



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER/OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
July 28, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Corps of Engineers' Lake Lanier Management Office in Buford, GA.

Members Present

Drew Addison
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants
Mary Jones
Larry Long
Steve Payne, Town of Braselton

Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Joel Sneed
Jill Stachura, Brown & Caldwell
Ike Swofford
Chris Yancey

Members Not Present

Carroll Castleberry
Tim Merritt
Val Perry, Lake Lanier Association

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Kelly Randall, the Metro Water District Board Alternate for Hall County welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and expressed appreciation for the commitment of the BAC members and initiated introductions. BAC members introduced themselves and shared their interest in the basin. Mr. Randall thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and giving their input.

BAC Operating Procedures

Matt Harper presented an overview of the Basin Advisory Council Operating Procedures. He stated that the BACs provide input in the development of the Metro Water District's comprehensive plans and policies that guide water resources management in the 15 county metro Atlanta region. He also outlined District staff roles, introducing Heather Moody and informing the group that she will

manage the BAC process. Mr. Harper then explained that the first three meetings of the BAC would be part of an extended orientation and beginning in 2010, regular meetings will be held quarterly. Mr. Harper went on to describe attendance policies and encouraged consistent attendance for all members. Mr. Harper then provided details about the role of the BAC Chairperson. The BAC Chair will review BAC meeting agendas and meeting summaries and will serve a one year term. The Chair will also have the option to represent the BAC by attending Metro Water District Board meetings. Mr. Harper said that the Chair election would be held at the next meeting and that members could vote by absentee ballot if necessary. Interested candidates were asked to submit a statement of interest by August 19th. Finally, Mr. Harper outlined the BAC voting procedures. He explained that a quorum of 50 percent plus one is required to hold a vote. Also, if consensus on an issue is not reached, Mr. Harper confirmed that both the majority and minority opinions will be included in the meeting summary and the summary will be shared with the Governing Board.

ACF Ruling Update

Matt Harper provided a summary of the July 17th 2009 court ruling by Judge Magnuson regarding the ACF litigation. BAC members were asked to think about suggestions for other water supply options, political strategies or any other ideas concerning how best to deal with the court ruling and to bring those ideas to the next BAC meeting.

Review of the Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan

Maia Davis of the Metro Water District staff reviewed the newly adopted Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. She showed the BAC where to find specific information and highlighted important facts and figures.

A BAC member asked how the Metro Water District follows up with the municipalities concerning their implementation of the Plans. Maia Davis explained that GA EPD enforces the plans through an extensive audit process. Local governments will not receive modifications to existing permits or new permits unless they pass the audit. State funding decisions are also based on compliance with the plans.

The BAC asked questions regarding the plans for interbasin transfers. Ms. Davis directed the group to page 2-6 in the Plan, which gives a summary of existing interbasin transfers listed by basin. Future interbasin transfers are listed on page 6-14 in the Plan.

BAC members also had questions about how the Metro Water District Plan would relate to the State Water Plan. Matt Harper explained that our plans are consistent with the State Water Plan. As additional guidance and information becomes available, the Metro Water District will take the necessary steps to coordinate with other State Water Planning Councils.

One BAC member pointed out that the ACF court ruling is not just Atlanta's problem. Because Atlanta is the economic engine in this region, whatever happens to Atlanta will affect the entire state.

Facility Tour

Following the meeting, Power Project Manager Cecil Quinley with the Corps of Engineers led the group on a tour of Buford Dam. Our guide answered questions from the BAC members and provided a detailed description of how the dam operates.

Next Meeting

Matt Harper announced that the next Lake Lanier/Oconee BAC meeting would take place on August 25th at 10:00am in Gainesville.