



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
October 4, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Chattahoochee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Headquarters in Marietta, GA.

**Members Present**

Charles McKinney, BAC Chair	Kenneth Kagy, Gwinnett County
Wayne Waldrip, BAC Vice Chair	Charles Laughinghouse
Femi Adesanya	John Lawrence
Patty Berkovitz, Watershed All of Sandy Springs	George Martin, Georgia Power
William Braswell, West GA Board of Realtors	Tavia McCuean, Forestar Group
David Chasant	Doug Miell
Teresa Crisp	Bill Millkey
Donald Fry, Engineering Design Technologies	Randy Payne, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Douglas Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corp	Angus Reed
Jack Gleason, Friends of Caney Creek.org	Trish Reifenberger
Bob Harbort	Bryan Tolar, GA Agribusiness Council
James Hawkins	Billy Turner, Columbus Water Works
Travis Henry, Douglas Co Farm Bureau	Van Yon, Atl Comm Board of Realtors

**Members Not Present**

Laura Aikens	Thomas Kohler, Carroll Co Water Authority
Hal Benner	Richard Lisska
Chad Braswell	Jo Ann Macrina, City of Atlanta DWM
Emily Buffington, Cox Enterprises	Mitzi Moore
Robert Bunker	Michael Morton, Chattahoochee Hills
Denise Carleton, Reaping Nature	Fred Nixon
D. Scott Cole	Kevin Norton, Paulson Mitchell, Inc.
Daryl Cook, Watts & Browning	John Oliver, URS Corporation
James Crowder	Gil Puffer, Atkins
Steven Culp, Garney Construction	K. Scott Robertson, SEC
Roland de Liniere	Theodore Ruff
Lee Duncan	Nathan Shields, Michael Baker Jr. Corp
Debra Ewing, D. Clark Harris, Inc.	Yomi Sholarin
David Forbes	Trudy Slaby Eissler
Steven Foster	Sanford Stokes, Western Summit

Jimmy Garrison III, DPE, Inc.  
Jessica Guinn, The Collaborative Firm, LLC  
Laura Hartt, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Patrick Heerdt  
Colin Holden  
Matthew Houser, UPCCA  
Warren Howe  
Phillip Hutfilz  
Celia Klardie, City of Sandy Springs

Charles Surasky, Smith Currie & Hancock  
George Taylor, Oglethorpe Power Corp  
Dan Thalimer  
Frankie Thompson  
Butch Watson, Croy Engineering, LLC  
Richard Wells, Georgia Power Company  
Mark Wolff, City of Roswell  
Larry Wood, City of Villa Rica

**Metro Water District Staff Present**

Steve Haubner, Principle Engineer

Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist

**Board Representatives Present**

Jim Boff, Forsyth County Board Member

**Welcome and Introductions**

Forsyth County Board Member, Jim Boff, welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially convened the meeting. BAC Chair Charles McKinney initiated group introductions.

**BAC Chair Election**

Sarah Simmons informed the group that she sent an email in September asking for nominations for BAC chair and that she received one nomination for Mr. Charles McKinney to continue as chair of the Chattahoochee BAC. Ms. Simmons announced that she would accept additional nominations at the meeting. One nomination was made during the meeting for Mr. Jack Gleason. Ms. Simmons asked both candidates to give a brief statement to the group. However, a quorum of members was not present, and the group was not able to take a vote to elect a BAC chair. Ms. Simmons announced that she would send an email to the group asking members to place a vote for BAC chair. Ms. Simmons received the necessary votes by the voting deadline of October 8<sup>th</sup> and announced that Mr. Charles McKinney will continue to serve as Chattahoochee BAC Chair for another one year term ending in October 2013.

**Public Review and Comment Period: Amendment to the Floodplain Model Ordinance of the Stormwater Management Plan**

Mr. Steve Haubner provided a brief overview of the Metro Water District's Floodplain Model Ordinance and the reasoning for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) requested amendments. FEMA assisted the District in developing the Floodplain Model Ordinance in 2006 based on the state of Georgia's floodplain ordinance. A local jurisdiction is required to adopt the Floodplain Model Ordinance so that private property owners in that jurisdiction can apply for flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program.

In the summer of 2012, FEMA approached the District with amendments to the already adopted Floodplain Model Ordinance to bring the ordinance up to date with current definitions and federal guidelines. District staff brought these requested changes to the Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) at their August meeting for guidance. The TCC had questions and clarifications which were addressed again by FEMA and District staff. District staff brought a final version of requested amendments to the District Executive Committee at their meeting in September. At that time, the Executive Committee assessed the changes as a major amendment to the model ordinance and released the changes for a 30 day public review and comment period. The public comment period started September 17 and will last through October 16, 2012. Ms. Simmons requested that all formal public comments be submitted by email to her.

BAC members had the following comments and questions:

- The majority of the amendments listed are changes to procedural issues.
- This ordinance takes the threshold of defining a floodplain down to 100 acres.
- The floodplain maps that local governments are required to prepare should include a more comprehensive set of information.
- Education on floodplain extent and how they change over time should be ongoing.
- The review process for development plans should include measures to prevent stormwater inundation from new development.
- How do we address the issue of FEMA maps being out of date?

### **Drought Update**

Ms. Simmons gave an update on the current drought conditions in the state and highlighted the current status of federal reservoir levels. Drought conditions have continued in the metro area through the late summer and early fall months, and much of middle and north Georgia is still experiencing extreme drought conditions. Although the downpour Metro Atlanta experienced in the first part of October brought a significant amount of rain, drought conditions persist and lake levels are still at or below the long-term average. BAC members had no questions or comments.

### **Cauley Creek Discussion**

The Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility located in north Fulton County produces five million gallons of reuse water per day. The plant is owned by GE and until a recent Board of Commissioners decision, Fulton County contracted with the plant to provide reuse water to customers including golf course and churches in the northern part of the county. Fulton County's plan includes terminating the contract with the Cauley Creek plant and transferring the capacity to the Johns Creek Environmental Campus (JCEC). However, as the Metro Water District's plans include the operation of both the Cauley Creek plant and JCEC, the District feels as though a request for a plan amendment from Fulton County is necessary. Against the Metro Water District's urging to reconsider termination of the contract without going through the process of a proper plan amendment, the Fulton County Commission voted at their last meeting to move forward in terminating the contract.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Fulton County's reasoning for terminating the contract is that the county will save an estimated \$6 million next year in doing so.

- District staff is currently working on analysis of issued related to contract termination.
- The District is a planning entity. Enforcement of the plans rests with GA EPD.
- The District Chairman is concerned that reuse water treated at Cauley Creek was treated to a higher standard than at JCEC. Loads going into the Chattahoochee will be of a lower quality and there will be an increased demand for potable water.
- The solution is for GA EPD to not issue permits for Fulton County, as they are in noncompliance with the District plans.

### **Topics for 2013 BAC Agendas**

Ms. Simmons asked the group to recommend topics for the 2013 BAC agendas. District staff wants to bring speakers and topics of interest to the BAC meetings that have a particular relevance to the BAC members, as these topics related to the District plans.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Would like to hear a briefing from the Corps regarding current status of the requests for water use and where they are in revising the Water Control Manual.
- An update on the ACF Stakeholders and how they plan to contribute to water sharing negotiations.
- Would like to hear more about the ordinance dealing with yard debris collection.
- A meeting focused on local government implementation of the plan ordinances.
- Would like to hear from National Park Service about the Chattahoochee becoming the first National Waterway and other public lands around the Chattahoochee.
- Wastewater discharge credits.

### **Other**

Ms. Simmons provided a meeting wrap up and announced the list of 2013 BAC meetings at the bottom of the agenda. The next meeting will be on January 16, 2013. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.