



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
Water Supply & Water Conservation  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
February 27, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committee (WSWC TCC) met on Friday, February 27, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Amphitheatre, on "C" level of the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Attendance**

Michael Carter, Paulding County  
Charles Corbin, Cities of Austell, Buford,  
Palmetto, Union City  
Bruce Coyle, Paulding County  
Kathy Crews, Atlanta-Fulton County WR  
Brad Curry, Water District Board  
Ernest Earn, Cobb Water System  
Steve Green, DDCWSA  
Katie Kirkpatrick, Water District Board  
Celia Klardie, City of Canton

Melinda Langston, City of Atlanta  
Frank Martin, City of Smyrna  
Tony Parrott, Fayette County  
Steve Payne, Town of Braselton  
Ronald Peters, Gwinnett County  
Guy Pihera, Clayton County  
Kelen Shostak, City of Woodstock  
Gregory Van Antwerp, City of Smyrna  
Emily Wingo, GA EPD

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff opened the meeting, initiated introductions and reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and process for completing plan updates.

**Discussion of Metrics and Benchmarks**

The Metro Water District Board indicated a need to establish and collect more detailed data on water use and conservation metrics to gage progress. The Chairman established a Board working group to initiate discussions on metrics and benchmarking for the water conservation program. The Board working group discussed overall water use metrics and metrics and benchmarks for each measure in the conservation program. A section about metric and benchmarks will be added to the final plan update and metrics and benchmarks will be reported in a new annual report on water conservation program progress. Input from the TCC on metric and benchmarks was requested during this meeting. Attached to this document is the meeting handout that was reviewed during the meeting.

Pat Stevens of the Metro Water District staff led the discussion on metrics and benchmarks. Pat recognized Brad Curry and Katie Kirkpatrick, Board members, and thanked them from their assistance in developing the metrics that were going to be discussed. Pat let the group know that Shana Udvardy with the Georgia Conservancy provided very detailed comments during the public comment period regarding metrics and benchmarks. Pat thanked Shana for her effort and asked that the TCC review her public comment letter and let us know if there is anything in Shana's comments that we need to include.

The group discussed overall water use metrics that can be collected and tracked. EPD already collects and compiles information from water systems on withdrawals, water produced and returns. Metro Water District could collect that information from EPD and analyze and report it for the Metro

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Water District. EPD is also currently collecting per capita data from water systems and it was suggested that the District also gather that information from EPD and use their methodology for calculating per capita usage. TCC members discussed some considerations to collecting and analyzing multi-family water use data. Many multi-family buildings are not sub-metered and apartment vacancies can be two factors that can complicate studying multi-family water use.

The group then discussed metrics and benchmarks for each measure. The results are as follows:

1. *Conservation pricing*: It was recommended that the District continue to conduct its bi-annual rate survey while also reporting rate information in less detail annually. It was suggested that the District create an online database for water systems to upload rate changes if they change their rates between the bi-annual rate survey. One member pointed out that when reporting water use we need to recognize situations in different communities that can skew data results such as a college students leaving for the summer or vacation homes vacant in the winter. It was suggested that the annual data collection include what unit customers are billed (gallons, CCF, etc). In terms of billing system needs to the desired metrics various recommendations included:
  - Do not include self-supply in billing system requirements
  - Historical use should be reported on the bill in gallons for ease of customer understanding (some billing systems do not indicate what unit the customer is being billed in)
  - Systems should be able to report how many customers are being billed in each tier.
2. *Replacing Older Toilets*: For the measure on replacing older toilets, it was suggested that handout include a statement saying that the District should estimate the gallons saved as a result of efforts of this program.
3. *Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Education*: It was discussed that this measure will be eliminated in 5 years once the market is saturated with the low-flow pre-rinse spray valves that are now required by law.
4. *Rain Sensors*: It was suggested that rain sensor shut-off switches should be required in the building code and in water system policy.
5. *Multi-Family Sub-metering*: It was suggested that the District quantify savings by estimating the how much more water apartments with sub-meters could have been using if they did not sub-meter. This would be based on the 15% savings for sub-metered multi-family buildings estimated in the National Multiple Family Submetering and Allocation Billing Program Study referenced in the plan.
6. *Assess and Reduce Water System Leakage*: The group recommended that the benchmark in the plan state that each water system must set their own water leakage goal including a timeframe and plan to reach the goal instead of setting a 10% goal for every water system in the plan. The District would report on what goal each water system set, when they plan to reach the goal and what they plan to do to reach it. It was recommended that the District collect data for a few years before attempting to set a standard goal for every water system in the District. In order to do this it needs to be required that water systems annually use and report the AWWA water audit software including the gallons saved and the District will need to provide training. Also, it was mentioned that results can be skewed due to lack of data in the first few years and varying production levels due to weather and restrictions.

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7. *Residential Water Audits*: No changes requested. It was mentioned that many times the top 25% of water users happen to be large families, not water wasters.
8. *Low Flow Residential Kits*: No changes requested: It was suggested that kits be phased out possibly during the next 5 year update due to saturation of low-flow fixtures in the market.
9. *Commercial Water Audits*: It was requested that savings information on audits be reported. Conducting a case study with water systems and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division was discussed.
10. *Education*: It was recommended that the District be clear that the education requirements are annual requirements and that specific information be report on how water systems met those requirements.
11. *Install High Efficient Toilets and Urinals in Government Buildings*: It was suggested that the handout include the number of gallons saved be collected and reported.
12. *Car Washes*: It was suggested that information on car wash certification can be collected from EPD.
13. *Other*: It was suggested that the school water use data collected should include private schools. One member mentioned that the school data needs to have notes because some schools may have schools or horticulture projects that would explain higher water uses. One member encouraged the District to educate the public on why saving more water does is not going to decrease rates. Another suggestion was that the District should develop metrics for the watershed and wastewater plans.