



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**  
**June 6, 2013**

The Executive Committee of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, June 6, 2013 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  
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair  
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Hon. Tim Lee, Cobb County  
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala

Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons  
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Ron Peters  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Lindy Farmer

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Kasim Reed, City of Atlanta

**Others Present**

Ms. Judy Skeel, Cobb County Designee  
Mr. Charles McKinney, Chattahoochee BAC  
Ms. Jane Hayse, ARC

Mr. Bob McCord, ARC  
Ms. Tanya Motley, ARC  
Mr. Danny Johnson

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the December 6, 2012 minutes. It was determined after the meeting that an error was made at the staff level with minute approvals. Instead of the December 6, 2012 Executive Committee meeting minutes, the September 6, 2012 Executive Committee meeting minutes were brought before the Executive Committee during the meeting. Mr. Nick Ammons made a motion to strike the last sentence in the language on the Wastewater Plan Amendment Discussion Regarding Fulton County Cauley Creek Reuse Facility. The motion was seconded by Treasurer/Secretary Birdel Jackson and passed without opposition. Mr. Ammons made a motion to approve the December 6, 2012 meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Kubala and passed without opposition. The aforementioned motion and approval are based on the older September 6, 2012 minutes and December 6, 2012 minutes were not approved. The December 6, 2012 minutes will be brought before the Executive Committee at the August 28, 2013 meeting for approval.

### **2013 Legislative Agenda Wrap-Up**

Ms. Katherine Zitsch provided a wrap-up of the District's 2013 Legislative Agenda. The Flint River Drought Protection Act was the hot button issue of the 2013 session. For the 2014 session, the Legislative Committee will be thinking about a strategy on the District's position on this bill and others. Staff plans to stay in close communication with EPD regarding augmenting flows in the Flint River and to work with the District's legislative delegation to understand the issues involved.

### **2014 Budget & Work Program**

Ms. Zitsch gave a brief overview of the 2014 Budget and Work Program. The Finance Committee met and approved the 2014 budget on Wednesday, June 5. Beginning in the next fiscal year, the District will be increasing the dues of member counties and the City of Atlanta in preparation for the 2016 Plan Update. District staff and the Finance Committee agreed that a staggered dues increase over the next three years would be the best way to handle the necessary increases. The District will be working to procure state funding to supplement the budgetary needs and to minimize the financial obligations of the members.

Treasurer/Secretary Birdel Jackson explained that the budget remains fairly consistent with past years. However, the increase is needed to account for the cost of contracts on three additional studies. He also explained that the fund balance was built with the expectation of entering a plan update period. The rate is set by adoption of the budget and then billed to the member counties and the City of Atlanta.

Ms. Zitsch explained to the committee that the 2014 Budget needed to be voted on at this meeting in order to be on track with the fiscal schedule. Discussions continued about cost of new, anticipated studies and whether or not counties that are not directly affected by these studies would be required to contribute financially. Additionally, the committee and staff discussed that District staff will be working with the Technical Coordinating Committees on the scope of work for the studies and what elements will be involved in the next plan update.

Cherokee County Designee David Kubala requested that Chairman Austin read the email sent by Cherokee County Chairman and District Governing Board member Buzz Ahrens (Chairman Ahrens could not be present at the meeting). Hon. Ahrens's concerns with the 2014 Budget include voting on the staggered dues increase without knowing exactly what the cost of the plan update will be and not knowing the potential state funding range. Hon. Ahrens also requested a handout including 2012 actual budget, 2013 budget, 2013 estimated actual budget and 2014 proposed budget, along with an explanation of the variances. Hon. Ahrens noted that he requested his official Designee, Mr. Kubala, to vote 'Nay' on the 2014 Budget.

Chairman Austin explained that the Finance Committee believes the proposed staggered dues increase to be the best course of action and that the District cannot assume the amount of state funding assistance. The District should know by this time next year how much funding we can expect from the state.

Hon. Tim Lee made a motion to approve the 2014 Budget, however addressing Hon. Ahrens's concerns with supporting documents. Vice Chair Katie Kirkpatrick recommended the budget be tabled now and call a special meeting to discuss later. It was clarified that the Board was simply voting on the budgeted amounts for one year, not the estimated dues for years two and three of the staggered three year plan. Vice Chair Kirkpatrick seconded the motion made by Hon. Lee. Mr. Kubala opposed on behalf of Hon. Buzz Ahrens. The 2014 Budget and Work Program passed.

At this time, Chairman Austin took a moment to recognize and welcome Mr. Danny Johnson. Mr. Johnson has been hired as the new Metro Water District Manager and will start during the second week of June. Mr. Johnson has great experience in state and regional water issues and we look forward to working with him.

#### **BAC Membership Drive and New Member Approval**

Chairman Austin began discussion on the Basin Advisory Council (BAC) Membership Drive. Every two years, BAC members are required to reapply for membership. Additionally during the Membership Drive, staff are required to seek new interest throughout the 15-county area. From April to May of 2013, District staff sent emails to different interest groups in the metro area, current Basin Advisory Council and Technical Coordinating Committee members and other regional commissions asking that current members reapply and seeking new interest. A total of 172 individuals applied. Sixty-four of the applicants are new to the process, with 108 returning members. Mr. David Kubala commented that, to be consistent with language in the District Law, District staff should return to referring to the Coosa BAC as the Etowah/Coosa BAC. Staff agreed. Mr. Kubala made a motion to approve 172 new Basin Advisory Council members. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Kirkpatrick and passed unanimously.

#### **Proposed Plan Amendment for Henry County Water and Sewerage Authority**

Chairman Austin opened discussion on the proposed plan amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan from Henry County Water and Sewerage Authority to convert the Indian Creek Land Application System (LAS) with no discharge into a discharge only facility, as well as a change in timeline for expansions. The amendment has been categorized by staff as a minor amendment and if approved by the Executive Committee to go forward, will be open for a 15-day public comment period. Voting on approving the amendment will take place at the next Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Mike Thomas made a motion to approve the categorization as a minor amendment and send the proposed amendment out for a 15-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Kubala and passed unanimously.

#### **Proposed Plan Amendment and Administrative Change for Clayton County Water Authority**

Chairman Austin opened discussion on the proposed plan amendment and administrative change from Clayton County Water Authority. The request for administrative change to the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan consists of fixing an error in Appendix B regarding existing water sources for Hicks Water Production Plant. Administrative changes do not require a public comment period, and can simply be fixed by staff after Governing Board approval. Vice Chair Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the administrative change to the

Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kubala and passed unanimously.

The plan amendment request to the Wastewater Management Plan consists of including a discharge from the W.B. Casey Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) to the Flint River. Currently reclaimed water from W.B. Casey WRF is discharged to the Ocmulgee River basin. The amendment has been categorized by staff as a minor amendment and if approved by the Executive Committee to go forward, will be open for a 15-day public comment period. Voting on approving the amendment will take place at the next Executive Committee meeting. Hon. Tim Lee made a motion to approve the categorization as a minor amendment and send the proposed amendment out for a 15-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Kirkpatrick. Treasurer/Secretary Birdel Jackson abstained from the vote. The motion passed without opposition.

#### **Proposed Plan Amendment for the City of Dallas**

Chairman Austin opened discussion on the proposed plan amendment from the City of Dallas. The request for a major amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan includes extending the period of operations at a new, merged (to be merged from two currently existing plants in 2011-2015 planning period) wastewater treatment plant in the City of Dallas through the entire planning period (through 2035). Additional modifications would include reducing the expansion of Paulding County's Pumpkinvine Creek WRF to a total capacity of 27 mgd instead of 30 mgd in the 2026 to 2035 planning period. The amendment has been categorized by staff as a major amendment and if approved by the Executive Committee to go forward, will be open for a 30-day public comment period. Voting on approving the amendment will take place at the next Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Kubala made a motion to approve the categorization as a major amendment and send it out for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Lambert and passed unanimously.

Mr. Kubala noted that these amendments included changes to timeline. As we are entering a plan update period, the District should consider allowing those amendment requests that include simple changes in timeline to not go through the plan amendment process. The Executive Committee agreed.

#### **Revised Final Draft of the Model Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**

Mr. Steve Haubner provided an update of the status of the amendment to the Model Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, originally request by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2012. After a series of meetings with FEMA and multiple revisions, District staff recommends the Executive Committee approve the final version of the amendment.

The question was asked whether or not the citizen Board members have representatives on the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), the group that took part in most of the discussion and were responsible for many of the suggested changes within the amendment. Citizen members do not have a representative on the TCC. Vice Chair Kirkpatrick made a motion that the vote on the

amendment be tabled until the next meeting in order to provide the committee members more time to review the lengthy documents. The motion was seconded by Hon. Tim Lee and passed unanimously.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.