



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Flint Basin Advisory Council
MEETING SUMMARY
January 8, 2008**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Flint Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Fayette County Public Library in Fayetteville, GA.

Members Present

Kirsten Berry
Connie Bicmillen
Vanessa Birrell
Scott Brumbelow
Mark Caspar
Dennis Chase
Lancelot Clark
Grady Dunlap
Richard Fehr

Ron Feldner
Ted Greene
Teresa Harwood
Marilyn Johnson
Brice Martin
Lisa Perrrett
Paul Ralston
Julius Ross
Andy Wells

Welcome and Introductions

Joy Hinkle of the Metro Water District staff welcomed the Council and initiated introductions. Members introduced themselves with name, company and favorite Flint basin water resource. Resources mentioned included: Lake Ward, Whitewater Creek, Flint River, Flint River Shoals, Lake Blackshear, West Point Lake.

Basin Profile Overview

Kim Shorter of Metcalf & Eddy presented the draft Flint basin profile, which covered the following:

- Highlight existing conditions in the Flint basin
- High level summary
- 54% increase in population
- 650 square miles
- Land Use will include revised future land use (2035)
- Wetlands in Flint Basin are along the stream banks
- Increase in residential land use, med. and low density

- EPD listings for Biota likely to increase as a result of increased/better monitoring
- More miles of listed streams a result of increased/better monitoring
- Fecal Coliform listings likely from SSO and septic tanks
- Water withdrawals (not yet in the report to TCC for QA/QC)

Council members provided the following feedback on the draft profile:

- Lake Horton withdrawals from Whitewater Creek may be incorrect
- Wastewater treatment – lots of septic tanks in Flint
- Concern that small systems are not included in wastewater table
- Builders to pay for sewer connections
- Recommend septic tank planning maps be developed.
- Discussion about district-wide septic regulation/requirement
- Maintenance pumping requirement was in original 2003 plan but pulled due to lack of support from WWTP operators
- Successes: East Jesters Creek stream restoration project and Lake Peachtree buffers
- Challenges: Highly impervious head waters, Restoration of impaired areas, Growth in the lower portions of the Flint Basin

Open Discussion

Kim Shorter facilitated discussion on successes and challenges in the Flint Basin that could be added to the draft basin profile. Council members provided the following feedback:

Successes

- Culvert Replacement Programs for Fayetteville and Fayette County
- Grant to work on Pye Lake Dam (ARC Local City Initiative) Fayetteville
- Coweta County education on water source book
- Coweta and Newnan culvert replacement project
- Joint work in Flint Basin is a success
- Henry County implementing ordinances
- Henry County increasing number of conservation subdivisions
- Dennis Chase's Successes:
 - Green space acquisitions in Peachtree City, Fayette, Fayetteville, Board of Education
 - Peachtree City student water quality teams
 - Door to door public education conducted by students
 - 100% positive feedback in the flat creek watershed
 - 45 students involved in the project

Challenges

- Public understanding of seriousness of water issues
- Water bill inserts could help remind citizens about septic system maintenance
- Should map current and future septic areas
- Hold septic tank workshops and public education are critical

- What is actually being done related to TMDLs management and monitoring by jurisdictions?
- Fayette County, Fayetteville, and Peachtree City are TMDL victims of water quality violations upstream
- TMDLs should be approached on a District level.
- Jurisdictions need help analyzing MS4 water quality data that is collected – should be someone at the District or GA EPD to help
- Develop toolkit and measures to finding sources of pollution
- There is a large need for funding to implement the “unfunded mandates”
- District should lobby for federal funds
- State should lobby for federal funds

General Comments and Polling

Council members also provided general comments on the draft Flint Basin profile:

- Is the profile intended to cover the whole basin or just the Upper Flint within the District? Need explanation of downstream resources.
- Need better descriptions of TMDL plan implementation – what is actually being done?
- More explanation of watershed health – what is the ranking based on? Is there any way to quantify potential and actual pollution?
- Is it possible to include 303(d) list for impaired streams or conceptual map of impaired streams?

Ms. Shorter concluded the meeting by polling Council members using an automated response system. The BAC was asked to choose their preferred answer to the following (% response):

- What is the best program to improve septic system quality?
 - A) Increase minimum lot size to 1 acre (13%)
 - B) Local construction inspections (13%)
 - C) Require mandatory inspections/pump out certification every five years (53%)
 - D) Homeowner education on proper maintenance (20%)

Ms. Hinkle reviewed the plan update schedule and reminded Council members to check email and the Web site for meeting announcements. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.