Presentation #1

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	January 23, 2014	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Recognition of Ms. Jennifer Deng as the District-wide Runner-up in the 2013 Water Essay Contest.

Background/History/Details:

Over the years, the Water Essay Contest has engaged thousands of middle school students and challenged them to think critically about water and our region's water resources. This year's contest was focused on water conservation. Students were asked to address the following question, "Why is water conservation important to you and our region?" Over 1,100 middle school students submitted essays to the 12th annual Water Essay Contest!

The Essay Contest is one of many initiatives conducted by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to raise awareness for conservation efforts and preservation of water quality in metro Atlanta. At a special awards ceremony, Ms. Aubrey Gehle, an eighth-grader from North Gwinnett Middle School, was honored for her first place essay and Jennifer Deng, a sixth-grader from J.C. Booth Middle in Fayette County, was recognized for her essay which earned her the title of District-wide Runner-up.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Recognition of Ms. Jennifer Deng as the District-wide Runner-up in the 2013 Water Essay Contest.

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

Staff Notes:

2013 Water Essay Contest

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District presents the

Fayette County Award to

Jennifer Deng

J.C. Booth Middle School, 6th Grade

for your exemplary essay that explores the important topic of water conservation.

Water, Water, Everywhere!

By Jennifer Deng

Water is indeed everywhere- in fact, seventy-one percent of the Earth is covered in it (Cain 1)! Unfortunately, not all of this water is available for us to drink. Two point five percent of Earth's water is fresh, and almost sixty-nine percent of that is frozen (Cain 1). Another thirty percent is contained underground (Environmental Protection Agency 1).

What do you think when you pick up a glass of water? When you flush the toilet? Water is extremely essential, and we need it for almost everything we do, whether it's washing the dishes or taking a steaming shower. If we were to run out of water, my family would not be able to eat or drink, much less able to wash our hands or water the plants. In other terms, we would not be able to survive.

Not only is water extremely essential, it is also precious. All of us need water, and there are around seven billion people in this world. Only two point five of Earth's water is fresh, and most of that amount is unavailable. Farmers need water to grow crops, and they understand how invaluable water can be. As Jesse Garetson, a Kansas farmer, puts it, the water is "more precious than gold" (National Public Radio Berlin 1).

In the Atlanta region, there is little ground water, meaning most of our resources lie in surface water such as rivers, lakes, and streams. The Chattahoochee River, the Etowah River, Lake Lanier, and Lake Allatoona are some of our major resources (Atlanta Regional Commission 1). But they are still considered small, by most standards. The average American uses around one hundred gallons of water daily (Environmental Protection Agency 1), and there are around 4,219,600 people in the Atlanta region (Atlanta Regional Commission 1). The numbers are still continuing to grow. By 2030, the Atlanta region may have up to one million more people! This tells us that the increasing demand will gradually overwhelm the dwindling supply. Shirley Franklin (a former mayor of the city of Atlanta) says, "If we don't tell the story, no one's going to believe it until they turn on the spicket and it's dry". 1

I believe it is in our best interests to take action and do everything in our power to conserve and protect our precious resource while we can. Water will not always be with us if we continue to use it in such an inconsiderate manner. Mahatma Gandhi quotes, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed", meaning we've got to use our resources wisely and take only what we need.

I am confident that once people realize the importance of water, they will start by doing small deeds, every day-taking a shower, not a bath, or watering their plants during the morning or evening, because even those count. Without water, we will never pull through, but little by little, drop by drop, we can make a huge difference, but only if we do it together.

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