



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

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, December 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
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Buzz Ahrens
Mr. Brad Currey
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Gerald Pouncey

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart
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

Hon. Kasim Reed
Hon. Eldrin Bell
Hon. Rodney Brooks
Hon. Tom Worthan

Hon. Jim Boff
Hon. Elizabeth 'BJ' Mathis
Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Tim Thoms

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Remembering Don Easterbrook

Former Board Designee Don Easterbrook passed away on October 13, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. As City Engineer for City of Fayetteville, Don was with the District from the beginning and was actively involved at each level of our planning process. In addition to being a District Board Alternate for Fayette County for two years, Don was a Flint BAC member since 2005 and served as a member of the Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committee. Don provided great technical assistance and professional expertise during the scheduled update of the District plans in 2005. His work and technical assistance was highly valued. He will be missed.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the September 6, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Kit Dunlap, seconded by Mr. Brad Currey and passed without opposition.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Austin explained that a copy of the letter from EPD Director Jud Turner to the Fulton County Commission regarding the closing of Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility is included in the packet of Board meeting materials.

Ms. Neela Ram gave an update on the drought conditions in the ACF and ACT basins and in the Metro Water District. Ninety-seven percent of the state is currently experiencing drought conditions, with severe to exceptional drought in the metro area. At this time, we are 15 inches below normal rainfall for the year. Lake Lanier is seven feet below the long term average and one and one half feet below this time last year. Composite storage is in Zone 3.

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

Ms. Patricia Barmeyer with King & Spalding provided an update on the interstate water issues. For the first time in 22 years, there is no active litigation in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basin, however we are still a long way from water rates being secured. The Army Corps of Engineers now has the responsibility of considering Georgia's water supply requests, including that of metro Atlanta's. The Corps will consider the requests as they relate to other project purposes and their environmental impacts. The Corps is in the process of launching a full investigation and environmental impact analysis to update the Water Control Manual. We will be working with the state to provide scoping comments for this update.

Regarding the Endangered Species Act issues: The Fish and Wildlife Service issued a biological opinion favorable to our interests. We are waiting to see if Florida will challenge the opinion.

In July, the Alabama District Court dismissed nine of 10 claims in the litigation related to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) basin. Additionally, Alabama voluntarily dismissed the claims on Hickory Log Creek Reservoir. The Corps is also working on updating the Water Control Manual for the ACT basin.

Executive Committee Report

At the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Steve Haubner presented the scoping comments that would be provided to the Corps on behalf of the Metro Water District regarding updates to the Water Control Manual. Both the District and the Atlanta Regional Commission will provide comments on the types of operations it would be in our best interest for the Corps to consider.

2012 Budget Revisions

Mr. Birdel Jackson presented the Finance and Executive Committees' recommendations on the 2012 budget revisions. Chairman Austin explained that recommendations of a committee do not require a second. 2012 budget revisions were approved unanimously.

Status of Amendments to Model Floodplain Management Ordinance

Mr. Steve Haubner provided a brief background and status update of amendments to the Model Floodplain Management Ordinance as requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The District held a public comment period for draft changes to the ordinance. The comments received were assembled and taken to the Technical Coordinating Committee in November for further discussion. The District will continue to work with FEMA on the amendments and will update the Board again at a future meeting.

Metro Water District Essay Contest Winners

Ms. Kostoula Vallianos updated the Board on the outcome of the 11th Annual Water District Essay Contest. This year, the essay contest was revamped with new questions and a new judging rubric. Students from over 60 middle schools throughout the 15-county District participated in answering questions relating to stormwater pollution prevention. The District-wide winner of the 2012 District Essay Contest was Seth Carey, an eighth grader from North Georgia Christian School in Hall County.

Creative Material Development for the My Drop Counts Water Conservation Campaign

Ms. Kostoula Vallianos provided an update on the development of creative materials for the My Drop Counts Water Conservation Campaign, as well as a brief history of District education and outreach campaigns. Mr. Rudy Hernandez with Creative Outhouse reviewed the draft creative spots that are being created for the My Drop Counts Campaign. Currently in production are billboard ads, and radio and television spots that will encourage metro area residents to reduce water use.

Other

Chairman Austin introduced Ashley Meggitt with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). Both GMA and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) have resolutions to continue state water planning efforts.

The Legislative Committee will meet via conference in the New Year to discuss the District's 2013 Legislative Agenda.

Vice Chairman Katie Kirkpatrick suggested that a discussion of the fiscal stability of water systems be held at future Board and Technical Coordinating Committee meetings.

Mr. Brad Currey thanked Ms. Pat Stevens on behalf of the Board for her dedication and service to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Metro Water District for the past 30 years.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.