



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Water Supply-Water Conservation
Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
February 15, 2012**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply-Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Chris Boyd, City of Roswell	Becky Mixon, Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
Gwen Brinkley, Fulton County	Heather Moody, Gwinnett County
Jennifer Carlile, City of Atlanta	Terry Moy, CCWA
Tony Carnell, Henry County	Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System
Charles Corbin, Keck & Wood, Inc.	Jackson Myers, City of College Park
Gail Cowie, Georgia EPD	Tim Perkins, Forsyth County
Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville	Ron Peters, Gwinnett County
Kristina Garcia, City of Atlanta	Lee Pope, Rockdale County
Tonja Halton-Mincey, Henry County Water and Sewerage Authority	Timothy Pugh, Paulding County Water System
Jonathan Heard, City of Cumming	Richard Randolph, City of East Point
Keith Higgs, DDCWSA	Monica Robinson, Fulton County
Chris Hindman, City of Fayetteville	Jerri Russell, City of Atlanta
Nolton Johnson, City of Atlanta	Margaret Tanner, City of Atlanta
Russell Kelly, Paulding County Water System	Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County
David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA	Keith Watkins, CCWA
Charles Lambert, DeKalb County	Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville
Jennifer McLaurin, Fulton County	

Abby Owens of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Update on EPD's Strawman Draft Water Conservation and Drought Management Rules

Gail Cowie, from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, provided an update on the Strawman Draft Rule for Drought Management and Strawman Draft Rule for Water Conservation. Public comment period regarding the draft rules is closed, and EPD is currently reviewing and preparing responses to the comments received. Based on the feedback provided on the strawman drought rule, the following concerns have emerged: how the baseline for the drought response is determined; expectations for reductions; too many exemptions; and complexity of the rule. In regards to the draft rule for water conservation, the comments were primarily focused on baseline determinants, the authority of the EPD, and general reporting requirements. EPD is working on developing a schedule for modifying and adopting these rules. EPD is planning to establish technical small groups to assist in the drafting of both strawman rules similar to the process used for writing the Georgia Water System

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Audits and Water Loss Control Manual. Georgia EPD will keep the Metro District & TCC members engaged and informed throughout the process.

Ms. Cowie also provided an update on the Flint River Drought Protection Act and that the Georgia EPD Director will make a decision by March 1st.

Ms. Cowie provided an update on the status of the regional water supply plans. All ten regional water plans were officially adopted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division on November 15, 2011. These plans will guide state water permits, grants, and loans. A document detailing the highlights of all ten regional water plans is currently available at georgiawaterplanning.org. A member asked about the continuity issues between regional water plans and how EPD will address conflicts that may arise. EPD responded that after a rigorous review of all the plans, a few discontinuities have been identified at certain geographic boundaries and are being addressed.

Metro Water District Toilet Rebate Program Update

Lora Nance with the Metro Water District, provided an update on the regional Toilet Rebate Program. There are currently 38 programs in the region, with the District operating a total of 22. Since 2008, 75,510 toilets have been rebated at an estimated cost of \$6 million to utilities and \$7.9 million to consumers. The estimated daily water savings are 1.2 million gallons.

Discussion on Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Programs

Abby Owens provided background on Action Item 5.14 of the Metro Water District Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan which requires the water systems that receive their water supply directly from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River to develop and implement a program to replace older, inefficient toilets with high efficiency toilets in multi-family properties built in 1993 or earlier. The measure states that these water systems must have a program in place by 2012.

Ms. Owens led a panel discussion on four multi-family programs that are in-place or being developed in the Metro Water District. The panel included Jennifer Carlile with the City of Atlanta, Heather Moody with Gwinnett County, Jennifer Flowers with City of Gainesville, and Kathy Nguyen with Cobb County. Each panel member provided a brief overview of the utility program's status, eligibility requirements, and application process. A TCC member asked how the utilities were promoting the program. The utilities said word of mouth, bill inserts, and press releases were their most successful outreach efforts.

Update on Water Waste Policy

Abby Owens updated the group on the status of the water waste policy. The 2010 Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan amendments include Action Item 5.18 – Water Waste Policy as a requirement for local jurisdictions/water systems and it states that the District will develop guidance to support local policy/ ordinance development. A final draft policy was approved at the August 18, 2010 TCC meeting and was to be presented to the Metro Water District Board. This was delayed so that the new conservation measures that were being recommended to the Board would be handled first. It was agreed that the previously developed final draft policy be incorporated into a guidance document and presented to the Executive Committee.

Other

Ms. Owens notified the group that the 2011 Metro Water District Annual Report and 2011 Implementation Report are available online through the District website and printed copies are also available.

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Ms. Owens reminded the group that water audits for systems that serve a population of more than 10,000 are due to Georgia EPD by March 1st. Also, for systems less than 10,000, Georgia Rural Water Association will be hosting trainings in March on the water audit software and Georgia Water System Audits and Water Loss Control Manual.

Matt Harper with the Metro Water District reminded the group that Georgia Environmental Financial Authority is holding workshops on the application process for the Governor's Water Supply Program. The metro Atlanta workshop will be held on Friday, February 24th at 1:00pm at Gwinnett Technical College. More information and additional workshop dates are available on the program's webpage at www.georgiawatersupply.org.

Ms. Owens informed the group that a list of potential topics for 2012 TCC meetings and workshops are being developed. An email survey will be sent out asking members to review the list and rank the topics according to their interest.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.