



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes
August 23, 2017

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Board Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission office in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Hon. Charlotte Nash, Chairman
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Hon. Buzz Ahrens
Hon. Edward Johnson
Hon. June Wood
Hon. Boyd Austin
Ms. Pam Burnett
Mr. Brad Currey
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Glenn Page

Mr. Tim Thoms
City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Kishia Powell
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehardt
Douglas County Designee: Gil Shearouse
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons
Hall County Designee: Mr. Ken Rearden
Rockdale County Designee: Ms. Deirdre Blackard

Members Not Present

Mr. Birdel Jackson, Treasurer
Hon. Mathew Santini
Hon. Larry Owens
Hon. Ford Gravitt

Mr. Mark Berry
Mr. Tim Lee
Mr. Gerald Pouncey

Chairman Charlotte Nash called the meeting to order.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Chairman Nash called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the June 7, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Ms. Kit Dunlap and passed without opposition.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Board Members

Chairman Nash recognized two new board members, Tim Lee and Glenn Page. Mr. Lee and Mr. Page are both citizen board members appointed by the Governor.

Mr. Lee is the executive director of the Habersham Partnership for Growth. He previously served as the chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and served on the Metro Water District Board. Tim and his wife, Annette, have three children and reside in Cornelia.

Glenn Page is the general manager of the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the Water Environment Federation. Page is a graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. He earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Tech. Mr. Page and his wife, Joy, have five children and five grandchildren. They live in Woodstock.

Lake Level/Drought/Water Litigation Update

Ms. Katherine Zitsch provided an overview on the current drought and lake level conditions. The Lake Lanier water level has been relatively flat over the summer months holding around 1065 feet or six feet below full pool. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has maintained Drought Response Level Two throughout the summer and is currently evaluating whether to make any changes.

Ms. Zitsch noted EPA has appointed Trey Glenn as the new Region 4 Administrator. Mr. Glenn has spent the last eight years as a private consultant advising Alabama in the water wars. Ms. Zitsch added that water quality is a big issue for EPA and TMDL decisions in other states could affect Georgia.

Ms. Zitsch noted that there are six lawsuits currently underway regarding water use in the ACF and ACT basins. Arguments were heard last Monday in the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority/Atlanta Regional Commission/State of Georgia v. US Army Corps of Engineers case. Our take is that the trial went well.

In the ACF basin, the Supreme Court is expected to take up the case in their October session, which runs through summer 2018. The court could accept the Special Master's recommendation, remand the case back to the Special Master, or rule on their own.

Mr. Currey stated that he has been told that the recommendation of Special Master, Ralph Lancaster, has never been turned down by the Supreme Court. Ms. Zitsch replied that the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the Special Master's recommendation four of four times, however those cases were typically compact disputes, whereas this one has no compact for interpretation.

The following questions were asked:

Question: Is it likely that the Supreme Court could hold their decision until the other ACF cases are concluded?

Answer: The clearest indicator is that this case has moved forward in the past while the Water Control Manual was being finalized and these other cases have been filed.

Ms. Zitsch added that everyone owes a big thank you to their congressional representatives noting the recent efforts to stall language proposed by Senator Shelby from Alabama in a recent bill.

2017 STREAM Awards

Ms. Zitsch presented the 2017 STREAM Award for Exemplary Level 2 Drought Response. This year's award focused on the utility who went above and beyond in implementing their drought response strategy. Ms. Zitsch presented the 2017 STREAM Award for Exemplary Level 2 Drought Response to the Cobb County Water System.

Ms. Zitsch noted that Cobb County Water System's strategy was proactive and innovative. The staff started planning an implementation strategy long before the declaration was made when they realized conditions were worsening. They also prepared how they would implement more difficult measures like pool cover requirements in the event of a Level 3 declaration.

Additionally, Cobb County Water System ensured accessibility of resources and messaging for their residents by creating a landing page for drought and outdoor water use-related information. They expanded their reach in messaging by posting news alerts and updates on Nextdoor and with the Drought Busters campaign, modeled after Ghostbusters, which included YouTube videos and hashtags.

The water system also enforces their water waste policy through monetary penalties and eventually termination of service for repeat excessive water users.

Education and Outreach Update

Ms. Skinner provided an overview of education and outreach activities. The Metro Water District will continue to offer messaging and materials to local jurisdictions for use during the Georgia EPD Drought Level One and Two Response. District staff have participated in multiple tabling events across the region this summer including two festivals where we received a constant flow of people.

Ms. Skinner also noted that registration is open for the Storm the Watershed 5K and 15K Trail Run. The race will be held in Locust Grove, GA on November 4, 2017 and will coincide with many of the river clean-ups being held that week.

Ms. Skinner noted that the Metro Water District Essay Contest for middle school age students will continue this fall and entries for the 2018 Calendar Photo Contest will be accepted until September 8, 2017.

Schedule 2017 and 2018

Remaining Board meetings for 2017 and dates for 2018 are as follows:

- December 6, 2017
- February 28, 2018
- May 23, 2018
- August 22, 2018
- December 5, 2018

Executive Committee Report

Parking Validation

Chairman Nash noted that the Executive Committee considered changes to parking validation procedures for meetings held at the Atlanta Regional Commission's new office. The committee provided direction to the Metro Water District staff to continue validation for Basin Advisory

Council meetings and cease validation for District Board Meetings and Technical Coordination Committee Meetings.

BAC New Member Approval

Chairman Nash announced that the Executive Committee approved three individuals for membership to the Basin Advisory Committees (BAC), bringing the total BAC membership to 178.

Regional Inter-Governmental Coordination Meetings

Mr. Danny Johnson provided an update on the six regional inter-governmental coordination meetings being held across the region. The meetings are a means to communicate the requirements of the Water Resource Management Plan as they relate to the non-water related departments of local governments. Invitees include elected officials and managers of planning and zoning, code enforcement, building permit offices, and site plan review departments. The meetings focus on the need for inter-governmental cooperation to successfully meet the requirements of the plan including developing, passing and enforcing ordinances and holding annual coordination meetings.

Update on Multi-family Toilet Rebate and Commercial Water Conservation Program

Mr. Andrew Morris noted that the Metro Water District currently administers a single-family toilet rebate program and is expanding its technical assistance role by offering a similar program for multi-family residential properties to interested utilities. The District convened a working group of interested utilities to develop the program.

Tara Brown with the Henry County Water Authority provided an overview of the group's recommendations. Ms. Brown noted that the proposed program will include flexibility for the participating utility to allot rebate funding in an amount of their choosing, will be eligible to properties on master meters only and will provide two rebate options based on efficiency of the toilets installed. The rebate amounts will be set at \$75 for WaterSense ultra-high efficiency toilets using 1.1 gallons per flush or less and \$50 for WaterSense high-efficiency toilets using 1.28 gallons per flush or less. The utility will have the option to set the maximum number of rebates per property. An education component will also be provided for the participating properties. The program is planned to launch in January 2018. Questions or comments can still be provided to either Lora Amedu or Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris also added that the Metro Water District staff is working with a group of utility members to develop a commercial water conservation program administered by the District. The working group is exploring partnership opportunities with organizations, like power companies and nonprofits, performing energy audits. The objective is to encourage energy auditors to include an evaluation of water savings associated with fixtures that use both water and energy.

Highlights of Individual Community Efforts across the District

City of Atlanta – 100 Resilient Cities

Ms. Keisha Powell presented an overview of the City of Atlanta's 100 Resilient Cities Partnership and the Department of Watershed's management initiatives. The 100 Resilient Cities

Partnership is pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation and provides support for the identification of potential shocks and stresses and how cities can more readily respond to, withstand, adapt and emerge stronger during tough times and live better in good times. The City of Atlanta has identified the following shocks and stresses in their preliminary work: aging infrastructure/infrastructure failure, cyber-attack, drought, economic inequality, rainfall flooding, and terrorist attack.

The Department of Watershed Management is working on and planning many initiatives including \$1.25B investment in water/wastewater infrastructure, SMART H2O and information management infrastructure upgrades, improvements to the Care and Conserve Program, assessing climate change resiliency/flood mitigation through the green infrastructure strategic action plan, integrated planning, and security upgrades at critical facilities. The city is also focusing on equity issues throughout the work program.

City of Roswell – Stormwater Management

Mr. Dan Skalsky presented an overview of the benefits and successes of the City of Roswell's stormwater utility as well as new resolution by the City expressing the City's concerns regarding the proposed Senate Bill 116 and how that bill would put significant risk on the funding structures for stormwater utilities. The resolution will state that establishment of stormwater management fees are the responsibility of local governments who are responsible for public stormwater systems. Mr. Skalsky encouraged other communities to also advocate and consider similar resolutions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.