COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Water System	Presenter(s):	Tony Parrott
Meeting Date:	Thursday, October 11, 2012	Type of Request:	Consent

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to authorize Water System Director Tony Parrott to contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division requesting a variance from State Outdoor Water Use Schedules to restrict outdoor watering for any purpose to an odd/even day schedule and with no outdoor watering permitted on Fridays.

Background/History/Details:

On June 2, 2012, the Georgia Water Stewardship Act became effective and it allowed daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Variances from State Outdoor Water Use Schedules may be applied for under Georgia Law (Section 12-5-7). The law states that local governments may, upon application to an approval by the director of the Georgia EPD, impose more stringent restrictions on outdoor water use during periods of drought and periods of non-drought. The local authority must be able to demonstrate "good cause' and must follow a process approved by the EPD to be considered for approval. Currently, four municipalities and one authority have been allowed to issue this variance.

In Fayette County, Lake Horton's water level was not at full at the beginning of spring and will likely not be at full next spring to drought conditions in the area. Furthermore, the long range weather forecast is not predicting much rain in the next few months. To preserve Fayette County's Water Resources, it is necessary to change the current water restrictions that are currently being followed under the Georgia Water Stewardship Act. The Water Committee is recommending Mr. Parrott contact the EPD to obtain a variance that allows odd-numbered addresses to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; even-numbers and unnumbered addresses be allowed to water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays; and no water allowed at all on Fridays.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to authorize Water System Director Tony Parrott to contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division requesting a variance from State Outdoor Water Use Schedules to restrict outdoor watering for any purpose to an odd/even day schedule and with no outdoor watering permitted on Fridays.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Outdoor Water Use Information

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010. It allows daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

The following outdoor water uses also are allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone:

- **Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;**
- **Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;**
- **Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;**
- **Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;**
- **Irrigation of personal food gardens;**
- **Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;**
- **Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;**
- **Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;**
- **Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;**
- **Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;**
- **Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;**
- **Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or**
- **Hydroseeding.**

Outdoor water use for any purposes other than watering of plants, such as power washing or washing cars, is still restricted to the current odd/even watering schedule.

- **Odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.**
- **Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses are allowed to water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.**

Variances From State Outdoor Water Use Schedules

Georgia Law (Section 12-5-7) states that local governments may, upon application to and approval by the director of the Georgia EPD, impose more stringent restrictions on outdoor water use during periods of drought and periods of non-drought. The local authority must be able to demonstrate "good cause" and must follow a process approved by EPD to be considered for approval.

The following communities have applied to, and been approved by the Director of EPD for a variance to the state outdoor water use restrictions. Click on the links for information on the variances.

- **City of Winder**
- **City of Manchester**
- **City of Americus**
- **City of Clarkesville**
- **Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority**
- **City of Jefferson**

If you need information regarding any of the listed communities, please contact the water provider directly. Otherwise, your community should comply with the state outdoor water use schedule at the top of this page.

Please click on the links to learn more about outdoor water use.

Water Stewardship Act

Governor Signs Water Stewardship Act - News Release

Monthly Water Use Information - November 2007-November 2009

Water Conservation - Conserve Water Georgia.net

Drought Information from the National Weather Service

To view and print the PDF documents on this site, the FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader is required. Click on the Acobe logo below to download it.

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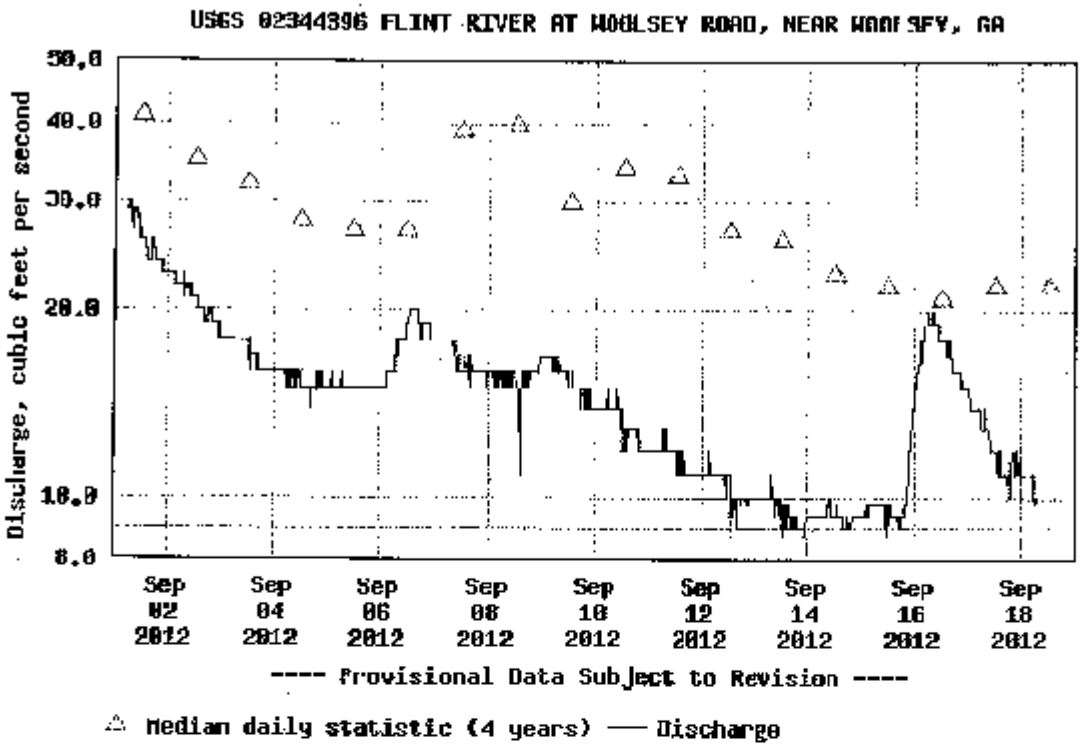
USGS 02344396 FLINT RIVER AT WOOLSEY ROAD, NEAR WOOLSEY, GA
Discharge, cubic feet per second
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
Sep 02 2012
Sep 04 2012
Sep 06 2012
Sep 08 2012
Sep 10 2012
Sep 12 2012
Sep 14 2012
Sep 16 2012
Sep 18 2012
---- Provisional Data Subject to Revision ----
Median daily statistic (4 years)
Discharge