COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Commissioner Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	January 8, 2015	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Recognition of Ms. Johanna Nelson, a student of J.C. Booth Middle School, who is the winner of the 2014 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. Students were asked to address the following: "Explain why water quantity (how much water we have) and water quality (how clean the water is) are equally important." This year's contest brought a record number of essays at over 1,900 essays submitted.

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. Johanna Nelson, a sixth grader at J.C. Booth Middle School in Fayette County was recognized at a reception at the Georgia State Capitol on December 4th for her essay.

Ms. Nelson will read her essay, entitled "Water you Waiting for?" during the meeting.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Recognition of Ms. Johanna Nelson, a student of J.C. Booth Middle School, who is the winner of the 2014 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:

2014
Middle School
Water Essay Contest

Entry Form

Deadline: Friday, October 17, 2014

Student's Name: Johanna Nelson

Title of Essay: Water you Waiting For?

Essay Word Count: 471 words

School's Name: J.C. Booth Middle School

Street Address: 250 Peachtree Parkway

County and Zip: Fayette County 30269

School's Telephone: 770-631-3240

Teacher's Name: Mr. Dan Hossbach

Principal's Name: Dr. Ted Lombard

Grade Level: 6th Grade

CLEAN WATER

CAMPAIGN

www.cleanwatercampaign.com

2014 Water Essay Contest
Metro Water District
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

info@cleanwatercampaign.com

MY DROP COUNTS!

www.MyDropCounts.org

+2

Nelson Johanna

Hossbach

English 3

8 October 2014

Water you Waiting For?

Water, aqua, H_2O. No matter what you call it, it's used by everyone all over the world. It's in what you eat and drink, it keeps you clean and healthy, it's even in the air we breathe. We need water to survive. If it didn't exist, we wouldn't be here. As Benjamin Franklin said, "When the well is dry we know the worth of water." Even if we had unlimited water but it wasn't clean, we would get sick and die. So if you think about it, both water quantity and quality are of equal importance.

You might think you are conserving water, but there are several ways you use water without knowing it. About two gallons of water are used to refine just one gallon of gasoline and twenty-four gallons of water are consumed to make one pound of plastic. Even we make personal decisions that waste water. The average person uses one hundred gallons of water every day! That's about one thousand, sixty-seven cans of soda!

Most people already know how to conserve water, but the quality of the water often gets overlooked. Clean water is essential to our survival. If just one stream gets contaminated, the river it flows into will also become contaminated, severely disrupting sensitive ecosystems. A small decline in animal and plant populations can upset an entire food chain, which often includes humans. If fish start dying, it could also increase

market prices, making it harder for low income families to keep food on the table. Locally, the Chattahoochee River provides more than seventy percent of the drinking water for Atlanta. If that river were to become polluted, a large number of people could be severely affected.

Both water quality and quantity are needed in order to thrive. Say you have an island, such as Hawaii. It's surrounded by plenty of water, but there's one drawback. The water is salty and unusable. In this case we're missing quality. Take away one of those two, quality or quantity, and we would not survive. Quantity is to quality as a pen is to ink. One without the other makes no sense. If you have a pen with no ink, there's no use for the pen. If you just have ink without the pen, you have nothing to control the ink. It's the same concept for quantity and quality.

As I said before, water quantity and quality are of equal importance. You cannot have one without the other. A huge amount of water that you can't drink is useless, and not enough water wouldn't benefit much. Without water, we're just thirty-four percent of our body. So before you throw some trash out the window or decide to take a long shower, remember to think about how you're contributing to pollution and lack of water.

Citations

"Clean Water Campaign." *Welcome to the*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Oct. 2014.

"The Hidden Water in Everyday Products." *GRACE Communications Foundation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Oct. 2014.

"EasyBib: The Free Automatic Bibliography Composer." *EasyBib*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Oct. 2014.

"Page Name." *EPA*. Environmental Protection Agency, n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

"Sherpa Guides | Georgia | Chattahoochee River | The Chattahoochee: A River Facing Peril and Possibility." *Sherpa Guides | Georgia | Chattahoochee River | The Chattahoochee: A River Facing Peril and Possibility*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

"Water Quality: Why Does It Matter? | EcoSpark." *Water Quality: Why Does It Matter? | EcoSpark*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.