

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NORTH GEORGIA WATER RESOURCE AGENCIES**

The agencies participating in the working group (established in January 2005) known as the “North Georgia Water Resources Agencies” (NGWRA) individually and collectively are concerned with the quality, protection and restoration of surface water resources within the Atlanta 15-County Metropolitan Area. The NGWRA supports collaborative planning and a comprehensive, holistic watershed approach to the study and implementation of protection and restoration strategies for these water resources.

The members of the NGWRA Partnership are the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, a department of Georgia State government; the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources, a department of Georgia State Government, the State Soil and Water Conservation District of Fulton County, Georgia and the State Soil and Water Conservation District of DeKalb County, Georgia, both Agencies of Georgia State Government; the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, an agency of Georgia State Government; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services; an agency of the Federal Government; the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, an agency of the Federal Government; the United States Geological Survey, Georgia Water Science Center, an agency of the Federal Government; the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service, an agency of the Federal Government; State Soil and Water Conservation District of Cobb County, Georgia, a department of Georgia State Government and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District.

The signatory NGWRA Partners desire to work together to pursue the following principles and goals:

- The Partnership is committed to collaboration and consensus building by sharing resources and knowledge to link land use to water quality, support ongoing efforts, and identify opportunities to enhance and improve the watershed.
- The Partners will foster a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between our agencies at all levels.
- Partners will work inclusively to empower and build the capacity of the federal, state and local agencies to address and improve water resources within the Atlanta 15-County Metropolitan Area.
- The Partnership is results oriented and will identify and prioritize science based solutions and technically sound approaches, and will responsibly support the implementation of innovative and cooperative projects.
- The Partnership will monitor and evaluate its actions and various projects and supports an adaptive management approach.
- The Partnership will promote transparency and encourage participation of all the agencies, enabling the agencies to be responsive, create awareness, educate and inform.
- The Partnership will provide the structure necessary, in the form of an informal working group, to coordinate resources and enhance opportunities for collaboration to accelerate achievement of shared environmental goals.
- Partners will make regular reports to the group on individual and collective activities and projects, and also agree to keep their individual agencies informed of the work of the Partnership.

By signing this Partnership Agreement, the agencies agree to support the principles of the Partnership by contributing their time, resources, knowledge, technical skills and efforts to the best of their ability, and consistent with their statutory authorities and subject to the availability of funds. This commitment will include attending meetings, and actively participating in document and project development. This Agreement is a public statement of interest to foster good faith and cooperation among the parties.

It is understood and agreed by the undersigned that this Agreement shall not legally bind anyone or any organization to this or any other agreement. This Partnership Agreement does not modify existing agency authorities by reducing, expanding, or transferring any of the statutory or regulatory authorities and responsibilities of any of the signatory agency, nor does this Partnership Agreement exempt any party from complying with applicable federal or state laws.

Environmental Protection Division

of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

BY: Allen Barnes

Allen Barnes

Director of EPD

On: Jan. 18, 2011 (DATE)

Wildlife Resources Division

of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

BY: [Signature]

On: March 18, 2011 (DATE)

State Soil and Water Conservation District of Fulton County, Georgia

BY: [Signature]

Chairman

On: May 18, 2011 (DATE)

State Soil and Water Conservation District of DeKalb County, Georgia

BY: [Signature]

Chairman

On: May 13, 2011 (DATE)

State Soil and Water Conservation District of Cobb County, Georgia

BY: [Signature]

Chairman

On: 6/30/11 (DATE)

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

BY: [Signature]

Chairman

On: March 3, 2011 (DATE)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services

BY: [Signature]
FEE
Sandy Tucker

Field Supervisor, Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

On: _____ (DATE)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

BY: [Signature]

A. Stanley Meiburg

Acting Regional Administrator

On: 3/19/2010 (DATE)

United States Geological Survey, Georgia Water Science Center

BY: [Signature] John Clarke (Acting Director)

On: 1/25/11 (DATE)

United States Natural Resource Conservation Service

BY: [Signature]

On: 5-5-11 (DATE)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

BY: [Signature]

Steven J. Roemhildt, P.E.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers

District Commander

On: 18 34 11 (DATE)