



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
October 28, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Friday, October 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth, GA.

**Members Present**

Michael Walker, BAC Chair	Faye Lyons-Gary, DeKalb Co LWV
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater	Jay Marlow
Richard Edinger, Jr.	Vikki McReynolds, GUCA
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry Co WSA	Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.
Tom Harrison, H2O Reps	Elaine Nash, Rockdale Co WSA
Wayne Haynie, Jacobs	Russell Toning, GSWCC
Chee Hill, Dewberry & Davis	Anthony Wiggins, CERM
Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers	Steve Williams, Building Greener LLC
Shirley House	Kirk Wimber, Orenco Systems

**Members Not Present**

Larry Allen, Henry Co Farm Bureau	Ann Ray
Bob Carpenter, IAPMO	Wanda Saed
Jimmy Carter, Jr., HCWA and Henry Co Farm Bur.	Phyllis Stewart
Jennifer Christman, ADS	Jay Trevari, League of Women Voters
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Farm Bureau	Susan Varlamoff, UGA
Angel Jones, DeKalb Co Roads Drainage	Chris Yancey
Lee Pope, Rockdale Water Resources	

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner  
Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist

**Board Members Present**

Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County Designee

**Non-Members Present**

Laurie Hawks, Brown and Caldwell  
Jill Stachura, Brown and Caldwell

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Sarah Simmons introduced Gwinnett County Board Designee, Jim Scarbrough who welcomed the group to Gwinnett County and officially convened the meeting on behalf of the Governing Board. Mr. Scarbrough introduced BAC Chair, Mr. Mike Walker who began group introductions.

### **District Overview**

Ms. Sarah Simmons gave an overview of the District. She explained why the District was created, described the three plans and the process of plan implementation and enforcement. She also gave a brief overview of the District budget process.

### **Election of BAC Chair**

Ms. Sarah Simmons informed the group that she sent an email in September asking for nominations for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons received one nomination for Mr. Mike Walker to continue as chair of the Ocmulgee BAC. Ms. Simmons announced that she would accept additional nominations at this time during the meeting. No additional nominations were made. A motion was made to re-elect Mike Walker as chair of the Ocmulgee BAC. The motion was seconded and Mr. Walker was elected chair of the Ocmulgee BAC for another one year term ending in October 2012.

### **Drought Update**

Mr. Matt Harper gave an update on the current drought conditions in the state and highlighted drought conditions for the Ocmulgee basin, specifically. Drought conditions have progressed in the metro area during the late summer and early fall months, and most of Georgia is still experiencing extreme drought conditions. The U.S. Army Corps predicts the lake level for Lake Allatoona to remain in line with yearly averages, but the Corps predicts Lake Lanier to drop in the coming weeks.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Is Gwinnett County doing any further water restrictions?
- What are the river gauges on the Ocmulgee reading?
- Is this the type of thing the District tracks?

### **Watershed Management Plan Overview**

Mr. Steve Haubner gave an overview of the Watershed Management Plan, highlighted some of the key regional issues with stormwater management and provided an in-depth explanation of each of the model ordinances and their role in watershed protection.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Exemptions in the 150 ft buffer.
- Does anyone do trash interceptors? City of Atlanta Fourth Ward Park and Regional Stormwater Facility uses a trash interceptor.
- What are the mechanisms to catch trash at the plant?
- We need to get back to education. What type of education programs do you provide? Clean Water Campaign and "I'm In" Campaign are the education campaigns for the District.
- The information is there, but there is no money to get it out.
- We could go to elementary schools as a group to educate students about stormwater issues.
- Instead of spending money on new reservoirs, put it into hiring inspectors.
- Where does streambank restoration money come from?
- How do you know if the Watershed Management Plan is working or not? Implementation review of the Watershed Management Plan allows us to annually evaluate progress.

- What can I do? Individuals can report problem areas and help spread education messages.

### **Claiborne Lake and Wetland Restoration**

Ms. Laurie Hawks with Brown and Caldwell presented on the Claiborne Lake and Wetland Restoration located in Duluth, GA. The Claiborne Lake and Wetland Restoration site was first brought to Gwinnett County's attention by residents of the area. Much siltation had occurred over many years, and much of the site was overgrown. Ms. Hawks explained the importance of the site's restoration to local watershed health, showed before and after images of the site, briefly discussed permitting options and gave an overview of project costs. The meeting was followed by a visit of the site.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- To what capacity was the site designed?
- It was confirmed that the lake was restocked with fish.
- Is there a schedule for future sediment removal?
- How was the project paid for? Funding came from water and sewer fees and from a \$5 million GEFA loan.
- How did homeowners receive this construction in their backyard? Homeowners identified the site as a problem.

### **Other**

The 2012 Ocmulgee BAC meetings are listed on the agenda. The next meeting will be on Friday, January 20, 2012. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned and members traveled to the site.