



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
COOSA / ETOWAH BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
August 4, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Coosa Basin Advisory Council met on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton, GA.

**Members Present**

Patricia Braithwaite	David Cervone, Obrien & Gere
Doris Cook, Etowah W&S	James Durham
William Francis, GAWP	William Grizzle, Cherokee Co Farm Bureau
John Hicks, LAPA	Nolton Johnson
Dart Kendall, GOWA	Celia Klardie, City of Canton
David Kubala, Cherokee W&SA	Barry Mansell
H. Luke Mayes, Cobb Co Farm Bureau	Robert Morrison, LAPA
Carol Moson, Ga Association of Realtors	Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Assn of GA
Douglas Sowar, Paulding Co Farm Bureau	Roy Taylor
Christina Williams, City of Cartersville	Martha Williams, Georgia Lakes Society
Ed Mullinax, LAPA / Cartersville Water Department	

**Members Not Present**

Donald Salkman

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. David Kubala, Metro Water District Board Designee for Cherokee County welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and expressed appreciation for the commitment of the BAC members. He stated that water has never been more important than it is right now and that the BAC will be discussing some very critical issues over the coming months.

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Coosa BAC and initiated introductions. BAC members introduced themselves and shared their interest in the basin.

### **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 to Ms. Moody. 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ms. Davis confirmed for a member that the Metro Water District addresses municipal water use. This includes anyone who buys their water from a municipal source, not just homeowners.

A brief discussion was held concerning implementation of conservation measures included in the Plan. Ms. Davis explained that the 10 measures that were in the initial 2003 Plan are required to be implemented at this time. The two new water conservation measures listed are to be implemented in the future. Ms. Davis also explained that the water providers are currently required to have a program in place for providing water audits to their commercial customers when requested, and to make customers aware of the availability of those programs.

BAC members also had questions about how the Metro Water 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 inquired if water use by electric utilities is addressed in the Plan. Ms. Davis said that the State Water Plan addresses water use by electric utilities and that the State provides them with conservation guidance. The member also pointed out that if citizens strive to conserve energy around their homes, they will reduce their power consumption and thereby also help conserve water.

A question was also asked about identifying non-municipal water withdraws that are unpermitted. Matt Harper explained that withdraws under 100,000 gallons per day are not permitted by Georgia EPD. Maia Davis stated that section 11 in the Plan describes the Metro Water District's state and regional policy recommendations regarding water withdrawals and permitting.

### **Facility Tour**

Following the meeting, Reservoir Manager Cole Blackwell led the group on an informative tour of the Hickory Log Creek Dam. Our guide answered questions from the BAC members and provided a detailed description of how the dam and reservoir operate.

### **Next Meeting**

Matt Harper announced that the next Coosa BAC meeting would take place on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am in Cartersville.