobb County

Jennifer McCoy, Cobb County

Heather Moody, Gwinnett County

Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta

Timothy Pugh, Paulding County

Kurlis Rogers, DeKalb County

Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock

Emily Wingo, Georgia EPD

Charlene Njoroge opened the meeting by welcoming the Education TCC members, initiating self introductions and giving an overview of the agenda. The purpose of the meeting was to give an update on the "I'M IN" website progress, discuss multi-family F.O.G. materials and review the education responses in the 2010 Implementation Review.

**Planned and Ongoing Workshops**

The following is a list of outreach activities taking place throughout the region by local governments:

- City of Conyers is educating residents about water pollution prevention through school outreach programs, community stenciling programs and participating in community events. City of Conyers is preparing for their EPD audit.
- Gwinnett County is in the process of developing a water conservation and stormwater education program for 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This program will kick off at Jenkins Elementary School and will include water related activities and lesson plans. Gwinnett County will have a water conservation set displayed in the Lowes in Snellville and the Gwinnett County's Justice Administration Center Lobby during EPA WaterSense Fix-a-Leak Week. Gwinnett County has a Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop scheduled for February 24, 2011.
- Cobb County is partnering with Fulton County, DeKalb County and City of Marietta to host the annual Children's Water Festival. This festival is scheduled for May 3, 2011 at the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Water Utilities will invite fourth graders for a full day of water related activities. Cobb County is also
  - Releasing their Allatoona Alley Coloring Book,
  - Partnering with MUST Ministries to put on a Fix-it-Yourself program for low income households,
  - hosting a Rain Barrel of Fun Coloring Contest and
  - researching other multi-family toilet rebate programs, with plans to launch their program in 2012.

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- DeKalb County just completed their annual coloring book contest by recognizing winners at DeKalb County's Board of Commissioners meeting. DeKalb County recently held an Adopt-a-Stream event and is in the process of planning a Rain Barrel Workshop on March 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition, DeKalb County is discussing launching the Care and Conserve Program (similar to City of Atlanta), this program would assist low-income residents and/or senior citizens with paying their water bills.
- University of Georgia Extension Cooperative Office, in conjunction with several other states, has launched the 40 Gallon Challenge. The purpose of the website is to compete with other states to capture the most pledges and conserve the most water. To learn more about the website go to, <http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/index.cfm>.
- Adopt-a-Stream Conference is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Georgia River Network will host their conference at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Please visit the respective websites if interested in attending either workshop.
- Paulding County and Cobb County partnered to host a coloring contest for students. The winning entries were made into a waterSmart calendar.
- City of Gainesville is working on developing their Leak Detection Program, Flexnet. This program takes a meter reading every hour and if the system detects water usage for 24 consecutive hours, the system alerts the staff and a call is made to the customer to inform them a leak has been detected. Gainesville has updated their website with water conservation materials, is conducting a Fix-a-Leak Workshop and just completed a rain barrel decorating contest for local sixth graders.
- City of Milton recently hosted a Painting Recycle Program where 8,800 cans of paint were collected. The collected paint would be used for concrete application. An Earth Day Festival is planned for April.
- City of Alpharetta is conducting school presentations and preparing for the Annual Arbor Day Workshop on February 19, 2011. During Fix-a-Leak Week, City of Alpharetta and Fulton County will be educating residents about how to detect and replace leaks through an Open House Find-a-Leak/Fix-a-Leak event.
- Cherokee County is working on an Adopt-A-Road project and will conduct some school outreach in April.
- Georgia EPD has sent out letters to next water utilities to be audited. Georgia EPD Watershed Protection Branch's Non-Point Source Program Grants Unit has grants available.

### Public Awareness Discussion

#### "I'M IN" Website Update

Ms. Njoroge gave a quick overview of recent developments of the "I'M IN" website. The committee was presented a few pages from the website and asked for feedback regarding website content and features. No feedback was given.

#### Metro Water District Toilet Rebate Program Update

Ms. Njoroge announced water providers participating in the Metro Water District's Toilet Rebate Program will end the rebate for 1.6 gallon per flush toilets on December 31, 2011.

#### Multi-Family Grease Brochure

Last year the Metro Water District developed a F.O.G. brochure targeted towards the food industry. The brochure outlined best methods to dispose of food scraps in order to protect the sewer systems. After discussion from local governments, the Metro Water District realized the

next practical educational piece for the Metro Water District's FOG Education Campaign should be targeted towards multi-family dwellings.

DeKalb County gave a quick overview of their F.O.G Multi-family. Outreach campaign. Their campaign focuses on building partnerships with multi-family managers to distribute materials to residents, primarily when new residents sign their lease. In addition to providing brochures, Dekalb County has a F.O.G. media campaign which utilizes radio and theatre advertisements to distribute their F.O.G. messages.

Ms. Njoroge asked the committee three questions:

- 1) Should we reach out to multi-family units next for our F.O.G. Campaign? If so, who should the messages target?
- 2) What should be our messages?
- 3) What is the most effective way of distributing outreach materials?

The Education TCC responded as follows:

- Multi-family outreach is needed, primarily large apartment complexes.
- Messages should include avoiding dumping grease down the drain and effects of improperly disposing of grease. The messages should remain similar to the messages given to the food industry.
- Messages should be delivered through the following:
  - Posters/brochures in common areas of the multi-family dwellings
  - Website
  - Grease can lids
  - New residents grease workshops
  - Youtube videos; this video was mentioned in the meeting:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1rItAH60MU&sns=em>,
  - Door hangers

### **2010 Implementation Review- Education Summary**

Each year the Metro Water District surveys local governments and water utilities about how they are implementing the Metro Water District Water Management Plan requirements. Ms. Njoroge gave a brief overview of the education related questions such as "how many have outreach campaign, conduct outreach to schools, use Metro Water District and Clean Water Campaign educational materials, have a toilet rebate program, etc. The committee reviewed survey results with no feedback or questions.

The next education subcommittee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 10AM.**

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.