METROPOLITAN NORTH GEORGIA WATER PLANNING DISTRICT

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS REPORT 2002
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2002

The governing board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and its supporters are leading the way into a new era of water resources management for the Metropolitan North Georgia region. This district continues to look carefully at the issues that this growing region faces related to watershed management, stormwater, water supply, water conservation and wastewater capacity and treatment. As the chairman of the governing board, I am proud of what the district has accomplished in 2002 and look forward to another year of hard work in 2003 when we will complete our planning efforts.

Our planning process fosters empowerment of the people of the district. Local elected officials and community leaders appointed to the governing board, local water experts serving on the Technical Coordinating Committee and hundreds of citizens taking part in our six Basin Advisory Councils or providing input at public meetings, all contribute to our efforts. They are extremely valuable to the district and its work, and I applaud their ownership of this process.

The governing legislation for the district requires that within one year of its formation, the district “prepare for public comment one or more model ordinances for local governments designed to provide for effective stormwater management.” The district board unanimously adopted a comprehensive suite of Model Stormwater Management Ordinances, tools that will be used by local governments to implement and enforce effective stormwater management.

The legislation also charges the district within its first year to “develop a short-term plan to ease immediate wastewater capacity constraints and to reduce the need for sewer tap moratoria.” The governing board approved the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan that will address the immediate wastewater capacity needs of district jurisdictions. This plan ensures that we will have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the cities and counties within the district until our long-term wastewater plan is put in place.

The district’s work is progressing rapidly. With two major projects under its belt, the district is currently focused on analyzing the alternatives for long-term water resources management. The district is also developing a water allocation model that it can use to facilitate difficult policy decisions. These alternatives and tools will ultimately determine the future of this region’s potential growth and quality of the life. We welcome your continued interest and support of this vital effort.

Joel H. Cowan, Chairman

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
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Official Code of Georgia § 12-5-586 provides,

_The district shall submit a written report not later than December 31 of each year to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, which report shall contain a detailed account of the activities and progress of the district throughout the previous year and an accurate accounting of all funds received and expended by the district and of the implementation of plans and attainment of goals._
OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT

With limited water resources and a population of nearly four million and growing, metropolitan Atlanta faces increasing challenges in managing its vital water resources. Recognizing the need to carefully and cooperatively manage and protect the rivers and streams of the metropolitan Atlanta region, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 130 in 2001. Governor Roy Barnes subsequently signed the bill into law, creating the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

The district is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and watershed-specific plans to be implemented by local governments in the district. It is composed of 16 counties, including Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton. These counties lie within the boundaries of five major river basins: Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee.

Since its inception, the district has worked to meet the requirements of its enabling legislation as it develops plans for watershed management, wastewater management and water supply and water conservation management. The district’s planning staff is carrying out this work along with planning and engineering consultants, including Brown & Caldwell, CH2M Hill, Jordan Jones & Goulding and MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (formerly LAW Engineering). The district governing board adopted two of the district’s five major planning efforts in 2002, the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Management Ordinances. The board relied heavily in decision-making on technical input from its Technical Coordinating Committee and public comment, primarily from the district’s six Basin Advisory Councils.
The district is developing its major plans under overarching policy goals established early in the planning process. The governing board adopted these policy goals on March 7, 2002. They are a driving force in the district’s process. The district uses these policy goals to develop and evaluate recommended alternatives. The goals will eventually serve as the standard by which the district measures the effectiveness of its plans.

**GOAL ONE**

**SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Provide for water supplies and treatment and distribution capacity to meet projected growth through normal conditions and critical drought periods
- Provide for wastewater treatment levels and wastewater collection and treatment capacity to support the needs of the District
- Provide communities with tools to address damaging and life endangering floods
- Provide for efficient water use through tools such as education, conservation, incentives, reuse and pricing structures
- Recognize that a sustainable economy must include quality of life considerations such as recreation and protection of aquatic resources

**GOAL TWO**

**IMPROVE AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY**

- Provide for the protection of public drinking water supplies
- Ensure the development, design, and maintenance of reliable wastewater collection and conveyance systems that have adequate capacity and do not leak or overflow
- Define implications for the use and management of septic tanks and other land application systems within the integrated water management strategy
- Manage water supply withdrawals and returns to maintain minimum in-stream flows necessary to protect water quality, biodiversity and recreational uses
- Manage point source and nonpoint source pollutant loadings to meet water quality standards and support designated uses, taking into account watershed management requirements, land uses and pollution control measures
- Enhance watershed management requirements to minimize physical impacts to streams and lakes
- Create framework for compliance with federal and state standards for water quality including current and future TMDLs
GOAL THREE
EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE BENEFITS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS

- Within the constraints of the water resource, seek to create as level a playing field as possible with respect to growth, water availability and allocation among present and future users and in-stream uses
- Avoid penalizing entities that have planned and made significant investments to date
- Establish financial and institutional incentives for multi-jurisdictional collaboration
- Propose allocation scenarios of district water supplies among jurisdictions
- Create equitable solutions for watershed management across jurisdictions that balance the differing impacts of a variety of sources on stream quality.
- Identify opportunities to secure state and federal financial assistance for water infrastructure development and demand-side management practices

GOAL FOUR
DEFINE PRACTICAL, INTEGRATED MEASURES FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

- Manage water as a single resource by integrating watershed management, wastewater treatment and water supply and water conservation plans
- Balance local needs and district solutions in the plan

GOAL FIVE
PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Leverage existing institutional structures and minimize reorganization of water resources management programs
- Schedule infrastructure and program development (e.g. water supply, wastewater and watershed management) to match projected growth in service demands and challenges to environmental sustainability
- Balance regulatory approaches with incentives for environmentally sustainable land use development
- Provide the public access to information during the planning process
- The plan and process will provide for coordination and collaboration with others in water resources education
- Provide opportunities for interested stakeholders to learn about water resources management challenges and provide input to district decision-makers
- Develop a strategy to build the public will and understanding that is needed to implement the plan recommendations
- Provide district decision-makers tools to engage interested parties and disseminate information on water resource issues and district programs
- Develop a plan for public education on the critical issues of the watershed, long-term wastewater, and water supply and conservation management plans
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

A 27-member board manages the business and affairs of the district. Governor Roy Barnes appointed Atlanta developer and environmentalist Joel Cowan as chair and Kathryn “Kit” Dunlap, president and CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce as vice chair. The board membership is composed of county commission chairs in counties with populations of 200,000 or more (Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett), the mayor of the district’s most populous city (Atlanta), the county commission chair or mayor of the city from the remaining 11 jurisdictions with a water or sewer system and 10 citizen members, 6 of whom were appointed by the Governor, two by the Lieutenant Governor and two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The full governing board met eight times in 2002. Key activities of the governing board included selection of major planning consultants, adoption of policy goals, approval of 2003 budget and adoption of Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Management Ordinances.

Members of the board participate on various committees that focus on specific topics.

**Executive Committee.** The executive committee consists of 12 board members and makes recommendations to the board in areas such as the staffing needs of the district, nominations to fill officer vacancies, committees and advisory councils and budgetary functions.

**Finance Committee.** This committee is chaired by Secretary-Treasurer J. T. Williams and focuses on financial matters such as budgets, funding structures for district projects and making reports to the board on the financial condition of the district.

**Ethics Committee.** This committee was chaired by Gardiner Garrard and charged with the responsibility of developing an ethics policy for the board. Several draft policies were prepared and reviewed, and the board adopted its ethics policy at its June 6, 2002 meeting.

**Legal Committee.** This committee was created to review legal issues surrounding the district’s Model Stormwater Management Ordinances. It is chaired by Senator Mike Egan, and its membership will provide additional advice to the board as the major plans are developed.

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<th>2002 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Officers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel Cowan, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn “Kit” Dunlap, Vice Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. T. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elected Officials</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirley Franklin, Mayor, City of Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarence Brown, County Commission Chair, Bartow County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Roberts, Mayor of Ball Ground, Cherokee County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crandle Bray, County Commission Chair, Clayton County</td>
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<td>Sam Olens, County Commission Chair, Cobb County</td>
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<td>Robert Wood, County Commission Chair, Coweta County</td>
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<td>Vernon Jones, Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County</td>
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<td>Rita Rainwater, County Commission Chair, Douglas County</td>
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<td>Greg Dunn, County Commission Chair, Fayette County</td>
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<td>John Kieffer, County Commission Chair, Forsyth County</td>
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<td>Mike Kenn, County Commission Chair, Fulton County</td>
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<td>Wayne Hill, County Commission Chair, Gwinnett County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myrtle Figueras, Mayor of Gainesville, Hall County</td>
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<td>Leland Maddox, County Commission Chair, Henry County</td>
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<td>Jerry Shearin, County Commission Chair, Paulding County</td>
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<td>Norman Wheeler, County Commission Chair, Rockdale County</td>
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<td>Kevin Little, County Commission Chair, Walton County</td>
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<td><strong>Citizen Members</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca “Becky” Champion</td>
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<td>Michael J. Egan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardiner Garrard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas R. Hooker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert “Bob” Cheeley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert L. Moultrie Sr.</td>
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<td>Laura Turner Seydel</td>
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The district’s enabling legislation requires that the “Board shall create a technical coordinating committee comprised primarily of water and wastewater officials from counties, cities and authorities in the district.”

The board created this committee in June of 2001. Water and wastewater officials from local governments in the district as well as representatives from additional agencies and technical experts comprise this committee. Board-adopted criteria provide for up to three technical representatives appointed by each county in the district area and any city in the district area with a population of 200,000 or more, one representative from other cities in the district and additional members as necessary from other agencies, jurisdictions or who supply additional technical expertise.

The TCC is organized into three subcommittees: wastewater, stormwater and water supply and conservation. These subcommittees provide technical expertise to the governing board and the planning staff in the three major planning areas: water treatment, wastewater treatment and watershed/stormwater management. The subcommittees submit technical recommendations on the planning work to the governing board and district planning staff. The full TCC and its subcommittees provided detailed input to the district and its consultants at its 33 meetings in 2002.

A full listing of the members of the district Technical Coordinating Committee is attached in Appendix A.

The Basin Advisory Councils maintained an active meeting schedule in 2002, each council met 10 times (more than double the statutory minimum of four meetings) for a total of 60 BAC meetings in 2002. A full listing of the members of the district Basin Advisory Councils is attached in Appendix B.

The Environmental Planning Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has provided staff support for the district since its inception. Beginning in August 2001, the district executive office added further staff support. The staff as a whole oversees the daily operations of the district and helps it to fulfill all legal and logistical responsibilities. MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (formerly LAW Engineering) serves as chief planning consultant and provides assistance to the district planning staff relating to coordination and scheduling of consultant activities associated with the three long-term planning efforts.

The enabling legislation further mandates that the governing board create “separate advisory councils for the Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Oconee and Ocmulgee river basins and the Lake Lanier basin.” The Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) support the board by providing stakeholder and public input throughout the course of the water planning process. The district board nominated the initial BAC members during the fall of 2001 and increased participation by adding nearly 40 new members during the fall of 2002. Each council is composed of individuals who reside within the Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Lake Lanier, Oconee and Ocmulgee watersheds.
WATER DISTRICT MILESTONES IN 2002

ADOPTION OF MODEL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES

Effective stormwater management and watershed protection are critical for the protection of water resources, environmental health and the quality of life in the metropolitan Atlanta region. Local ordinances are important tools that can help stormwater and nonpoint source pollution control programs meet their objectives.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the district to date is the adoption of a suite of model stormwater management ordinances. Though most communities in the district have implemented some level of stormwater regulation, many have not addressed the issue comprehensively. Therefore, the planning staff (provided by ARC) prepared a suite of model stormwater management ordinances in order to give district localities a package of tools that effectively addresses stormwater management issues and provides for consistent regulations across the 16-county area.

At the outset, the planning staff worked with the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and BACs to identify the stormwater management needs that the ordinances should address. Based upon feedback received, the staff determined that several model ordinances would be necessary to address the many different aspects of the stormwater management problem. After developing a needs summary, the district staff thoroughly reviewed existing ordinances from district communities and other parts of the country.

The planning staff provided a summary of this review to the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and BACs. Based upon the needs summary and ordinance review, district staff prepared an outline of potential ordinances for comment. They used this outline to prepare a set of preliminary draft ordinances. Feedback on preliminary draft ordinances was used to prepare Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances for public review.

Staff presented the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances to the district board at their May 2, 2002 meeting and released them for formal public comment from May 6 to June 19, 2002. Following the public comment period, the staff then worked with the district Stormwater Technical Subcommittee to incorporate comments.

The governing board adopted the model ordinances on October 3, 2002.

- **Model Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment** provides for post-development controls for stormwater runoff quantity and quality. This ordinance outlines performance criteria and requires long-term inspection and maintenance of stormwater controls.

- **Model Floodplain Management/Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance** involves protection of floodplains, the designation of flood-prone areas, management of their uses, and minimization of modifications to streams.

- **Model Conservation Subdivision/Open Space Development Ordinance** provides for conservation subdivisions in residential zones and for the preservation of open space and greenspace.

- **Model Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance** provides communities with the authority to deal with illicit discharges by establishing enforcement actions.

- **Model Litter Control Ordinance** provides a prohibition against littering and an enforcement mechanism with penalties for communities to deal with violations.

State law requires that local governments in the district implement these model ordinances. Implementation of the ordinances will be ensured in two ways: (1) Local governments that do not fully adopt the model ordinances, or something at least as effective, will be ineligible for state grants or loans for stormwater related projects, as determined by EPD; (2) EPD will use its permitting authority to ensure that communities implement the model ordinances.

The full text of all Model Stormwater Management Ordinances is available on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) or by request from the district planning staff.

In 2003, the district will be conducting a training seminar for local elected officials and other local personnel on the ordinances. The model ordinances will also be integrated into the district-wide Watershed Management Plan during 2003.
ADOPTION OF THE SHORT-TERM WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN

Growth in the metropolitan Atlanta area, combined with the need to preserve water quality in the region’s streams and lakes, presents a difficult challenge to local wastewater utilities. Pursuant to the enabling legislation, one of the district’s first tasks was to develop a short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan that focuses on the immediate capacity needs of local wastewater systems. The plan includes recommendations for addressing those needs. A consulting team led by Brown & Caldwell worked from October 2001 through August 2002 to prepare the short-term plan.

The planning effort showed that of the 102 wastewater treatment systems in the district, 44 will require additional capacity by the year 2008. Of those, 40 have a plan in place or are sufficiently along in the development of plans to meet the need. Four areas lacked adequate plans: Forsyth County, North Fulton, South Fulton and Rockdale County. The Short-Term Wastewater Capacity Plan includes alternatives for satisfying the projected short-term capacity needs in these four areas.

Key Findings:
- The vast majority of the wastewater utilities in the district have workable plans in place that will satisfy their short-term capacity needs.
- A significant amount of interjurisdictional cooperation already exists in the district.
- Localities within the district must continue to implement existing high-level sewer maintenance programs to minimize sanitary system overflows and preserve existing treatment capacity.
- There are temporary, short-term options available to satisfy immediate needs.

The Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan has resulted in a comprehensive plan that addresses immediate wastewater capacity problems of the district while protecting water quality. Although a time horizon of 2008 was used for developing this plan, the plan’s recommendations are intended to meet only immediate needs until the district governing board adopts the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan.

The governing board adopted the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan on August 7, 2002. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has indicated that it will use the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan to assist in NPDES permit decision making for those jurisdictions that face immediate wastewater capacity problems or are under sewer tap moratoria.

The full text of the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan is available on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) or by request from the district planning staff.

INVENTORY SUMMARY
102 PUBLICLY-OWNED FACILITIES

58
No Short-Term Needs Identified

4
Plans Needed

40
Plan In Place to Meet ST Needs

The Critical Implementation Elements:

- Elimination of Georgia Power heat load from Chattahoochee River
- Completion of City of Atlanta’s Nancy Creek Capacity Management Project
- Completion of Gwinnett County’s 40 MGD discharge to Lake Lanier
- Permitting and implementation of DeKalb’s Snapfinger/Pole Bridge into regional treatment facilities

The full text of the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan is available on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) or by request from the district planning staff.
SPECIAL PROJECTS
Technological and Public Education/Awareness Activities
The district has also been working with the Georgia Institute of Technology’s Center for Geographic Information Systems to develop an automated system for depicting and measuring impervious surfaces for the 16 counties. The amount of impervious surface in a watershed is the single most important factor in estimating the amount and timing of stormwater runoff. It is also an important determinant of water quality. Thus, the district must have current, state-of-the-art information on the amount and location of impervious surfaces within the watersheds that comprise its planning area.

The GIS Center has used the Direct Extraction Method to generate fine-grained maps of impervious surfaces directly from aerial photography. This method provides estimates of impervious surface to the sub-watershed level and potentially to the individual land parcel. These areas can be aggregated to any larger region of interest using GIS overlay techniques. In addition, the Direct Extraction Method produces maps that depict the size and shape of the impervious surface. These visual representations of the impervious surface are powerful tools for public education and outreach efforts.

Federal Grant Research
The district has also been working with the law firm of Holland and Knight to study potential federal funding opportunities that could help address environmental and infrastructure challenges in Northern Georgia. Because individual water and sewer systems have similar requirements, the district has undertaken this effort in order to develop a joint strategy to pursue federal funds. The City of Atlanta, the Clayton County Water Authority, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Fulton and DeKalb counties and the City of Gainesville have committed funds towards this effort.

Since Congress adjourned for the year without having passed 11 of the 13 fiscal year 2003 appropriations bills, work on the original request made on behalf of the district continues. The district was able to secure $1 million in the House VA HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill for water and wastewater infrastructure projects and is working to guarantee and possibly increase that amount in the conference report that will likely be passed in January 2003. These circumstances are extraordinary – the last time Congress adjourned without passing the spending bills was 1980. However, we are confident that the district will receive funding as a result of this work.

Zero Sum Allocation Model
Probably the most critical and possibly the most controversial aspect of the district’s work relates to future water allocations. The district is developing a water allocation model to facilitate difficult policy decisions. The fixed limits of our water resources require allocation, and allocation of water requires a theory or methodology. The Zero Sum Allocation Model bases allocation on land remaining to be developed within a jurisdiction. It projects new densities (or incorporates historical densities) on undeveloped land for “first round development.” It also involves setting aside 20 percent of undeveloped lands as greenspace.
The district is especially proud of its achievements in public involvement in 2002. Throughout the planning process, citizens in the district have had numerous opportunities to give input through either the district’s standing committees (the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Basin Advisory Councils) or at public meetings. The planning staff used this feedback to make substantial improvements to both the Model Stormwater Ordinances and Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan.

The district also made strides in publishing educational materials and has maintained a web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org) that makes available extensive information about the district.

**Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) and other Stakeholders Review**

The district seeks to gain broad public acceptance and successful implementation of the final plans and ordinances. Thus, a top priority is the collection and consideration of input from the public at regular intervals throughout the planning process. Feedback from the TCC and BACs was especially critical as the consultants and the district planning staff developed the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan and Model Stormwater Ordinances.

During the preparation of the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan, there was extensive public involvement. Consultants and staff held a total of 12 meetings with the BACs between January and March 2002 to present information and receive comments. The district planning staff and consultant team also conducted six meetings with the Wastewater Subcommittee to present findings and gather feedback on the various tasks of the plan. Additional meetings were held with EPD during the course of the short-term plan development.

Key to the successful development of the Model Stormwater Management Ordinances was the in-depth involvement of stakeholders who provided important information and feedback throughout the planning process. Staff and consultants held 18 BAC meetings, 7 meetings with the Stormwater Technical Subcommittee and additional meetings with other stakeholders. The draft model ordinances were also posted on the district web site (www.northgeorgiawater.org).

**Public Review and Comment and Public Meetings**

Between May 6 and June 19, 2002, the district conducted a successful public review and comment period for both the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances and the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan Final Draft Report. In June 2002, the district hosted six public meetings across the district with approximately 200 attendees.

The district planning staff strove to ensure that the 45-day review and comment period would be meaningful to the public. Meetings were held in each of the six district basins. Project fact sheets were developed. The public and the media were notified through mailing lists, media advisories, legal notices, display ads and through access to the work products at various public places. The district received close to 1,000 individual comments from nearly 150 different parties on both projects. At the conclusion of the public review and comment period, the planning staff worked thoroughly to consider every individual comment received, recording them and their responses in “Public Review Process & Comments and Responses for the Short-term Wastewater Capacity Plan Final Draft Report” and “Public Review Process, Comments and Responses for the Draft Model Stormwater Management Ordinances.”

**Outreach Materials**

Through display boards and maps, presentations, fact sheets, electronic and paper newsletters, the district has used outreach tools to communicate to its stakeholders and to the public in 2002. The district produced two issues of its official newsletter, the Water Resource, and its electronic newsletter, Water eNews. Both publications include essential information about the district, news about the planning process and updates on the district’s major planning efforts.

**Web Site**

All of the district’s latest deliverables, meeting schedules, and archived materials can be found on its web site at www.northgeorgiawater.org. This tool has served as an essential source of information and materials dissemination for district stakeholders in 2002, and will continue to serve to promote general public awareness about the district and about water resource issues in North Georgia.
The district has made significant progress in 2002 toward developing the district’s long-term plans. Work on these plans began in early 2002 with the development and adoption of policy goals by the board on March 7, 2002. These goals are guiding the work of the consultants.

**WATER SUPPLY/WATER CONSERVATION AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

In 2002, the district began work on the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Consultants inventoried the district’s current water demands and supply sources. The study looked at existing sources, potential limitations on water supply resources and the volume of treatment plant discharges. Future water demands (and associated wastewater demands) were forecast through 2030 using a water use model. The model used a high population growth rate to estimate future water demand. By 2030, water use in the district, without aggressive water conservation, could total almost 1.2 billion gallons per day.

Water conservation should be a central component of water supply planning. Forecasts project a baseline reduction in water use due to plumbing codes and replacement of existing fixtures and appliances. Further, an additional reduction in water use is recommended through aggressive water conservation planning measures. Other measures under consideration for meeting our water supply and wastewater needs include returning treated water back to its source for reuse and new water supply reservoirs for off-stream storage of water resources.

As the anticipated wastewater treatment capacity needs are being developed, the district is working to develop (1) recommendations concerning future upgrades and expansions of existing wastewater treatment facilities, (2) measures to maximize efficiency through multi-jurisdictional approaches and (3) identification of opportunities for gray-water reuse and other technologies to increase wastewater treatment capacity or efficiency.

In the fall of 2002, the district began discussions of three alternative solutions packages to meet its water supply and wastewater needs through 2030. The alternatives are:

- **Solution A:** This solution integrates current local jurisdiction plans for 2030 into a comprehensive plan to meet projected demands for 2030.
- **Solution B:** This solution uses existing infrastructure and targets new investments to fewer larger plants to benefit from economies of scale. This solution represents the most drastic departure from current water planning because it requires a district-wide perspective and places the greatest emphasis on interjurisdictional collaboration.
- **Solution C:** This solution focuses on basin water resources and emphasizes limiting changes to the current system of interbasin transfers. The two central themes of this solution are (1) to supply the water needs of a basin through sources within the basin, and (2) to return treated wastewater to the basin where the water originated. This solution is similar to Solution A. However, it takes a more district-wide perspective on water resource management.

The staff and board will analyze and refine these solutions once the consultants develop cost estimates and the district receives all feedback from the TCC and BACs. The final step in recommending the preferred solution for the district will be to develop implementation strategies.

### WATER CONSERVATION RECOMMENDED MEASURES

- Retrofit with low flow fixtures at home resale
- Rain sensors on irrigation systems
- Conservation pricing
- Public education and incentive programs
- Water Audits
- ULF Urinals
- Multi-family Submeeting
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/STORMWATER

In 2002, the district also began work on the district-wide Watershed Management Plan. The watershed management plan builds upon existing watershed planning efforts in the district and includes a number of key recommendations that are essential to the protection of the district’s watersheds.

The overall goal of the Watershed Management Plan is to meet and maintain water quality standards and designated uses of streams and water bodies within the district.

Key 2002 Watershed Plan Activities

- Forecasted pollutant loads
- Identified and ranked best management practices
- Developed strategies for TMDLs and source water protection
- Developed draft environmental monitoring plan
- Drafted long-term strategies

The district has recommended two levels of watershed management activities to classify subwatersheds within the district:

1. **Category 1 Watersheds** – based on current extent of impervious conditions. These watersheds constitute approximately 80 percent of the district. The goal of maintaining water quality and aquatic habitat can be met in these areas through the implementation of ordinances and programmatic activities.

2. **Category 2 Watersheds** – watershed with levels of imperviousness and existing development beyond Category 1 watersheds. These watersheds constitute approximately 20 percent of the district and will require some level of retrofit or restoration activities to meet water quality standards and designated uses.

The district is currently discussing a set of recommended strategies for the district-wide Watershed Management Plan. Key components of these recommendations include:

- All watersheds/jurisdictions will implement programmatic stormwater control measures;
- Source water watersheds will implement water supply protection activities;
- Watersheds with TMDL-listed waterways will perform TMDL implementation activities;
- Watersheds with existing effective impervious areas greater than 10 percent will develop and implement a watershed improvement plan.

The district recognizes that successful implementation of these watershed management recommendations will hinge on the ability to fund the recommended activities. The district will develop an implementation plan to address these issues in 2003.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE DISTRICT?

In 2003, the District will complete its work on the district-wide Watershed Management Plan, Long-term Wastewater Management Plan and Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. Once these plans are approved by Georgia EPD and adopted by the governing board, local governments within the district will be responsible for their implementation.

The district will have a role during implementation as well. These activities include:

- The development of a public education and awareness program reaching 75-90 percent of the district’s population by 2006;
- The administration of a training program for local government elected officials and local personnel on the Model Stormwater Management Ordinances;
- Conduct of annual reviews of district plans and their implementation; and
- Submittal of reports to Georgia EPD on the progress and implementation of the district’s goals.
The Water Planning District is structured to operate according to a calendar year fiscal year. On August 17, 2001, the board approved the budget for the operation of the district during 2002. A detailed accounting of the funds received and expended as of December 15, 2002 is shown below.

**PROJECTS FUNDING STRUCTURE**

As the major district plans required by the statute have not been completed, the Finance Committee does not have recommendations concerning the financing of projects included in district plans at this time. The district has met with the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to discuss the financing of projects included in district plans and will continue these discussions as the plans are completed.

**FEDERAL GRANT RESEARCH**

In 2003, the district plans to continue its work begun in 2002 with the law firm of Holland and Knight to study potential federal funding opportunities that could be used to address environmental and infrastructure challenges in Northern Georgia. Because individual water and sewer systems have similar requirements, the district has made this a joint undertaking with the respective systems in order to develop a strategy to pursue these federal funds. The City of Atlanta, the Clayton County Water Authority, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Fulton and DeKalb counties, and the City of Gainesville committed funds towards this effort in 2002.

**FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

During 2002, the Board and its committees discussed issues surrounding the funding of the district’s calendar year 2003 budget ($3,191,064). The board ultimately selected the per capita assessment option at a figure of $.55 per capita on June 6, 2002. This figure provides for $2,186,064 in local dues for district calendar year 2003 budget.

The board has requested a state funding level of $1,000,000 (roughly 30% of the 2003 budget) for state fiscal year 2004. This figure continues the $1,000,000 amount provided in FY2003.

### MNGWPD Accounting of Funds Received and Expended (Unaudited)

#### FUNDS EXPENDED (as of December 15, 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2002 Budget</th>
<th>Expended or Under Contract Through 12/15/2002</th>
<th>Remaining Budget</th>
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<td>District Executive Office &amp; Staff</td>
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<td>Executive Office Special Projects</td>
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<td>Direct Salaries (District Planning Staff)</td>
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<td>Subgrants and Participants*</td>
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Totals $5,377,085 $3,852,544 $1,524,541

*Water Board Contract and Subgrant expenses have been contractually obligated and will be expended in 2002.*
### FUNDS RECEIVED (as of December 15, 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payor</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Special Purpose Funds</th>
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Judy Adler, P2AD
Nick Ammons, Fulton County
Laurie Ashmore, Rockdale County
Johnny Barron, Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority
Troy Bessche, Peachtree City
Dennis Benz, Palmetto, Fairburn, Woodstock, Buford
Wade Brannan, Clayton County Water Authority
Bob Brice, Cobb County Water System
Chris Browning, Fulton County
Dudley Buchanan, Newnan W&L Commission
Aaron Buckner, Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority
Earl Burrell, Fulton County
Gene Camp, Bartow County
Steve Cannon, Rockdale County
David Chastant, Gwinnett County
Philip Cochran, City of Douglasville
Cheryl Contant, Georgia Institute of Technology
Charles Corbin, Cities of Palmetto & Buford
Rick Daniel, DeKalb County
Remy del Rosario, City of Atlanta
Terry Demeo, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia
Steve Dempsey, Forsyth County
David Dockery, City of Gainesville Water & Wastewater
Dan Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville
Rick Eastin, City of Fayetteville
Mark Ennis, Monroe Utilities Network
Tim Equels, Fulton County
Lindy Farmer, Henry County
Marvin Flanigan, City of Conyers
Roy Fowler, Cobb-Marietta Water Authority
Catherine Fox, EPA
Pete Frost, Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority
Tommy Furlow, Gwinnett County
Marie Garrett, City of Canton
Wendell H. Geiger, Walton County Water Authority
John W. Griffin, City of Atlanta
Tim Grizzard, Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority
Sam Gueller, DeKalb County
Kathryn Hatcher, University of Georgia
Charles Hawkins, City of Social Circle
Doug Hawkins, City of Social Circle
Thomas Heard, Cherokee County Water Authority
Jonathon Heard, City of Cumming
Pat Hembree, Henry County Water Authority
Stan Herring, Bartow County
Bill Higgins, Cobb County Water System
Jamie Higgins, U. S. Army, Southern Regional Environmental Office
Renee Hoge, Forsyth County
Harry Hughes, Coweta County Water and Sewer
Lee Hunt, City of Atlanta, Department of Water
Michael Jones, Paulding County Public Works
Ronnie Jones, Henry County
Larry Kaiser, Rockdale County
Brant Keller, City of Griffin
Wayne Kennedy, Coweta County
Bill King, City of Cartersville
David Kubala, Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority
Brandon Lovett, Newnan Utilities
Barry Lucas, Forsyth County
John Marshall, Forsyth County
James Maughon, Forsyth County
Steve McCullers, Cobb County
Rebecca McDonough, City of Alpharetta
Woody McFarlin, City of Kennesaw
Alex Mohajer, DeKalb County
William Moore, City of College Park
Stuart Moring, City of Roswell
Becky Nixon, Cobb-Marietta Water Authority
Phil Nungesser, Forsyth County
Tom O’Bryant, GA Mountains Regional Development Center
Glenn Page, Cobb County Marietta Water Authority
Ron Papalconi, Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority
Tony Parrott, Fayette County Water System
Mike Patton, Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority
Steve Payne, City of Gainesville
Craig Pendergrast, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
Tim Perkins, Forsyth County
David Peters, City of Atlanta
Guy Pihera, Clayton County Water Authority
Kelly Randall, City of Gainesville Water & Wastewater
John Reinhardt, City of Atlanta
Charles Richards, City of Roswell
Rob Rivers, Hall County
Paul Rose, City of Acworth/LAPA
Colby Rutledge, Paulding County
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County
Tom Sills, Chatt-Flint Regional Development Center
Jim Stafford, Cartersville Water Department
Frank Stephens, Gwinnett County
Ed Strong, Newnan Utilities
Dennis Taylor, Forsyth County
Kristan Taylor, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
Mike Thomas, Clayton County Water Authority
Joe Tichy, Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center
Andrew Tsvigolou, HDR/WLJorden
Larry Turner, Peachtree City Water & Sewer Authority
Miguel Valentin, City of Decatur
Chris Venice, Fayette County
Janet Vick, Gwinnett County
Neal Wellons, Clayton County Water Authority
David Whitson, Henry County Water Authority
Keith Williams, City of Douglasville
Eric Wilmeth, City of Ball Ground
Pete Wright, Gwinnett County
Mak Yari, City of Gainesville
Kim Zimmerman, Clayton County Water Authority
Chattahoochee Basin

Adam Orkin
Jennifer Pasley
Patricia Payne-White
Melissa Pelfrey
Russell Pennington
Tim Perry
Larry Phillips
Julian Powell
Jeff Rader
Pam Sessions
John Sibley
Kelvin Simmons
Monte Simpson
Victoria Sweeney
Bob Tant
Ben Taube
George Taylor
Karen Thurman
David Tolleson
John Turner
Wayne Vashaw
Dewey White
Connie Wiggins
Virgil Williams
Lauri Young
Karen Zarin

Etowah Basin

Sandy Adams
Gary Ayers
Stan Bearden
Bruce Biasetti
Wayne Biasetti
Jennifer Bowers
Jonathan Braden
Herb Burnsed
Dan Clark
Elyse Cochran
Joe Cox
Marvin D. Cox
Carlos Dyler
Stan England
Angie Farsey
Sam Freeman
George Fricks
Doug Gilmore
Don Gordon
Curtis D. Hart
Thomas Heard
Joe Horton
Dexter Jones
Kevin Kirby
John Knox
Paul Kreager
David Kubala

Charles McMillan
Diane Minick
Robert Morrison
Sean Nicholl
Greg Patton
Ken Patton
Cecil Pruett
Ralph Robinson
Don Sackman
Ilona Sanders
Steve Simpson
James Smulian
Candace Stoughton
Bob Sutton
Dianne Tate
Skip Teaster
Ford Thigpen
Drew Tomsmeire
Marty Williams
Louis Zunguze

Flint Basin

Fred Brown
Dennis Chase
Chris Clark
Lance Clark
Jerry Donovan
Rod Drake
Ron Feldner
Chad Floyd
Scott Formel
Carol Fritz
Glen Gosa
Randy Harrison
Marilyn Johnson
Ken Martin
Garney Reid
Tori Stivers
Bryan Taft
Keith Wood
John Woody

Lake Lanier Basin

James Baggett
Tommy Bagwell
William Bagwell
Darcie Boden
Keith Breedlove
Bobby Bumalough
Sherry Burns
Jim Callison
John Cunard
Kristin Daniel
Mack De Vine

Denise Deal
Augie DeAugustinus
Steve Eiberger
Rex Farmer
Helen Fincher
Mike Freeman
Jim French
Thomas Furlow
Mike Giles
Fred Gould
Connie Hagler
James Hazelwood
Tom Hensley
Blake House
Ed Hughes
Jackie Joseph
Jack Kelly
Jim King
Rusty Ligon
Emory Lipscomb
Deborah Mack
Mary Mayhew
Frank McGowan
Joni Owens
Reggie Perry
Brian Rochester
Lewis Rogers
Kirby Scheimann
Ron Seder
Bryan Shuler
Jeff Simmons
Martha Simmons
Tyler Smith
Erwin Topper
Frank Turk
John Watson
Daren Wayne
Glenn White
Sheryl Williams

Ocmulgee Basin

Mike Horne
Richard Jeffares
Greg Jones
James Kinney
Rick Lipcsei
Fox McCarthy
Tom McLean
Randy Mills
Steve Moore
Chandra Mysore
Elaine Nash
Elaine Oakes
Ken Phillips
Kay Pippin
David Purcell
Mike Richter
Julius Ross
Bill Sands
Keith Seiler
Russ Spears
Bob Troxler
Steve Vance
Joan Walker
Judy Waters
Buddy Welch
Greg Williams

Oconee Basin

Tim Allen
Frank Armstrong
Benny Bagwell
Sharon Cassidy
Sam Chapman
Jimmy Echols
Peter Gordon
Dana Heil
Jim Henderson
Brent Hoffman
Tommy Howard
Rhett Jackson
Rusty Ligon
Jay Lowrey
Tom Oliver
Larry Poole
Rob Rivers
Melanie Ruhlman
Jennifer Scott
Chris Semerjian
Frank Sherrill
Lee Steigle
Jim Syfan
Joe Tichy
Bill White
Dave Wicker

Okefenokee Basin

Laurie Anderson
Bill Atkinson
David Ausdemore
Paul Bowman
Mark Brock
Robert Burroughs
Steve Cannon
Lowell Chambers
Terry Clark
Phil Cuthbertson
Beverly Dockery-Ojo
Michael Elliot
Lindy Farmer
Skelly Holmbeck-Pelham

Adam Orkin
Jennifer Pasley
Patricia Payne-White
Melissa Pelfrey
Russell Pennington
Tim Perry
Larry Phillips
Julian Powell
Jeff Rader
Pam Sessions
John Sibley
Kelvin Simmons
Monte Simpson
Victoria Sweeney
Bob Tant
Ben Taube
George Taylor
Karen Thurman
David Tolleson
John Turner
Wayne Vashaw
Dewey White
Connie Wiggins
Virgil Williams
Lauri Young
Karen Zarin

Etowah Basin

Sandy Adams
Gary Ayers
Stan Bearden
Bruce Biasetti
Wayne Biasetti
Jennifer Bowers
Jonathan Braden
Herb Burnsed
Dan Clark
Elyse Cochran
Joe Cox
Marvin D. Cox
Carlos Dyler
Stan England
Angie Farsey
Sam Freeman
George Fricks
Doug Gilmore
Don Gordon
Curtis D. Hart
Thomas Heard
Joe Horton
Dexter Jones
Kevin Kirby
John Knox
Paul Kreager
David Kubala

Charles McMillan
Diane Minick
Robert Morrison
Sean Nicholl
Greg Patton
Ken Patton
Cecil Pruett
Ralph Robinson
Don Sackman
Ilona Sanders
Steve Simpson
James Smulian
Candace Stoughton
Bob Sutton
Dianne Tate
Skip Teaster
Ford Thigpen
Drew Tomsmeire
Marty Williams
Louis Zunguze

Flint Basin

Fred Brown
Dennis Chase
Chris Clark
Lance Clark
Jerry Donovan
Rod Drake
Ron Feldner
Chad Floyd
Scott Formel
Carol Fritz
Glen Gosa
Randy Harrison
Marilyn Johnson
Ken Martin
Garney Reid
Tori Stivers
Bryan Taft
Keith Wood
John Woody

Lake Lanier Basin

James Baggett
Tommy Bagwell
William Bagwell
Darci Boden
Keith Breedlove
Bobby Bumalough
Sherry Burns
Jim Callison
John Cunard
Kristin Daniel
Mack De Vine

Denise Deal
Augie DeSeptember
Steve Eiberger
Rex Farmer
Helen Fincher
Mike Freeman
Jim French
Thomas Furlow
Mike Giles
Fred Gould
Connie Hagler
James Hazelwood
Tom Hensley
Blake House
Ed Hughes
Jackie Joseph
Jack Kelly
Jim King
Rusty Ligon
Emory Lipscomb
Deborah Mack
Mary Mayhew
Frank McGowan
Joni Owens
Reggie Perry
Brian Rochester
Lewis Rogers
Kirby Scheimann
Ron Seder
Bryan Shuler
Jeff Simmons
Martha Simmons
Tyler Smith
Erwin Topper
Frank Turk
John Watson
Daren Wayne
Glenn White
Sheryl Williams

Ocmulgee Basin

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Greg Jones
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Fox McCarthy
Tom McLean
Randy Mills
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Chandra Mysore
Elaine Nash
Elaine Oakes
Ken Phillips
Kay Pippin
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Oconee Basin

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Dana Heil
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Melanie Ruhlman
Jennifer Scott
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Frank Sherrill
Lee Steigle
Jim Syfan
Joe Tichy
Bill White
Dave Wicker

Okefenokee Basin

Laurie Anderson
Bill Atkinson
David Ausdemore
Paul Bowman
Mark Brock
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