#### Adaptation Strategies and Information Needs in Response to Extreme Events

A series of workshops focusing on water resources, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), and Water Research Foundation (WaterRF).



## **Gwinnett County Case Study**

Gwinnett Center 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway Duluth, Georgia 30097

May 9-10, 2012

# Objectives:

- 1. **Learn what worked and didn't** in water/wastewater utilities' responses to extreme climate and weather events
- 2. **Help local, state and federal agencies and professional organizations better understand** how to address local needs for improved/relevant information, forecasts, and services for supporting resource management and other related decision making
- 3. **Identify emerging approaches** to adaptation planning
- 4. **Discuss gaps in tools and knowledge** for coping with the next extreme event (e.g., new tools, data formats, relationships, etc.)

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

| 8:00 - 8:30   | Coffee and Registration   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 8:45   | Welcome and Purpose of Workshop Nancy Tosta, Ross and Associates, Facilitator; Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA; Karen Metchis, EPA; Lauren Fillmore, WERF; Kenan Ozekin, WaterRF   |
| 8:45 – 9:00   | Importance of Workshop  Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County Water Resources   |
| 9:00 - 9:20   | Gwinnett Courty Watershed: Past, Current and Future Climatology and Hydrology  Jeff Dobur, Senior Hydrologist, Southeast River Forecast Center NOAA,  National Weather Service  |
| 9:20 - 10:20  | <ul> <li>Challenges, Opportunities, and Partnerships</li> <li>Tyler Richards, Gwinnett County Department of Water</li> <li>Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System</li> <li>David Stooksbury, University of Georgia</li> </ul> |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | Break   |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | A Local Utility Experience<br>Rob Bush, Atlanta Department of Watershed Management  |
| 11:00 - 12:15 | Extreme Events in the ACF Basin: Experiences of Acute Events (e.g., floods)   |

- Timothy Rainey, US Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Lanier Resource Manager
- Brian McCallum, US Geological Survey
- Amy Rammo-Kuhs, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- Duane Dermitt, City of Austell

## **Questions and Answers**

## 12:15- 1:30 Lunch with Panel of Stakeholders

Kathy Nyguen, Cobb County Water System, Moderator

- Chris Butts, Legislative Affairs Director with Georgia Green Industry Association
- Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers
- Charles Stripling, ACF Stakeholders

# **Questions and Answers**

1:30 - 1:50 Break

#### 1:50 – 2:10 A Local Utility Experience

Mike Patton, Douglasville/Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority

- 2:10 3:15 Extreme Events in the ACF Basin: Experiences of Evolving Events (e.g., drought)
  - Randall Harvey or Bailey Crane, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Charles Williams, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
  - Wilton Rooks, Lake Lanier Association

#### **Questions and Answers**

3:15 – 3:35 National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Chad McNutt, NIDIS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration

3:35 - 3:50 Break

3:50 – 5:15 Previous Experience: Breakout Sessions

- Drawing on the experiences of the presenters, what challenges have you experienced in responding to floods or droughts?
- What partnerships, technologies, or other tools have been most helpful to you in being able to respond?

# **THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012**

8:00 – 8:30 Coffee

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome and Synthesis

Nancy Tosta, Ross and Associates, Facilitator; Tyler Richards, Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources; Kenan Ozekin, WaterRF; Lauren Fillmore, WERF; Karen Metchis, EPA; Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA

8:45–9:15 ACF Water Resources: Managing Change

Aris P. Georgakakos, Director, Georgia Water Resources Institute,

Georgia Tech

**Questions and Answers** 

9:15 – 9:45 An Environmental Perspective

Sally Bethea, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

**Questions and Answers** 

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 – 11:15 The Future: Breakout Sessions

- What gaps exist in knowledge, partnerships, data, and/or technology that might improve your ability to respond?
- What are public, political, other barriers/concerns/pressures to plan (or not plan) for an extreme event?
- What could be done either institutionally or regionally to enhance the ability to respond in the future?

11:15 – 12:15 Summary Panel: What have we learned? Where do we go from here?

- Ken Reckhow, Duke University
- Bob Howard, EPA Region 4
- Lans Rothfusz, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, Peachtree City