



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Basin Advisory Council
MEETING SUMMARY
March 3, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Riverdale Branch of the Clayton County Public Library in Riverdale, Georgia.

Members Present

Scott Brumbelow, Flint
Grady Dunlap, Flint
Ted Greene, Flint
Laura Hartt, Chattahoochee
Ken Phillips, Ocmulgee
Steve Williams, Chattahoochee

Welcome and Introductions

Joy Hinkle of the Metro Water District staff welcomed the Councils and initiated introductions.

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff gave an overview of “next steps” in the Metro Water District planning process. Mr. Harper reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings for the Basin Advisory Councils and Technical Coordinating Committee. He explained the compressed meeting schedule was necessary to provide the Governing Board with a recommended list of changes to the plans at the next Governing Board meeting on April 2, 2009.

Mr. Harper reviewed the meeting packet materials. He explained how the spreadsheet of public comments was developed and organized and called attention to the summaries of the comments on each plan.

Update Implementation Costs

Kim Shorter of AECOM Water reviewed the provided memo on implementation costs for the Metro Water District Plans. Ms. Shorter explained that cost estimates are a required element of each plan and all the estimates are given in undiscounted year 2008 dollars.

Council members asked questions and provided the following feedback:

- Is water loss through evaporation included in the cost of building reservoirs?
- Please provide subtotals in the tables.
- Check accuracy of costs in Table 6 for Estimated Discrete Costs by Program or Activity. Include per capita costs when appropriate.
- Is it possible to compare to 2003 costs in order to evaluate whether the original estimates were accurate?

Discussion of Public Comments Received on Draft Plans

Ms. Shorter facilitated discussion on the public comments and she and staff answered questions as necessary.

Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan

Ms. Shorter highlighted topics/sections that would be revised in the draft plan to respond to public comments, including additional language on water conservation goals, a new section on metrics and benchmarks and new recommendations on billing software functionalities. Council members asked questions and offered the following feedback:

- Did we consider adding multi-family toilet rebates to the water conservation program?
- Need to be very clear about the starting assumptions for determining baseline water use.
- Billing systems should have the ability to compare your home use to the average home.
- Could the Metro Water District possibly develop a regional billing system?
- Will there be anything about rain water harvesting in the plan?
- What about outdoor watering restrictions?
- Need more equity between what residents are being asked to do for conservation and what businesses are being asked to do.
- Plan should make stronger connection between saving energy and saving water.
- Why not include higher return rate goal?
- What is "Plan B" after court decisions on Lake Lanier storage and use?
- Include additional water conservation measures as optional now so it is easier to amend the plan if the courts decide less water is available from Lake Lanier.
- What is the status with groundwater?
- Will there be metrics for the wastewater and watershed plans?

Watershed Management Plan

Steve Haubner of the Metro Water District staff reported that the majority of public comments received were related to water quality concerns and the monitoring program. Mr. Haubner explained that the Metro Water District is considering several options for the monitoring program, such as allowing local watershed improvement plan monitoring to count towards plan requirements or having USGS or another consultant manage regional monitoring sites. Council members asked the following questions:

- Any thoughts of increasing the amount of monitoring?
- Is it possible to include university or Riverkeeper monitoring efforts in the regional program?
- Will the parameter list be expanded under the regional monitoring effort? Will habitat monitoring be included?

Ms. Shorted noted that a new section on metrics and benchmarks would be added to the draft plan.

Long-term Wastewater Management Plan

Ms. Shorter reviewed the public comments received and noted that a new section on metrics and benchmarks would be added to the draft plan. She also noted language will be added to clarify that inclusion in Appendix B does not guarantee the Georgia Environmental Protection Division will issue a permit for the project. Mr. Harper provided background on several septic systems comments. Council members offered the following feedback:

- Is it possible to retro-fit septic tanks into sub-surface irrigation systems?
- Consider including a toolbox of optional ways to treat wastewater/septage.
- Check wording on 10% reuse requirement – appears as a “goal” rather than a requirement that we are already exceeding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.