



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
Water Supply and Water Conservation Management  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 20, 2015**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Watershed Management Technical Coordinating Committee met on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the main room of the Georgia Association of Water Professional (GAWP).

**Attendance**

Nick Ammons, Fulton County

Jennifer Arp, Cherokee County WSA

Jason Bodwell, GEFA

Tara Brown, Henry County WSA

Jennifer Carlile, City of Atlanta

Bruce Coyle, Paulding County

Vicki Culbreath, Fulton County

Ernest Earn, Cobb County WS

Kevin Farrell, Gwinnett County

Jennifer Flowers, City of Gainesville

Kris Garcia, City of Atlanta

Horace Gee, City of Gainesville

Steve Green, Douglasville Douglas County WSA

Jon Heard, City of Cumming

Mike Henry, Douglasville Douglas County WSA

Veronica Jarrin, CH2M

Danny Johnson, Metro Water District

Russell Kelly, Paulding County WS

David Kubala, Cherokee County WSA

Barry Lucas, Forsyth County

Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County WS

Neela Ram, Metro Water District

Ken Rearden, Hall County

Jerri Russell, City of Atlanta

Brian Skeens, CH2M

Christine Voudy, Georgia EPD

Keith Watkins, Clayton County Water Authority

**Welcome and Introductions, and Announcements**

Neela Ram, Metro Water District, opened the meeting and initiated introductions.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **WaterSense Excellence Awards**

Kostoula Vallianos provided a summary and overview of the application submitted for the award.

### **2014 Implementation Survey Assessment – Water Supply and Water Conservation**

Sarah Skinner provided an overview of the 2014 Implementation Survey and Assessment. Ms Skinner announced that no surveys will be collected in 2015, and that a new format will be introduced in 2016 with results to be reported in 2017.

### **2016 Water Resource Management Plan Status Update**

Ms Ram provided a status update of the 2016 Water Resource Management Plan. District staff and the consultant team are currently gathering general comments and feedback. The draft of the management plan is due in the first quarter of 2016.

### **Review of Draft Implementation Action Items**

Ms Ram and Brian Skeens, CH2M, provided the background and opened up discussion for the three action items that were distributed to the sub-committee.

#### **SAMPLE ACTION ITEM 1: Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Replacement Program**

Ms Ram and Mr. Skeens noted that the District Governing Board directed staff to explore opportunities related to water conservation in the commercial sector. The District and the consultant team stated that they will investigate costs versus benefits for this particular measure, and also reiterated that conservation is generally more cost-effective than developing new supplies. Ms Ram and Mr. Skeens also stated that this measure does not require direct install, and the purpose of this measure is to establish a strategy for replacement with ample room for flexibility. Sub-committee members offered the following comments:

- A Gainesville member suggested partnering with the companies that install the pre-rinse spray valves to make sure they are keeping up with maintenance. Grease trap inspection would be a great opportunity to talk about the pre-rinse spray valve.
- A member noted that if the program was successful as a voluntary why make it mandatory. There were additional questions as to whether the previous action item of distributing educational materials was successful.
- A member from Cherokee County asked about subsidies to the restaurant industry and questioned the benefits to the water system.
- A member suggested updating the state plumbing code to ensure that only WaterSense certified valves are sold in Georgia – this would negate the need for a conservation action item.
- Several members were concerned about flexibility in implementing the action item. Members also suggested partnering with restaurant associations.

#### **SAMPLE ACTION ITEM 2: Install HETs and HEUs in Government Buildings**

Ms Ram and Mr. Skeens provided an overview of the action item requiring water efficient plumbing fixtures in government buildings. They also noted that schools are specifically called out in the draft

language for this action item, however universities and colleges are not counted as government buildings. Sub-committee members offered the following comments:

- District should convene meeting with city and county officials and the planning department to provide education on this action item. Revisit the intent in the gray box.
- Members were concerned about cooperation from city and county government.

### **SAMPLE ACTION ITEM 3: New Cooling Tower Efficiency Requirements**

Ms Ram and Mr. Skeens provided an overview on new cooling tower efficiency requirements that would require 6 cycles of concentration or higher for new equipment. They noted that the action item provides for flexibility for each jurisdiction to implement according to their capacity and capabilities. Sub-committee members offered the following comments:

- A member from the City of Atlanta was concerned about the regulatory components of this action item and whether or not this would turn a jurisdiction into a regulatory authority.
- A member from Cobb County Water System suggested that certification of an efficiency requirement for new cooling towers may be added to existing checklists. The member noted the success of the sewer retention programs and that the process may be replicated. Atlanta: Do not want to implement an annual certification program and/or inspection. They are not an enforcement agency.
- Several members suggested adding the requirement through the building code revision process with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- Several members asked for clarification on re-use water.

### **Next Steps**

District staff requested that all written comments be provided by November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. The District will provide an update on the schedule for remaining draft action items at a future date.