



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

40 Courtland Street NE | Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
WATER SUPPLY and WATER CONSERVATION TCC MEETING
Meeting Summary
April 23, 2015**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply and Water Conservation TCC met on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Association of Water Professionals in Marietta, GA.

Members Present

Nick Ammons, Fulton County	Becky Mixon, CCMWA
Kevin Farrell, Gwinnett County	Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System
Tom Ginn, Cobb County Water System	Glenn Page, CCMWA
George Kaffezakis, CCMWA	Emily Wingo, GA EPD
David Kubala, CCWSA	

The Metro Water District and the CH2M Hill project team called a special meeting to discuss the Water Resource Management Plan and the Water Demand Forecasting Process.

The following includes brief notes and action items from the meeting:

1. Data Collection Process:
 - Data requests were submitted on March 30, 2015 and we have been gathering consumption and production data from 2006 through 2014
 - Data submittal deadline set for April 24, 2015
 - Consumption by category is needed for the Decision Support System (DSS) model to work properly
2. Health Department Contact Information:
 - We are gathering this information to request self-supplied and septic tank data
3. Water demand forecasts:
 - Model would provide a baseline dataset
 - Conservation estimates of 5 percent reduction from plumbing codes were calculated in the previous plan.
 - Table 3-2 of the 2009 plan shows the Base Year data – ultimately that is what we want to obtain

- All forecasts will be done on a County-wide basis

4. Process Overview

- The same forecasting process used before (Maddaus DSS model) is being implemented with this update
- Will look at impact of plumbing code and technology improvements
- New population and employment projections provided by ARC and OPB are expected in May
- GEFA Interconnection study will be used to understand the exchange of water between counties.
- Foundation of model is End Use Concept: Total Consumption -> User Category -> Indoor/Outdoor components -> toilets, washers, etc.

Questions:

- Can we use independent population projections? No, independent projections will not be accepted. Utilities can submit their comments but OPB and ARC projections are going to be used so getting feedback into those processes is equally important.
- Wholesale water outside the district? How will that data would be accounted for in the plan? It would account for the sale in and out the district counties, reasonable projections will be done outside the district. Keep in mind the plan is updated every five years. Projections and estimates need to be reasonable and include all factors that influence water demand. MNGWPD is concerned about inter-basin transfer and will keep that in mind. We need to continue our planning process now rather than leave the plan unfinished until the rest of the state plan starts their planning update process.

5. Top Down/ Bottom Up Approach

- Indoor use will continue to decrease but we have to be careful not to overestimate that decrease as indoor plumbing is replaced.
- The forecast will have two separate baselines (one based on ARC figures and a second based on OPB), will include effects of efficiency improvements (acknowledging implementation of existing conservation measures), and uncertainty factors (provide a safety factor).
- Current conservation measures will be included. Conservation and efficiency are being looked at from what is already being used not the “future” conservation measures.

Questions:

- Irrigation is the big consumer, how do we address this? Model would look at trend on the outdoor use. Planning for max day but not severe droughts. Projections are used to capture that period when we are going into a drought period, but without drought restrictions being in place yet. Irrigation portion would overshadow the other uses. The historical data will show how we have used water for irrigation and that info would be used to determine how we will irrigate in the future.

- Reuse water, should or can be used with impunity? There are only a few utilities that use reuse water and it should be considered for planning purposes based on how that water is being used. We need to factor that water.
- Integrated modeling effort, WSWC/WW/WMSW would be valuable to look at.

6. DSS model

- New accounts – if new accounts use a different amount of water than the old accounts they may be modeled different. Generally associated with non-residential water uses. Some data can point that newer homes might use more water.
- Self-supplied – some counties have very little self-supplied and some have a larger component. It has to be incorporated because if not, per capita will be too low. Health Department data is needed to calibrate this information. How do we project that data? Do we assume it will stay steady or do we assume that it will increase the public demand?

Questions:

- National trends might indicate that new construction in residential sector use more water than then older residences.
- Cherokee County Health Department said they do not permit wells they only make sure that if there is a well it is away from septic. Testing is sometimes done by other entities.
- A second data request will be submitted for the additional data.

7. Next steps

- Is the availability of land in each County being considered during the development of population projection numbers? Yes, land use and type of industry/commercial will be considered in order to come up with the population projections. The forecasts are rectified considering the capacity of each County based on the land use and availability of the land.
- How is non-revenue water (NRW) considered? We will incorporate the NRW numbers and will keep them constant.
- Policy discussion – establish goals to decrease NRW if a utility is significantly higher than the national average? Some utilities can do better and they would be encouraged to improve but the language should be in accordance to what the state currently has established.
- Having an ILI score of one (1) across the District is a lot of water to be lost. Are we using that and according to AWWA the utilities cannot get below that 1? Look at ILI and help utilities understand how that number affects the projections. Consider the ELL and ILI.
- Can we add real losses into the demand because that is water that we do need to address while apparent losses are undetermined?
- The team will be scheduling time to discuss results with individual counties once the modeling process is completed. Format of the meetings is TBD. Locations and setup would occur in early June.
- May TCC will cover other topics

- It is expected that each utility will work with each Board member so they see the forecasts and plan and understand it.
- Question regarding projects already in the pipeline? If there are any projects on the pipeline that might be affected with these projections then that should be a discussion that occurs now and not when the plan has been published.
- Projections are done per County, no splits by cities or zones.
- Goal is to obtain realistic projections.