



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
April 19, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa/Etowah Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the R. T. Jones Memorial Library in Canton, GA.

Members Present

William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
Nolton Johnson
Celia Klardie, City of Canton
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA
Aylin Lewallen, Brown and Caldwell
Donald McClure

Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
Martha Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

Members Not Present

Doris Cook, Etowah WSA, BAC Chair
James Durham, LAPA
Robert Endress, PBS&J
William Francis, GAWP
John Hicks, LAPA
Dart Kendall, GOWA
Barry Mansell

H. Luke Mayes, IV, Cobb Co Farm Bureau
Robert Morrison, LAPA
Ed Mullinax, LAPA/Cartersville Water Dept
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association
Donald Salkman
Roy Taylor

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist
Marissa Duff, Senior Environmental Planner

Welcome and Introductions

Cherokee County Board Representative David Kubala welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially began the meeting. He informed the group that BAC Chair Doris Cook is not feeling well and will not be in attendance. Mr. Kubala then initiated group introductions. Sarah Simmons introduced the "I'm In" Business Cards as a kick off to the District's "I'm In" campaign. She asked the members to make sure they visit the website and make their pledge as a business, government, organization, or individual. Additionally, she asked the members to take a stack of cards to pass out and spread the word about the campaign.

BAC Membership Drive

Sarah Simmons informed the group that the 2011 BAC Membership Drive is currently underway. The District is asking that all members reapply for membership this year to ensure that we have a variety of interests represented on each of the councils, and to get all members on the same

timeframe for membership. She informed the group that the deadline is May 13th and that applications are on the handouts table at the back of the room should anyone want to fill one out at the meeting, or take a stack to hand out to others who may be interested in BAC membership. Ms. Simmons also informed the group of the process through which applications will be approved.

Water Metrics Report Overview

Marissa Duff gave an overview of the Water Metrics Report. This report presents water use data, wastewater return trends, and water quality data. She explained that water demand is affected by a variety of factors and care should be taken when comparing the Atlanta region to other communities. In the past decade, population has increased while overall water use and per capita water use have decreased. Wastewater returns to each basin are increasing and water quality has been maintained or improved despite a significant population increase since the 1970s when monitoring began. She explained that the water metrics report confirms our progress in the implementation of best management practices as they relate to water supply and conservation, wastewater, and watershed management.

The BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Were commercial uses incorporated into the metrics for per capita use? It was confirmed that commercial uses were included.

Status of WaterSense New Homes Conservation Measure

Marissa Duff gave a presentation on the status of WaterSense New Homes Conservation Measure. She presented a supplementary guidance document developed by a subcommittee made up of representatives of homebuilders, the green industry, US EPA, UGA, and local water systems that outlines outdoor best management practices to be used by builders/developers as they implement the water budget tool outlined by WaterSense. In addition Ms. Duff presented the revised WaterSense New Homes draft conservation measures. This measure has been revised to be an incentive based program, requiring local governments to adopt an incentive policy for builders to construct homes that meet the WaterSense specifications. She explained that the WaterSense New Homes conservation measure is still in the beginning stages and will be presented to the WSWC TCC and District Board for review.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Have there been any calculations about what the additional costs would be to the developers, which would then be transferred to the home buyer? It was confirmed that the costs would be researched; however this has not yet been done in this area.
- Keep it focused on incentives.
- There seems to be no mention of collecting stormwater to be used for non-potable functions in the home.

Multifamily FOG Educational Material

Matt Harper gave an overview of the Multifamily FOG Educational Material and the efforts being made to reduce the buildup of fats, oils, and grease in the sewer systems of metro Atlanta. This particular material will be presented in the form of a door hanger, and will be given to residents of multifamily units.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- We have sent fliers like this by mail and have had good response.
- It was suggested that the material also be available in Spanish.

- Has there been any progress on converting oil and grease to biodiesel? Are you looking into that outlet?
- Is it an option to install a grease trap per apartment complex?
- What can you do to get this information into the elementary schools?
- It was confirmed that the material will be user and kid friendly.

Panel Discussion on Water Resource Education

For the April round of BACs, it was suggested that we focus on what is being done in the District regarding educating students and the public about water resources and water conservation. District staff assembled a panel of representatives from local schools, governments and non-profits to speak about their efforts. The following panelists were chosen for their outstanding work in water education:

- Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County
- Diane Minick, Upper Etowah River Alliance
- Christina Williams, City of Cartersville

Each panelist gave a brief presentation and the floor was open to the BAC members for questions. BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Regarding Cherokee County's program:
 - Does the county have a voluntary program to collect leaves and mulch to redistribute it? *The county uses the collected litter for park maintenance.*
- Regarding educational programs at UERA:
 - Do people get a credit on stormwater or wastewater fees if they install a rainwater harvesting system?
 - It is hard to know who to charge people when they harvest rainwater because they still use the wastewater treatment plant.

Other

Matt Harper gave a status update of the 2011 Legislative Session and several state water studies. This information was provided in the form of a handout.

The BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Are we opposed to interbasin transfers?

The next meeting will be a joint BAC meeting and will be held on July 22, 2011 at the Loudermilk Conference Center in Atlanta. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Tour of Upper Etowah River Alliance Headquarters

Interested BAC members attended a tour of the Upper Etowah River Alliance Headquarter led by Watershed Director, Diane Minick. Ms. Minick showed the group the xeriscaped lawn, which reduces the need for supplemental water. Excluding new plants, the lawn at UERA has not been watered since it was first planted. She also showed the group the water storage system, the new energy-producing solar panels, and the variety of materials that went into building the pervious parking lot and xeriscaped lawn.