



Meeting Summary

Lower Flint Ochlockonee Regional Water Council

Meeting Albany State University

Albany, GA May 12, 2022

Welcome & Introductions

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) welcomed the Council members, reviewed the agenda, and introduced the Council support team. Meeting materials are posted on the Council Website.

Chair's Report

Chairman Royal welcomed and thanked the Council members for attending today's meeting. He noted that we have a full agenda today and an aggressive plan update schedule.

Resource Assessment Results

Surface Water Availability

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) introduced the Resources Assessment topic by going over the three water planning models: 1. Groundwater Availability (results presented at last meeting), 2. Surface Water Availability (results shared today), and 3. Surface Water Quality (results presented at last meeting). She stated that metrics are used to evaluate the results relative to the outcomes of interest.

Wei Zeng (GAEPD) presented the surface water availability assessment results. He introduced the Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM) and described how BEAM will enhance surface water modeling. Wei emphasized how BEAM will allow a greater understanding and ability to look deeper into water resources within the basin by allowing every water resource facility (including withdrawals and discharges) to function as a node. Previously there were only around 20 nodes within the ACF basin. Next, Wei presented examples of how BEAM can be used to model water supply and wastewater assimilation challenges. The ACF-BEAM models baseline and future scenarios by setting a simulation period of known hydrologic conditions (1939-2018), a withdrawal and discharge amount baseline (average from 2010-2018, marginally dry), instream protection thresholds (per permit conditions), and using reservoir physical and

operational data (from reservoir owner or EPD). For the Lower Flint-Ochlockonee region, Wei analyzed a water supply challenge at Georgia Pacific Cedar Springs, LLC and a wastewater assimilation challenges with City of Leesburg, and flow results at Bainbridge, Iron City, and Milford. Wei concluded that there were moderate water supply and wastewater assimilation challenges under baseline water use conditions, and some instream flow challenges. A technical memorandum will be published with additional results as they become available and the Resource Assessment Team will provide updates and presentations to aid in explaining the results. For addition information, Wei's slides are available in the meeting materials.

Discussion Summary:

- A Council member asked if there is any data on the Ochlockonee River. Wei stated that results have been developed and this information will be summarized in the technical memorandum.
- A Council member asked if there is discharge available for other points in Leesburg. Wei noted that for discharge, this is only one example of a discharge facility and in future scenarios they can show other facilities to see if there are any specific challenges.

Management Practices Review

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) introduced the Small Group Discussions for the Management Practices Review. Council members were asked to review the Management Practices divided into Water Quantity and Water Quality topics. Council members answered three main questions when reviewing the practices:

1. Which Management Practices are most important to you and why?
2. Are there any that should be added/removed?
3. Which management Practices need to be updated in Committee work?

Water Quantity had the following discussion points:

- DM2, DM4, DM5, SF1, SF2, and SF4 practices need updating
- DM1, DM5, SF2, and SF3 were flagged as high priority

Water Quality had the following discussion points:

- WQ1, WQ3, and WQ5 practices need updating
- WQ2 was flagged as highest priority, followed by WQ4

The discussions from the Water Quantity and Water Quality groups will be reflected in the revisions of the Management Practices section of the Plan and brought back to the Council for approval in committee meetings in June.

Plan Review Committee Report

Murray Campbell presented the Plan Review Committee Report. The Plan Review Committee held a meeting on May 3, 2022 and reviewed draft sections 1, 2, and 4 of the Plan. Murray noted that the committee's recommendation was to approve the sections as edited by the committee.

Inter-Council Coordination Committee Report

Corinne discussed the Inter-Council Coordination Committee Report. The committee convened on May 3, 2022 to discuss the Metro Water District Plan Update and reviewed the previous letter sent to the District. The committee's main concern was what happens when we reach the sustainable yield of resources. The committee recommended not sending a comment letter to the Metro Water District on their plan. The next Inter-Council Committee meeting with the Middle Chattahoochee and Upper Flint Council will be held in June to review and update Section 7.4 Recommendations to the State: Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils.

Recommendations Review

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) discussed the Recommendations to the State, which is section 7.4 of the Plan. Currently the Recommendation section is comprised of Information Needs, Water Policy Recommendations, and Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils. Each Recommendation was discussed briefly and the Council members were asked for input on update needs or removal.

Council members had the following discussion points:

Information Needs:

- Points 4 and 7 were flagged to remain
- Points 1, 9, 10, and 12 were flagged as considering for deleting
- Points 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 were flagged as needing updating in committee work

Water Policy Recommendations:

- Points 1,2,3 6, and 9 were flagged to remain
- Points 4, 5, 7, and 8 were flagged as needing updating

The edits discussed at today's meeting will be revised into the Plan and brought back to the Council in committee meetings in June for approval.

Next Steps in Plan Review and Revision

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) presented the Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Schedule. The Plan Review Committee has finished its initial work and Water Quantity and Water Quality Committees will be formed to focus on the management practices updates. Both committees will be meeting, starting in June, to go over the revisions made to the Management Practices and Recommendations sections of the Plan. The Inter-Council Committee will also meet in June with the other Region's Council members.

The EPD target date of adoption of the revised Regional Water Plan is for December 2022.

EPD Report

Jennifer Welte (GAEPD) presented FY23 RWP Seed Grant Program, which provides funding for projects that implement Regional Water Plan management practices and recommendations. The application is on the Georgia Water Planning website and will be announced in July with a deadline in October. The program provides up to \$75,000 per project.

Information Items

Steve Simpson (Black & Veatch) presented two information items: the GEFA Georgia Water Supply and Redundancy Study and the GEFA Biosolids report. Both reports are available on GEFA's website.

GA Water Supply

- Identify redundant water supply sources
- Evaluate potential projects that improve water reliability for public water systems
- Emergency supply and deficit under existing and future conditions
- Lower Flint Ochlockonee Region had no identified deficits
- Potential interconnection and backup power supply projects were conceptualized which can assist Councils and systems in understanding the types of upgrades that could benefit the Water Planning Region

GEFA Biosolids Report

- Historical trend in Georgia has been increased landfilling over time. Recent slope failures have resulted in increased landfill regulation
- Trends for solid management include continuing challenges for all end uses of solids, including landfilling, land application, and incineration
- Available capacity for landfilling solids is limited and disposal cost is rising
- Alternative outlets/processes needed to address the challenges
- GEFA funding is available for biosolid projects

Next Steps

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC) concluded by mentioning the next Council meeting will take place on August 22nd, 2022, where we will present a Draft Plan for Review following the Committee work taking place this summer.

Adjourn

Chairman Royal asked if there were any further questions regarding the material covered today and thanked everyone for attending today before adjourning.

Council Members Attending May 12, 2022 Meeting

Chris Addleton

Fred Dent

Murray Campbell

Vince Falcione

Casey Cox*

John Heath*

Marc DeMott

Connie Hobbs

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Michael McCoy*

Richard Royal

Jay Smith

Mark Spooner

Other Attendees

Mark Masters (GWPPC)

Kristin Rowles (GWPPC)

Meagan Szydzik (GWPPC)

Courtney Cooper (GWPPC)

Steve Simpson (B&V)

Corinne Valentine (B&V)

Steve Sykes

Cory Thomas

Jimmy Webb*

Jake Dean (B&V)

Wei Zeng (GAEPD)

Jennifer Welte (GAEPD)

Bert Early (GA. Forestry Commission)

Rob Weller (GA DNR-WRD)

**By videoconference*