



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
April 21, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford, GA.

**Members Present**

Keith Bentley, Keep Smyrna Beautiful  
Patty Berkovitz, Watershed Alliance  
Bob Bunker, RM Bunker Associates LLC  
David Chastant, City of Sandy Springs  
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
James Hawkins, Black & Veatch, Cobb Citizen  
Travis Eugene Henry, Douglas Farm Bureau  
Warren Howe  
Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County  
Mike Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica

John Lawrence, Chigger Ridge Farm  
Jo Ann Macrina, City of Atlanta Watershed  
Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.  
John Oliver, URS Corporation  
Becky Mixon, Cobb-Marietta Water Authority  
K. Scott Robertson, Sweetwater Environmental  
Wes Rogers, DeKalb Co Watershed Mgmt  
Nathan Shields, Michael Baker Jr. Corp  
George Taylor Jr., Oglethorpe Power Corp.  
Billy Turner  
Van Yon, RE/MAX Executives, Inc.

**Members Not Present**

Eric Olson, BAC Chair  
Femi Adesanya  
Ginger Blackstone, GA Dept. of Labor  
Rick Blackwell, Let's Go Fishing USA  
Harry Boone  
William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors  
Ellis Cadenhead, Coweta W&S Authority  
Howard Carson Jr., Carson Developments, Inc.  
Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning Enter's Inc.  
Steven Culp, Veolia Water NA  
Jared Daley  
Katherine Feeman, Big Trees Forest Preserve  
Steve Foster  
Martin George  
Jill Glascock  
Patrick Heerdt

F. Keith Lagaite, EcoLogix  
James Martell, MDCS, LLC  
George Martin, Georgia Power  
Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group  
Charles McMullen III  
Doug Miell  
William Millkey  
Michael Morton  
Catherine Pruitt, Stevenson & Palmer Eng.  
Yomi Sholarin, Comm. Board of Realtors  
Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council  
Wayne Waldrip, Keep Smyrna Beautiful  
Butch Watson III, Croy Engineering  
Mark Wolff  
Kenneth Wood, Planners and Engineers Coll.  
Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica

**Board Members Present**

Charles Lambert, DeKalb County Designee

**Non-Members Present**

David Braswell, WK Dickson

Ron Peters, Gwinnett DWR

Kim Davis, City of Atlanta Watershed

Carol Jones, City of Atlanta Watershed

Yolanda Boazman, City of Atlanta Watershed

Frank Stephens, Gwinnett County

Russell Tinning, GSWCC

Lee Duncan

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner

Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist

Marissa Duff, Senior Environmental Planner

**Welcome and Introductions**

DeKalb County Board Representative Charles Lambert welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially began the meeting. Sarah Simmons initiated group introductions. Ms. Simmons then 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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. There were no comments or questions made regarding the BAC membership drive.

**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. There were no comments or questions made regarding the Water Metrics Report.

### **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. There were no comments or questions made regarding the conservation measure.

### **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:

- There was mention of a FOG recycling launch in the brochure, but not in the educational material handout. Mention where residents can take the FOG to recycle it.
- Will these handouts be available by summer so that we can get summer interns to distribute them?
- Who picks up recycled oil and grease? Would it be possible to have large containers at apartment complexes?
- The handout needs pictures, the grosser the better.
- Are you keeping a control area of apartments (where no material is handed out) to be able to test if the handouts and educational efforts in other areas is actually working?
- Educate by saying, "This is what can happen if you do not follow the guidelines on the handout".
- There are a lot of words on this handout for a renter to follow.
- Can the apartment complexes set up a kind of competition and provide jars to see who can save the most grease from going down the drain?
- There are too many words. You could probably lose paragraph two altogether and keep the same message.

### **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:

- Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County
- Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta
- Heather Moody, Gwinnett County
- Brian Sterner, Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

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 Cobb County's program:
  - How do you get your program into so many schools? Ms. Nguyen explained that the teachers want to be part of the green schools program and it is a free program.
  - The 1,500 calendars that are produced by the county are given away at events and festivals.

### **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. There were no questions regarding this material.

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 the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC)**

Brian Sterner led interested BAC members on a tour of GEHC. Members learned how Gwinnett County has used its water resources throughout history, from early America to present day. Mr. Sterner also talked about the stormwater management features of the building and how they contributed to GEHC's distinction as being LEED Gold certified. Members also participated in hands-on activities and viewed a short film about the importance of water resources to this region.