

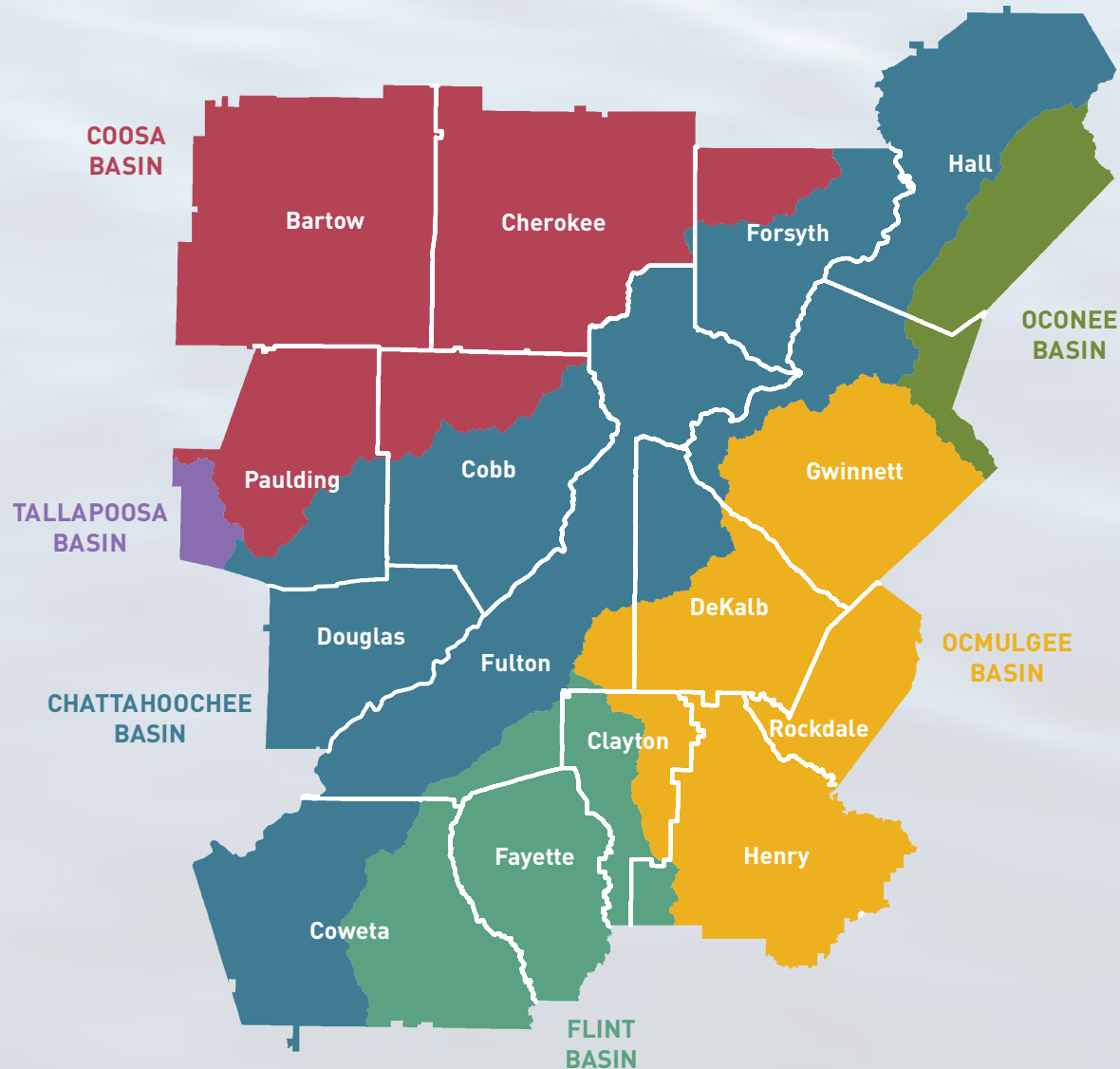


# 2015 Activities & Progress Report

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

## About the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

The Georgia General Assembly established the Metro Water District in 2001, forming a framework for creating comprehensive plans for water supply and conservation, wastewater and watershed management in metro Atlanta. The Metro Water District adopted the first set of plans in 2003. Since then, it has worked in partnership with the state and local governments in the 15-county planning area to implement, update and strengthen the plans. The Metro Water District is currently working on the second update of the plans and is combining them into a single, integrated Water Resource Management Plan.



## 2015 Board Members

### Elected Officials

**The Hon. Boyd Austin, Jr.** (*District Chair*)  
Mayor, Dallas, Paulding County

**The Hon. Kasim Reed**  
Mayor, City of Atlanta

**The Hon. Matt Santini**  
Mayor, Cartersville, Bartow County

**The Hon. L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr.**  
Chairman, Cherokee County Commission

**The Hon. Jeff Turner**  
Chairman, Clayton County Commission

**The Hon. Tim Lee**  
Chairman, Cobb County Commission

**The Hon. Larry Owens**  
Mayor, Senoia, Coweta County

**The Hon. Lee May**  
Interim CEO, DeKalb County

**The Hon. Tom Worthan**  
Chairman, Douglas County Commission

**The Hon. Greg Clifton**  
Mayor, Fayetteville, Fayette County

**The Hon. H. Ford Gravitt**  
Mayor, Cumming, Forsyth County

**The Hon. John Eaves**  
Chairman, Fulton County Commission

**The Hon. Charlotte Nash**  
Chairman, Gwinnett County Commission

**The Hon. Danny Dunagan**  
Mayor, Gainesville, Hall County

**The Hon. Tommy Smith**  
Chairman, Henry County Commission

**The Hon. Richard Oden**  
Chairman, Rockdale County Commission

### Citizen Members

**Katie Kirkpatrick** (*Vice Chair*), Atlanta

**Birdel Jackson** (*Secretary/Treasurer*), Alpharetta

**Pam Burnett**, Marietta

**Bradley Currey, Jr.**, Atlanta

**Kit Dunlap**, Gainesville

**Chuck Huling**, Mableton

**Gerald Pouncey, Jr.**, Atlanta

**Tim Thoms**, Fayetteville

**Steven Woodruff**, Canton



# Chairman's Message

As I write this, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is preparing to celebrate its 15th anniversary and release a draft of its updated 2016 Water Resource Management Plan. For the first time, the Metro Water District is bringing together water supply and conservation, wastewater and watershed planning into one, integrated planning document. The Water Resource Management Plan relies on the best available technical information and diverse stakeholder perspectives to identify measurable and meaningful actions that will both sustain our water resources and ensure the region remains a water-secure, national innovator and leader.

One of the key findings in preparing the plan is that Metro Water District residents will use approximately 25 percent less water in 2050 than was previously projected. This forecast reflects the continuing success of conservation efforts that have already helped dramatically reduce water usage across the region, further solidifying metro Atlanta's position as a national leader in water stewardship and water loss prevention.

During the plan update, our stakeholders have provided an unprecedented level of invaluable input. Thus far, we have received more than 1,000 comments from Basin Advisory Council and Technical Coordinating Committee members on draft material. An important theme emerged from this feedback — to build upon outreach efforts by expanding the Metro Water District's technical assistance program. The updated plan will highlight critical opportunities where additional support can be provided to member jurisdictions across a broad range of water resource planning areas. The program will also be designed to support member governments in meeting Metro Water District plan and Georgia Environmental Protection Division audit requirements.

The Metro Water District's education and outreach program is well established and broadly recognized for its impacts. This year, we received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 National WaterSense® Excellence Award for Education and Outreach, for advancing WaterSense® and water efficiency. Additionally, participation in our annual contests, festivals and Water Drop Dash 5k Race continue to be fun and effective.

Even as we document decreasing water demands and continue to receive recognition for our award-winning programs, the courtroom battles over water supply in two regional water basins continue. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Florida's motion to sue Georgia for an "equitable apportionment" of the waters of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin. In this case, Florida alleges that Georgia's use of the basin's water has caused "substantial harm" to Florida. The suit is focused on increasing freshwater flows into Apalachicola Bay to support its oyster industry.

Georgia is not to blame for the collapse of the oyster industry. As noted in Georgia's brief to the Supreme Court, the collapse is due in part to Florida's mismanagement of the oyster industry, immediately followed by a major drought, which decreased freshwater flows across the basin.

In a separate case involving the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basin, the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority and the State of Georgia have sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because the Army has failed to act on water supply requests at Allatoona Lake that have been pending since 1981. The suit asks the court to direct the Army to answer the requests in a reasonable period of time.

While we should be proud of our stewardship story, we also need to continue to advance, innovate and ensure the region has the water required to support the quality of life and economic prosperity that makes us a global leader. On behalf of the Governing Board, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), the Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) and the District staff, we appreciate and look forward to your continued support and participation during the plan update.



Mayor Boyd Austin  
Metro Water District Chair



# Education and Outreach

## *Award-Winning, Comprehensive*

**T**he Metro Water District's education and outreach program has received several prestigious awards to date. Much of this is due to its successful outreach to all age groups and implementation of programs that cover a wide variety of water resources management topics. This past year, the Metro Water District received one of the most coveted awards within the industry — the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 National WaterSense® Excellence Award for Education and Outreach. Of the more than 1,700 utilities, manufacturers, retailers, builders and organizations nationwide that partner with WaterSense®, only a select few programs receive this esteemed award each year.

The Metro Water District continues work on its two large-scale, critically-important programs: My Drop Counts, which addresses water conservation; and the Clean Water Campaign, metro Atlanta's solution to addressing stormwater pollution. Participation in program activities continues to grow. Each year, the Metro Water District's 109 member jurisdictions, utilities and water authorities host more than 2,000 activities and outreach events across the region, providing education on water conservation and water quality awareness. The Metro Water District's own events and contests, including the Water Drop Dash 5k Race and Water Festival, the middle school essay contest, the high school video contest and the Water Reflections calendar photo contest, continue to be fun and successful. In 2015, more than 2,700 area residents and students participated in these four signature events.



The number of participants in four signature annual events and competitions



The number of prestigious national and international awards received in the last five years



The number of outreach activities hosted by District region wide partners every year





Make a case for the  
caddisfly larva.









# Integrated Planning *for Stronger Regional Results*

In 2015, the Metro Water District began updating the Water Supply and Water Conservation, Wastewater and Watershed Management plans and combining them into a single, integrated Water Resource Management Plan. The plan, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2016, will include elements of the 2009 plans but will apply greater focus on the interrelationships across the water planning sectors. These improvements will lead to a stronger plan that is more valuable to communities within the Metro Water District.

The past year's work included data gathering and updating water and wastewater forecasts for the year 2050. Staff also worked with stakeholders on key issues including commercial water conservation, septic management, the consolidation of watershed action items and an overhaul of education and outreach requirements to name a few. As 2015 came to an end, the consultant team was actively assembling data and information for the update and expects to have a draft plan available for public review in the summer of 2016.



**55%**

The decrease in grease-related sewer overflows from 2003 to 2014



**110,000+**

The number of toilets rebated since 2008, saving more than 2.6 million gallons of water per day



**30%**

The drop in per capita water demand since 2000

# Engaging Our Stakeholders

## *Building a Solid Foundation*

The keystone of a successful water resource management program is a well-rounded, engaged and informed stakeholder base. The Metro Water District relies heavily on its Basin Advisory Councils (BACs), Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Governing Board members who spend countless volunteer hours strengthening the regional plan with diverse and local perspectives.

In 2015, as District staff prepared data and drafted portions of the Water Resource Management Plan (a process that began in January 2014 with visioning and

goal-setting exercises), stakeholders were invited to attend numerous discussions and review material. These interactions provided valuable feedback that has been used to enhance the plan. This past year alone, more than 250 stakeholders participated in 38 stakeholder meetings, providing more than 1,000 comments. This extensive level of participation is a testament to the dedication of Metro Water District stakeholders.



**38**

The number of stakeholder meetings in 2015 — That's one meeting every 1.4 weeks



**1,000+**

Comments received from District stakeholders to date



**235**

A record number of individuals from a broad range of interests that joined the BACs in 2015



plan new construction

# Water Storage for the future

QUESTION 3. As we embark on the plans for the District, what do you think our top goals should be?

Balancing regulations/ordinances/recommendations to insure that all stakeholder needs are represented - economic, environmental and quality of life.

QUESTION 3. As we embark on the plans for the

Coordination of  
present  
future

Uniformity

QUESTION 3. As we embark on the plans for the

Additional water supply

Water supply

# Financials

## 2015

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District operates on a calendar-year budget, with the majority of revenues coming from local government dues (\$1,280,677) and state of Georgia allocations (\$250,000). For 2015, local government dues were \$0.265 per capita (based on the 2010 Census).

Adjacent is a review of the revenues and expenses for 2015. This accounting is subject to adjustment after fiscal year-end close and an independent audit.

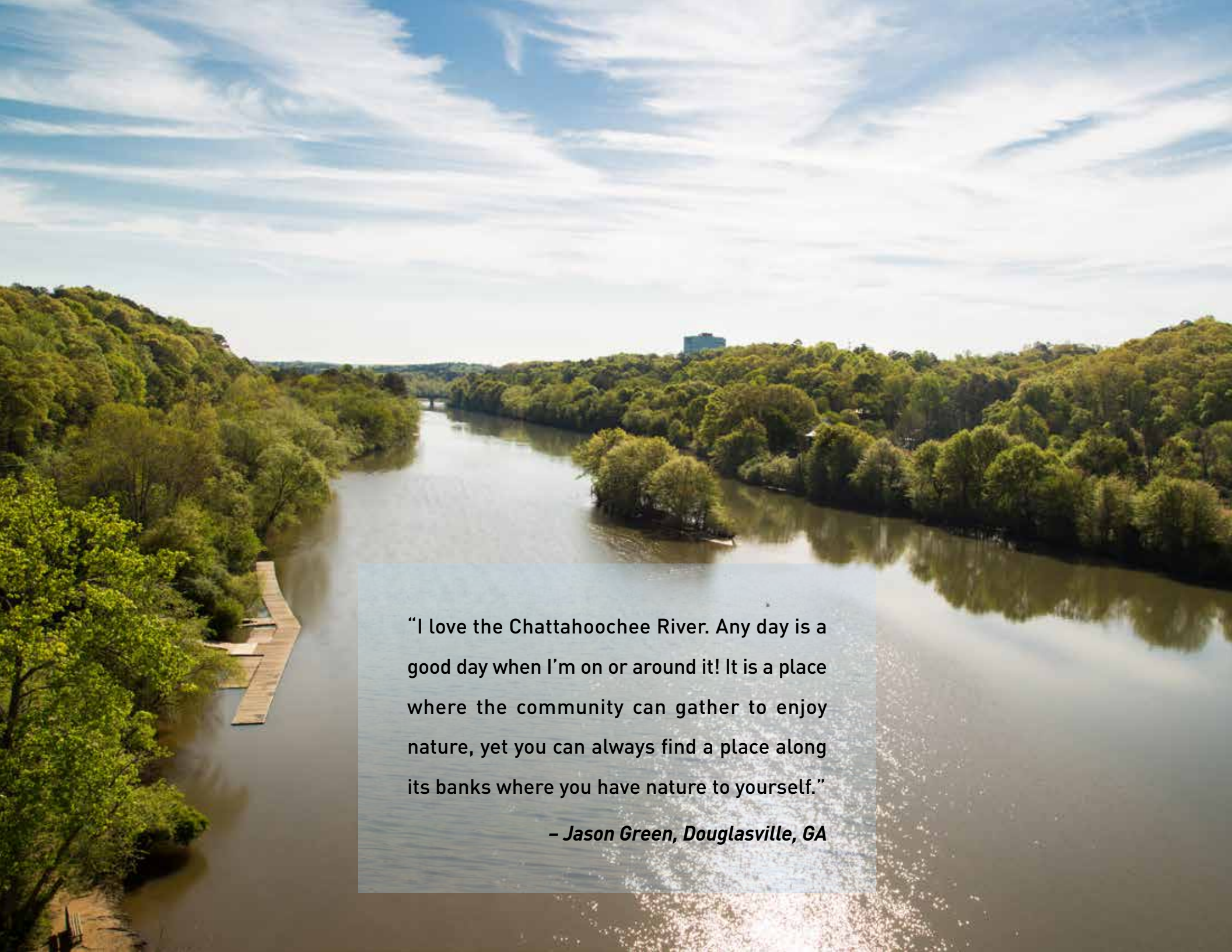
### Financials for 2016

In June of 2015, the Metro Water District Governing Board adopted a final budget of \$1,825,159 for 2016, with the majority of revenues coming from local governments (\$773,239) and the state (\$750,000). Plan update activities will be complete at the end of 2016, and the projected fund balance will decrease as we return to normal operating procedures. The Metro Water District strives to maintain a minimum fund balance of \$300,000 for operating contingencies. Local government dues will be \$0.16 per capita (based on the 2010 census) for 2016. The Metro Water District was able to offset an additional dues increase because of contributions from the state (an additional \$500,000 in 2016).

	2015 Budget Adopted June 4, 2015	2015 End of Year Budget Revision
<b>Beginning General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$679,744</b>	<b>\$990,122</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Direct State Funding	\$250,000	\$250,000
Local Dues (2010 Census at \$0.265 per capita)	\$1,280,677	\$1,280,677
Interest Income	\$2,000	\$2,000
Misc. Fees	\$60,000	\$60,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,592,677</b>	<b>\$1,592,677</b>
<b>Expenses by Type</b>		
Chairman's Allowance	\$3,000	\$350
District Planning Function		
Salaries	\$408,900	\$408,900
Fringe Benefits	\$241,251	\$216,850
Contracts	\$800,000	\$1,000,000
Overhead	\$260,060	\$242,977
Miscellaneous Operating	\$96,000	\$150,000
Public Awareness / Education	\$160,000	\$120,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,969,211</b>	<b>\$2,139,077</b>

**Projected Ending Fund Balance \$443,722**





“I love the Chattahoochee River. Any day is a good day when I’m on or around it! It is a place where the community can gather to enjoy nature, yet you can always find a place along its banks where you have nature to yourself.”

*– Jason Green, Douglasville, GA*





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