



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE – WATER SUPPLY AND WATER CONSERVATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
May 21, 2014**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Water Supply and Water Conservation Subcommittee of the Technical Coordinating Committee met on May 21, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Amphitheater at the Loudermilk Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Members Present**

Nick Ammons, Fulton County  
Jennifer Arp, CCWSA  
Gwen Brinkley, Fulton County  
Tara Brown, Henry County WSA  
Jennifer Carlile, City of Atlanta  
John Clayton, Hazen and Sawyer  
Charles Corbin, Keck & Wood  
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County  
Ernest Earn, Cobb County Water System  
Kevin Farrell, Gwinnett County  
Catherine Fox, Fox Environmental  
Kristina Garcia, City of Atlanta  
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville  
Steve Green, DDCWSA  
Russell Kelly, Paulding County Water & Sewer System  
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA  
Charles Lambert, DeKalb County  
Barry Lucas, Forsyth County Dept. of W&S  
Jennifer McLaurin, Fulton County

Becky Mixon, Cobb County Marietta Water Authority  
Heather Moody, Gwinnett County Water Resources  
Henry Moore, City of East Point  
Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System  
Guy Pihera, CCWA  
Jim Poff, Clayton County Water Authority  
Richard Randolph, City of East Point  
Ken Reardon, Hall County  
Jerri Russell, City of Atlanta  
Anup Shah, Metro Atlanta Chamber  
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock  
Brian Skeens, CH2MHill  
Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County  
Michael Thomas, Clayton County Water Authority  
Emily Wingo, Georgia EPD

**Welcome and Introduction**

Danny Johnson opened the meeting by welcoming the Subcommittee. Mr. Johnson also introduced Bennett Weinstein, the District's new Planning and Policy Advisor. Mr. Weinstein comes to the District from Georgia EPD where he served as a Policy Advisor in the Watershed Protection Branch. Mr. Weinstein will be working closely with the Board and local elected officials, as well as state and federal officials and agencies.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments

### **Plan Update Process and Schedule**

Danny Johnson provided an overview of the plan update schedule and process for gathering the goals and objectives from the BACs and TCC that helped define the discussion points for the meeting. District staff, with input from the BACs, TCC, and Governing Board, will be finalizing a scope of work for the consultant over the next three to five months. The District hopes to have a consultant selected by the beginning of 2015. The District's plan update is required to align with the State's Regional Water Council Plan updates which are both due by November 2016.

The preliminary planning phase began in January 2014 with the BACs who helped develop a vision for the plan update. During March and April 2014, the BACs and TCC held meetings where all attendees were broken into five small groups. Each small group provided input into the following five categories: Planning and Policy, Public Education, Water Supply and Water Conservation, Wastewater, and Watershed. All together, these groups generated almost 1,400 individual goals and objectives for the plan update. The comments were compiled and emailed to TCC members one week prior to the May 21, 2014 meeting. Mr. Johnson noted that the compiled comments will continue to serve as a reference for the plan moving forward and will be provided to the consultant.

### **Review of "Goals and Objectives" and Discussion of TCC Recommendations**

Bennett Weinstein started his presentation by reviewing the TCC and BAC work during the March and April meetings in which these groups detailed their goals and objectives for the plan update. Throughout these five meetings 170 comments were received on Water Supply and Water Conservation. [Displayed slide showing graph of relative interest based on number of comments].

Mr. Weinstein clarified that the goal of the day's discussion was to begin working with a small handful of these goals and objectives to receive clarification and feedback from the TCC so they can be packaged as a recommendation to board for inclusion in the RFP for the Plan Update Consultant(s). Mr. Weinstein also clarified that depending on the outcome of the conversation; the TCC might opt to detail the conversation and raise it to Board for discussion and further input or take that topic offline to a small working group for additional work and consideration.

The group reviewed examples of outcomes from the goals and objectives exercise that are central to the plan update that were not in need of further clarification for RFP development. These examples included:

- Updating Water and Wastewater Projections and facilities planning, this will be done in concert with State guidance.
- Water Conservation Education and Outreach. This element received extensive input during the goals and objectives exercises.
- Updated Funding Opportunities. The consultant will look beyond traditional programs and identify more creative funding options such as 1) new funding sources as well as existing funding options and 2) ways to develop projects that take advantage of a mix of funding sources.
- Commercial Water Conservation Opportunities. Mr. Weinstein reminded the TCC that the Board tasked staff with advancing examination of opportunities to expand the commercial water conservation in the District. This work will be developed in concert with input from specific TCC members over the summer.
- Recommendations from Utility Climate Resiliency Study. Mr. Weinstein updated the group on the progress on this project. Current status is that staff is currently negotiating the final scope with the selected consultant and expect to begin the work within the next few weeks. The Study is

## Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Technical Committee Meeting Notes

### Page 3

anticipated to be completed in early 2015 and will include recommendations for how utilities can become more resilient in the event of severe flooding and extended droughts. Recommendations from the study will be brought to the TCCs and Board for consideration and integration into the plan. The scope of work for the plan update will reference this process.

The group reviewed examples of outcomes from the goals and objectives exercise that highlight broad policy topics identified as out of scope for this plan update –particularly regarding defining the work program for the consultant. These examples included: Improving the regulatory process for reservoir permitting, raising the full pool of Lake Lanier, and increasing enforcement of both water conservation activities and wastewater discharges

Comments and questions from TCC:

- The RFP should look at how we are doing things already – particularly with regard to water conservation and the costs incurred for the utilities in the District to be able to implement things like water conservation.
- Need clarification on our water conservation goal.
- The consultant should look at economic impacts in areas like climate resiliency.
- Mr. Johnson reminded the group that the scope is not written yet, but these comments will be taken into consideration.

Summary and Outcomes of TCC discussion of specific items from Goals and Objectives exercise:

- Item 1 More Incentives and Rebates:
  - Need to find the right balance of people who benefit from conservation paying for it as opposed to the utilities shouldering too much cost burden.
  - Need to understand baseline for unrebated toilets.
  - Need to recognize comments from commercial entities pointing out the equity issue that they pay for water too and only one part of the customer base (residential) is getting rebates.
  - Given proportional use, in order to really get the results we may need to look at commercial sector to make real progress.
  - Would like the consultant to look at the return on investment for rebates, given potential burden to utilities.
  - Would like the consultant to look at how rebates perform through energy providers.
  - Result: This item is ready for scope of work after minor TCC clarification based on today's conversation.
- Item 2 Water Use Efficiency Rating System:
  - Need to start with examining already existing programs.
  - Result: Ready for scope of work after some TCC clarification
- Item 3 Audit Effectiveness:
  - Comments during goals and objectives exercise were unclear as to which (of the many types of) audits were referenced.
  - Result: clarification that concern was with the action item on commercial audits and RFP should reflect this.
- Item 4 Integration:
  - After a brief discussion of the need to define both the meaning and the goals of plan integration, the TCC agreed to set up a working group to advance this concept.
  - Volunteers: David Kubala, Kathy Nguyn, Jerri Russell.
- Item 5 TCC's Work with the Consultant:
  - TCC needs to be involved in scope development, with adequate time to review.

## **Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Technical Committee Meeting Notes**

### **Page 4**

- Discussion as to how the TCC would like information to flow between the consultant and the TCC during the plan update. Weighed pros and cons of a more or less direct TCC involvement.
- Result: More intensive TCC involvement with both scope preparation and the on-going work of the consultant.

### **2013 Implementation Report Results**

Sarah Skinner provided an overview of the 2013 Implementation Review. The report was published electronically this year in order to provide the user with more accessibility to the information and to enable the user to do more personal analysis with the data. Additionally, she went over the results for water supply and water conservation survey.

Comments and questions from TCC:

- Why the marked increases in participation in the essay contest and the Water Drop Dash 5K race?
- Response: The essay question was different this year, the award amount was raised significantly, outreach was more effective, and we are starting to develop relationships with the curriculum coordinators who then reach out to teachers. Also, the popularity of the race is attributed to our utilities, such as Cobb and Douglas Counties who helped to bring a lot of people. These utilities paid race application fees and made it part of their wellness program to encourage employee participation.

### **Proposed 2014 Implementation Survey**

Lora Amedu reviewed the proposed questions for the 2014 Water Supply and Water Conservation Implementation Survey. The comment period will be open for two weeks until June 4<sup>th</sup>. There were no immediate questions or comments.

### **Other Items**

Ms. Amedu reviewed updates to the following brochures:

- Landscape Irrigation Watering Guide
  - TCC approved new proposed text, with minor grammatical changes and comment regarding watering may not be needed depending on the amount of rain falling.
  - Proposed text changes will be presented to the Education TCC for comments on brochure design.
- Maintenance Guide for Landscape Irrigation Systems
  - TCC approved new proposed text, no comments, changes or additions.
  - Proposed text changes will be presented to the Education TCC for comments on brochure design.
- Do It Yourself Household Water Assessment
  - TCC approved proposal to keep paper version, but to also make it more interactive and web based.
  - TCC requested a small publication with details on the web based water assessment to distribute to residential customers.
  - District staff will design an interactive website for the Do It Yourself Household Water Assessment and present proposed text at future meeting.
- Restaurant brochures
  - Question was posed whether TCC wants to continue to have a stand-alone Low-Flow Pre-Rinse Spray Valve brochure, in addition to other food industry brochures.

**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Technical Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Page 5**

- TCC requested a single document with information on pre-rinse spray valves, managing discharge of fats, oils and grease, and tips on water pollution prevention to give to the restaurant.
- District staff will create a new brochure and present proposed text at future meeting.

Kostoula Vallianos also announced the My Drop Counts water conservation videos won two Telly awards. The Telly Awards honors the very best film & video productions, groundbreaking online video content, and outstanding local, regional, & cable TV commercials and programs.

Mr. Weinstein updated the group on Georgia EPD's current Drought rulemaking. Comments on concepts under consideration are due to EPD on June 3.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.