



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Wastewater & Stormwater Joint Meeting
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
November 20, 2013**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Wastewater and Stormwater Technical Coordinating Committees met during a joint meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Jill Bazinet – City of Alpharetta	Phil Lee – City of College Park
Bob Bourne – Cobb County Water System	Barry Lucas – Forsyth County
David Breaden – Cobb County	Kathy Macias - Douglasville – Douglas Co WSA
Tara Brown – Henry County WSA	Brice Martin – Coweta County
John Butler – Gwinnett County	Will Martin – Bartow County
David Chastant – DeKalb County	Betsy Massie – CH2M Hill
Brandon Rakestraw – City of Dallas	Shayla Nealy – Clayton County Water Auth
Bruce Coyle – Paulding County	Kevin Osbey – Clayton County Water Auth
Ernest Earn – Cobb County Water System	Tim Perkins – Forsyth County
Holly Elmendorf – Gwinnett County	Ron Peters – Gwinnett County
Erin Feichtner – Cobb County Water System	Jim Poff – Clayton County Water Auth
Catherine Fox – Fox Environmental LLC	Lee Pope – Fayette County
Kristina Garcia – City of Atlanta	Timothy Pugh – Paulding County Water Sys
Mary Gazaway – GAEPD	Richard Randolph – City of East Point
Horace Gee – City of Gainesville	Michele Robbins – City of Sandy Springs
William Higgins – Cobb County Water System	Jerri Russell – City of Atlanta
Keith Higgs – Douglasville – Douglas Co WSA	Barbara Seal – Gwinnett County
Robert Hill – City of Newnan	Robert Stachler – City of Alpharetta
Chris Hindman – City of Fayetteville	Carl Thomas – Henry County
Brad Holtsinger – City of Stockbridge	Julie Todd – City of Atlanta
Annie Huff – Henry County	Brian Wiley – City of Gainesville
Nolton Johnson – City of Atlanta	Emily Wingo – GAEPD
Brian Keel – CH2M Hill	Larry Wood – City of Villa Rica
Russell Kelly – Paulding Co Water & Sewer	Richard Ferry – City of Senoia
Lamont Kiser – Bartow County	Pavel Vayner – Rockdale Water Resources
William Klahr – City of Newnan	Jennifer Carlile – City of Atlanta
Dane Hanson – City of Sandy Springs	Anup Shah – Metro Atlanta Chamber
David Kubala – Cherokee County WSA	Melissa Echrarria – City of East Point
Chris Kumnick – GA Dept of Public Health	Greg Perkins – Coweta County WSA
Michelle Lawrence – Fulton County	Karen Cumby – City of Union City

Mr. Chris Faulkner of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

District Plan Updates

Mr. Danny Johnson provided a draft timeline and a short synopsis of the next District Plan updates. He stated that the District expects to put out an RFP to procure consultant services late in 2014. The plan updates will be completed in 2016 to align with the State and Regional Water Planning cycles.

Utility Climate Resiliency RFP Overview

Mr. Johnson also gave a brief overview of the pending Utility Climate Resiliency RFP. Mr. Johnson indicated that the RFP for procuring consultant services will be released within the next few weeks. He stated that this work will inform the District Plan updates and allow for better planning for the future of water supply and other issues within the District.

GEFA Funding Opportunities

Mr. Jason Bodwell presented on the funding opportunities available through the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). Their primary responsibility is funding for Water and Sewer Infrastructure. There are two state funding level options; the State Loan Fund, which has bond funding, and loan repayments, and a GA Reservoir and Water Supply Fund which has gotten a lot of attention lately. In the federal funding arm there are two funding alternatives, the Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF. Rates for most of these funds are set by the latest state bond sales.

The GEFA funding alternatives can be used for both point source pollution projects (development of wastewater projects, recycling and reuse facilities, construction and expansion of wastewater treatment plants, as well as sewer lines and rehabilitation). There are also options for nonpoint source pollution projects, including restoration, land conservation, and most 319 programs activities are eligible. GEFA does prefer "hard" costs to soft costs. Green infrastructure costs are allowed.

Jason also mentioned that they are looking into doing a rate reduction for energy projects. The City of Atlanta did a 7.5M combined heat and power at RM Clayton. There was an interesting project transitioning to solar panels at Hickory Ridge Land Fill. Ms. Mary Gazaway asked if this was considered state or federal funding. Mr. Bodwell responded that it depended in which program the money originated. Mr. Bodwell also provided the most recent organizational chart. He announced that Kevin Kelly recently left GEFA and the position is now open.

Coosa Basin Nutrient Trading Project

Ms. Laurie Hawks (Brown and Caldwell) gave a presentation on the Coosa Basin Nutrient Trading Project that was done in conjunction with the North Georgia Water Resources group. She provided background information, trading framework, an overview of point sources, nonpoint source, provided an example trade, and an overview of trading steps. The primary driver for the project was the Lake Weiss TMDL for total phosphorus, to help meet chlorophyll a standards. Georgia was required to have a 30% reduction at the state line and goal could be met "any number of ways". GAEPD has limited authority over the nonpoint sources, which comprise approximately 70% of the loadings to the lake. Point sources in the basin were given a 1.0 mg/L limit.

Nutrient trading was potentially seen as a cost effective way to meet the reduction goals. Different pollutant sources have different removal costs and it is a voluntary exchange of pollutant reduction credits. There have been a number of examples across the US, and three of those were used for this project, including the Neuse River (NC), Boise (ID), and the Chesapeake Bay (VA).

In the Coosa Basin there are 29 dischargers with a range of flows of up to 20 MGD. It was assumed that the largest of these did have an alum treatment process in place, and capital as well as, annual O&M costs were determined. This study focused on five of the larger facilities and looked at flows and

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concentration for existing versus future flows. It was estimated that the cost would be \$27M to meet the permit limit.

Ms. Hawks went through an example based on the City of Calhoun, who had an adjusted goal to 0.75 mg/L for total phosphorus. With limited capital costs and their annual amount was 1.2M. A potential trading partner was found with a poultry plant and the chicken litter disposal. This process is still pending and they are working with GAEPD on the permitting.

Other Items

- Ms. Koustoula Vallianos provided an update on public involvement/education activities. The topic of the 2013 Water Essay Contest was Water Conservation, and approximately 1,100 middle school students submitted, with 99 schools participating. This was a 60% increase, likely due to lifting the limit of only one submittal per grade per school. A reception was held last week at the capital for the winners and the winning essays and pictures from the award reception will be on the web page.
- Ms. Vallianos also announced a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) video contest that will roll out in early 2014 for high school students. The objective is to design a 30-60 second PSA based on the information in the brochure "FOG Clogs". The Clean Water Campaign (CWC) website is going to be updated to the design rolled out at the TCC in the spring and should be ready next week. Additionally, the new FOG door hangers could be picked up after the meeting.
- To conclude the meeting, Mr. Faulkner asked Mr. Steve Haubner to provide a few updates. Mr. Haubner said that the update to the GSMM will be done through an RFP after the holidays, although funding is still being sorted out. Their goal is to use the volume based approach in conjunction with water quality. He also announced that the Georgia Testing Assessment Protocols (GTAPs) group has had their first device that has gone through with a "thumbs up". That device is manufactured by Filterra and the information should be on the website in the next few weeks. Another product is in the works at this time. Mr. Haubner stated that additional people as needed for the review committee. The time commitment is approximately 10 hours per product.
- Mr. Haubner announced was that after being with the Atlanta Regional Commission for nearly 18 years, he is leaving at the beginning of December.
- Ms. Emily Wingo informed the group that there would be two (2) Phase-1 MS4 permit Stakeholder meetings on Dec 4th and Dec 18th from 9:30 – 11:00 at the EPD Tradeport Training Room.