

# Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River Study Management Group

Sawnee Mountain Preserve  
Cumming, Georgia

## **Attendees**

Brooke Anderson  
Corey Babb  
Steve Blackburn  
Randy Booker  
Bob Bourne  
Stacey Bouma  
Michele Brossett  
Doris Cook  
David Kubala  
Jim Parsons  
Steven Davie  
Erin Feichtner  
Lori Forrester  
Jerry Jones  
Jennifer Lowe  
John Marshall  
Diane Minick  
Stephen McCullers

Mike Morrissey  
Steve Nestor  
Tim Perkins  
Patrick Pherson  
Larry Reiter  
Dennis Roland  
Susan Raines  
Brian Ruggs  
Steve Shelton  
Sam Stribling  
Adam Sukenick  
Lynn Tully  
Brian Watson  
Jennifer Hansard Welte  
Dolisa Williams  
Mike Wooden

## **Summary of Discussions**

A big “Thank You” to our sponsors from Forsyth County (Tim Perkins and John Marshall) for hosting this meeting and providing lunch in the beautiful new Sawnee Mountain Preserve. To learn more about this wonderful educational center and preserve go to: [www.sawneemountain.org](http://www.sawneemountain.org)

*Year 3 Ecological Report:* Sampling occurred November/December 2007. HUC 12 Assessment. Sites are categorized from Good to Poor, on a scale from 1 to 5, using genus level taxonomy. Timeline for feedback: Report available on project website by 8/15/08, for sponsors to view. There will be a two week comment period, then another 2 weeks to make changes and issue the final report, which will be available to the public on the website. The soon to be completed Watershed Assessment includes data from the Year 3 report.

*Watershed Assessment (WA) Update:* The group held a July 8<sup>th</sup> review workshop to discuss methods, data, get feedback, etc. On July 21<sup>st</sup>, a memo was sent to sponsors

outlining the responses to their comments and questions. A technical group meeting was held Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ways in which the data are being used in the WA as well as the watershed and reservoir models. Draft final report will be issued August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, with two weeks for the sponsors to review. The WA will be submitted to EPD by late September 2008.

Sample comments and responses:

- 1) Enhance the executive summary: The Executive Summary was revised to better define the project objectives, summarize the WA report and explain the results. This revised Executive Summary will be distributed to sponsors today and also available on the sponsors' section of the website. The terminology used is better defined, more visuals were added, and the summary now covers all sections of the WA.
- 2) Clarify terminology: Restoration and protection are examples of terms that were not adequately defined. They have been replaced with more clearly defined terms. The WA does not make recommendations for protection and implementation. Those will occur in the WPP. It also tries to distinguish between anthropogenic causes and natural causes (e.g. the drought). Terms such as "impaired" were replaced with "degraded". We replaced terms such as "elevated" with numeric specifics.
- 3) Clarify data interpretation: A new section on methods was added to the document. It defines the terminology in quantifiable terms, such as "good, fair, poor" etc. Figures are labeled to identify whether the data comes from wet/dry weather, monthly versus grab samples, etc. There is a summary of the data collected and by whom. The methods used to interpret the data are explained. For example, for the chemistry assessment, terms such as "low, medium and high" are numerically defined for each parameter.
- 4) Clarify connection between MMI (multi-metric index aka the "bug score"), SWEIA (subwatershed ecological integrity assessment, which combines MMI with the fish data; and % rare and endangered species) and BCG (this is the SWEIA score combined with habitat and geomorphic assessment to create the biological condition gradient): The Integrated Assessment (IA) combines all the data types and then explains the overall condition of different points of the watershed. The revised report better defines these terms and the interrelationship between them. The LAUE Watershed occupies two EPA-defined Level 3 ecoregions (Piedmont and Blue Ridge). Each of the ecoregions has a different index scoring based on its unique reference conditions. Therefore, a score of 39 might be "good" in one ecoregion but "fair" in another ecoregion due to the different reference points. This was not spelled out well enough in the first draft, but was addressed in this updated version of the report.
- 5) Clarify plan for use of Sonde data: The draft final report uses the 2006 data and CCWSA has QA/QC'd the Sonde data through 2007 and it will be included in the Draft Final Report on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) Recommendations are open ended: The response to this feedback is that recommendations for restoration and protection have been removed. They will

be put into the WPP, rather than the WA. The WA sets out realistic expectations for the watershed's overall conditions.

*Modeling Update:* Models being used are the Loading Simulation Program in C++ (LSPC), which takes into account land use, soils, hydrology, water quality, etc. The reservoir hydrodynamic modeling is being performed utilizing the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC), and lake water quality modeling is being done in EPA's Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program (WASP7.3). The hydrodynamic model calibration is complete and used EPD and Corps data. The data used for the lake is coming from EPD. The watershed hydrodynamic model has been calibrated, validated and verified. The updated lake water quality model (WASP v7.3) is due out from EPD by August 25<sup>th</sup>. Once that is available, it will take up to 2 months to calibrate the model. The hope is that this will not require any change to the project timeline for deliverables. If the new lake water quality model is not released as planned by EPD, then there may be some need to use the older, existing model (v7.2). This discussion will proceed with EPD (Action Item for TetraTech). Scenario Modeling: Current conditions; Future land use (GIS) with Current Management Strategies and Future Land Use with Alternatives such as Wastewater expansions, Water supply increases, Stormwater management practices.

*Watershed Protection Plan Update (WPP):* Plan development: The first couple of sections summarize the characterizations and conditions of the watershed. This will be duplicative from the WA, but this is necessary since the WPP will be a stand alone document. Future scenarios for land use will be run using GIS land use data as well as land use ordinances currently in use. Another portion of the outline will be the sponsor overview, which will include goals and objectives, future land use, water and wastewater planned expansions, etc. The goal listed below comes from broader EPD documents:

*The goal of the plan is to enhance management of the areas of water resources in a sustainable manner to support the local economy, protect public health and the natural systems, and enhance the quality of life for the region's citizens.*

**Watershed Protection Tool Box:** This will include a list of all management and protection tools that apply to the watershed. It will be presented on a county by county basis, since determining factors vary by county and will include a benefit to cost ratio analysis for various types of tools.

**Watershed Protection Plan will include:** Evaluation of existing policies; evaluating management alternatives, developing watershed management tool box.

*In-Kind Services:* Jerry Jones may need to meet and/or speak with some individual sponsors to wrap up the in-kind balance with the Corps.

**Timeline information Summary:**

*Year 3 Ecological Assessment*

Draft posted to for Sponsor review

8/15/08

Sponsor Comments due

8/29/08

Final Report complete 9/19/08

*Watershed Assessment*

Revised Draft Executive Summary posted for Sponsor review 8/15/08

Full Draft Final Report posted for Sponsor review 8/29/08

Sponsor Comments on Draft Final WA Due 9/12/08

Final WA Ready for issue to sponsors and EPD 9/26/08

*Watershed Protection Plan*

Preliminary Draft WPP posted for Sponsor review 9/12/08

Full Draft WPP posted for Sponsor review 10/17/08

Review Workshop 11/3/08

Sponsor Review Comments due 11/14/08

Final WPP ready for issue to sponsors and EPD 12/12/08

**Next meetings:**

*Quarterly Meeting and Annual Turkey Fry/Covered Dish Gathering:*

Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> , 10am-1pm

Cobb County Water System – 680 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, GA

*Watershed Protection Plan Review Workshop (Sponsors only)*

Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 am-1 pm

Bartow County – Frank Moore Administration Building, Cartersville, GA