



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**  
**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**February 28, 2018**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 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  
Hon. Edward Johnson  
Hon. Boyd Austin  
Hon. Oz Nesbitt  
Mr. Mark Berry  
Ms. Pam Burnett  
Mr. Brad Currey  
Mr. Glenn Page  
Mr. Gerald Pouncey  
Mr. Tim Thoms

Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas  
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Judy Skeel  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart  
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Jon Heard  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons  
Hall County Designee: Mr. Ken Rearden  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Tony Carnell

**Members Not Present**

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair  
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Treasurer  
Hon. Keisha Bottoms  
Hon. Mathew Santini

Ms. Kit Dunlap  
Mr. Tim Lee

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 December 6, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Mr. Gerald Pouncey and passed without opposition.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Reminder of Action Item Deadline**

Chairman Nash reminded the Board that the 2017 Water Resource Management Plan Action Item for Water Loss Control and Reduction offers an option for the local water providers to establish a goal for water loss control that is outside of the metrics detailed in the action item.

The deadline to make the request is July 1, 2018 and must be submitted in writing to the Chairman with a detailed summary of the analysis with supporting data.

### **Legislative Update**

Chairman Nash noted that today is Crossover Day and this is the second year of the two-year legislative cycle so any bill that does not pass either the senate or the house will not move forward. If you have any questions regarding ongoing activity, feel free to reach out to Mr. Andrew Morris.

### **Post-Construction Stormwater Management Model Ordinance**

Chairman Nash announced that District staff held the first TCC meeting on updates to the District's model ordinance for post construction stormwater management two weeks ago. The update is necessary based on changes in the latest version of the stormwater management manual and the updated MS4 permits that EPD has issued and will be issuing in the near term. The ordinance will track the requirements in the manual and the MS4 permits very closely. As that process moves along, staff plans to keep the board informed of any major developments, and staff expects that the model ordinance will be ready for consideration by the board later this year.

### **Schedule for 2018**

Chairman Nash reminded the Board of the remaining Board meetings dates for 2018 as follows:

- May 23, 2018
- August 22, 2018
- December 5, 2018

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Paulding County Plan Amendment**

Chairman Nash noted at their December meeting, the Executive Committee voted that the Paulding County requested amendment to the Water Resource Management Plan be categorized as major. The amendment was released for public comment for the required 30 days. No comments were received.

The Executive Committee voted to recommend the approval of the amendment at their meeting earlier this morning. A motion to approve the requested plan amendment was made by Hon. Boyd Austin and seconded by Hon. Edward Johnson and passed without opposition.

### **Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) Contract**

Chairman Nash announced that earlier this morning the Executive Committee reviewed specifics of a contract between Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and the District where the state would provide funding for the District to update the Source Water Assessment Plans which were last updated in the early 2000's and are now required to be updated per the new Plan requirements by 2020. Under this agreement, the District will receive a total of \$243,950 from the State to update the SWAPs. The District will be required to provide a match of in-kind services but no additional District funding will be required. Chairman Nash thanked EPD and GEFA for working with the

District to help fund this needed effort. A motion to approve the contract was made by Hon. Austin and seconded by Mr. Pouncey and passed without opposition.

### **Litigation/Drought Conditions Update**

Ms. Katherine Zitsch gave a brief overview of “drought” conditions across the metro region. The elevation of Lake Lanier is approximately 1070.5, or 0.5 feet above the full winter pool elevation of 1070. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is currently releasing flows to support water management requirements for navigation purposes but these releases are being offset by high inflows due to recent rains, therefore the lake remains full. Allatoona lake is at the winter full pool elevation of 830. While the District area is almost completely out of drought conditions, much of south Georgia remains dry.

Ms. Zitsch announced a court decision has been reached in the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority(CCMWA)/Atlanta Regional Commission/State of Georgia v. USACE case ruling that the USACE must consider the water supply requests for additional water from Allatoona Lake. The USACE schedule shows that they will answer the request for additional water by March 2021.

Ms. Zitsch noted that the Supreme Court heard oral arguments from Florida, Georgia, and DOJ (representing the USACE) in January. A ruling is expected between now and June. There are two other ongoing cases regarding the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint (ACF) basin. The State of Georgia and ARC/the water suppliers have filed a motion to transfer venue for both cases from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

### **Education and Outreach Update**

Ms. Sarah Skinner provided an update on upcoming education and outreach activities including the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Drop Dash 5K Run and Water Festival that will be held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center on March 22, 2018 and a call for entries for the 2019 Calendar Photo Contest that will be announced in the spring. The District will also be opening up the STREAM Awards in the spring with the theme “Encouraging Redevelopment Through Incentivization, Enhanced Implementation of the Post-Construction Ordinance.”

Ms. Skinner also announced that the Metro Water District is partnering with Cox Enterprises, The Coca-Cola Company, Georgia Power, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and Agnes Scott College to launch an update to the My Drop Counts Business Pledge on Earth Day, April 22, 2018. The update will focus on engaging businesses to find ways to save water but also expanding the messaging to the employees of each business to broaden the reach of the campaign.

Ms. Pam Burnett noted that the District should put the State Legislators on the regional distribution list for drought related communications and should encourage the State Capitol building to take the Business Pledge.

### **DCA Plumbing Code Update, National Trends and Georgia Possibilities**

Ms. Kathy Nguyen with the Cobb County Water System provided background on the upcoming updates and procedures for the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the Georgia Amendment process. Ms. Nguyen noted that in 2017, Cobb County decided to advocate for an update to the

Georgia Amendments to the IPC to require WaterSense labeled showerheads and pre-rinse spray valves. At the time, the Department of Community Affairs, who oversees the amendment process, told Cobb that they would be better to have more voices of support like from the Metro Water District.

Mr. Andrew Morris provided an overview of preliminary research performed by District staff which demonstrated that current sales of plumbing fixtures related to showerheads, lavatory and kitchen faucets are being widely sold in stores and installed in homes across the state with flow ratings that are more efficient than the current Georgia plumbing code. Mr. Morris demonstrated potential savings associated with a reduction in fixture flowrates should the plumbing code be updated to meet more efficient standards. Mr. Morris stated that recommendations to DCA are typically received during the summer period and then recommended changes would be drafted and approved during the fall and winter. He also noted that District staff could take additional time to research more stores and new construction to refine the background data, consider other plumbing code related topics such as backflow prevention updates that may be needed, and then report back to the Board at the May 23, 2018 Board meeting with a final recommendation.

Mr. Brad Currey stated that this looked like a no brainer to him. Chairman Nash noted her surprise at the percentage of high efficiency fixtures being sold at the stores. Mr. Ted Rhinehart appreciated backflow being part of this effort and noted that this might offer lots of educational opportunities. Mr. David Kubala stated that the fire code is diametrically opposed to the protection and safety of the distribution system and to the extent that we can create a dialogue with those folks related to backflow, it helps. Mr. Gil Shearouse noted his appreciation for the District staff's engagement to external partners and the more we can push change to outside opportunities the more we can reduce rate payers expenses.

A motion to have District staff "take the ball and run" to develop a draft amendment to the Georgia Plumbing for consideration at the May 23, 2018 Board Meeting was made by Mr. Currey and seconded by Ms. Burnett and passed without opposition.

### **Finding the Flint**

Ms. Hannah Palmer, the project manager for the Finding the Flint initiative, provided an overview of the goals, team members, community engagement and concepts associated with the effort to bring recognition to the headwaters of the upper Flint River and to restore areas of the river where possible. The Finding the Flint initiative began with a partnership of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Conservation Fund, and American Rivers. These groups utilized funds from a Pisces Foundation grant to create a visualization of what areas of the Flint River above and below Hartsfield Jackson International Airport could look like if the river was restored and local greenspace and recreational opportunities were embraced in its corridor. Ms. Palmer shared renderings generated for the project and discussed various opportunities with stakeholders such as Clayton County Water Authority, the Aerotropolis CID, Delta Airlines, Woodward Academy, and the cities of East Point, College Park, and Hapeville. A working group of local stakeholders has been meeting over the last three months to help create partnerships and identify priority areas of focus.

Mr. Tim Thoms asked the Board to take note of the current water crisis affecting Cape Town, South Africa where the city is close to running out of water. Mr. Thoms expressed appreciation to District staff's ongoing efforts and asked the District to continue "taking the ball and running with it!"

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.