



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
December 4, 2013**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 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
Hon. Steve Brown
Hon. Pete Amos
Mr. Brad Currey
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Gerald Pouncey

Mr. Tim Thoms
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Pete Frost
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Ron Peters
Hall County Designee: Kelly Randall
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Hon. Kasim Reed
Hon. Bob Blackburn
Hon. Tommy Smith

Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. William Thomas Craig

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the August 28, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Mr. Gerald Pouncey and passed without opposition.

Chairman's Report

2013 Water Essay Contest Winners

Kostoula Vallianos announced the winners of the 2013 Water Essay Contest. This year's topic was water conservation. Students were asked to answer the question, "Why is water conservation important to you and our region?" The District winner was Aubrey Gehle of Gwinnett County who received a \$500 prize. City of Atlanta and county-level winners each received a \$100 prize. Pictures of the winners as well as their essays have been posted on the District website:

<http://www.northgeorgiawater.org/education-awareness/water-essay-contest>.

An awards reception was held in the South Wing of the Georgia Capitol on Thursday, November 14th and was attended by Chairman Boyd Austin, Representative Lynn Smith of Coweta County - the Chairwoman of the Natural Resources and Environmental Committee, Senator Rick Jefferies of Henry County, the essay winners, their families and teachers.

Drought Conditions Update

Mr. Danny Johnson gave a brief update on lake levels and rain accumulation. Year to date, we have received 58.39 inches of rainfall whereas the average yearly rainfall is only 49 inches. Lake Lanier is currently at 1071 which is the top of the conservation pool. The water level is more than 14 feet above where it was this time last year and about 7 feet above the historical average.

Water Wars Update

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Florida lawsuit against Georgia. The State of Georgia has appointed legal counsel for the U.S. Supreme Court lawsuit filed by the state of Florida over water rights within the Chattahoochee and Flint River basins. Attorneys Seth Waxman of WilmerHale and Chris Landau and Craig Primis of Kirkland & Ellis will lead the litigation team for Georgia. The court recently granted Georgia a 60-day extension to file a response to the complaint. The state must now respond to the Florida complaint by January 31, 2014.

Update on Water Resources Reform & Development Act

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). At this time, the WRDA bill has passed the Senate and House of Representatives subcommittees and is currently in the legislative conference committee. We will continue to track the bill's progress.

Schedule for 2014

Chairman Austin noted the scheduled dates for District Board Meetings in 2014 as follows:

- February 26, 2014 – to be held on Level B of the Loudermilk Center
- June 4, 2014 –this date does not align with the ARC Board Meeting due to scheduling conflicts
- August 27, 2014
- December 3, 2014

Executive Committee Report

2013 and 2014 Budget Revision

Mr. Birdel Jackson presented the Finance and Executive Committee's recommendations on the 2013 year-end and 2014 budget revisions. Chairman Austin explained that recommendations of a committee do not require a second. The 2013 and 2014 budget revisions were approved unanimously.

Guidance Document for Conservation Pricing

Chairman Austin noted that Metro Water District staff, in coordination with the Water Supply and Water Conservation Technical Coordinating subcommittee, recently developed a Conservation Pricing Guidance Document. This document aims to provide clarification on how

conservation pricing relates to various customer classes and billing categories in the Metro Water District. It provides an overview of the various types of rate structures and provides general guidelines and guidance for applying conservation rates, or increasing block rate structures, to the various sectors – from single family residential and multi-family residential to commercial customers. The document also addresses concerns that may affect our utilities, such as, financial stability, customer equity, cost of serving the customer class, and average consumption volume by customer class and its impact to those customers. Stakeholders have provided comments and staff hopes to finalize the document and make it available on the Metro Water District website early next year.

Plan Amendments for Approval

Forsyth County

Chairman Austin opened discussion on the plan amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan from Forsyth County to: 1) convert the James Creek WRF with reuse/LAS and no discharge into a reuse and 365 discharge only facility; 2) convert the Dick Creek WRF with reuse and a seasonal discharge to a reuse and 365 discharge and; 3) convert the Manor WRF from a reuse and no discharge into a reuse and cold weather seasonal discharge. The amendment had been categorized as a minor amendment and was posted for a 15-day public comment period. No comments were received. Hon. Pete Amos made a motion to approve the plan amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Birdel Jackson and passed unanimously.

City of College Park

Chairman Austin opened discussion on the plan amendment to the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan from the City of College Park to add the development of several groundwater wells with a nominal capacity up to 0.6 MGD within the city limits for the purpose of reducing demand for purchased water. The City currently purchases approximately 3.2 MGD (AAF-MGD) of which 92% is purchased from the City of East Point and the remaining from Clayton County Water Authority. The reduction in purchased water volume may range from 17% to 24% equally from both suppliers. The amendment had been categorized as a major amendment and was posted for a 30-day public comment period. One comment on the amendment was received and was provided in the meeting materials. Mr. Ron Peters made a motion to approve the plan amendment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick and passed unanimously.

Groundwater Use in Metro Water District

Dr. Jim Kennedy, the State geologist with Georgia EPD, provided an overview of groundwater availability and use within the Metro Water District area. Dr. Kennedy noted that most of the groundwater storage in the piedmont region lies within the upper regolith and not in the bedrock. Groundwater will never be able to replace the total surface water demand within the District but may be sufficient to meet localized needs. Based on the 2009 Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan, there is approximately 6.4 AAD-MGD of permitted groundwater withdrawals within the District. A recent study of four counties in west Georgia estimated that approximately 40 MGD of supply could be available from a combination of 280 groundwater wells. Dr. Kennedy provided a graph showing the direct correlation of groundwater

levels to base flow levels on the Chattahoochee River in Helen, GA. Board Members had the following questions:

Q. How susceptible are groundwater wells to drought?

A. They are not as susceptible as surface water intakes.

Q. Is EPD permitting more irrigation wells given the increased cost of irrigation within the District?

A. Irrigation wells don't typically require a permit.

The Role of Integrated Water Resource Planning

Dr. James Chansler, Director of DeKalb County Watershed Management, provided an overview of the role of integrated water resource planning (IWRP) based on his previous experience at the Jacksonville Electrical Authority (JEA). JEA also manages water resources in addition to the electrical utility. He discussed how integrating the planning of water supply, watershed, and wastewater flows can offer greater sustainability through practices such as rainwater harvesting, water reuse, and wet weather flow management. A few benefits include: improved utility reliability and efficiency, improved flood management and increased quality of life for residents (public health, open space, recreation). The IWRP process utilized by JEA involved an iterative approach consisting of 1) identifying options, 2) building alternatives, 3) analysis of alternatives using STELLA software, 4) ranking alternatives, 5) comparing results to the original planning objectives and metrics defined which help refine the alternatives for integration back into the STELLA software, and finally 5) development of a long term management strategy.

Dr. Chansler concluded that IWRP can unveil lots of new opportunities that may not be easily seen in water management silos. Board Members had the following questions:

Q. Was JEA's desire for higher reliability due to water quality or cost?

A. It was primarily due to JEA's ability to deliver sufficient supply.

Q. Does Florida have heartburn over interbasin transfers?

A. There is some heartburn but they are allowed if you can show a rationale.

Q. Was litigation involved in the decision to go with IWRP?

A. No.

Q. Would you perform this approach on a regional basis or individual utilities?

A. Florida intends to have individual utilities perform them and then integrate them as a region further down the road.

Other

Chairman Austin noted the 2014 Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 20, 2014 in room 230 at the State Capitol. A formal save the date card will be mailed soon.

Hon. Buzz Ahrens announced that the Cherokee County Water Authority was recently awarded the Top Public Education Program for Public Systems by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.