



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
GOVERNING BOARD  
Minutes  
June 16, 2015**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Members Present**

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman	Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair	Cobb County Designee: Ms. Kellie Brownlow
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer	Coweta County Designee: Mr. Jay Boren
Hon. Charles Oddo	Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse
Ms. Pamela Burnett	Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Tim Perkins
Mr. Brad Currey	Gwinnett County Designee: Mr. Kevin Farrell
Ms. Kit Dunlap	Hall County Designee: Mr. Kelly Randall
Mr. Chuck Huling	Henry County Designee: Mr. Tony Carnell
Bartow County Designee: Mr. Gene Camp	Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala	

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Kasim Reed	Mr. Chuck Huling
Hon. Lee May	Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Mr. William Thomas Craig	Mr. Tim Thoms
Ms. Kit Dunlap	

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Austin called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the March 25, 2015 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Kit Dunlap, seconded by Mr. Brad Currey and passed without opposition.

Chairman Austin recognized Mr. Brad Currey's birthday on the upcoming Sunday, and thanked him for his dedication and many years of service to the industry.

## **Chairman's Report**

### **Lake Level Update/Water Litigation/ACFS**

Katherine Zitsch gave a brief update on lake levels, stating that Lake Lanier is slightly below full pool and rainfall is slightly above average for the year. She noted that the recent flooding in Texas is linked with the lack of drought in the eastern US.

Ms. Zitsch also provided an update of the current status of water litigation. Regarding the ACT Basin: The Army Corps of Engineers released the Record of Decision adopting the Master Water Control Manual for the ACT Basin on May 4, 2015. On May 7, 2015, Alabama Power and the State of Alabama sued the Corps in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Thereafter, the cities of Montgomery and Mobile filed motions to intervene in these actions.

Regarding the ACF: On June 2, 2015, the Special Master heard oral arguments regarding Georgia's motion to dismiss Florida's complaint for equitable apportionment. Georgia's motion to dismiss was on the basis that the United States is a required party that cannot be joined. The Special Master is expected to respond rather quickly.

ACFS completed a Sustainable Water Management Plan and approved it on May 13, 2015. The plan includes a suite of recommendations for the States and Corps to consider.

### **Education and Outreach Report**

Ms. Kostoula Vallianos provided an update of recent education and outreach activities. Over 1,110 metro area 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Northern and Southern Children's Water Festivals held in May. Additionally, she shared the winning videos from the 2015 High School Video Contest, "Here's the Scoop on Pet Waste."

### **2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit**

Chairman Austin announced that a copy of the 2014 audit is available for members to review.

### **Schedule for 2015 and 2016**

Chairman Austin noted the scheduled dates for District Board Meetings in 2015 and 2016 as follows:

- August 26, 2015
- December 2, 2015
- February 24, 2016
- June 1, 2016
- August 24, 2016
- December 7, 2016

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **2016 Budget and Work Program**

Secretary/Treasurer Birdel Jackson provided an overview of the 2016 Budget and Work Program. For the 2016 Budget, the Finance Committee proposes reducing the per capita dues from the current 26.5 cents to 16 cents. The State provided an additional 500 thousand dollars for the 2016 budget. Chairman Austin commented that Governor Deal should be commended for his attention to the work of the District.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the 2016 budget and work program. Chairman Austin explained that a recommendation of a committee of the Board does not require a second. The 2016 budget passed without opposition.

### **Plan Amendment for Public Review**

#### *City of Locust Grove*

At their March meeting, the Executive Committee voted that the City of Locust Grove's requested amendment to the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan be categorized as major. The amendment was released for public comment for the required 30 days. One comment was received, however District staff deemed it regulatory in nature, and therefore the District would have no purview over such.

The Executive Committee voted to recommend the approval of the amendment at their meeting earlier this morning. A motion to approve the requested plan amendment was made by Mr. Tony Carnell and seconded by Mr. Jay Boren. The amendment passed without opposition.

### **BAC Membership Drive**

This morning, the Executive Committee approved 218 individuals for membership on the Basin Advisory Council. Ninety-seven are new to the process with 121 of 194 members resubmitting applications for the 2015-2016 term. The BAC roster now consists of 235 members, representing all interest categories.

### **Plan Update and Working Group Interest**

Mr. Danny Johnson provided a current status of the Plan Update. We are currently in the "review and develop implementation actions" and "modeling and plan integration" stages of the plan update schedule. At the August Board meeting, the Board will be asked to review a proposed list of implementation actions for all three planning areas and report on goals and evaluation criteria. The stakeholder groups (BACs and TCCs) continue to be included in the process as we move forward in the planning schedule stages.

Mr. Johnson also announced that a Board Working Group will be formed that will help review and make recommendations about implementation action items, including refining the development of a Commercial Water Efficiency Strategy, Expanding Septic Management Policies, Development of Clear Goals for Reducing Water Losses. Mr. Kelly Randall, Mr. David Kubala and Mr. Brad Currey volunteered to join the working group.

### **Water Efficiency Panel Discussion**

A panel of distinguished guests from nationally recognized programs shared their insight on commercial water efficiency. Ms. Kristen Rowles introduced panelists Dave Bracciano of Tampa Bay Water, Phil Paschke of Seattle Public Utilities, Bill McDonnell of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Karen Guz of San Antonio Water System. Ms. Rowles facilitated the discussion and noted that commercial water efficiency was a major theme identified at the TCC the previous day.

Mr. Dave Bracciano presented an overview of Tampa Bay Water's experience with evaluating the local commercial sector's water use potential on the regional scale. By tracking the implementation of default best management practices, they noticed that increased efficiency in water use provided regional economic benefits including capital cost deferral and avoided energy and chemical operations costs. To determine current and future efficiency potential, they looked across the sector and region at water fixture age and efficiency, market saturation of water efficient technologies and seasonal outdoor water use patterns. Running a demand forecast enabled them to identify passive (regulation, self-retrofit, increased install of WaterSense and Energy Star) and active (incentive based programs, increased funding) efficiency improvements.

Mr. Phil Paschke gave an overview of Seattle Public Utilities' commercial and industrial efficiency program that began in 1994 using financial incentives to encourage conservation. The program started with an initial budget of 0.5 million dollars and is currently at 1.7 million dollars. Using strategies including direct install of spray heads and sink aerators in restaurants, cold calls to businesses and industries, as well as energy and water audits, they were able to meet and exceed their regional conservation goal of one percent per year for 10 years, with total consumption and peak day usage both on the decline.

Mr. Bill McDonnell presented an overview of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's water efficiency programs in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors. Metropolitan is a regional water wholesaler serving six counties and 19 million people. Imported water supplies meet about half of the retail demands. They began to notice a lack of consistency in the way their members jurisdictions managed water use in the commercial and industrial sectors. Metropolitan took over as a one-stop-shop to provide incentives and coordinate efforts, while still allowing local jurisdictions to customize and add their own funding for incentives. They focused on high water using fixtures in many of the high water using local industries, trained for fixture replacement and partnered with utilities and industry to provide better incentives.

Ms. Karen Guz gave an overview of San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) water saving opportunities in the industrial and commercial sectors. SAWS manages a highly regulated water supply for 1.6 million people. They established a commercial conservation fee in 1998 which resulted in a savings of 800 acre feet per year, and was achieved through retrofits, custom rebates and commercial landscape management. They also focused on fixture replacements in schools and hotels. The early, volunteer adopters received free fixtures and replacement labor, and SAWS was able to use those case studies as examples for later adopters. Ms. Guz recommended to be industry specific and find solutions that benefit both the utility and the customer.

**The following questions were asked of the panelists:**

*For Bill McDonnell: Where is the money coming from for incentives?* The money is coming from a stewardship charge on the wholesale of water. Some money comes from other funds.

*How to you measure benefits? Do you do audits?* Karen Guz (San Antonio): “We implemented an internal audit department to question consumption, but that resulted in leaving 50 percent of the cost share on the table because people were being turned away”; Bill McDonnell (Metropolitan): “We audited multiple times per year and reported to the Board.”

*For Dave Bracciano (Tampa): Are there any other sources of water supply beside desalinization?* Yes, there are many. We only generate three to four million gallons a day from desalinization.

*What are your biggest lessons learned?* Bill McDonnell (Metropolitan): “You have to work together and you need a single point of activity when dealing with so many entities”; Karen Guz (San Antonio): “Just do it. If we hadn’t taken the initiative to go into schools and do the replacement ourselves, it wouldn’t have gotten done.”

**Other**

Chairman Austin announced that the District would be hosting a luncheon and reception for all our local partners in the single family and multifamily Toilet Rebate Programs. At the reception, Ms. Lora Amedu will announce the winner of the Great Plumbing Fixture Giveaway, a contest to honor a deserving, local nonprofit with a free water audit from Marine Plumbing Services and 1,000 dollars in fixture replacements from Toto USA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.