



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
FLINT BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
August 27, 2009**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Flint Basin Advisory Council met on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the J. W. Smith Community Use Building in Hampton, GA.

Members Present

Vanessa Birrell, Fayette Co. Board of Comm.
Bud Butcher, Coweta Co. Farm Bureau
John Caldwell, Coweta Co. WSA
Ernest Curtis
Ted Greene, Delta Environmental
Roger A. Greuel, Fayette Co. Farm Bureau
Todd Gullekson
Michael Harp, GA Farm Bureau

Dorothy Harris
Richard Little
Ted McCarter
Christine McGehee, SE River Forecast Ctr.
Dale Phenicie, Fayette Co. CoC
Edward Strong, Newnan Utilities
Tim Thoms, BAC Chair

Members Not Present

Don Easterbrook, City of Fayetteville
David Gerson, White Oaks Homeowners Assoc.
Brant Keller, City of Griffin

Richard A. Greuel
Paul Jones, GA Farm Bureau
Brice Martin, Coweta Co. Stormwater

Non Flint BAC Members Present

Chris Edelstein
Rich Suindland
Ken Frantz

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 of the Metro Water District staff introduced Citizen Board Member Mr. Jack Elkins who began the meeting by welcoming the group on behalf of the Metro Water District Board.

ACF Ruling Update

Matt Harper reported that the TCC met recently and briefly discussed the possibility of additional water conservation measures. Matt Harper also reported to the group that the Council for Quality Growth recently held a panel discussion on the ACF court ruling. The panel consisted of: U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, Dr. Carol Couch, Director of GA EPD, Chairman Sam Olens, Atlanta Regional Commission, Harold Reheis, Vice President of Joe Tanner and Associates, and Gerald Pouncey, Partner, Morris Manning & Martin. The following are some of the key points made by the panelists:

- Senator Isakson shared with the group that his staff is looking for other parts of the country with similar problems.
- Dr. Couch made the point that getting Lake Lanier reauthorized is the most cost effective, environmentally responsible option there is compared to other sources.
- Direct water reuse should be evaluated as a potential source.

Matt Harper then 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:

- Downstream users were put on notice by the same ruling, no one can use the system for drinking water. It has been suggested that we increase the height of Buford Dam by 2 feet to increase the storage capacity, but we cannot even fill the pool right now.
- Since Lake Lanier has flood storage capacity up to 1085, it doesn't seem necessary to raise the Dam height. Raising the operating level is more accurate terminology.
- We really aren't a water starved area. That suggests that water management is more our challenge than water shortage. Shouldn't that be the focus of the discussion? The public understands the need for wise use management. They get worried when you start talking about extreme, excessive conservation measures which translate to dollars.
- It's one thing to be in this situation because of physical limitation, but quite another to be in this situation because we can't get our policies organized. We need to talk to people and come out as a region to deal with these issues.
- We need well-organized contingency planning that goes beyond conservation measures and should have that in place before we move forward. We need to look 20 years to 30 years down the road and see what needs to be done.
- Direct water reuse can be easily done. We just need to set up the infrastructure to do it.

- Clayton County's constructed wetlands are an excellent example of indirect water reuse. They have placed a wastewater plant in a location where they are helping to recharge their own water supply reservoir with highly treated wastewater.
- We need to change the discussion because it's very easy for Atlanta to be incorrectly portrayed as a water hog. The Water First program looks like a really good way to enhance water conservation. It would be great if the entire Metro region could be certified in it.

Flint BAC Chairperson Election

Heather Moody invited BAC Chair candidates Tim Thoms and Brant Keller to say a few words to the Council. Prior to voting, a member commented that both gentlemen are very well qualified and asked if they could be co-chairs. Tim Thoms mentioned that the BAC operating procedures allow for creation of a Vice-Chair position. Matt Harper explained that voting on a Vice-Chair would need to take place after the Chairperson was elected. The votes were cast and Tim Thoms was elected BAC Chair. He will serve a one year term. Because Brant Keller was not present, it was agreed that creation of a Vice Chair position would be decided at the next meeting.

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.

During the overview, there was a brief discussion about decentralized wastewater systems. Matt Harper responded that the Metro Water District's plan states that decentralized wastewater systems are a viable option if owned and operated by a Responsible Management Entity. Furthermore, decentralized systems should be designed in consultation with local governments and be included in the jurisdiction's wastewater master plan.

Facility Tour

Jim Poff and Donnie Kiblinger of the Clayton County Water Authority took the group on an informative tour of the Shoal Creek Wastewater Reclamation Facility and the Panhandle Road Constructed Wetland. Our guides led Council members through the facility and explained each step of the wastewater treatment process, including transferring the treated effluent to the innovative constructed wetlands for further purification.