



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**  
**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**May 23, 2018**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Wednesday, May 23, 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  
Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair  
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Treasurer  
Hon. Edward Johnson  
Hon. Boyd Austin  
Mr. Mark Berry  
Ms. Pam Burnett  
Mr. Brad Currey  
Mr. Tim Thoms

City of Atlanta Designee: Ms. Kishia Powell  
Cherokee County Designee: Mr. David Kubala  
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Bernard Franks  
Cobb County Designee: Ms. Kathy Nguyen  
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Ted Rhinehart  
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Gil Shearouse  
Forsyth County Designee: Mr. Jon Heard  
Fulton County Designee: Mr. Nick Ammons  
Henry County Designee: Mr. Tony Carnell

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Mathew Santini  
Hon. Richard Higgins  
Hon. Oz Nesbitt  
Ms. Kit Dunlap

Mr. Tim Lee  
Mr. Glenn Page  
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 February 28, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Brad Currey, seconded by Mr. Gil Shearouse 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.

### **Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Website Launch**

Ms. Lora Amedu provided an overview of the District's new Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Website. The website now includes both the single family and multi-family programs and provides a link to all participating utilities. The Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program administered by the District was created to assist local utilities with their implementation of the 2017 Action Item WSWC-6: Toilet Replacement Program. The District's program is now accepting contracts with interested utilities. The District will review applications, verify eligibility, estimate the total available rebate and include additional education materials recommending other ways to save water during plumbing retrofits.

The District currently has seven participating utilities and already has two properties in Clayton County who have applied with 500 pending toilet replacements. The two properties in Clayton County have also decided to replace showerheads and faucet aerators at the same time. Over the last 10 years, the District has rebated over 130,000 toilets which is equivalent to the combined number of seats in SunTrust Park and Mercedes Benz Stadium.

The following questions were asked:

Question – Is there a range of rebate value being offered?

Answer – Yes, a \$50 rebate is offered for 1.28 gallons per flush and a \$75 rebate is offered for 1.1 gallons per flush and less.

Questions – What is the payback period for these properties?

Answer – The two properties in Clayton County anticipate a one or two year payback period.

### **Remaining Schedule for 2018**

Chairman Nash reminded the Board that the District will be holding a Board retreat in South Georgia on October 18-19<sup>th</sup>. The retreat will provide for a learning and relationship building opportunity that will guide the board on a path for future collaboration and planning efforts with downstream neighbors. It will also provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about southwest Georgia and discuss strategy for planning efforts in 2019 and beyond. The remaining Board meetings dates for 2018 as follows:

- August 22, 2018
- October 19, 2018
- December 5, 2018

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **2018 Budget Revision and 2019 Budget and Work Program**

Secretary/Treasurer Birdel Jackson provided an overview of the 2018 budget revision and 2018 budget and work program. For the 2019 Budget, the Finance Committee proposes increasing the per capita dues to 25 cents to build up the District fund balance in preparation for future planning efforts related to the 2022 District Plan Update. The Executive Committee requested that a new designation be made for funds reserved for the 2022 Plan Update.

One board member asked why we need to raise funds now. Mr. Jackson noted that this was a way of accruing and designating funds in a gradual manner instead of a single larger increase. Chairman Nash added that the increased funding may also need to be used in 2019 for work we may designate for preparing for the 2022 Plan Update.

Hon. Boyd Austin made a motion to approve the 2018 budget revision and 2019 budget and work program. Chairman Nash explained that a recommendation of the Finance Committee does not require a second. The 2018 budget revision and 2019 budget and work program passed with one member opposed.

### **2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit (CAFR)**

Chairman Nash announced that a copy of the 2017 CAFR is available for members to review.

### **BAC Membership Drive and New Member Approval**

Chairman Nash noted that every two years, District staff holds a BAC membership recruitment drive to increase the membership in BACs that lack the 20-member minimum and to maintain a balance of interests among members. The Executive Committee approved 16 applicants this morning with 10 of those being new stakeholders.

Mr. Tim Thoms noted that some BAC members have expressed concerns about how to make the BAC process more participatory. Mr. Steve Williams, the Chairman of the Ocmulgee River BAC, added that BAC membership may increase if the District offered food during the quarterly meetings. Mr. Williams also stated that most people are not concerned with water issues until there is a crisis and that the state should be giving the District more money to execute its programs.

Mr. Danny Johnson provided an overview of the cyclical nature of the BAC membership before and during the planning cycles noting that membership typically increases in the years leading up to the 5-year water management plan updates.

Ms. Pam Burnett suggested the Board assign a member to each of the BAC meetings to provide the BAC members direct access to the Board.

### **Litigation/Lake Level Update**

Ms. Katherine Zitsch gave a brief overview of water supply conditions across the metro region noting that Lake Lanier is currently above full pool, at 1071.9.

Ms. Zitsch discussed ongoing litigation across the ACF and ACT basins. The Supreme Court ruling is expected sometime between Tuesday, May 29th and the end of June. Ms. Zitsch reminded the Board that three outcomes are considered possible – Georgia winning, Florida winning or the case being remanded to the Special Master for further analysis. She also reminded the Board that there are three other ongoing cases:

- (1) Alabama v. the Corps of Engineers in the ACT. This case has been fully briefed and is waiting on the judge to rule.
- (2) the Alabama and National Wildlife Federation v. the Corps of Engineers in the ACF. These cases were just transferred to the Northern District Court of Georgia and consolidated.
- (3) Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority v. the Corps of Engineers case about water storage accounting in Allatoona Lake. This case ongoing in the Northern District Court of Georgia.

In Congress, we are closely watching the House Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and the Senate version called the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). To date, AWIA has passed out of Senate committee without language targeting Georgia's water use. The WRDA bill is being discussed in committee at the same time as the Board meeting. We are also closely watching Senate Appropriations regarding the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations and the Energy and Water Appropriations Bills. Both of these should be at the full committee on Thursday, May 24th.

Commissioner Powell from the City of Atlanta spoke about the positive provision in AWIA regarding grants for workforce development in water utilities.

The following question was asked:

Question: Are there talking points that we can use if we call our elected officials?

Answer: Please let them know that water supply is important and that it is important for our elected officials to continue working hard to defend it.

### **Education and Outreach Update**

Ms. Sarah Skinner provided an update on recent and upcoming education and outreach activities. This spring, the District sponsored two Children's Water festivals, one on the north and one on the south side of the region, which provided education to nearly 1,000 students who learned about the value of watershed protection.

Ms. Skinner announced the three winners of the High School Video Contest and played each video for the board. Over 150 students participated to create over 50 videos on the topic Make Every Drop Count.

The District and our education partners will be embarking on a new initiative to end illegal dumping, which has been identified as a significant issue by several members of the Technical Coordinating Committee.

The District announced the launch of the My Drop Counts Business Pledge on Earth Day, April 22. The business pledge encourages the regional business and education community to make a commitment to saving water in their building and campuses. A business can earn points for pledging to implement certain conservation measures and can pledge at the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels.

The following questions were asked:

Question: Are you tying the messaging for illegal dumping to non-point source pollution or to river clean ups?

Answer: Yes. We will create a common list of contaminants that can affect surface water from illegal dumping sites.

Question: Are we going to coordinate with the local Keep Beautifuls?

Answer: Yes, as well as the Chattahoochee River Keeper.

Question: Our public works team works on illegal dumping issues. Do we need to put them on the committee?

Answer: Yes.

The Board discussed the role of the Keep Beautiful campaigns and questioned the need to address illegal dumping in the District's work program.

### **Plumbing Code Recommendations**

Mr. Andrew Morris provided a list of recommendations for the Board to consider making to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on the next update to the Georgia plumbing code. Mr. Morris discussed relevant research and the differences between existing showerhead, lavatory faucet (private), and kitchen faucet fixture efficiency rates and proposed rates. These changes would bring the state of Georgia up to standards that match widely available product selection at affordable prices. The proposed changes would include the following:

Showerheads – 2.5 gpm or less to 2.0 gpm or less plus a requirement for WaterSense

Lavatory Faucet – 1.5 gpm or less plus WaterSense to 1.2 gpm or less plus WaterSense

Kitchen Faucet – 2.0 gpm or less to 1.8 gpm or less

Based on conservative estimates, these efficiency changes would produce 1 billion gallons a year in savings or 2.7 million gallons per day. A typical household on a water and sewer account could realize annual savings of approximately \$40 to \$60 depending on the utility. In addition, annual customer savings from water heating energy would range from \$15 to \$34.

Mr. Thoms made a motion to authorize the District to submit these recommendations to DCA for consideration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kathy Nguyen and passed without opposition.

### **Antidegradation Implementation Guidelines Updates**

Mr. Morris reported that District staff have begun assessing the proposed updates to the Georgia EPD Antidegradation Implementation Guidelines. Mr. Morris specifically directed the board's attention to language regarding reuse and return flow considerations. Mr. Morris committed to continue tracking the proposed updates to ensure consistency with the actions and policies in the District's Water Resource Management Plan.

### **Gwinnett County Research Initiatives**

Ms. Denise Funk with the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources provided an overview of several research initiatives taking place in Gwinnett County. These projects aim to advance water science and support the county's vision. Ms. Funk provided details on the following projects:

1. Global City Teams Challenge – This project is a Smart Cities initiative looking at groundbreaking applications of the “internet of things.” Gwinnett County is partnered with AT&T, Qualcomm, and Jacobs to look at methods of assessing distribution pressures, water temperatures, and customer usage in real time in order to provide better system management, leak detection and customer service.
2. Lake Lanier Septic Study – This study seeks to protect Gwinnett County's drinking water source by determining the impact of septic systems on water quality and assessing the impact to water quality when septic tanks are taken offline and replaced with low pressure sewer.

3. Direct Potable Reuse Study – This study was recently completed and evaluated the ideal blends of direct potable reuse water and compared the results to the current practice of indirect potable reuse in Lake Lanier.
4. Water Innovation Center – Gwinnett County is developing plans for a Water Innovation Center that will be a one of a kind research, training, and education facility to support the water industry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.