



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Joint Meeting of the Wastewater & Septic System Subcommittees
MEETING NOTES
January 10, 2008

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Wastewater & Septic System Subcommittees met on Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendance

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Bobby Brooks, Gwinnett County
Chris Browning, Fulton Co
Tori Bujeker, Cherokee Co Env Health
Charles Corbin, Austell / Buford / Palmetto /
Union City
Bruce Coyle, Paulding Co
Jimmy Dean, City of Flowery Branch
Ernie Earn, GA EPD
Jim Free, GA Onsite WW Assoc.
Alan Gaines, DeKalb Co Env Health
Horace Gee, City of Gainesville
Michael Kauffmann, City of Villa Rica

David Kubala, Cherokee Co WSA
Charles Lambert, DeKalb Co
Billy Lunsford, City of East Point
Michael McBrier, City of East Point
Rodney Middlebrooks, City of Monroe
Tonja Mincey, Henry Co WSA
Tim Perkins, Forsyth Co
Ron Peters, Gwinnett Co
Monica Robinson, Fulton Co Env Health
Pam Robinson, Bartow Co Env Health
Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Co
Barbara Seal, Gwinnett Co
Emily Wingo, GA EPD

Matt Harper welcomed the group. After brief introductions, the meeting focused on issues for the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan update.

Existing Facilities Review

Jeremy Koch with Metcalf and Eddy gave an overview of the existing wastewater treatment facilities in the District. Jeremy noted that the number of public facilities has not changed since the plans were adopted but the number of private facilities has increased. Jeremy briefly discussed the status of reuse in the District. A TCC member commented that we can not assume that reuse water creates more supply, it's a fixed resource. Another TCC member asked how M&E is evaluating the consumptive use of reuse water when it is land applied. M&E stated that reuse will be discussed in depth at upcoming meetings.

Wastewater Management Issues

Paula Yari with M&E gave the group an update on the status of TMDLs being developed in the District. She stated that the dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Coosa Basin will be finalized this summer. Paula then discussed the TMDLs being developed for water quality violations in Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona. These two lakes were listed on the 2006 version of the state's 303(d)/305(b) list as not meeting the water quality standard for Chlorophyll a. The Lake Allatoona Chlorophyll a TMDL will be completed this summer and the TMDL for Lake Lanier will be completed next summer.

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Peter Oram with M&E discussed sewer system capacity certification with the group. He noted that the need for evaluating capacity certification is greatest when more flow is added through system expansions or when communities redevelop. As part of the capacity certification required by the District plan a local utility is required to determine if it has enough capacity to collect, convey and treat additional flows from new or expanded developments. Peter discussed the different options for monitoring sewage flow; they included the use of flow monitors, pump station capacity / run time, spot checks of flow depth or checking records for overflows on line in question. One TCC member commented that the District plans should set the standard or goal of a particular measure but should allow flexibility in the way a local government achieves the goal of the measure. A smaller system might not need to use flow monitoring stations and system models if using pump station run time yields the information they need to determine system capacity.

Jeremy Koch with M&E then discussed the status of septic systems in the District. He discussed the septic systems planning requirements of the District's wastewater plan and the overall benefits of septic systems planning. He then presented the steps a local government needs to take to plan for septic systems in their area. Those steps included:

1. Identify critical areas that are not suitable for septic systems.
2. Map existing sewer service area and compare this with water service accounts to determine location of existing septic systems.
3. Involve planning & zoning departments to identify low density areas suitable for long term septic system usage.
4. Develop a map that delineates where sewer will be provided, transitional areas and non-sewered (septic areas), as well as private systems if allowed.

A TCC member requested including a strategy for dealing with existing septic systems when they fail.

Paula Yari with M&E then discussed the plan requirement to develop a private wastewater system policy. She discussed the benefits of having a policy in place because at some point in the future these systems will become the responsibility of the local utility. Many jurisdictions shared their policies with the group and most had some type of stipulation that these systems would be designed to the utility's specification and turned over to the utility for operation at some point in time. There was a suggestion from a TCC member to develop formal agreements between the cities, counties and local health departments to make sure all parties know about a local jurisdiction's policy for private wastewater systems.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.