



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
OCMULGEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
August 6, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Ocmulgee Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 10:00am at the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant in Henry County, GA.

Members Present

Cassandra Barber	Michael Blackburn
Jimmy Carter, Jr.	Scott Cole, Sr.
Richard Edinger, Jr.	Tom Harrison, H2O Reps
Roger Hatch, Rockdale/DeKalb Co Farm Bureau	Wayne Haynie, Jordan, Jones & Goulding Inc
Shirley House	Lawrence Kaiser
Mark Landers, U.S. Geological Survey	Martin McElhenny
Vikki McReynolds, GA Utility Contractors Assoc.	Tonja Halton Mincey, Henry Co W&SA
Paul Morgan	Petra Parker, Comm. Atlanta Board of Realtors
Jack Tanner, City of McDonough	Luis Torres
Susan Varlamoff, UGA	Michael Walker
Steve Williams, Building Greener LLC	

Members Not Present

Larry Allen
Scott Brumbelow, Georgia Utility Contractors Assoc.
Bob Donaghue
Deirdre Faye Lyons-Gary, DeKalb Co League of Women Voters

Welcome and Introductions

Board Member Lorene Lindsey, Mayor of Locust Grove, welcomed the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board and thanked the group for attending. Mayor Lindsey said she hopes the members learn a lot from the meeting and wished everyone an enjoyable stay in beautiful Henry County.

Matt Harper of the Metro Water District staff welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Ocmulgee 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. Potential 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 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.

There were several questions concerning the per capita water use in figure ES-1 and how those numbers were derived. Ms. Davis explained that the per capita use data is derived from total municipal water use divided by the Metro Water District's population. This includes everyone who buys their water from a municipal source, not just homeowners.

When a member asked if the Plan addresses water use for the entire state of Georgia, Maia Davis directed the group to figure 1-1, which shows the counties and cities included in the Metro Water District Plans. She also highlighted figure 1-2 which illustrates the major river basins in the Metro Water District.

Ms. Davis explained that the Metro Water District has a requirement for local governments to use the IWA / AWWA water loss methodology. Once water providers have collected water loss data for their system using this methodology, they should evaluate ways to reduce system leakage.

Another member asked Ms. Davis if the planned plant capacities cited in tables 8-4 and 8-5 include all planned expansions or only approved expansions. Ms. Davis explained that for Georgia EPD to consider permitting a plant expansion, it must be included in the Metro Water District Plan. The member also asked if any of the expansions were planned based on expected GEFA funding. Matt Harper stated that the Metro Water District only identifies the necessary water supply to meet future population projections. The District does not allocate sources of funding for future plant expansions. Mr. Harper also explained that local governments are not obligated to expand a facility because it is listed in the Plan.

A member wanted to know how to find out the results of the EPD audits of District water providers. Council Member Tonja Halton Mincey stated that the results are public record and can be obtained from Georgia EPD.

There was also a question about whether any innovative water reuse methods are included in the Plan. Ms. Davis said that Section 7 in the Plan defines water reuse and gives examples of various types of reuse. She added that Georgia EPD's planning guidance to the Metro Water District includes a 10% reuse goal, which is already being exceeded.

A brief discussion was held concerning plumbing retrofit requirements. One BAC member asked if there are plumbing requirements that must be fulfilled in order to sell an older home. The Plan requires water providers to have programs to replace older, inefficient toilets. Most jurisdictions fulfill this requirement through a toilet rebate program. DeKalb County requires retrofitting of toilets as a stipulation for new water service. DeKalb County also offers a rebate to its water customers for retrofitting to low flow toilets.

A member asked if groundwater use was considered in the Plan. Matt Harper stated that, compared to surface water, groundwater is not considered to be a significant source of water in this area because of the bedrock geology. Ms. Davis said it is considered to be approximately 1 to 2 percent of municipal supply moving into the future.

BAC members also had questions about when the Metro Water District would start on the next set of Plans. Matt Harper said that as additional planning guidance and information becomes available from Georgia EPD, the Metro Water District will take the necessary steps to update the Plans.

Facility Tour

Following the meeting, Laboratory Manager Eric Osborne led the group on an informative tour of the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant. Our guide answered many questions from the BAC members and explained the various functions of the water treatment equipment. Participants learned about

the water treatment process, from its origin at the reservoir all the way to its arrival in their homes or businesses.

Next Meeting

Matt Harper announced that the next Ocmulgee BAC meeting would take place on September 2nd at 10:00am in Rockdale County.