



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
JOINT MEETING of the BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
July 22, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's six Basin Advisory Councils met for a joint meeting on Friday, July 22, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Loudermilk Conference Center in Atlanta, GA.

Chattahoochee Members Present

Eric Olson, BAC Chair	Stan Jones, Watershed Alliance of Sandy Springs
Laura Aikens	Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett Co
Keith Bentley, Keep Smyrna Beautiful	James Klinkenberg
Peter Berk	Charles Laughinghouse
Chad Braswell	John Lawrence
Williams Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors	Richard Lisska
Robert Bunker, US Army Corps	Jo Ann Macrina, City of Atlanta
D. Scott Cole	George Martin, GA Power Company
Daryl Cook, Watts and Browning	Charles McKinney
Teresa Crisp	William Millkey
James Crowder, Schnabel Engineering	Michael Morton, City of Chattahoochee Hills
Steven Culp	Fred Nixon
Roland de Liniere	Kevin Norton
Edward DeHart, Jr.	John Oliver, URS Corporation
Lee Duncan	Angus Reed
Joseph Epherson	Kenneth Robertson, SEC
Debra Ewing, D. Clark Harris, Inc.	Theodore Ruff
Steven Foster	Mitzi Smith Moore
Donald Fry	Sanford Stokes, WSC, Inc
Stephen Garton, UGA Extension, Forsyth	George Taylor, Oglethorpe Power Corp
Jack Gleason, Friends of Caney Creek.org	Daniel Thalimer
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council	Frankie Thompson
Jessica Guinn	Billy Turner, Columbus Water Works
Bob Harbort	Richard Wells, GA Power Co
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper	Mark Wolff
Travis Henry, Douglas Co Farm Bureau	Kenneth Wood, PEC
Colin Holden	Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica
Matthew Houser, UPCCA	Van Yon
Phillip Hutfilz	

Chattahoochee Members Not Present

Babafemi Adesanya
Cassandra Barber
Harold Benner
Emily Buffington, Manheim/Cox Enterprises
Denise Carelton, Reaping Nature
David Chastant
Robert Cudnik
Samantha Dunn, Gwinnett Braves
Michael Echols
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corp
Kevin Garmon
Scott Halperin
James Hawkins
Patrick Heerdt
Warren Howe
Thomas Kohler

Keith Laguaite
Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group
Charles McMullen
Doug Miell
Randy Payne, Tyson Foods, Inc
Trish Reifenberger
Wes Rogers, DeKalb Co DWM
Josh Rowan, Atkins
Mark Scheinfeld
Nathan Shields, Michael Baker Jr. Corp
Yomi Sholarin
Trudy Slaby Eissler
Charles Surasky
Butch Watson, Croy Engineering, LLC
Joseph Wilson

Coosa/Etowah Members Present

Doris Cook, BAC Chair
David Alaniz
David Braswell
Adam Dreyer
Robert Endress, Atkins
William Francis, GAWP
Richard Gray, Murray's Loch Preservation Group
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
Nolton Johnson
Dart Kendall, GOWA
Aylin Lewallen
Donald McClure

Keith McLaughlin
Kevin Medved
Robert Morrison, LAPA
Carol Moson, GA Assn of Realtors
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Bobby Terrell
Joseph Vivona
Chris Williams
Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
Kenneth Williams

Coosa/Etowah Members Not Present

Leslie Adams
Daniel Coffey
Bryce Coyle, Paulding Co
James Durham
Craig Ferguson
David Kubala

Rebecca Long
H. Luke Mayes, IV, Cobb Co Farm Bureau
Edmund Mullinax
Thomas Shannon, Ewing Irrigations Products
Martha Williams, GA Lakes Society

Flint Members Present

Richard A. Greuel, BAC Chair
Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co BOC
John Caldwell
Ernest Curtis
Charles Gibson, GA Kayak Fishing
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental

Roger Greuel, Fayette Co Farm Bureau
Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris, Inc
Richard Little
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta Co WSA
Tim Thoms

Flint Members Not Present

Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville
Richard Harp
Brice Martin, Coweta Co Stormwater Mgmt

Dale Phenicie, Fayette Co Chamber of Commerce
Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities
Scott Tolar

Lanier Members Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
James Boff
Richard Check
Foster FitzHugh
Rebecca Hacke
James Hazelwood, Stonehenge Consultants, LLA

Eugene Holmes
Norman McGinnis
Cleghorn Penn
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc
Wilfred Sommer
Ike Swofford

Lanier Members Not Present

Drew Addison
James Baxter
Jon Heard, City of Cumming
Dale Jaeger, The Jaeger Company
Mary Jones

Cole Shaffer, CPCU Society
Greg Sistrunk
Kevin Smith, Keep Forsyth Beautiful
Carrie Toth
David True

Ocmulgee Members Present

Bob Carpenter, IAPMP
Jennifer Christman, ADS
Richard Edinger, Jr.
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry Co WSA
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Co Farm Bureau
Chee Hill, Atlanta Women's Outdoor Network
Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers
Shirley House
Angel Jones, DeKalb Co Roads; Drainage
Jay Marlow
Vikki McReynolds, GUCA

Paul Morgan, RainHarvest Company
Elaine Nash, Rockdale Co WSA
Lee Pope, Rockdale Water Resources
Ann Ray
Wanda Saed
Russell Toning, GSWCC
Susan Varlamoff, UGA
Anthony Wiggins
Steven Williams, Building Greener, LLC
Kirk Wimber, Orenco Systems, Inc.

Ocmulgee Members Not Present

Michael Walker, BAC Chair
Larry Allen, Henry Co Farm Bureau
James Carter
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater Division
Tom Harrison

Wayne Haynie
Deirdre Lyons-Gary, DeKalb LWV
Michelle Reese, LWV
Phyllis Stewart
Kyle Webb, Breedlove Land Planning, Inc.

Oconee Members Present

Shirley Cooley
Bill Finnick, GAFM

Matthew Vinson, GOWA

Oconee Members Not Present

Jill Statura, BAC Chair
Steven Landers
Mark Risse

Sheryl Wells, UGA
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc
Chris Yancey

Metro Water District Staff Present

Corey Babb
Marissa Duff
Matt Harper
Steve Haubner
Lora Nance

Charlene Njoroge
Abby Owens
Sarah Simmons
Pat Stevens

Board Members Present

Mayor Boyd Austin, Chair
Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Brad Currey
Chuck Huling
Charles Lambert, DeKalb Co Alternate
Jo Ann Macrina, City of Atlanta Alternate

Angela Parker, Fulton Co Alternate
Lee Pope, Rockdale Co Alternate
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Co Alternate
Judy Skeel, Cobb Co Alternate
Tim Thoms

Others Present

Kelly Andrews, Ecological Strategy
Patricia Barmeyer, King & Spalding
Tim Cash, GA EPD
Dieter Franz, Brown & Caldwell
Susan Grimes, ARC
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee Co
Lewis Jones, King & Spalding
Celia Klardie, City of Sandy Springs
Greg Mason, GEFA

Becky Mixon, Cobb Co-Marietta Water Auth
Clair Muller, Civic League
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb Co Water System
Ron Peters, Gwinnett Co
Jim Poff, Clayton Co Water Auth
Grace Trimble, ARC
Jon Tuley, ARC
Gloria Wright, Wright & Associates

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Matt Harper welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting agenda. He introduced the Chairs of each of the Basin Advisory Councils and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Board Representatives present at the meeting. Mr. Harper then introduced District Chairman Boyd Austin as the keynote speaker.

Keynote Address

District Chairman Boyd Austin welcomed the group and thanked the Basin Advisory Council members for volunteering their time and knowledge to help strengthen the work of the District. For those members new to the Basin Advisory Councils and the District planning process, Chairman Austin gave a brief overview of the District, the three District plans and the role of the Basin Advisory Councils. He spoke to the strength of the District, how Metro Atlanta is becoming a recognized leader in how we manage our water resources and the types of issues members will likely be discussing moving forward.

Tri-State Water Conflict Update

Mr. Lewis Jones, Counsel with King and Spalding, LLP provided the group with an overview of the Tri-State Water Litigation. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled that water supply is an authorized purpose of Lake Lanier equal in nature to navigation, hydropower and flood control. Along with this decision, the three judge panel gave the Army Corps of Engineers one year to create a plan that balances water supply for metro Atlanta with the other authorized purposes. Mr. Jones also noted that while this recent ruling is good news for residents of metro Atlanta, there is likely to be an appeal by Alabama and Florida.

Panel on State Water Planning Efforts

Mr. Greg Mason, Chief Operating Officer of Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and Mr. Tim Cash, Assistant Branch Chief with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) were on a panel to discuss and answer questions about the state's water planning efforts.

Mr. Mason provided the group with an overview of the Interconnection Study and an update on the Governor's Water Supply Task Force. The Interconnection Study is a detailed study for emergency water supply planning for 33 qualified systems in the District area. The report will be finalized in September. The Governor's Water Supply Task Force is Governor Deal's commitment to provide \$300 million over the next four years to be used for reservoir and water supply development. GEFA will be coordinating with eight state agencies, including Georgia Department of Natural Resource (DNR) and Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), and will produce a draft later this year.

Mr. Cash gave an overview of the state's water planning councils' plans. These plans were created to coordinate efforts in water resource planning throughout the state and to guide regional priorities. The plans were issued for public comment in May of this year. EPD will review the comments and work with the water planning councils to make the necessary changes. The state water planning councils' plans are set to be finalized in September 2011. The panelists answered questions from the audience regarding interstate water planning coordination and water allocations for the planning councils.

Breakout Sessions on District Planning Topics

The following topics were discussed during the breakout sessions:

- 1) Stormwater-Land Use Linkage
- 2) Water-Energy Connection
- 3) Sewer Overflows
- 4) Education and Outreach

1) Mr. Steve Haubner spoke about the impact of land use on watershed management and specifically how it relates to the Metro Water District. As an urban area develops and land use changes occur there's an impact on watershed hydrology and water quality. The Metro Water District's Watershed Management Plan is the most comprehensive regional plan that addresses stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution controls. The plan includes a number of required and optional measures for local governments relating to land use planning. Approximately 45 Basin Advisory Council members attended this session. The following is a list of their comments and questions:

- Land use and local/regional planning do not address the finite resources available.
- Much of the existing impervious cover in the region does not have stormwater controls in place for water quality treatment. How do we protect water quality during redevelopment, while still encouraging that redevelopment and economic development?
- How do we make the economics of development deals work with the cost of stormwater management?
- What do we do with older failing stormwater systems?
- Changes in farming practices, including fencing livestock out of streams and implementing buffers, have worked to improve water quality. Technology is also helping to improve the use of water.
- Enforcement of existing regulations and ordinances is critical. Metro Water District should assist in getting the message out, particularly to elected officials.
- There has been a big push for smaller homes and more residential energy efficiency, but what about water usage and stormwater management in the home?
- Blue Book (Georgia Stormwater Management Manual) was a great advance in stormwater management for the region, but we need to continue to look at micro-level stormwater controls and redevelopment issues.
- There is a lack of intergovernmental coordination and implementation in some watersheds and recharge areas (such as the Big Creek Watershed).
- We have a sufficient regional plan, but we need to communicate, educate and regulate.
- We need to educate property owners on the effects of adding impervious cover and the impacts of stormwater pollution.
- There is a lot of pressure for development in some rural areas, due to the proximity to metro Atlanta.
- There is often an "all or nothing" mentality when it comes to stormwater management and redevelopment. Many times something is better than nothing.
- Costs of regulations can be prohibitive—mandates can restrict what can be done. Move towards incentivizing solutions instead.
- Redevelop existing paved areas as green infrastructure solutions.
- Consider working with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to educate public officials.
- Provide continuing education for builders and public officials.

- Develop guidelines to offer incentives for redevelopment.
- Include Georgia Department of Transportation (GA DOT) in education efforts and requirements.
- Change “may” to “shall” in plans and guidance documents.
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) should be contacted when local code enforcement is not adequate.
- There is no third party verification of data submittal by local governments for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) reviews.
- Has there been a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the regulations and requirements in the Plan?
- Water supply watersheds should be designed as regionally important resources.

2) Ms. Marissa Duff gave a brief overview of the water-energy connection. Water goes into the production of energy and, energy is used to produce treated drinking water. Therefore, when water is conserved, energy is conserved. Approximately 35 Basin Advisory Council members attended this session. The following is a list of their comments and questions:

- There needs to be better coordination between power providers, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD), water planning councils, Metro Water District Basin Advisory Councils and Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).
- Georgia Power will be opening a Water Research Center at Plant Bowen which will look at power generation and water efficiency. This is an opportunity for collaboration with energy partners and research entities to talk about and test new technologies.
- Areas to consider for increased efficiency include coordinating effluent discharge with dam release, off-peak water treatment and heat from power plant waste and digesters.
- We must focus on reservoirs for more water storage.
- There needs to be more involvement with energy codes, the 2012 plumbing code, WaterSense, National Association of Home Builders’ (NAHB) Green Construction Codes and International Green Construction Codes.
- Address infrastructure of existing homes.
- Provide rebates and tax credits for energy and water efficiency.
- Incorporate water efficiency with existing energy policies and incentives.
- Gather better data on a regional level.
- Increase collaboration between education and research institutes. The Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems at Georgia Tech is a good example of a potential partner.
- Involve energy conservation outreach folks with power providers.
- Implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) coordination efforts which combine water and energy metering.

3) Mr. Corey Babb presented an overview of the issue of sewer overflows in the Metro Water District. This included an overview of the trends in overflows from 2000 – 2009, the identified sources of blockages, the required inspection and maintenance elements included in the Wastewater Management Plan for dealing with overflows, the required grease management practices included in the Plan and the educational/outreach efforts conducted to date and proposed for the near future. Approximately 25 Basin Advisory Council members attended this breakout session. The following is a list of their comments and questions:

- The District needs a mechanism for tracking the effectiveness of the Fats, Oils, and Grease (F.O.G.) educational/outreach materials.

- Haulers of waste grease or septage should be tracked (volumes and collection locations).
- Pumping information should be collected from food service establishments at the time of their annual inspection.
- Garbage disposals should be removed from commercial food service establishments/residential construction.
- If garbage disposals are allowed in residential homes, require a surcharge.
- Incentivize the collection of F.O.G. by residents of multi-family units/single family units.
- Provide a surcharge to those multi-family units not implementing an onsite F.O.G. collection program.
- Investigate the potential for installing grease interceptors on new multi-family construction and the issue of separating yellow from brown grease.
- The District should promote the distribution of F.O.G. materials to apartment units prior to new tenants moving in (i.e. information at kitchen sink, over toilet and refrigerator magnet).
- F.O.G. materials should be translated into Spanish, mandarin Chinese and Korean to meet the changing demographic composition of the Metro Water District.
- Investigate the use of “landscape impact fees” for dealing with vegetation encroachment of sewer lines.
- Research the market potential for large scale biodiesel production in region and eventual mixing at Doraville plant.

4) Ms. Charlene Njoroge gave a brief overview of the education and outreach efforts of the District. The group was asked to discuss how they can reach out to their own communities with water quality and water conservation messages and how they can help local governments meet the Metro Water District plan requirements. Approximately 20 members attended this session. The following is a list of their comments and questions:

- Work with teachers to add water education to the curriculum throughout the year.
- Approach universities about including Georgia water information in environmental courses; make courses useful and local to students.
- Reach out to parents of homeschooled children.
- Encourage BAC members to actively engage in “I’m In”.
- Volunteers with the Georgia Master Naturalist Program, local schools and 4-H clubs work to spread word about water conservation.
- Reach out to the homeowners associations, chambers of commerce, and local businesses.
- Encourage business owners to take the “I’m In” pledge.
- Distribute “I’m In” business cards at all events.
- Get sports teams involved.
- Participate in river cleanups. Programs such as Rivers Alive (a free program) and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream will come to schools.
- Use National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) as an outreach component.
- Collaborate with schools on getting grants.
- Offer outlets for coordination between University of Georgia Extensions and local governments.
- Make sure that local governments understand the educational requirements of the three District plans and follow up with them at a later date.
- Write articles and press releases for local media outlets to promote water conservation to public.
- Encourage local governments to communicate back to District about what they are doing to reach out to and educate the public on our water resources.

Reports from Breakout Sessions

At the conclusion of the breakout sessions, the group came back together for a brief reporting of the breakout session discussions. The following Basin Advisory Council members reported to the large group: 1) Jack Gleason: Stormwater-Land Use Linkage; 2) Dart Kendall: Water-Energy Connection; 3) Bill Francis: Sewer Overflows; and 4) Bill Finnick: Education and Outreach. Each breakout session spokesperson shared a few key ideas discussed in their breakout session.

Other

Mr. Matt Harper informed the group that their comments and ideas made during the breakout sessions would be taken to the next round of Technical Coordinating Committee meetings in August. He announced that the next round Basin Advisory Council meetings occurring in October would be basin specific and that members would receive an email closer to the date with meeting specifics.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.