



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
LAKE LANIER/OCONEE BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
August 25, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Lake Lanier and Oconee Basin Advisory Councils met on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Gainesville, GA.

Lake Lanier BAC Members Present

Val Perry, BAC Chair
Drew Addison
Mary Jones
Larry Long
Tim Merritt
Wilton Rooks, Scenic Georgia, Inc.
Ike Swofford

Oconee BAC Members Present

Jill Stachura, BAC Chair
Steve Payne, Braselton Utilities
Chris Yancey

Lake Lanier BAC Members Not Present

Carroll Castleberry
James Hazelwood, StoneHenge Consultants

Oconee BAC Members Not Present

Metro Water District Staff Present

Matt Harper, Senior Principal Planner
Corey Babb, Senior Environmental Planner
Heather Moody, Senior Program Specialist

Welcome and Introductions

Heather Moody introduced Mr. J. Carlyle Cox, Hall County Board Alternate, who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board. Mr. Cox advised Georgians not to overreact to the ACF court ruling but instead to proceed with thoughtful and careful planning.

ACF Ruling Update

Matt Harper led a follow up discussion of the July 17, 2009 ACF court ruling. At the previous BAC meeting, 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. In response to that request, council members shared the following comments:

- Many wastewater facilities, including Flat Creek, go to great efforts to highly treat and return water to surface waters, but this court ruling gives us no credit for the millions of gallons put back, it's simply talked about in terms of how much we take out. We should get credit for the water we put back.
- Water reuse is an important strategy. The City of Braselton is moving towards reuse for residential irrigation. Once the initial infrastructure costs are recovered, reuse water for irrigation represents a significant cost savings for the water customer and the water utility over using treated drinking water for irrigation.
- Direct water reuse or pipe to pipe reuse for drinking water should also be considered.
- We need to emphasize the importance of the recreation based economy surrounding Lake Lanier. It would also be faster and more cost effective to raise the water level in Lake Lanier than to build a new reservoir.
- Despite the Judge's ruling, we should still focus on minimizing consumptive use and keeping as much water in the system as possible. Returning water to the streams, rivers and lakes is helping the elevation of the Lake.
- Congress needs to pass a simple bill authorizing Lake Lanier for water supply and recreation and then send it back to the Governors to negotiate the numbers. BAC members should join or stay attuned to developments with the new ACF stakeholders group.
- We need to come up with an incentive to get all Georgians into a conservation mode. This situation is not getting enough attention from the public.
- Stormwater reuse and rainwater harvesting for non-potable reuse should be considered.
- Flat Creek and many other wastewater treatment plants reuse their treated water for facility maintenance and landscape irrigation. A law should be passed requiring similar water reuse for dust control at concrete plants and other construction and commercial purposes. These actions would result in significant water savings above and beyond the conservation actions taken by homeowners.

Lanier/Oconee BAC Chairperson Election

Heather Moody invited the BAC Chair candidates to say a few words to the Council prior to voting. Lanier BAC Chair candidates Val Perry and Ike Swofford shared a little about their background and told the group why they were interested in serving as BAC Chair. Oconee BAC Chair candidate Jill Stachura also shared her interest in serving as BAC chair. . Ballots were cast and Mr. Val Perry was voted in as Chair of the Lanier BAC. Ms. Jill Stachura was voted as the Chair of the Oconee BAC. The Chairs will serve a one year term.

Review of the Wastewater Management Plan

Corey Babb of the Metro Water District staff reviewed the newly adopted Wastewater Management Plan. All BAC members were provided with a hard copy of the Wastewater Management Plan. He focused in on key wastewater issues and showed the BAC where to find specific information in the Plan.

Facility Tour

Wastewater Operations Superintendent Danny Ingram gave a presentation on the wastewater treatment plant prior to taking the group on an informative tour of the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility. Our guide led Council members through the impressive facility and explained each step of the wastewater treatment process.