



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER, OCONEE & COOSA/ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
Meeting Summary
January 8, 2014

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier, Oconee, Coosa/Etawah Basin Advisory Councils met on Wednesday January 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Cumming City Hall in Cumming, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Richard Check
Thomas Corbin
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Jon Heard, City of Cumming
Eugene Holmes
Stephen Jenn
Nancy Lovingood, Forsyth County
Norman McGinnis
Cleghorn Penn
David Porter
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Thomas Vivelo, Lake Lanier Association

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
Bryan Bearden, P&C Insurance
James Boff, Forsyth County
Joanna Cloud, Lake Lanier Association
Diane Grinstead
Scott Lippman, Lanier Northwest Subdivision
Tracy Robar
Cole Shaffer
Shane Taylor
David True
Steven Tyler

Oconee BAC Members Present

Christopher Jones
Chris Manganiello, GA River Network
Jerry Van de Water
Matthew Vinson, GOWA and Natural Systems Utilities, LLC

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Julian Byrd
Shirley Cooley, Rockdale Pipeline
Diane Crossman

Jann Moore, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Chris Oliver
David Radcliffe, University of Georgia
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Coosa/Etawah BAC Members Present

David Braswell, WK Dickson
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County
Robert Endress, Atkins
Craig Ferguson, Brown and Caldwell
Kendal Foshee
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
Marjory Hicks, Cherokee County Stormwater

Coosa/Etawah BAC Members Not Present

Doris Cook, BAC Chair
Jackie Archer, Realtor
Jake Bendik
Daniel Coffey
Gladney Cooper
Andrew Ewoh
Richard Gray, Murray's Loch Preservation Group

Nolton Johnson, Cherokee County Resident
Dart Kendall, GOWA
Donald McClure
Merrick McClure, City of Canton
Keith McLaughlin
Beverly McMurray
Robert Morrison, LAPA
Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors
Lori Pruitt, City of Cartersville
Tom Wilder

Chadwick Hypes, Dobbins AFB
David Kubala, CCWSA
Aylin Lewallen, Brown and Caldwell
Hal McClain, Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc.
Ed Mullinax, Cartersville Water Dept
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association
Thomas Shannon, Ewing Irrigation Products
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Mark Smiler, Atlanta Board of Realtors
Lewis Stegall, Paulding County Farm Bureau
Bobby Terrell
Chris Williams, Landscapers of the South
Marty Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

Metro Water District/ARC Staff Present

Lora Amedu, Water Conservation
Chris Faulkner, Stormwater and Wastewater
Danny Johnson, District Manager
Neela Ram, Water Supply and Conservation
Liz Sanford, ARC Community Engagement
Sarah Skinner, BACs and Annual Reporting
Kostoula Vallianos, Education and Outreach

Others Present

Ron Peters, Gwinnett Dept. of Water Resources
Rachel Jones, Jacobs
Ann Lippmann, Paulding County BOC
Becky Mixon, Cobb Co-Marietta Water Auth.
Scott Morgan, City of Cumming
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System
Anup Shah, Metro Atlanta Chamber

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Ron Peters, Gwinnett County Board Designee, officially opened the meeting and welcomed the group on behalf of the District Governing Board. Mr. Peters thanked BAC members for attending the meeting and participating in the District planning process. Stakeholder input is critical to the success of the water resource management plans and Metro Water District staff and Board members appreciate BAC members' willingness to volunteer their time and effort.

2013 District Annual Report

Ms. Sarah Skinner presented an overview of the District's 2013 Annual Report. The focus of the annual report was water conservation. The centerfold infographic entitled, *Conversations in Conservation* describes many of the successes we have had in water conservation over the last year, as well as throughout the past decade.

Overview of the District Plans and Planning Process

Mr. Danny Johnson gave an overview of the District organizational structure and a high level overview of each of the water resource management plans. The Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan includes 19 conservation measures and a schedule of planned facilities and expansions. The Wastewater Management Plan includes demand projections and wastewater capacity needs. It also requires that metro area utilities have a higher treatment level

because of limited stream capacity. The plan also includes a schedule of planned facilities and expansions. The Watershed Management Plan includes a suite of model ordinances to improve watershed management on the local level. The ordinances do not have to be adopted on the local level as is, however local governments must have requirements and ordinances in place that are at least as strong. The plan also includes a schedule of ordinance implementation.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- The data you show is from 2005. Is there anything more recent? The District will begin working on data collection as part of the plan update.
- The District recognizes that it is more practical in some parts of the District to put in onsite systems, rather than hooking up to the municipal sewer system. The intent of the plan is not to discourage using septic systems, but to ensure that when they are used, the appropriate criteria has been met so that they are at less of a risk to fail.
- How do you monitor TMDL/what can you realistically do about animal matter in the watershed that causes communities to routinely be noncompliant?

BAC Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of BAC member roles and responsibilities. During the planning period for the 2009 plan update, BAC members were asked to generate a list of considerations, review the consultant's scope of work and review the plan update at key milestones in the process. Additionally, the BACs met more frequently during 2008 to review pieces of the updated plans as they were being produced. Moving forward during the 2016 plan update process, BAC members will be asked to give new perspectives on a vision for the plan update, help establish goals and objectives, provide input and feedback at key milestones and review and comment on key planning documents/elements.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Rather than have a lot of meetings in 2015, can we spread those meetings out across two years? The District will be formulating the RFP, including BAC visioning ideas and comments, in 2014 and hopes to have a consultant selected in 2015. The majority of the plan update will not occur until 2015, and therefore we will need more BAC support then.
- When will you begin data collection? We estimate the start date of data collection to be this summer. We do not want to gather information too far out before the plan update is due in 2016, so that all data will be as current as possible.
- The schedule of planning events will be next week (staff decided to wait until the three BAC meetings were held during the quarter to establish the schedule).
- The RFP for the 2009 update will be sent prior to the next meeting so that members can get an idea of what will be included.

2016 Plan Update Visioning Exercise

Ms. Liz Sanford, ARC's new Community Engagement Manager, served as the facilitator for the visioning exercises. She presented an overview of the visioning activities, guidelines for the exercise, anticipated outcomes and next steps. Each BAC member would be asked to answer three questions, and answers to those questions would then be reviewed and scrutinized by the next group over. This is done to ensure anonymity and to encourage members to write comments without fear of judgment.

The exercise started with group formation. Each member counted off, one through six, and created six small groups throughout the room. A District staff member was assigned to each group to serve as small group facilitators to help move the process along and answer questions, when needed. Each BAC member was then given a notecard printed with, "Question (1): What is the District best at and where can we continue to excel"? After question one answered, the small group facilitators taped each member's answer to a large sheet of paper and passed it to the group to their right. Members were asked to highlight two answers from the previous group with which they agreed the most. This same process was done for questions (2): What are the capabilities we want to put in place to stretch our organization to meet the needs of stakeholders in the future; and (3): As we embark on the plans for the District, what do you think our top goals should be.

Meeting Wrap-up and Next Steps

After all answers were recorded and each group had a chance to choose two of the neighboring group's answers from each question, Ms. Sanford asked that each small group facilitator give a synopsis of the favorite answers chosen. Ms. Sanford recorded these answers on a summary list. She thanked the group for providing honest answers and ensured that all answers from today would be recorded in a master spreadsheet. After all the BAC meetings are held for the quarter (Chattahoochee and Joint Flint and Ocmulgee meetings still to come), Ms. Sanford and District staff will compile all the answers and begin working on a broad/high level vision statement for the BAC. At the next meeting, BAC members will discuss the vision statement and begin working on goals and objectives for the plan update.

District staff will be sending a follow up email including a feedback survey and meeting summary.

Other

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.