

North Georgia Water Resource Agencies (NGWRA)

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9th at Callaway Gardens, Georgia

Attendees:

Todd Boatman, USACE Mobile
Paul Bradley, USACE Mobile
Mary Jo Bragan, USEPA
Suzie Grams, USGS
John Joiner, USGS
Susan Raines, Kennesaw State University
Margaret Tanner, MACTECH E&C
Dean Trawick, USACE Mobile
Mike Walker, DeKalb County

Summary of Discussions:

1. The group welcomed Mary Jo Bragan, Watershed Coordinator at USEPA region 4, who will be taking the place of Stacey Bouma due to reorganization within EPA. Mary Jo explained the new organizational structure to the group.
2. Mike Walker asked about the allocation of funds collected from fines levied due to compliance violations in his county and others. Where do these fines go? To general county revenue funds or could some portion of these be returned to help fund enforcement staff and equipment. The group's consensus was that different counties and cities may handle this differently, but that providing some funds back to the departments responsible for enforcement would be a good way to incentivize and fund enforcement activities. Mike asked whether or not EPA might consider "encouraging" this to local jurisdictions and provide leadership to support this change. Mike Walker also mentioned that DeKalb County has an annual Stormwater Sewer symposium that takes place every April/May. More information on this will be forthcoming.
3. Indian, Sugar, Intrenchment and Snapfinger Creeks (ISIS):
Dean Trawick briefed the group on the progress of the ISIS project. Some of the tasks related to this project were included on the stimulus money "wish list" but it is not yet clear which projects will receive additional funding.
Economic Stimulus money: 7500 Corps projects nationwide were "shovel ready", so the corps prioritized them. It is not yet clear what will be funded, but we know that about half of the stimulus money will go toward operations and maintenance needs that have been building up over the past years. Todd Boatman asks that local jurisdictions coordinate with the USACE so as to work together in a united way when prioritizing these projects for federal dollars.

Dean also updated the group on the Ecosystem Response Model (ERM) which has been developed through the NGWRA auspices and coordination. Post construction data will be

gathered on USACE projects using this model so that the model can be further refined and tested against real-world ecological responses to BMPs and other improvements.

4. The draft reports focusing on ERM results from Little River and Flat Creek will be posted to a ftp site in near future. The draft results of Peachtree and Nancy Creeks and ISIS will also be ready soon and posted accordingly for NGWRA members to see and comment.

5. Next NGWRA Meeting will be held at the Executive Park Marriott in May. Checking hotel availability now.