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1071 COALITION TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL MEETING

*Group urges that current water levels of Lake Lanier do not negate need
for better long-term management*

Buford, Ga. (October 22, 2009) – On Oct. 27, the 1071 Coalition – a nonprofit organization advocating for better long-term management of Lake Lanier – will hold its second annual meeting, open and free to the public. Harold Reheis, former EPD Director and Senior Vice President, Joe Tanner & Associates, will keynote the meeting. Reheis is expected to discuss Georgia’s response to U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson’s decision that water supply is an illegal use of Lake Lanier. Meeting attendees will also hear about progress made by the 1071 Coalition since it launched just over a year ago.

“Thanks to the support of nearly 200 members including residents, businesses and government partners, the 1071 Coalition has held a seat at the table for every major discussion of water supply management over the last 12 months,” said Alex Laidlaw, 1071 Coalition President and Vice President of Westrec Marinas. “Though the recent heavy rains brought Lake Lanier up to full pool, we need to address the need for improved long-term management. Hopefully a science-based update of the Corps’ Water Control Manual will be one positive consequence of the pending resolution to the tri-state water wars,” he said.

In addition to urging public officials to make responsible long-term management of our state’s reservoirs a top priority, another of the key objectives of the 1071 Coalition has been met this year: the commissioning of an extensive economic impact study of Lake Lanier and its changing levels. “Initial dollars have been raised to finance the study, but we need \$40,000 more to complete it and also reach our first-year fundraising goal of \$175,000,” said Kit Dunlap, 1071 Coalition Vice President and President & CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. “With additional support, we can reach that financial goal and complete the study in the next few months.”

As part of the economic impact study, being conducted by The Bleakly Advisory Group, the 1071 Coalition is sponsoring two surveys – one for businesses and one for residents, the results of which will be critical to the study. Both surveys can be accessed from the coalition’s web site at www.1071Coalition.org. Bleakly representatives will present the status of the economic impact study at the annual meeting on Oct. 27.

The 1071 Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of citizens, civic groups, business and other entities dedicated to maintaining water levels in Lake Lanier that sustain water supply, recreation, and economic prosperity through the advocacy of appropriate, science-based water releases necessary for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basin. All interested citizens are welcome to attend the 2nd Annual Meeting of the coalition on Oct. 27, 6:00 p.m. at the Legacy Lodge and Conference Center on Lake Lanier Islands Resort. More information at www.1071Coalition.org.

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