



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
October 10, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa/Etowah Basin Advisory Council met on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the R.T. Jones Memorial Library Canton, GA.

Members Present

Doris Cook, BAC Chair
David Braswell, WK Dickson
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County
Robert Endress, Atkins
Craig Ferguson, Brown and Caldwell
William Francis, GAWP
Marjory Hicks, Cherokee County Stormwater
Keith McLaughlin

Robert Morrison, LAPA
Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association
Thomas Shannon, Ewing Irrigation Products
Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau
Joseph Vivona, A&J Computers
Chris Williams, Landscapers of the South

Members Not Present

David Alaniz, S&ME, Inc.
Daniel Coffey
Adam Dreyer
Richard Gray, Murray's Loch Preservation Group
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
Nolton Johnson
Dart Kendall, GOWA
Aylin Lewallen, Brown and Caldwell

Donald McClure
Ed Mullinax, Cartersville Water Dept
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Bobby Terrell
Christina Williams, City of Cartersville
Kenneth Williams
Marty Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

Metro Water District Staff Present

Sarah Simmons, Senior Program Specialist

Board Representatives Present

David Kubala, Cherokee Co Alternate

Welcome and Introductions

Cherokee County Board Alternate, David Kubala welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and officially convened the meeting. BAC Chair Doris Cook 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 Ms. Doris Cook to continue as chair of the Coosa BAC. Ms. Simmons announced that she would accept additional nominations at the meeting. No additional nominations were made. A quorum of members was present, and the group was able to vote to elect a chair. A motion was made by Mr. William Francis to re-elect Doris Cook as chair of the Coosa BAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bruce Coyle. Ms. Cook was named as chair of the Coosa BAC for another one year term ending October 2013.

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

Ms. Simmons 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:

- What is a future conditions floodplain map? Maps that anticipate development and show how the floodplain boundaries will change based on development and impervious surface upstream.
- Will these suggested changes to the floodplain ordinance change budgeting for local jurisdictions?

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.

2-4-6-8 Allatoona Clean

Lake Allatoona Association (LAA) Chairman Sean Nicholl and Director Mike Bearden presented on the new initiative 2-4-6-8 Allatoona Clean. LAA is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving Lake Allatoona by decreasing shoreline erosion, improving water quality, maintaining recreational benefits and raising awareness. The 2-4-6-8 Allatoona Clean initiative calls for a two foot increase in summer pool level, held for four weeks longer, begun six weeks earlier each year and an eight foot winter pool drawdown reduction. LAA's position is that these changes would increase northwest Georgia water supplies and reduce water quality degradation, among other benefits.

Mr. Bearden and Mr. Nicholl also spoke about the recent Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup event during which over 4000 volunteers collected over five tons of trash from the lake shore.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Is the capacity of the lake the same now as when it was built? Capacity is now less than when it was built.
- How did you determine the 2-4-6-8 plan? LAA studied the last 60 years of data and determined what levels were possible and what times of the year through statistical modeling.
- During the cleanup event, how do you ensure that tires used for fish habitat are not being collected? Volunteers collect trash from the shoreline. The tires collected are mostly debris from boat docks.

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 presentation on an update of a study done by Kennesaw State University in the late 90s nicknamed, "The Dead Lake Study". What were the results of the study and was the information accurate?
- Would like to have EPD explain TMDL for Lake Allatoona.
- Potable reuse: how do EPD regulations impact quality of reuse water?
- Educating on potable reuse: Would like to hear from GAWP's Reuse Committee.
- Discussion of consumption versus reuse from a local government perspective.
- Predevelopment hydrology and rain gardens.
- Would like to hear an update on next steps for the Corps after the tri-state water decision.
- Would like to hear a presentation from GEFA on small reservoir funding in the basin.
- Discussion on studies on aquifer recovery and storage.

Other

Ms. Simmons provided a meeting wrap up and informed the group that a list of the 2013 meetings was at the bottom of the agenda. The next meeting will be on January 9, 2013. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.