



LBCA

February 2010

Newsletter

President's Comments – February 19, 2010

Water...Water...Water

As I conclude the first six months as your LBCA president, I would never have thought the most important issue would be metro Atlanta's water needs and their impact on Lake Burton. This newsletter will deal almost entirely with this important issue. Though the final report to Governor Perdue from his Water Contingency Planning Task Force does not mention Lake Burton, this does not mean the issue has gone away! The original report from the Boston Consulting Group – the consulting firm for the Task Force – had an option of transferring 50 million gallons per day from Lake Burton to Gwinnett County.

Since that proposal was made, LBCA officers and directors have been very busy organizing our opposition. We have contacted similar organizations in the Savannah River Watershed that have the same concerns as ours. We will be working closely with the Lake Rabun Association, the Lake Seed Association, the Lake Yonah Association, the Lake Hartwell Association and the Savannah Riverkeeper. The LBCA is supporting The Tallulah River Watershed Council (TRWC) – a group that is coordinating our efforts. Bob Fink, a current LBCA board member, is spearheading these efforts. The LBCA is working with State Senator Jim Butterworth in developing legislation to make

interbasin transfers more transparent and open for comment by the concerned parties. Enclosed you will find a copy of Senator Butterworth's letter to the Atlanta Journal Constitution which was published on December 4, 2009.

On the second page of this newsletter, you will find an article from Tom Fischer, president of the TRWC, discussing interbasin transfers and the Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) and explaining what you can do to make your voice heard regarding this issue. If you wish to learn more about GWC, please refer to the information on their web site: www.georgiawater.org.

Georgia Power Company (GPC) is also involved. On January 15, 2010, GPC invited the presidents of the Lake Burton, Lake Seed, Lake Rabun and Lake Yonah Associations to a meeting with GPC's representatives to discuss the water transfer issue. GPC has been – and will continue to be – very involved with the issue of interbasin transfers of water. On the third page of this newsletter, you will find the contents of a fact sheet and position paper issued by GPC to the lake presidents. I urge all LBCA members to make sure you understand the facts by reading this important information.

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Water...Water...Water

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Also enclosed you will also find a partial reprint of the Findings and Recommendations of the Water Contingency Planning Task Force. This reprint includes only the executive summary and a portion of the introduction of the report. You may access the entire report on the state's web site: www.georgia.gov.

Let me assure all of our members that neither I nor the officers and directors of the LBCA are going to "put our heads in the sand" and just hope for the best in this matter. We will take any and all actions necessary to protect the waters of Lake Burton. We will need the support of all of our members. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. As you can see, the LBCA is working very hard to protect your investment on Lake Burton.

One other matter we are monitoring, is I-3 – the proposed interstate from Savannah to Knoxville. We will continue to give due attention to any I-3 recommendations coming from Washington that would affect our area.

Finally, to help you begin planning your time at the lake, a copy of the LBCA 2010 Calendar of Events is enclosed. Please include the LBCA's Annual Membership Meeting / Dinner / Bluegrass Party on June 19, 2010 in your schedule. This event has proven to be a fun party for all that have attended, so, bring yourself and bring some friends!

Thank you for your support.


Linda Dixon



Interbasin Water Transfer Petition

The Tallulah River Watershed Council continues to study the best ways to protect the assets of our watershed. We believe the interbasin transfer (IBT) petition available at www.nowatergrabs.com, which was developed by Georgia Water Coalition, to be one of the strongest ways to show the public's objection to IBTs. Georgia Water Coalition is managing the web site, and will present the results of the responses to our political leadership. Since the legislature has already convened, their campaign is already under way. The greater the response to this petition – and the sooner – the more convincing Georgia Water Coalition can be. Therefore, you can facilitate their job by completing the petition yourself and encouraging everyone

you know that would be affected to do the same.

Writing or calling legislators is also an option. However, this is an individual effort, easily forgotten or deleted. Whereas the petition, done on a large scale, is an impressive, tangible expression of the will of the people, that can be used in discussions and negotiations by Georgia Water Coalition. Using both options is the most emphatic strategy to show public will. If you wish to learn more about Georgia Water Coalition, check out their web site: www.georgiawater.org.

Tom Fischer
Chairman
Tallulah River Watershed Council



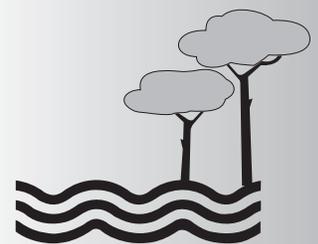


Georgia Water Contingency Planning Task Force Facts

(Note: The following “fact sheet” includes Georgia Power Company’s position statement regarding the proposed interbasin water transfer.)

- The State Water Contingency Planning Task Force is comprised of approximately 80 members, co-chaired by John Brock from Coca-Cola and Tim Lowe of Lowe Engineering. The chairman of each Regional Water Council is a member of the Task Force.
- The task force efforts are part of Georgia’s multi-prong strategy in response to the Judge Magnuson (District Court for the Northern District of Florida) ruling. The multi-prong strategy includes: (1) appeal the decision, (2) negotiate with Alabama and Florida, (3) congressional reauthorization - as directed by Judge Magnuson, and (4) a contingency plan to address the gap in water supply caused by the ruling. The Task Force was convened by the Governor to address the contingency plan part of the strategy.
- The Task Force was directed to analyze the water crisis as if it were a threat to their business, develop a fact base to educate leaders on the state’s water situation and the implications of the judge’s ruling, and define a time driven action plan to prioritize specific options for conservation, supply enhancement, and water policy.
- The Task Force has developed a list of recommendations for water supply alternatives during three time periods: 2012, 2015, and 2020. The strategy is referred to as the “3 Cs” – conserving more water, capturing the water we do receive, and controlling our water supplies through progressive water policies.
- The Task Force analysis of alternatives re-affirms that Lake Lanier is the best water source for metro Atlanta, and that all other alternatives pose significant incremental costs and require significant time.
- The Task Force’s four recommendations are to (1) continue to pursue Lake Lanier reauthorization, (2) pursue an aggressive conservation program as a 2012 option, (3) only devote resources to 2015 options if the outlook on negotiations and reauthorization demands, and (4) initiate feasibility studies and permitting on capture options in the 2020 recommended portfolio.
- Georgia Power supports the multi-prong strategy of the state to address the Judge Magnuson ruling. We support the decision that reauthorization of Lake Lanier is the best solution economically and environmentally. Georgia Power will evaluate any feasible, proposed alternatives that would impact our hydroelectric reservoirs with our ability to balance Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project purposes such as power generation, downstream flows, recreation, and other license requirements.
- Several of the alternatives initially identified and analyzed by the Task Force had potential impacts to our lakes, including a 50 million gallons per day (mgd) interbasin transfer from Lake Burton. Regarding the current status of the proposed option for the

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Georgia Water Contingency Planning Task Force Facts

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interbasin transfer of 50mgd from Lake Burton, the Water Contingency Task Force has removed this option from the recommended list of contingencies for the 2012, 2015, and 2020 study years. Therefore, the Burton contingency is off the table and is not identified as one of the options to pursue.

- No interbasin transfers are contained in the recommended 2012, 2015, or 2020 portfolios by the Task Force, based primarily on relative cost effectiveness, as well as on Task Force input and on implementation feasibility.
- Although the 50mgd interbasin transfer from Burton is no longer under consideration, it should be pointed out that Georgia Power's hydropower reservoirs are licensed by FERC and were constructed primarily for the hydro generation of clean, renewable electricity. Our hydropower reservoirs have very little storage available above what is needed to generate electricity and meet environmental and other requirements in our licenses. Therefore, very limited amounts of water are available for other purposes and would be subject to review, analysis, and approval by FERC. As the Task Force and Governor have concluded, there are far better solutions than the withdrawal of 50mgd from Lake Burton. We support that decision.
- There are existing interbasin transfers in Georgia and there are current Georgia laws and regulations which direct the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) in the issuance of permits for interbasin transfers. Of note is one particular law, O.C.G.A. 12-5-584, which states the following: "The district shall neither study nor include in any plan any

interbasin transfer of water from outside the district area." The district referenced is the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. This means that the contingency to transfer water out of Lake Burton to Gwinnett County would be contrary to this existing law.

- As the state moves forward with water management planning, any consideration of interbasin transfers must address not only the economic impacts, but also the impacts to water quality, health, aesthetics, recreation, and loss of power generation of the originating basin.
- Looking forward, Governor Perdue will continue to pursue negotiations with Alabama and Florida. The state will also continue with the legal appeal of the judge's ruling and work with our Congressional delegation toward reauthorization of Lake Lanier. The Task Force has delivered to the Governor a clear set of findings and recommendations for closing the water supply gap created by the ruling. The next critical step is action by the Georgia General Assembly to support the Task Force recommendations.
- Georgia Power will continue to track this issue as it moves into the legislative process and continue to be actively engaged in the Governor's multi-prong strategy, the State Water Management Plan Regional Councils, and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders group and to work with FERC and EPD on any proposed withdrawals of any type from our reservoirs. Georgia Power will conduct a thorough review of any proposed withdrawals and their impacts to our reservoirs and assets.

