



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

40 Courtland Street NE | Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**LANIER/OCONEE/COOSA-ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**January 27, 2015**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lanier/Oconee Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sawnee Mountain Preserve in Cumming, GA.

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Present**

Alice Brock  
Richard Check  
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants  
Eugene Holmes, Consultant  
Norman McGinnis  
Adrian Mixon  
Beverly Nicholls, LLA/GLS  
Cleghorn Penn  
Harvey Phelps  
David Porter  
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.  
Cole Shaffer  
Ottie Stringer  
Thomas Vivelo, Lake Lanier Association

**Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present**

William Barber  
James Boff, Forsyth County  
Jon Heard, City of Cumming  
Stephen Jenn  
Scott Lippman, Lanier Northwest Subdivision  
Nancy Lovingood, Forsyth County  
Shane Taylor  
David True

**Oconee BAC Members Present**

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair  
Chris Manganiello, GA River Network  
David Radcliffe, University of Georgia  
William Tietjen  
Jerry Van de Water  
Matthew Vinson, GOWA and Natural Systems  
Utilities, LLC

**Oconee BAC Members Not Present**

Shirley Cooley, Rockdale Pipeline  
Christopher Jones, H&H Insurance Service  
Jann Moore, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce  
Chris Oliver  
Brian West, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

**Coosa/Etowah BAC Members Present**

Doris Cook, BAC Chair  
David Braswell, WK Dickson  
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County  
Robert Endress, Atkins  
William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau  
David Kubala, CCWSA  
Aylin Lewallen, Brown and Caldwell  
Donald McClure  
Keith McLaughlin  
Beverly McMurray  
Carol Moson, GA Association of Realtors  
Thomas Shannon, Ewing Irrigation Products  
Tom Wilder  
Marty Williams, Georgia Lakes Society

**Coosa/Etowah BAC Members Not Present**

Jackie Archer, Realtor  
Jake Bendik  
Daniel Coffey  
Gladney Cooper  
Andrew Ewoh  
Craig Ferguson, Brown and Caldwell  
Kendal Foshee  
Richard Gray, Murray's Loch Preservation Group  
Marjory Hicks, Cherokee County Stormwater  
Chadwick Hypes, Dobbins AFB  
Nolton Johnson, Cherokee County Resident  
Dart Kendall, GOWA  
Hal McClain, Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc.  
Merrick McClure, City of Canton  
Robert Morrison, LAPA  
Ed Mullinax, Cartersville Water Dept  
Sean Nicholl, Lake Allatoona Association  
Lori Pruitt, City of Cartersville  
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

**Metro Water District/ARC Staff Present**

Lora Amedu, District Staff  
Chris Faulkner, District Staff  
Danny Johnson, District Manager  
Sarah Skinner, District Staff

**Others Present**

Joanna Cloud, Lake Lanier Association  
Duncan Hughes, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Jill Stachura, Oconee BAC Chair, opened the meeting and initiated group introductions.

**2016 Water Management Plan Update**

Mr. Danny Johnson gave a brief update of actions taken by the BACs last year in developing the Scope of Work for the Plan Update. The RFP went out at the end of 2014 and the District Executive Committee would be making the final decision on consultant during this week. We will be working hard during the calendar year 2015 to have a draft plan document by the spring of 2016.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- What are the major parts that will change? Major focuses include evaluating the water conservation program, the nonpoint source strategy and a full assessment of the plans.
- Which three firms were shortlisted? Jacobs, CH2M Hill and AECOM

### **Gwinnett County Study on the Effect of Septic Systems on Stream Flow and Water Quality**

UGA Professor and Oconee BAC member, David Radcliffe, gave an overview of his study of how septic systems effect stream flow and water quality. The study determined that septic systems are not 100 percent consumptive use. Base flow was higher in high-density watersheds and water from septic systems can compensate for low stream flow. Dr. Radcliffe made the recommendation to develop a program for regular pumping of septic tanks, as well as a program for identifying failing septic systems. Additionally, he recommended jurisdictions require advanced treatment for new homes on lake front properties.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- In areas of low-density septic, why is the nitrate going up? Increased nitrate can be linked back to poultry and livestock. It can be determined in a lab whether nitrate is coming from livestock/fertilizer or septic waste.
- How efficient is the system at reducing nitrogen?
- When fertilizer is applied to lawns, how much nitrogen is likely to get into the groundwater?
- Can you just put everyone on sewer? It's very costly and when maintained properly, septic systems are not a bad thing.
- Almost all septic systems in the state are conventional systems. Advanced nitrogen treatment is costly, but can reduce nitrogen by half.
- How did the study account for different topography? Some steeper topography can move nitrogen to the stream faster, but averages were used in the study.
- What other regions are using advanced nitrogen treatment? Virginia and in the northeastern US. Not many places in Georgia.
- How does one take care of septic issues if they are low income?

### **Basin Profiles**

Mr. Chris Faulkner gave a brief overview of the River Basins Profiles section of the 2009 (current) Watershed Management Plan. The profiles section (section 4) provides current conditions in each of the basins in the District area, water source and quality assessment, high-level recommendations and watershed pilot programs. District staff wants to improve the purpose of section 4 in the plan update, as well as ensure that the plan meets the needs of each basin. The Basin Advisory Council members have the local knowledge needed to get District staff and the consultants started on this task.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Need to improve the nonpoint source and green infrastructure strategies.
- No new regulations. How do we address issues differently?

- The frequency of BAC meeting may increase as we get farther into the planning process.
- Look at a broad set of plausible scenarios. Need monthly and daily data.

### **Update on Utility Climate Resiliency Study**

Shayne Wood with CDM Smith presented a review of the Utility Climate Resiliency Study which is looking at the impact of various climate scenarios (drought and flood) on utility preparedness. The purpose of the Study is to produce a plan for the District that can be used to guide future planning efforts.

The Study looks at a 50 year record of monthly climate data including precipitation and temperature and produced five sets of ensemble climate model projections. One additional scenario was based on historical data and trends and used as a benchmark. The vulnerability analysis looks at five potential areas of vulnerability including water demand, water supply, wastewater and water quality, watersheds and infrastructure.

Once the Study is complete, the results will be shared with the BAC.

BAC members had the following questions and comments:

- Do the models include periods of drought?
- Are drought periods predicted to be the same or longer/worse?
- Suggest an adaptive management approach (i.e.; if *blank* happens, then do *blank* to counteract it). Continually monitor to know when to adapt.
- Will this Study directly affect new ordinances? Not necessarily. It will prescribe things to do in an adaptive sense.
- Social changes have to occur to change individual behavior.
- Do most of the models show higher average temperature and higher average rainfall (It seems counterintuitive)? Higher temperature yields increased vapor, which yields increased rainfall.

### **Other**

The next meeting will be in April; however time, date and location are still TBD. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Drop Dash 5K Race and Water Festival will take place Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell.