



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Meeting Notes and Minutes  
March 1, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Executive Committee on Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 9:00am in the Atlanta Regional Commission's Harry West Conference Room.

**Members Present**

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman  
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer  
Hon. Buzz Ahrens

Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Tim Lee  
Hon. John Eaves

Hon. Elizabeth "BJ" Mathis  
Hon. Kasim Reed

**Other Board Members Present**

Ms. Kit Dunlap

**Others Present**

Mr. Tony Carnell  
Ms. Gail Cowie  
Mr. David Kubala  
Mr. Charles McKinney, Chattahoochee BAC  
Chair  
Mr. Jud Turner

**Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes**

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order. The meeting notes and minutes from the December 1, 2011 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

**Fix A Leak Week 5K Run**

Ms. Pat Stevens presented a concept for a 5K run to coincide with Fix A Leak Week in 2013. Ideas for including a kids' fun run and water conservation mascot run were discussed. The committee was supportive of staff planning this District wide event and the use of District education funds for the event.

### **Water Waste Policy**

Ms. Stevens reviewed the draft water waste policy language proposed for adoption by the board. Chairman Austin reminded the committee that the proposed language is intended to serve as guidance for local governments to use when determining the best mechanism for their jurisdiction. The committee clarified that this is not a model ordinance they must adopt. One committee member suggested that reduced water wasting could be better achieved through education.

### **Legislative Update**

Chairman Austin reviewed the 2012 Legislative Agenda and provided an update on pending state legislation. He noted that the Legislative Policy Committee met on February 27, 2012 to discuss newly introduced legislation. The Legislative Policy Committee recommended the adoption of the 2012 Legislative Agenda. Chairman Austin also noted that SB 499 has been recently introduced and pertains to stream monitoring following a chemical spill. The committee requested that the status of this bill be monitored. The Chairman informed the committee that crossover day is March 7, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the 40 day legislative session. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2012 Legislative Agenda. The motion passed.

### **Lanier & Oconee BAC Recommendation to the Board**

Chairman Austin directed the committee to the Basin Advisory Council (BAC) meeting summary dated January 10, 2012. At this meeting the Lake Lanier & Oconee BACs voted to make a recommendation for the Board to support and issue a position statement to the Corps in support of raising the level of Lake Lanier to 1,073 feet. Chairman Austin opened the floor for discussion, hearing none, no action was taken.

### **BAC Membership Update**

Chairman Austin reviewed the BAC membership update memo with the committee and discussed the enforcement of the BAC attendance policy. He noted that 21 BAC members listed in the memo had not attended three consecutive meetings and therefore are being recommended for removal from the BACs. The committee asked if enforcement of the attendance policy would impair the ability of a single BAC to meet if the membership falls below 20 members. Mr. Matt Harper clarified that the quorum requirement is based on actual BAC membership and not 20 therefore the BAC would still be able to meet. Chairman Austin noted his appreciation for these interested individuals to volunteer for BAC membership and track the planning process. He suggested sending thank you letters to the individuals who were unable to attend BAC meetings and notify them that they are welcome to reapply for BAC membership. Chairman Austin also directed staff to keep these interested individuals on our e-news distribution list. A motion was made and seconded to revise the BAC membership rosters based on the attendance policy listed in the BAC Operating Procedures. The motion passed.

Ms. Sarah Simmons explained that BAC members were surveyed and asked to provide input on the BAC process. She reviewed the results of the survey with the committee and stated that staff

will work to incorporate these recommendations where appropriate. She further explained that a targeted membership drive would be conducted this spring to seek new members.

### **5-Year Plan Update Status**

Chairman Austin reported that GA EPD had been asked about the possibility of modifying the 5-year plan update by two years to be consistent with the other state water planning councils' process. Georgia EPD is still evaluating options and has not yet provided an answer.

### **Introduction of GA EPD Director Jud Turner**

Chairman Austin introduced the new Director of GA EPD, Mr. Jud Turner. Director Turner commented on modifying the schedule for the next plan update and said the agency does not have an answer at this time. Mr. Turner remarked that it was important to coordinate with and outreach to the other water councils in the state. Chairman Austin noted the importance of good relations with the other water planning councils and offered to help organize or fund some type of joint water council meeting in Atlanta.

Director Turner commented on the Flint River Drought Protection Act. He stated that GA EPD is required each year by March 1<sup>st</sup> to determine if there is a drought in the Flint River Basin. The State has decided to not issue a drought declaration this year and as a result will not hold a lottery to take agricultural land off irrigation. Mr. Turner announced that GA EPD will revisit the Flint River Drought Protection Act during the 2013 Georgia legislative session.

The committee asked Director Turner about the preliminary Drought Management Rule being drafted. The committee suggested that the drought rule and the Flint River Drought Protection Act language agree.

Chairman Austin asked about ways GA EPD could streamline the permitting process and avoid starting over when questions arise. Director Turner is working with his staff to increase efficiency. Chairman Austin thanked Director Turner for his leadership and stated that the District looks forward to working closely with him.

### **Other**

Chairman Austin informed the committee that Mr. Tim Thoms has requested that landscape architects be treated equivalent to engineers and allowed to sign off on all portions of the model ordinance for post-development stormwater management for new development and redevelopment. Chairman Austin requested that staff research the history of this issue.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.