



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**  
**JOINT FLINT AND OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**January 23, 2014**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint and Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Councils met on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the W.B. Casey Water Reclamation Facility in Jonesboro, GA.

**Flint Members Present**

Clinton Tankersley, BAC Chair  
Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co Board of Comm.  
William Brundage, Southern Co.  
John Caldwell  
Richard Greuel  
Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co Farm Bureau  
Dorothy Harris, D. Clark Harris Inc.  
Shayla Nealy

**Flint Members Not Present**

Dane Beatenbough, Coweta County  
Brice Martin, Coweta Co Stormwater  
Dale Phenicie, Fayette County Chamber  
Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper  
Neal Spradlin  
Neil Tarver, UGA Cobb County Extension  
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta Co WSA  
Tim Thoms, Thoms Trees and Plants  
Scott Tolar

**Ocmulgee Members Present**

Lee Pope, Fayette Co, BAC Chair  
Tara Brown, Henry Co Water Authority  
Billy Buckhalt  
Todd Cosby, Rockdale Co Stormwater  
Ernest Earn, Cobb Co Water System  
Robert Harris, Gwinnett Co Water Resources  
Tom Harrison, Rockdale WSA  
Chip Hatcher, Rockdale WSA  
Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers  
Paul Morgan, Rainharvest Co. Inc.  
Elaine Nash, Rockdale WSA  
Barbara Seal, Gwinnett County/Citizen  
Jennifer Suttles  
Peter Terrebonne  
Steve Williams

**Ocmulgee Members Not Present**

Babfemi Adesanya  
Larry Allen, Henry Co Farm Bureau  
Gary Campbell  
Bob Carpenter, IAPMO  
Jimmy Carter, HCWA and Henry Co Farm Bur  
Mark Eastland  
Richard Edinger, Jr.  
Mary Gazaway  
Antonio Harris  
Shirley House  
Angel Jones, DeKalb Co Roads Drainage  
Faye Lyons-Gary, DeKalb Co LWV  
Vikki McReynolds, GUCA  
Robert Michener  
George Patterson  
John Prokopovich  
Ken Sebastian  
Joe Stickell  
Lynn Thorndyke  
Anthony Wiggins

**Metro Water District/ARC Staff Present**

Katherine Zitsch, Manager, ARC Natural Resources Division  
Lora Amedu, Water Conservation  
Andy Cornwell, District Staff  
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**

Paul Lentz  
  
Gene Blankenship, Rockdale Water WSA

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ocmulgee BAC Chair, Lee Pope opened the meeting and thanked the BAC members for their attendance. 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. Over 8,000 leaks were detected and repaired in 2013 and over 91,000 old and inefficient toilets have been replaced since the Metro Water District's Toilet Rebate Program was created in 2008.

**Roles and Responsibilities of the BAC**

Ms. Katherine Zitsch, Manager of the Natural Resources Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission, provided a broad overview of the schedule of events through the two year planning period. The January BAC meetings would consist of visioning exercises. After all BACs had a chance to participate in the exercise, District staff will work with facilitator, Liz Sanford, to develop a BAC vision statement. The statement would be shared and discussed at the meetings in April, during which the BACs would develop goals and objectives for the plan update. During the second and third quarters of 2014, District staff will prepare an RFP for the scope of work. The BAC will have a chance to review the scope of work within the RFP and provide feedback. In 2015, the consultants will begin working on draft documents, which will be brought to the BACs. At that point, the BACs will be managed a little differently. BAC meetings will continue on a regular quarterly basis; however special meetings will also be called, perhaps monthly, to review, discuss and comment on the details of the documents. All BAC members will be invited to attend the special review meetings, as well as regular meetings.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Do we know what the state will do in their plan? We do not.

- Concerns with over withdrawal in the Flint system. The Flint is a complicated system with a lot of interconnectivity. Twelve utilities and other groups have partnered to form an Upper Flint River working group to work on these issues.
- SB213 addresses agriculture efficiency and augmentation of water supply.

### **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:

- Does the District know if the rate of toilet rebates applications has dropped off? The rate has stayed the same.
- Do water efficiency measures also help with wastewater capacity relief? Is there a way to show reductions on the supply side reflected in wastewater capacity? The District plans to produce integrated water resources plans.
- Metrics for actual use vs. permitted use is not in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan. That information can be found in the metrics report. The Plan is used for planning purposes and permitted capacity.
- There seem to be a lot of unpermitted wells (less than 100,000 gallons of water per day) in the Flint system that contribute to low flow. And there is a limited ability to check because of private property rights.
- Is there a requirement for communication between up and downstream users?

### **2016 Plan Update Visioning Exercise**

Ms. Liz Sanford, ARC's new Community Engagement Manager, served as the facilitator for the visioning exercise. 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 by the neighboring group. 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 a small group facilitator 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 was 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 (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.

### **Other**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 24, 2014. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.