



Georgia Water Planning

Agenda

Upper Flint, Middle Chattahoochee, & Lower Flint- Ochlockonee Water Councils Joint Meeting

February 23, 2021

Videoconference

Objectives:

- 1) Learn about seed grant implementation projects in the regions
- 2) Receive updates on regional water planning cycle
- 3) Provide forum for inter-Council interaction

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Registration
1:00 pm – 1:10 pm	Welcome, Introductions – Kristin Rowles (GWPPC)
1:10 pm – 1:25 pm	Council Chairs Comments – Steve Davis (MCH), Richard Royal (LFO), Donald Chase (UFL)
1:25 pm – 1:35 pm	GAEPD Water Planning Updates – Jennifer Welte, GAEPD
1:35 pm – 2:15 pm	Seed Grant Implementation Project Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Innovative Agricultural Irrigation Scheduling Tools for Increasing Water Use Efficiency in the Lower Flint – Ochlocknee and the Upper Flint Regional Water Council Areas, Calvin Perry (UFL, LFO)- Watershed Management Plan for Long Cane Creek Watershed, Laura Schneider, River Valley Regional Commission (MCH)- Pike County Plans for the Future by Building on the Upper Flint Regional Water Plan, Ellen Bauske and Mussie Habteselassie, UGA Griffin (UFL)- City of Thomasville Stormwater Data Collection and Assessment, Pam Schalk, City of Thomasville (LFO)
2:15 pm – 2:25 pm	Public Comment
2:25 pm – 2:30 pm	Next Steps and Adjournment

GAEPD Water Planning Updates

Jennifer Welte, Georgia EPD



Updates from EPD

- Council appointments status
- Florida v. Georgia
 - Briefings complete to Supreme Court
 - Oral arguments held on Feb. 22, 2021
 - Ruling expected during current term (ends June 2021)

Regional Water Plan Update Process

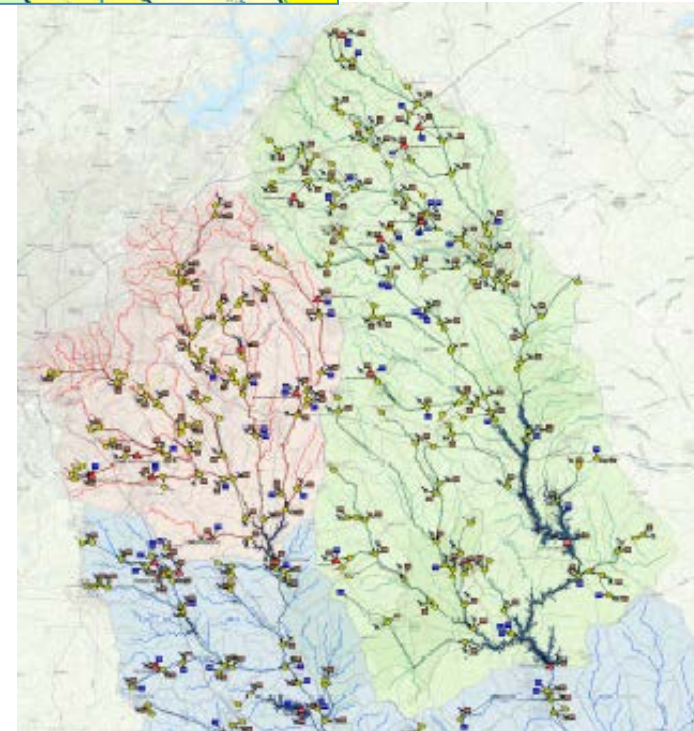
- Coordinated with the Metro Water District
- Process began in 2020 with Forecasting work
- Target for updated Plans by end of 2022
 - Draft Plans on public notice by Sept. 30, 2022
 - Updated Plans completed by Dec. 2022
- Technical work completed/ongoing that underlies the Regional Water Plans
- Quarterly Council Meetings

Water Demand Forecasting

- Municipal Forecasting Stakeholder Group
 - Stakeholder Group included one representative from each Council & the Metro Water District (Steve Davis, Middle Chattahoochee; Brant Keller, Upper Flint; Steve Sykes, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee)
 - Draft report posted on Water Planning website
 - Final stakeholder meeting held on Feb. 2; report being finalized
- Industrial & Energy Forecasts are completed
 - Stakeholders/experts contributed to both
 - Final reports posted on Water Planning website
- Agricultural Forecast
 - To be completed Spring 2021

Resource Assessments

- Updates to Modeling Tools used for:
 - Water Quality Resource Assessment
 - Updated information & model recalibration
 - Groundwater Availability
 - Refined groundwater model with smaller grid spacing and transient pumping
 - Surface Water Availability
 - New modeling tool that provides analysis at more nodes



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SEED GRANT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT PRESENTATIONS



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Innovative Agricultural Irrigation Scheduling Tools for Increasing Water Use Efficiency in the *Lower Flint* – *Ochlocknee* and the *Upper Flint* Regional Water Council Areas

Calvin Perry, Superintendent and Public Service Assoc.

UGA Stripling Irrigation Research Park, Camilla

George Vellidis, Professor

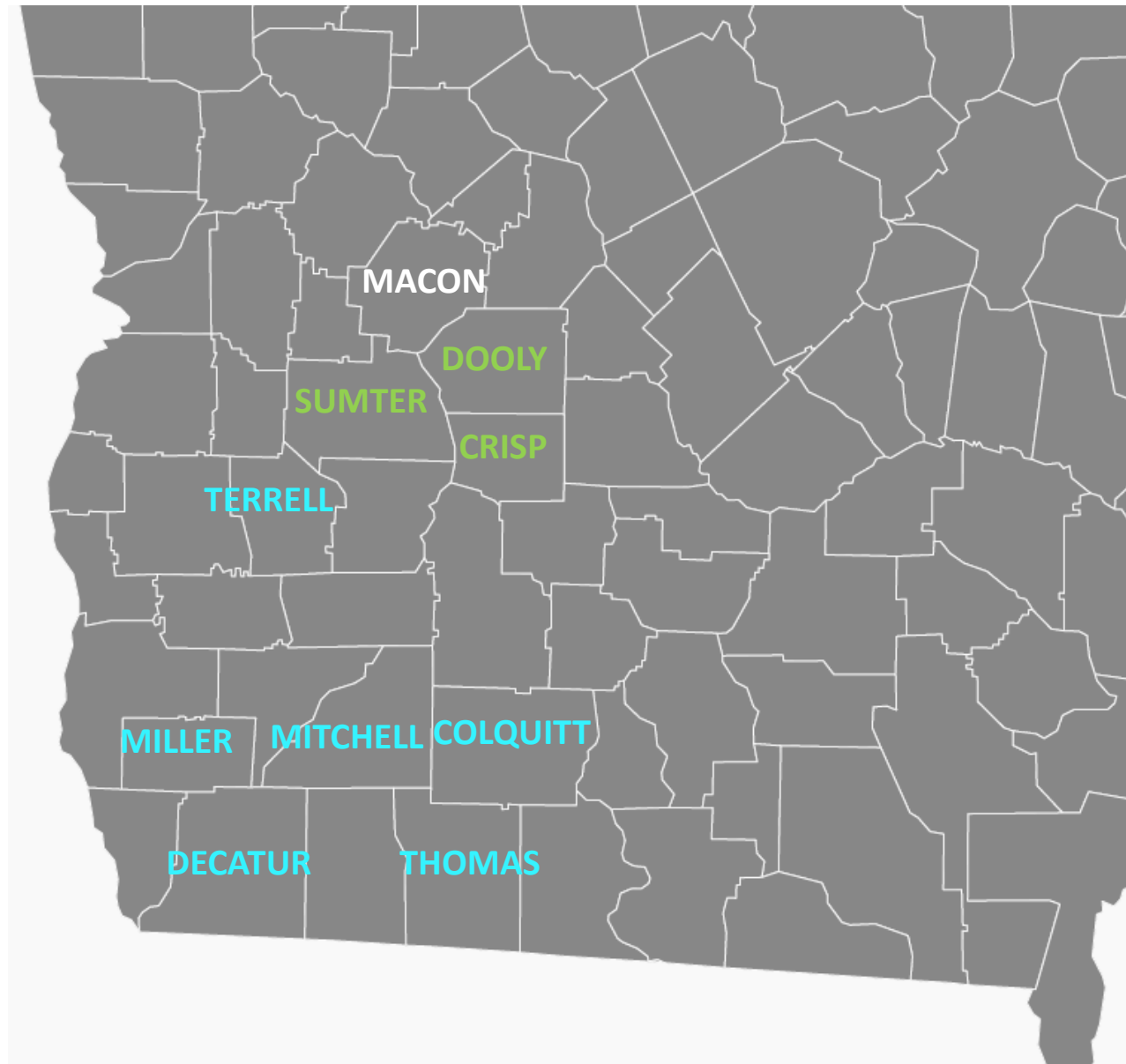
UGA Crop & Soil Sciences Dept, Tifton

Project Goals

- Address demand management practices from UF and LFO plans that deal with potential gaps in water resources.
 - LFO plan: DM1, DM4
 - UF plan: DM4, DM5
 - improve ag water use efficiency (*more crop per drop*) and water conservation in the two regions;
 - expand a 2017-2018 UGA Extension pilot project to advance irrigation scheduling tools on center pivot ag systems, limited to cotton.



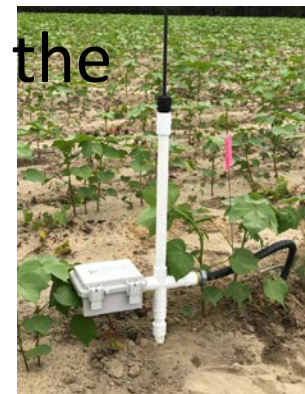
Project Area / 2019-2020



Summary of Activities



- Deploy advanced ag irrigation scheduling tools to 18 fields across 9 counties.
 - UGA SmartIrrigation Cotton App
 - Soil Moisture Sensor System
- Train Extension agents to work with the farmers coordinate use of the scheduling methods; collect data.
- Survey agents and farmers to learn opinions/beliefs before and after the project.
- Produce report and website detailing results of the project.



Lessons Learned / Next Steps

- Farmers tend to have more trust in a “sensor” and data from their fields as opposed to an App that utilizes algorithms and weather data.
- App can work well – but requires reliable weather data.
- Opted to go with soil moisture sensor systems from a start-up GA company. Many issues/growing pains.
- Agents and farmers are BUSY folks and often don't have time to learn complex tools.
- Had 4 agent changes/departures during this project.
- Now preparing report plus website with results.



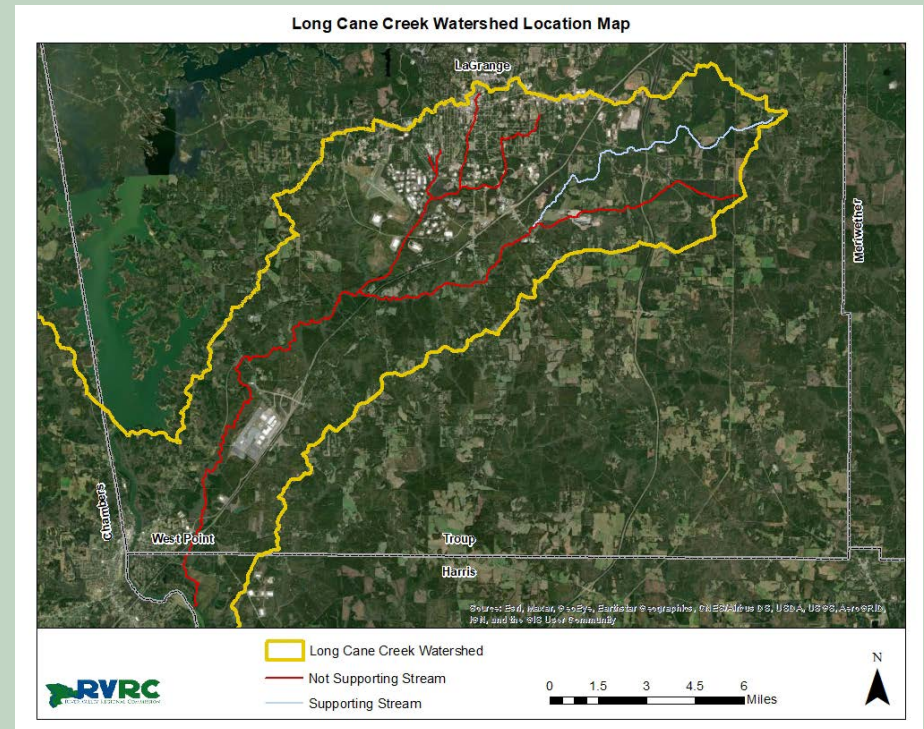
UPDATE OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LONG CANE CREEK WATERSHED



FEBRUARY 23, 2021

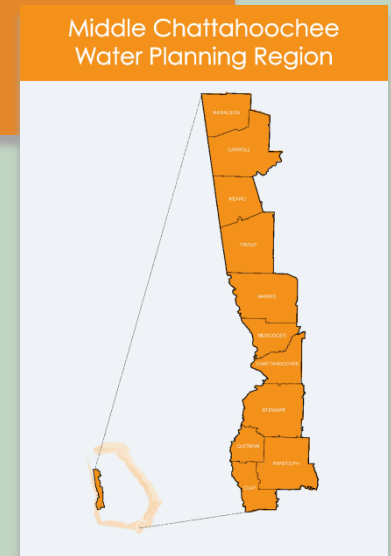
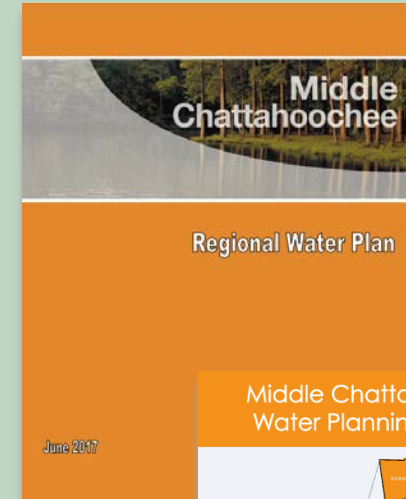
PROJECT LOCATION

- SFY2018 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant
- 10-digit HUC 0313000209
- GA portion of watershed located in Harris and Troup Counties
- Drainage area= 84 sq mi
- Part of larger Upper Middle Chattahoochee watershed



PROJECT GOALS

- Update the WMP for the watershed to meet USEPA's Nine Elements of watershed planning
- Support implementation of management practices identified in the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (June 2017)
 - WQ-5: Improve water quality monitoring to provide the data for water quality improvements in the future (increased number of collection sites, increased monitoring frequency and parameters sampled)
 - WQ-6: Increase implementation and improve documentation of BMPs throughout the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region for all industries



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Develop an update to the watershed management plan that
 - Updates water quality and land use data
 - Includes a water quality monitoring component
 - Estimates load reductions
 - Describes management measures to be implemented
 - Describes interim milestones
 - Provides education and outreach in form of establishing Advisory Committee and hosting public meetings to determine BMPs
- Provide the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Planning Council with project updates throughout plan update process
- Required reporting to GAEPD

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- 2 Watershed Advisory Committee meetings held
- 2 public meetings held
- Water quality monitoring conducted
- Visual stream assessments conducted
- DNA/Microbial source tracking analysis conducted
- Land use data updated
- Sources of fecal coliform verified/new potential sources identified
- Potential sources of sediment identified
- Management measures recommended to address sources of pollution



NEXT STEPS



- Public comment period
- Apply for Section 319(h) FY21 funding for plan implementation

QUESTIONS?

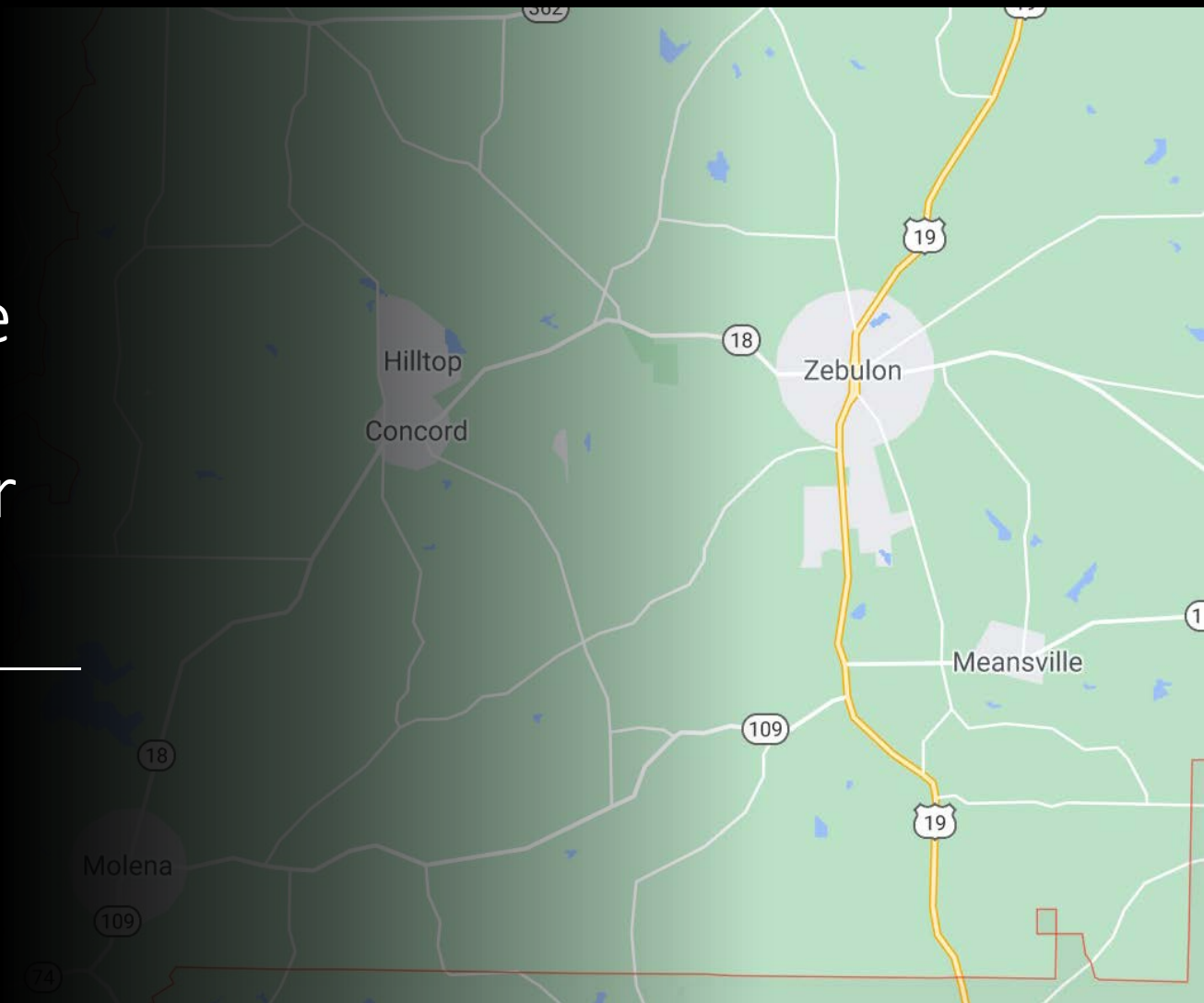
Laura Schneider
Environmental Planner
River Valley Regional Commission

lschneider@rivervalleyrc.org

706-256-2910



Pike County: Building on the Upper Flint Regional Water Plan





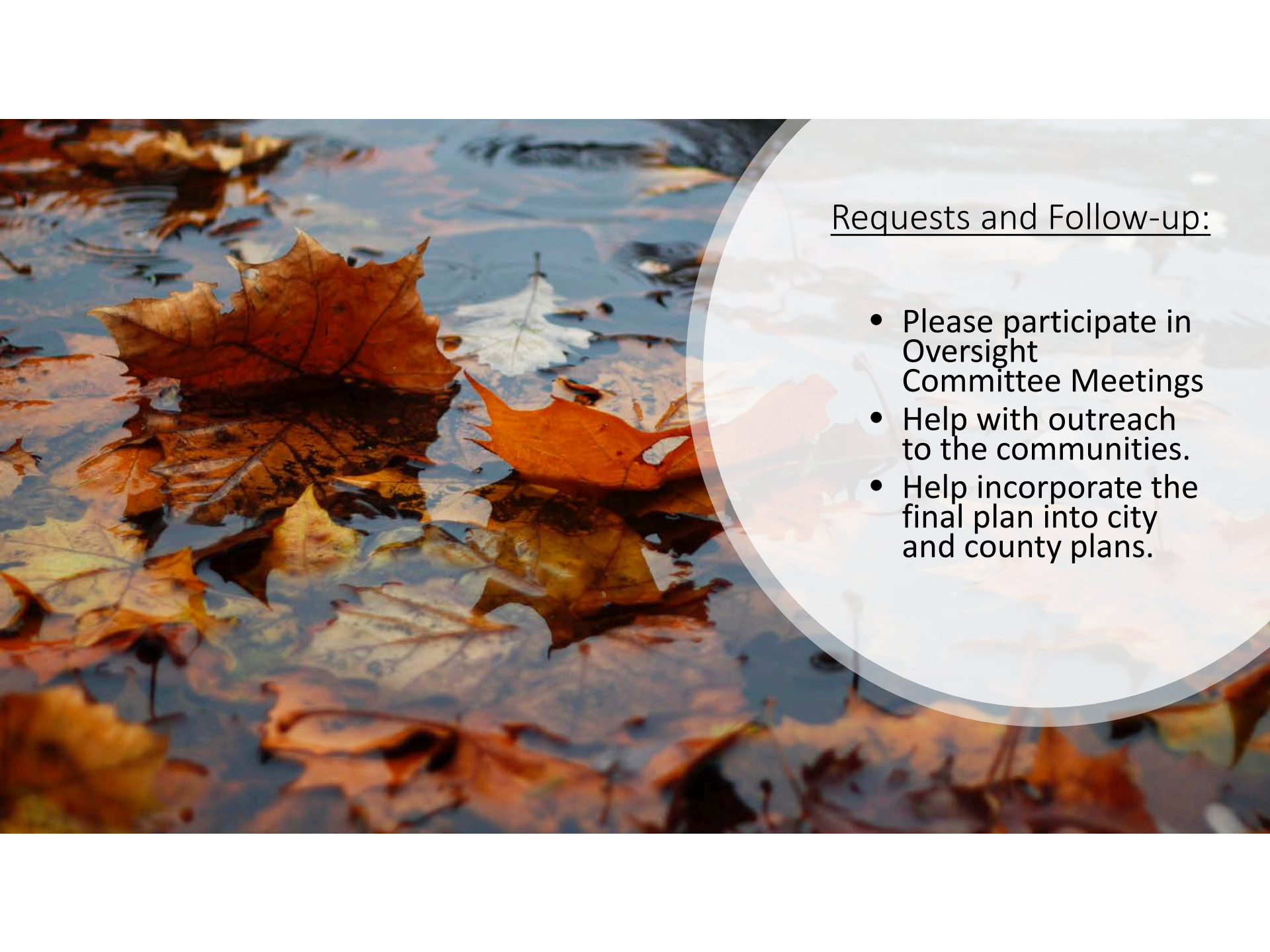
Objectives

- Develop a 30-year water resources management plan that ensures the water welfare and needs of the county are met in a way that is fully supportive of the Upper Flint Regional Water Plan
- Ensure public understanding of water resources and utilization



Fit with the Upper Flint Regional Water Plan

- DM2- Exploring the potential impact of implementation of non-farm water conservation practices in the Upper Flint Water Planning Region
- SF1 – Evaluating storage options that can provide for supply and flow augmentation in dry periods including potential locations, viability, cost, and implementation
- SF3 -Exploring the possibility of replacing surface water withdrawals with groundwater withdrawals where it is feasible and any potential impacts on groundwater aquifers
- RM1- Maintaining a preference for treatment systems that discharge to surface water over land application of wastewater and support increased return flows to the surface water
- WQ5 – Utilizing technology to improve water quality management information (GIS maps)

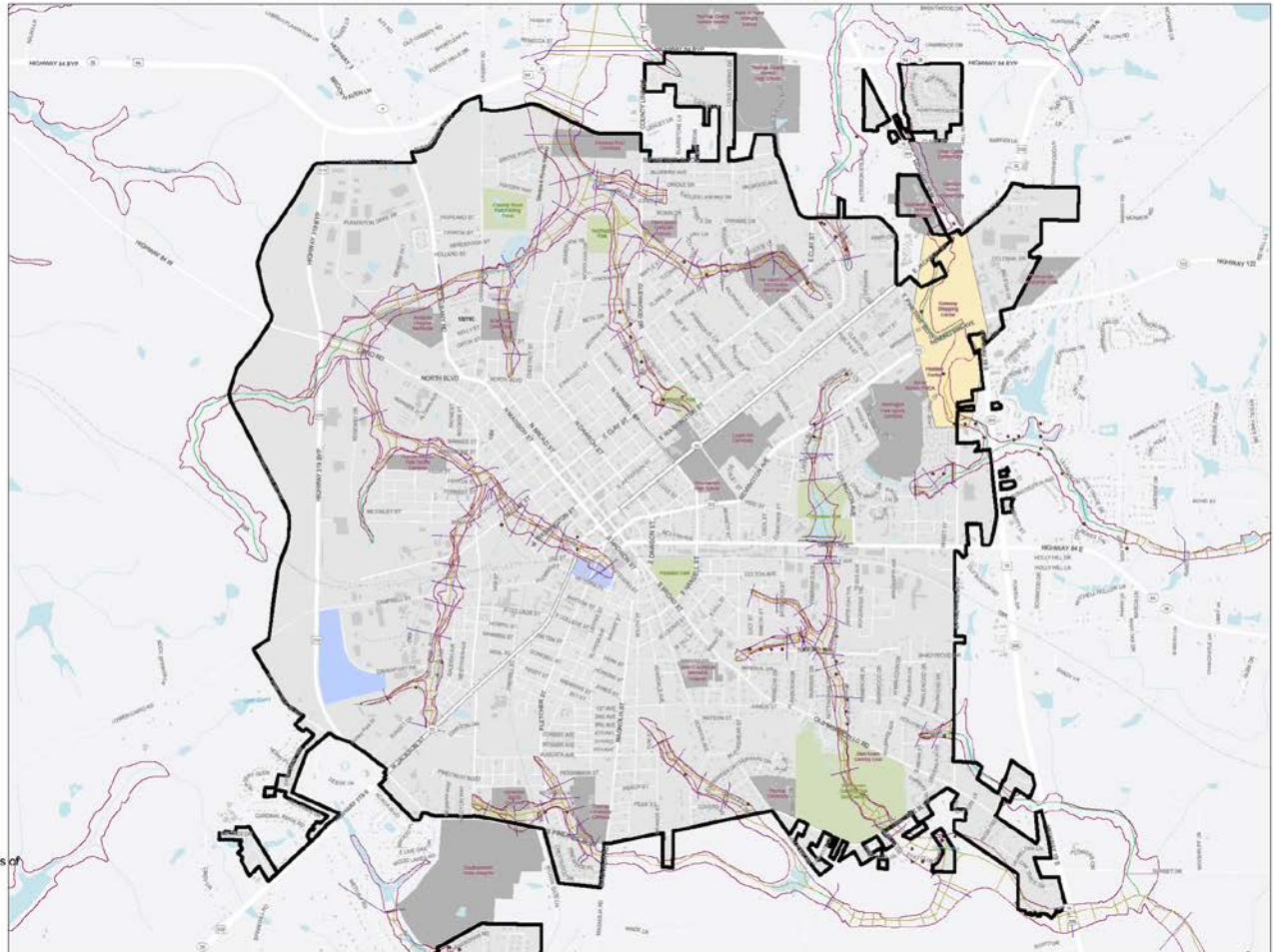
A photograph of autumn leaves floating in a pond, with a semi-transparent white circle on the right side containing text.

Requests and Follow-up:

- Please participate in Oversight Committee Meetings
- Help with outreach to the communities.
- Help incorporate the final plan into city and county plans.

Stormwater Data Collection and Assessment

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA



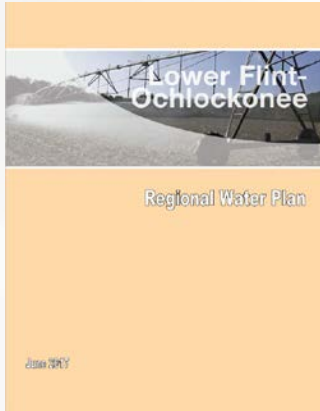
- Delineation of watersheds and establishing monitoring sites
- Public Education
- Review of available water management resources



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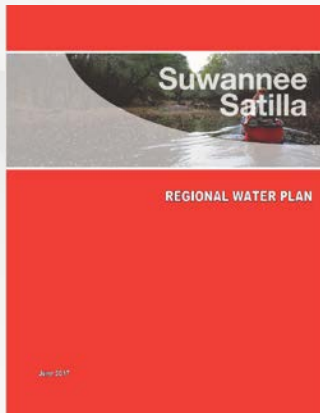
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Recommendations from Regional Water Plans to be implemented



The activities outlined in our application will implement the recommendations from the Lower- Flint Ochlocknee (LFO) management practices:

- WQ4: Continue to fund and implement water quality monitoring
- WQ 2: Improve implementation of nonpoint source controls



From the Suwannee Satilla (SS) management practices:

- PSDO-1: Collect water quality data,
- NPS-1: Study Human Impacts on Water Quality
- EDU-2: Support Stormwater Educational Programs will be implemented
- The final SWMP and SW Utility will implement SS NPSU-2

Public Education and Council Participation

Council's assistance with two regional workshops and the annual Rivers Alive events is requested.

The regional workshop is tentatively schedule for late summer 2021 and 2022 leading into the Rivers Alive events in October 2021/2022.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Next Steps

Focus of next Council meeting: Review forecasts of demand for water/wastewater

- Municipal
- Industrial
- Energy
- Agriculture

Continued Outreach to Implementation Actors in Regions