

**THE FINAL REPORT OF THE GEORGIA HOUSE AND SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE
ON STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FEES
SENATE RESOLUTION 224**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Honorable Lynn Smith, Co-chair
Representative, District 70**

**Honorable Frank Ginn, Co-chair
Senator, District 47**

**Honorable Mike Glanton
Representative, District 75**

**Honorable Rick Jeffares
Senator, District 17**

**Mr. Brian Johnson
Citizen Member**

**Mr. Steve Leo
Citizen Member**

**Mr. Brandon Lovett
Citizen Member**

**Mr. Michael Thomas
Citizen Member**

**Mr. Taylor Anderson
Citizen Member**

**Ms. Courtney Reich
Citizen Member**

**Ms. Diane Parks
Citizen Member**

**Mr. Frank Norton Jr.
Citizen Member**

**Prepared By: The House Research and Budget Office and the Senate Research Office
December, 2017**

INTRODUCTION

The Joint Study Committee on Storm Water Management Fees was created by the Georgia State Senate in 2017 through the passage of Senate Resolution 224. The committee was established to investigate whether local governments fairly impose stormwater collection and disposal fees on private property owners.

The committee heard from a range of stormwater professionals, industry authorities, and attorneys about the imposition of stormwater fees and how property owners affect drainage and create runoff issues by creating impermeable surfaces.

Representative Lynn Smith (70th) and Senator Frank Ginn (47th) co-chaired the committee, which also included one additional member from the House and Senate each: Representative Mike Glanton (75th) and Senator Rick Jeffares (17th).

Eight citizen members were also appointed to the committee, four by the House and four by the Senate. House appointees include Mr. Bryan Johnson, Mr. Brandon Lovett, Ms. Taylor Anderson, and Ms. Diane Parks. Senate appointees include Mr. Steve Leo, Mr. Michael Thomas, Ms. Courtney Reich, and Mr. Frank Norton Jr.

Mr. Trey Bennett, from the Senate Research Office, and Mr. Blake Doss, from the House Budget and Research Office, were assigned to assist the committee. Mrs. Lori Brill was also assigned by Legislative Counsel to assist the committee.

The committee held three public meetings, one at the Classic Center in Athens and two at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta. The following speakers testified to the committee:

October 6, 2017 — Classic Center, Athens, GA

Glen Behrend (Nonpoint Source Program Manager, Georgia Environmental Protection Division); Scott McClelland (Vice President of CDM Smith Inc., representing Southeastern Storm Water Association); Doug Baughman (Senior Principal Technologist & Environmental Scientist, CH2M Hill); Dr. Brant Keller (Public Works Director, City of Griffin); Kathleen Bowen (Association County Commissioners of Georgia); Michael McPherson (Georgia Municipal Association); and Ron Feldner (City Manager, Garden City).

November 7, 2017 — Coverdell Legislative Office Building

Drew Whalen (Whalen Law Firm, LLC); Darrell Rochester (CEO, Rochester Associates); and Todd Stevenson (Stormwater Administrator, Athens-Clarke County Unified Government).

December 7, 2017 — Georgia State Capitol

No speakers testified at this meeting.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stormwater utility fees determined by the utility should be determined by best management practices.
- This committee acknowledges that the Georgia General Assembly is the enactor of legislation that sets policy.
- The Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Municipal Association, and other organizations and their respective members should develop a guide to creating an equitable credit program to encourage more consistent and equitable credit practices.