



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes
June 7, 2012**

The Executive Committee of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Harry West Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission offices in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas

Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Jim Scarbrough

Members Not Present

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Hon. Elizabeth 'BJ' Mathis
Hon. Kasim Reed

Other Board Members Present

Hon. Richard Oden
Mr. Tim Thoms

Others Present

Mr. Harold Reheis
Mr. Richard Greuel, Flint BAC
Mr. Val Perry, Lake Lanier BAC

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the March 1, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Jim Scarbrough, seconded by Mr. Birdel Jackson and passed unanimously.

Legislative Agenda Wrap Up

Chairman Austin reviewed the status of the 2012 Legislative Agenda as of the end of the two-year legislative session. Specific bills of interest include HB 397 regarding changes to the Open Meetings and Open Record 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. Chairman Austin explained that changes to the Open Meeting and Open Records law will change the way the meeting summaries are written and posted on the website and the way votes are recorded in the meeting.

Chairman Austin called attention to HR 1799, a resolution recognizing and commending the District for the decade-long commitment to water conservation and good stewardship of Georgia's water.

5-Year Plan Update Guidance from GA EPD

Chairman Austin reported that Georgia EPD has 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. This extension allows the District to save money for local governments in 2013 by not requiring a raise in dues. Additionally, the money that will be spent will not be wasted on two plan updates in short succession.

2013 Budget and Work Program

Secretary/Treasurer Birdel Jackson reviewed the 2013 Budget and Work Program. The Finance Committee met on May 16, 2012 to discuss the proposed budget and work program and recommends it be adopted. Chairman Austin explained this is a motion by committee and therefore no second is required. The motion to recommend the 2013 Budget and Work Program to the full Board for approval passed unanimously.

Basin Advisory Council Membership Update

Ms. Sarah Simmons reviewed the Basin Advisory Council Membership Update memo. The District holds a membership recruitment drive once per year. The District received 19 applications for membership. District staff recommends that these individuals be approved for membership. Ms. Judy Skeel made a motion which was seconded by Mr. David Kubala to approve the applicants as new members. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Simmons also explained that according to the Basin Advisory Council Operating Procedures, if a member misses three consecutive meetings, they will be reviewed for removal. Seven Basin Advisory Council members failed to attend the last three meetings held in December 2011 and January and April 2012. District staff recommends these members be removed. It was explained that members would receive a letter explaining the attendance requirements and an offer to submit an application in the future should their schedules allow. A motion was made by Mr. Mike Thomas and seconded by Mr. Jim Scarbrough to remove the seven members indicated. The motion was passed unanimously.

History of Professional Credential Requirements for the District's Model Post-Development Stormwater Ordinance

Mr. Steve Haubner provided an overview of the history of the Model Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management which was adopted by the District Board in 2002 and became part of the Watershed Management Plan in 2003. The original model ordinance included the provision that all post-development stormwater management plans be signed and sealed by a professional engineer (PE).

In 2005, members of the landscape architect and land surveyor communities and their professional organizations requested that the Metro Water District revise the model ordinance's language to also allow these professionals to sign these plans. The Georgia Department of Law

provided the District with an opinion that stated that local governments in Georgia have the authority to determine which professionals may sign off on required plans in their community.

After significant discussion and debate by the Technical Coordinating Committee, an amendment to the ordinance which provided both landscape architects and professional engineers the ability to oversee stormwater plan preparation, while requiring a PE stamp on only the four elements of the plan specifically dealing with engineering design and analysis. The Board adopted this amendment in December 2006.

Board member Mr. Tim Thoms has requested that this issue be looked at again and asked that landscape architects be able to sign and seal all parts of the stormwater plan.

The Executive Committee discussed the issue including whether or not there was a significant change in circumstances to warrant modifying the model ordinance again. There was also consideration of flexibility within the District's enabling legislation and Georgia law that allows local communities to be able to make their own decision on professional credentials for these plans. Several members felt that the Board successfully provided a compromise on this matter with its 2006 action. Mr. Thoms asked that this topic be referred to the Technical Coordinating Committee for additional discussion.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.