



**Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
GOVERNING BOARD
Meeting Notes and Minutes
September 1, 2011**

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board met on Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Allen S. Hardin Amphitheater at the R. Charles Loudermilk Center for Regional Community in Atlanta, Georgia.

Members Present

Hon. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Mr. Birdel Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Buzz Ahrens
Hon. Charlotte Nash
Mr. William Thomas Craig
Mr. Brad Currey
Ms. Kit Dunlap
Mr. Chuck Huling
Mr. Reggie Prime
Mr. Tim Thoms

Bartow County Designee: Mr. Ed Mullinax
Clayton County Designee: Mr. Mike Thomas
Coweta County Designee: Mr. Ellis Cadenhead
DeKalb County Designee: Mr. Charles Lambert
Douglas County Designee: Mr. Peter Frost
Fulton County Designee: Ms. Angela Parker
Hall County Designee: Mr. Carlyle Cox
Henry County Designee: Mr. Lindy Farmer
Rockdale County Designee: Mr. Dwight Wicks

Members Not Present

Ms. Katie Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Hon. H. Ford Gravitt
Hon. Tim Lee
Hon. Kasim Reed

Hon. Ken Steele
Mr. Gerald Pouncey
Ms. Suzanne Sitherwood

Approve Meeting Notes and Minutes

Chairman Boyd Austin called the meeting to order. The meeting notes and minutes from the June 2, 2011 Board meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Boyd Austin introduced Ms. Pat Stevens to update the Board on the Tri State Water Litigation. Ms. Stevens outlined the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision (June 28, 2011) which reversed Judge Magnuson's 2009 ruling. She explained that the court has retained jurisdiction over the case. The Corps has one year to determine the extent of their authority to provide all or part of Georgia's water supply request. Ms. Stevens informed the Board that the 11th Circuit Court has been asked to rehear the case *en banc*, but the court has not yet answered

this request. The Board inquired about the timeline for the appeal and how long the full court could take to rehear the case. Ms. Stevens explained that the appeal was filed in August and the court could take as long as needed if they decide to rehear the case. The Corps' one year deadline to determine water allocations is based on when the 11th Circuit Court answers the appeal request.

Mr. Brad Currey was asked to update the Board on the activities of the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint (ACF) Stakeholders group. Mr. Currey stated that a subcommittee of the ACF Board is reviewing proposals from three consultants to develop a sustainable water management plan for the ACF. At the same time the ACF Stakeholders are reaching out to organizations in the basin to help with fundraising efforts. The group has already raised \$100,000 and hopes to reach its \$1 million fundraising goal to fund the study. Mr. Currey invited Board members to attend the next ACF meeting being held at Lake Lanier Islands on September 12 & 13. More information about the group and upcoming meetings can be found at www.acfstakeholders.org.

Ms. Stevens provided an update on the drought affecting most of the state. She noted that the Corps has projected the level of the ACF lakes to fall over the coming weeks because of the dry conditions. She added that most of the Corps' releases are coming from storage due to the lack of rainfall. The Board asked if the high levels of the smaller water supply reservoirs in the region were due to the conservation efforts of local governments. Ms. Stevens referred to the various operators of these smaller reservoirs. Mr. Peter Frost stated that their reservoir was expanded to provide more storage. Mr. Mike Thomas commented that their reservoir levels are sustained by returning a large amount of highly treated wastewater to their water supply watersheds. Ms. Angela Parker noted that awareness has helped a great deal and outdoor watering has been reduced. Mr. Dwight Wicks has also seen reduced demand due to less outdoor watering.

Chairman Austin reminded the Board that the Clean Water Campaign and "I'm In" Essay Contest is currently being promoted in middle schools in the region. He asked the Board to help promote the essay contest in their areas. The deadline to submit essays is September 30th.

Chairman Austin updated the Board on the comments submitted to GA EPD on the draft water planning councils' plans in June. He noted that the councils were holding meetings in September to review the comments and make any necessary changes. The councils must submit their final plans to GA EPD by the end of September. More information about the councils plans and upcoming meetings can be found at www.georgiawaterplanning.org.

Update on Water System Interconnection, Redundancy & Reliability Act Study and the Governor's Water Supply Program

Mr. Kevin Kelly, Water Resources Director of GEFA gave an update on the Water System Interconnection Study which GEFA will submit to the Governor and General Assembly on September 15, 2011. He reviewed the methodology used to determine if and where interconnection improvements could be made throughout the 15 counties and stated that the project costs for the proposed list of improvements range from zero to \$200,000 to \$35 million.

He emphasized that this report is meant to only be a general engineering overview and project specific engineering would be needed to fully evaluate anyone of the report recommendations.

Mr. Kelly also provided a status update on the Governor's Water Supply Program. He noted that the work of the Water Supply Task Force is being done primarily through two subcommittees; Technology and Finance. The Technology Subcommittee is identifying the most viable water supply technologies and projects throughout the state. The Finance Subcommittee is determining how the state can best support the development of the water supply projects. The Finance Subcommittee is also working to determine how to utilize public-private partnerships. The Board asked how qualified systems were identified in the study and Mr. Kelly clarified those were systems that had a water withdrawal permit and 20,000 connections. The Water Supply Task Force will release a report of its findings later this fall for public comment with the final report being submitted to the Governor by the end of the year.

GA EPD's Anti-degradation Proposed Rule

Ms. Jane Hendricks explained that the proposed rule will clarify the purpose of antidegradation review and describes what requirements must be met before the state will allow discharge of pollutants into the various classifications of waters. The proposed rule will be released for public comment tomorrow and GA EPD will hold a series of public hearings around the state in October. The public comment ends October 27, 2011.

Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) Program Overview

Mr. Corey Babb with the District Staff updated the Board on the issue of fats, oils and grease (FOG) and education efforts currently underway to help remedy the problem. Mr. Babb explained that the main cause of sewer overflows is caused by blockages due to grease in the sewer system. He reviewed the current components of the District's Wastewater Management Plan that address grease management and local government ways to find and reduce grease in the sewer system. Mr. Babb explained the need for educating multi-family residences about proper grease disposal and showed the Board a door hanger and educational flyer that have been produced in English and Spanish. The District has produced 100,000 of these FOG educational door hangers and the Atlanta Apartment Association has agreed to distribute these to their member apartment homes and hang them on their residences' doors this fall. In addition to multifamily education efforts the District is developing a FOG website and training module.

Research on High Efficiency Clothes Washers & Dishwasher Standards

Ms. Stevens explained that the Board had requested the staff research high efficiency clothes washers and dishwashers and the possible need to add a recommendation to the District plan. She explained that the efficiency standards for these appliances are tied to the National Energy and Policy Act at the federal level. The U.S. Department of Energy is required to evaluate new standards for clothes washers by 2011 and dishwashers by 2015. After researching this issue the staff recommends that the District wait until the federal efficiency standard setting process is

completed before considering additional District plan requirements regarding these appliances. The District Board agreed with the staff recommendation.

Update on Metro Water District Activities

Mr. Matt Harper spoke about the success of the recent joint Basin Advisory Council meeting held on July 22, 2011 in Atlanta with nearly 200 people in attendance. The attendees heard a keynote address from Chairman Austin as well as presentations on the tri-state litigation, GEFA's interconnection study, the Governor's water supply program and statewide water planning efforts. The meeting also allowed the BAC members to break out into smaller groups to discuss the stormwater-landuse linkage, the water-energy connection, sewer overflows, and education.

The District has partnered with the Building Owners and Managers Association of Atlanta (BOMA) to hold a cooling tower maintenance workshop for building engineers, property managers and maintenance personnel responsible for cooling towers. The workshop will be held on September 13, 2011.

Mr. Harper also noted that the Metro Water District is partnering with Georgia Power to offer the Green Plumbers Training and Accreditation Program through a four-part series of workshops starting in September and ending in December. Only plumbers and apprentice plumbers are eligible to become Accredited Green Plumbers after attending all four day-long workshops and passing the Green Plumbers Accreditation Exam.

Other

Ms. Stevens announced that GA EPD will be holding a meeting on September 15, 2011 at the EPD Tradeport to discuss revisions to the Chlorophyll a standard for West Point Lake. She also announced that GA EPD continues to study possible revisions to the Temperature Standard for portions of the Chattahoochee River. GA EPD plans to hold stakeholder meetings this Fall with a public comment period planned for late in the year.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on Thursday December 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the R. Charles Loudermilk Center Amphitheatre. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.