



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
EDUCATION
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
August 9, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Education Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance:

Bob Bourne, Cobb County	Heather Moody, Gwinnett County
Gwen Brinkley, Fulton County	Shayla Nealy, Clayton County
John Butler, Gwinnett County	Alicia Pennie, DeKalb County
Terrell Clark, Paulding County	Lee Pope, Rockdale County
Vicki Culbreath, City of Roswell	Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta
Erica Dunbar, Paulding County	Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock
Harold Harbert, Georgia EPD	Cornell Sims, Clayton County
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County	Matthew Smith, Clayton County
Nancy Howard, Fayette County	Michael Strickland, Clayton County
Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta	Brittany Tropp, City of Sandy Springs
Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville	Kelli Uyesugi, Rockdale County
Pam Keel, Fulton County	Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville
Jennifer McCoy, Cobb County	Emily Wingo, Georgia EPD
Jennifer McLaurin, Fulton County	

Charlene Njoroge opened the meeting by welcoming Education TCC members, initiating self introductions and giving an overview of the agenda.

Public Awareness Discussion

Joint BAC Discussion on Education and Outreach

Charlene Njoroge gave an overview of the July Joint Basin Advisory Council (BAC) meeting. The BAC meeting opened with remarks from the new Metro Water District Board Chairman, Boyd Austin, followed by an update on the Tri-State Water Conflict and a panel with representatives from GEFA and GA EPD. The meeting also included four breakout sessions, one which focused on education and outreach. Ms. Njoroge gave an overview of the education discussion during the breakout session and directed committee members to their packets and the Metro Water District website to read the full BAC meeting summary for additional information.

“I’m In” Speakers Bureau

The Metro Water District is developing a speakers bureau for the “I’m In” Campaign. The speakers bureau will be made up of representatives from the local governments. Ms. Njoroge asked the committee for volunteers to serve as speakers. The goal is to have at least one person from each county available to give a presentation about the “I’m In” campaign when groups request speakers. During the meeting the following committee members volunteered to serve as speakers:

- Kelen Shostak
- Brian Wiley

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- Cornel Sims
- Heather Moody
- Jennifer McLaurin
- Alicia Pennie
- Marjorie Hicks

Ms. Njoroge asked committee members for input on the type of organizations and groups to approach and committee members suggested reaching out to local Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, homeowner associations, schools and senior citizen groups. The Metro Water District will provide a PowerPoint presentation for bureau members to use for speaking engagements and will continue to seek volunteers for the speakers bureau.

Clean Water Campaign Brochure Revisions

The Clean Water Campaign provides a number of educational materials, many in the form of brochures. In a previous Education TCC meeting, a few committee members mentioned the Clean Water Campaign brochures should clearly answer the question “why this is important” or “why should I change my behavior” when addressing water pollution prevention. Ms. Njoroge asked the committee what type of messages should be included when answering the question “why”. The committee suggested the following:

- Clearly state how water pollution affects the target audience.
- Link water quality to cost and explain how polluted water affects water bills and cost of other water related county services.
- Emphasize basic stormwater messages; everything that enters storm drains goes directly to nearby rivers, lakes and streams without being treated.

Ms. Njoroge also asked the committee what other, if any educational materials are needed about water pollution prevention. The following topics were suggested:

- Commercial Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) and general housekeeping best management practices to be used when doing site visits for businesses.
- Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) brochure related to restaurant grease containers

Update on Multi-Family FOG Educational Materials

Corey Babb announced the Metro Water District ordered 100,000 FOG door hangers to be distributed to apartments within the Metro Water District by the Atlanta Apartment Association. In addition to the door hangers, a FOG flyer and brochure have been developed. These educational pieces have been printed in both English and Spanish.

Mr. Babb also asked the committee if there is a need for a brochure on the proper use of garbage disposals. The committee agreed no brochure is needed, but suggested placing garbage disposal messages on the FOG webpage and future FOG educational materials.

Clayton County Water Authority Outreach Program

Cornel Sims gave an overview of the Clayton County Water Authority Outreach Program. The program is designed to educate Clayton County residents of all ages about the importance of protecting and conserving local water resources. Clayton County Water Authority’s outreach program has two arms, community outreach and school outreach. Their community outreach includes hosting special events such as river cleanups, water festivals and household amnesty days. The school outreach includes serving as judges in science fairs, classroom lesson plans and activities, school field trips to water plants and county environmental centers and wetlands.

City of Alpharetta Outreach Program

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Terry Porter with the City of Alpharetta gave an overview of their outreach program. The City's outreach program consists of reaching their residents through news articles, community events, the city's website and school programs. Ms. Porter emphasized one main component of their program is the partnerships with other local governments. Partnerships allow the city to increase their reach and resources.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- The Metro Water District and Clean Water Campaign are now on Facebook. Please send water news to Charlene Njoroge or Sarah Simmons to be posted on Facebook.
- Ms. Njoroge announced the annual essay contest is targeted to middle school students in the Metro Water District. The deadline for the essay contest is Friday, September 30, 2011. Ms. Njoroge asked committee members to promote the contest within their jurisdiction and also for volunteers to read and judge the essays. The following will serve on the 2011 Clean Water Campaign/I'm In Essay Contest Selection Committee:
 - John Butler
 - Kelen Shostak
 - Alicia Pennie
 - Shayla Nealey
 - Vicki Culbreath
 - Kelli Uyesugi
- The Low-Flow Pre-Rinse Spray Valve brochure is now updated and these updates include:
 - Updated Verified Pre-Rinse Spray Valves list
 - Updated Water and Cost Savings Information
 - Updated Resources ListPlease send Ms. Njoroge an email to request hard copies of the updated Low-Flow Pre-Rinse Spray Valve brochure. A digital version is available on the Metro Water District website.

- The Metro Water District releases a newsletter every other month and its purpose is to highlight activities on a regional and local level. If you have any events, awards or recent achievements please send the information to Charlene Njoroge or Sarah Simmons.

Planned and Ongoing Workshops

- **Paulding County**
 - Paulding County Extension Office and Paulding County Chamber of Commerce are hosting a water conservation class for area landscapers.
 - Kennesaw State Students will tour the Paulding County wastewater treatment plant.
 - Paulding County and Cobb County are teaming together for the WaterSmart Art Program.
- **Clayton County**
 - Clayton County Water Authority is hosting a Rivers Alive event on August 22nd.
- **DeKalb County**
 - DeKalb County has scheduled seven Rivers Alive events, for more information contact Michael O'Sheilds.
 - DeKalb recently purchased a Duck Mascot for their Watershed Department. DeKalb County will have a mascot naming contest later this year in addition to their annual art contest for elementary school students.

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- DeKalb County is also continuing their FOG media campaign in the local theatres and may be expanded to billboards and radio stations.
- **Cobb County**
 - Jennifer McCoy is the Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator of the Year. Congratulations to Jennifer with Cobb County Water System.
- **Georgia EPD**
 - Project Wet has updated their curriculum and is hosting Facilitator Training across the state. All facilitators are required to take this training. For more information go to Georgia Project Wet website, <http://www.gaprojectwet.org/>.

The next education subcommittee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 10am.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.