



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
June 7, 2012

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Richard Oden
Mr. Brad Currey
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Tim Thoms
City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Jo Ann Macrina

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Ed Mullinax
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Pete Frost
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough
Hall County Designee: Mr. J. Carlyle Cox

Members Not Present

Hon. Greg Clifton
Hon. H. Ford Gravitt
Hon. Elizabeth 'BJ' Mathis

Hon. Jim Sells
Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Gerald Pouncey

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Tim Thoms asked that the minutes from the March 1, 2012 Board meeting be corrected to reflect that others voting opposed to the water policy on page 3 also included Mayor Greg Clifton, Mr. Peter Frost and Mr. Mike Thomas.

A motion was made by Mr. Brad Currey and seconded by Mr. Reggie Prime to approve the March 1, 2012 minutes as corrected. The motion passed without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Austin announced changes made to the Open Meetings and Open Record law that will require more precise recording of those persons making motions and votes.

Ms. Pat Stevens reported that recent rains have eased drought conditions in parts of the state but the lower Flint area is still experiencing very dry conditions. Lake Lanier is in Zone 4 and the

Corps is continuing drought operations in the basin. Most other lakes in the District area are essentially full.

Patricia Barmeyer with King and Spalding provided an update on the Tri-State Water Conflict. She reminded the board that on June 28, 2011 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit held that water supply is an authorized purpose of Lake Lanier on equal footing with hydropower, navigation and flood control. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to determine the limits of its authority under this ruling to meet the current and future water supply requests. This is expected by the end of June, 2012. In the meantime, Alabama, Florida and the power customers have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. The Supreme Court may decide whether or not to hear the case by June 25.

On May 22, the Fish & Wildlife Service issued a new Biological Opinion evaluating whether the Army Corps of Engineers' revised operations of dams on the Chattahoochee River jeopardizes the continued existence of endangered species. The Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) concluded that the Corps operations would not adversely affect the Gulf sturgeon or its critical habitat. The F&WS also concluded that the operations would not jeopardize the continued existence of the 3 endangered mussel species nor adversely modify their critical habitat. The Corps' revised operations included expanding minimum flow releases in the summer and extending drought operations until composite storage returns to zone 1. The impact on reservoirs appears minimal.

In the litigation involving Lake Allatoona and the ACT basin, many of the issues are similar to those decided by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. The State of Georgia and local water providers filed motions to dismiss the case and a hearing is scheduled for June 29, in Birmingham.

Chairman Austin recognized the following Basin Advisory Council Chairpersons in attendance; Mr. Charles McKinney (Chattahoochee), Ms. Doris Cook (Coosa), Mr. Richard Greuel (Flint) and Mr. Val Perry (Lake Lanier).

Executive Committee Report

Specific bills of interest include HB 397 regarding changes to the Open Meetings and Open Records law and HB 1053 regarding energy and water efficient tax free holidays, the language of which was wrapped into HB 386. Both HB 397 and HB 386 were signed by the Governor.

House Resolution 1799 was adopted on March 12 commending the District for work and progress on water conservation and water efficiency over the past decade. A special thank you to our own Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick and Mr. Terry Lawler with the Regional Business Council for making this happened and also to Mr. David Word and Ms. Catherine Brulet for their help.

Chairman Austin reported that he and Ms. Stevens met with Georgia EPD Director Jud Turner and reiterated to him that the District is a partner with the water planning councils throughout the state and is willing to help with planning efforts. Chairman Austin hopes that EPD will make it a

priority to continue with the state water planning councils. He and Ms. Kirkpatrick, as well as the District Governing Board, have been invited to help EPD in researching funding options to assist the water planning councils, as well as provide lessons learned in the District's budgeting and planning process.

Secretary/Treasurer Birdel Jackson presented on the proposed 2013 Budget and Work Program recommendation of the Executive Committee. Mr. Jackson made a recommendation in the form of a motion to approve the 2013 Budget and Work Program. No second was necessary and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Austin explained that EPD Director Jud Turner granted an extension on the 5-year plan update. The plan update will be pushed back two years to be consistent with the other state water planning councils' process.

Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority Reuse Project with Google Data Center

Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA) Executive Director Pete Frost presented on the reuse project they operate in agreement with Google. It is the third largest reuse facility in the state. DDCWSA and Google worked together to create a reuse facility that would reduce their consumption of treated, potable water. Google, Inc. paid for the transmission main, wastewater treatment facility and all operating costs. The benefits to DDCWSA and their rate payers include no immediate rate increase, postponed expansion of the wastewater treatment facility and extended capacity. All of the water from the reuse facility is being use for the cooling towers at the Data Center. It is a model for similar projects.

Overview of Georgia Stormwater Management Manual – Volume 3: Pollution Prevention Guidebook

Mr. Steve Haubner of the District staff provided a brief overview of the District's stormwater pollution prevention technical assistance efforts for local governments within the Metro Water District. Stormwater pollution prevention is aimed at preventing the contamination of stormwater runoff at the source, before it has an opportunity to become polluted or reach the stormwater drainage system.

An all-day workshop on the revised 2012 NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit that focused on stormwater pollution prevention was held on April 13. Over 75 individuals representing 32 cities and counties were present for this joint training effort between the District and Georgia EPD. One of the focuses of the workshop was the newly completed Volume 3 of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, the *Pollution Prevention Guidebook*. Mr. Haubner gave an overview of the contents and format of Volume 3, and the information contained within each of the stormwater pollution prevention and control measure sections, which apply to specific activities and operations.

Other

Mr. Brad Currey reported on the ACF Stakeholders Group and the status of their fundraising efforts. The estimated time of completion for their Instream Flow Analysis Plan has been pushed back to late 2013, requiring that more funds be raised than initially expected. Mr. Currey is working with the group to find more funding sources.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.