



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
September 6, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, September 6, 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
Hon. Tim Lee
Hon. Rodney Brooks
Mr. Brad Currey
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Tim Thoms
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Jo Ann Macrina

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Pete Frost
Fayette County Designee: Mr. Tony Parrott
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Ron Peters
Hall County Designee: Mr. Kelly Randall
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Lee Pope

Members Not Present

Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Jim Boff

Hon. Elizabeth 'BJ' Mathis
Mr. William Thomas Craig

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Remembering Jim Scarbrough

Former Gwinnett County Designee Jim Scarbrough passed away due to an auto accident in late June, 2012. Chairman Austin explained that Mr. Scarbrough's name plate and a picture were set in his regular place at the meeting in honor of Jim's memory and service to the District. In addition to his responsibilities as Board Designee, Jim was an active member of the Water Supply and Conservation, Wastewater and Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committees and a participant as Board Representative at many Basin Advisory Council meetings. Jim provided great technical assistance and professional expertise during the 2009 update of the District plans, as well as the 2010 update of the water conservation measures in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. His work and technical assistance was invaluable and unmatched on many levels.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the June 7, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Reggie Prime, seconded by Mr. Gerald Pouncey and passed without opposition.

Chairman's Report

In June 2012, District Board representation alternated from the city to the county for Bartow, Coweta, Fayette and Forsyth counties. The following new Board members will serve a three year term: Chairman Rodney Brooks, Coweta County; Chairman Herb Frady, Fayette County; Chairman Jim Boff, Forsyth County. Commissioner Clarence Brown will represent Bartow County on the District Board until his retirement at the end of the year. Chairman Austin expressed appreciation for Commissioner Brown's 40 years of public service.

Additionally, new designees have been named for Bartow, Fayette, Fulton and Gwinnett counties. The following new Board designees will serve in their Board member's absence: Mr. Gene Camp, Bartow County Designee; Mr. Tony Parrott, Fayette County Designee; Mr. Nick Ammons, Fulton County Designee; Mr. Ron Peters, Gwinnett County Designee.

Ms. Pat Stevens gave an update of drought conditions in the ACF and ACT basins. Several counties in Georgia and in the Metro Water District are experiencing extreme to exceptional drought conditions, however NOAA estimates that the area will likely experience some improvement going forward. As the composite storage levels in the ACF Basin are currently in Zone 3, the Corps is using drought operations to manage the federal reservoirs within the system. When composite storage levels return to Zone 1, the Corps will resume normal operations.

Chairman Austin reported that as of July 30, 2012, GAEPD has suspended consideration of new applications for agriculture water withdrawal permits in 24 counties in the Lower Flint and Chattahoochee basins. Both surface water and groundwater agricultural withdrawal permit applications are suspended in all or part of 17 counties. Surface water withdrawal permit applications only are suspended in all or part of seven additional counties. The suspension will be evaluated annually beginning in November 2013.

Chairman Austin explained that on August 1, 2012, GEFA announced that it was awarding almost \$100 million to eight water supply projects throughout the state. Two of those projects are in the Metro Water District: the proposed Paulding County pumped storage reservoir on Richland Creek and the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority's construction of water treatment infrastructure and water transmission lines. The next round of funding will be in 2013.

Chairman Austin announced the District's 11th annual essay contest. This year's topic is stormwater pollution, and middle school students from public and private schools across the District are encouraged to participate. The deadline is October 12, 2012.

The District will soon be make available stormwater pollution prevention and water conservation educational slides to local government access television stations throughout the District. The

Education TCC has developed seven slides, which will run for approximately 45-60 seconds each.

Chairman Austin recognized the following Basin Advisory Council Chairpersons in attendance; Ms. Doris Cook (Coosa), Mr. Michael Walker (Ocmulgee) and Mr. Val Perry (Lake Lanier).

Mr. Brad Currey reported on the ACF Stakeholders Group and the status of their fundraising efforts.

Executive Committee Report

Chairman Austin explained to the Board that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has requested amendments to the District's Model Floodplain Ordinance. The Stormwater TCC discussed the recommended changes and provided comments. District staff took the TCC comments back to FEMA and the final proposed amendments were presented at the Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee voted to send the proposed amendments out for a 30 day public comment period. Staff will compile the public comments, present them to the Stormwater TCC in November, and bring a revised Model Floodplain Ordinance to the Board at the December 6, 2012 meeting.

Status of Operations and WCM Updates for ACT-ACF Basins

Pete Taylor with the Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, presented on the status of operations and updates to the water control manual for the ACT and ACF Basins. As a result of the legal decisions of the last nine months, the Corps does have the authority to accommodate water supply from Lake Lanier for the State of Georgia and now they are determining whether they can meet Georgia's request from Lake Lanier. Returns are a big part of the equation in the ACF Basin. The Corps is resuming the Water Control Plan update and associated environmental studies. This will be a three year effort.

In the ACT Basin, the water control manual has been drafted and is now going through peer review. The manual accounts for the same amount of water currently being pulled from Allatoona Lake going forward; however the Corps is aware that some jurisdictions may request more allocation. The Corps will look to GA EPD for assistance in calculating and updating current water demands with future demands.

Board members discussed the Corps' ability to meet the State of Georgia's water demand and what would be required of the state to meet the demand.

Update on Allatoona, West Point and Lanier Lake Water Quality Standards

Dr. Gail Cowie with Georgia EPD updated the Board on the revised lake standards regarding nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll a for Carters Lake, West Point Lake and Lake Lanier. These revised standards are based on new data, best modeling tools and TMDL reductions. EPD now accounts for a growing season average for Lake Lanier and Carters Lake that is lower than existing criteria.

Other

Mr. Brad Currey announced that the ACF Stakeholders Group is having their board meeting at Unicoi State Park and invited all District Board members to attend.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.