

Lower Flint-Ochlockonee

Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Council Meeting

March 17, 2023



**GEORGIA
WATER PLANNING**

waterplanning.georgia.gov

Agenda

Objectives:

1. Select high priority Management Practices
2. Review water quantity committee report
3. Review Joint Recommendation 3
4. Approve draft plan for public review
5. Discuss next meeting and remaining process for plan review and revision

9:45 am Registration

10:00 am Welcome, Agenda Review – *Mark Masters, GWPPC*

10:10 am Chair's Report – *Chairman Royal*

10:20 am Planning timeline and neighboring council coordination – *Meagan Szydzik, GWPPC*

10:30 am EPD Report – *Jennifer Welte, GAEPD*

10:40 am Water Quantity Committee Reports – *Murray Campbell*

11:00 am ACFS Drought Exercise Report and Discussion – *Mark Masters, GWPPC*

11:30 am Review Joint Recommendation 3 – *Mark Masters, GWPPC*

11:50 am Introduce Management Practice prioritization activity – *Courtney Cooper, GWPPC*

12:00 pm Lunch

12:40 pm Discuss Management Practice priorities – *Courtney Cooper, GWPPC*

1:20 pm Discuss outstanding planning questions

2:30 pm Public Comment

2:50 pm Approval of draft plan for public review

3:30 pm Next Steps – *Meagan Szydzik, GWPPC*

4:00 pm Adjourn



Introductions

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Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Council Members

Name	City	County
Chris Addleton	Cairo	Grady
J. Steve Bailey	Donalsonville	Seminole
C. LaDon Calhoun	Colquitt	Miller
Murray Campbell	Camilla	Mitchell
Marc E. DeMott	Moultrie	Colquitt
Frederick Dent	Sylvester	Worth
David Dixon	Leesburg	Lee
Hugh Dollar	Bainbridge	Decatur
Vincent Falcione	Albany	Lee
John A. Heath	Dawson	Terrell
Jack Henderson	Newton	Baker
Connie C. Hobbs	Newton	Baker
Greg Hobbs	Thomasville	Thomas
Sen. Dean Burke		

Name	City	County
Phil Long	Bainbridge	Decatur
Michael A. McCoy		Dougherty
George C. McIntosh	Dawson	Terrell
Mike Newberry III	Arlington	Early
Calvin D. Perry	Moultrie	Colquitt
Walt Pierce	Edison	Calhoun
A. Richard Royal	Camilla	Mitchell
J. Stephen Singletary	Blakely	Early
Jay Smith	Albany	Dougherty
Mark Spooner	Donalsonville	Seminole
Steve Sykes	Camilla	Mitchell
Cory Thomas	Colquitt	Miller
James L. Webb	Leary	Calhoun
Rep. Gerald Greene		



Chair's Report

Presented by Chairman Royal



Planning Timeline

Meagan Szydzik



Summary from last meeting - November 30th

- Discussed water quality assessment results
- Reviewed and discussed committee reports from Water Quality & Quantity Committees
- Discussed outstanding committee issues in break-out sessions
- Discussed plan revisions that needed input from the full Council
- Considered revisions to recommendations from the Inter-Council Coordination Committee



Coordination with Neighboring Councils

- Middle Ocmulgee & Suwannee-Satilla Councils
- Meeting to address key council issues & discussions that might cross council boundaries
- Discussed how we presented the BEAM results and shared our drafts



Regional Water Plan Update

Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Schedule



EPD targeted date of adoption of revised Regional Water Plan by June 2023



EPD Report

Jennifer Welte



Draft and Final Regional Water Plans

- Council submits Draft Updated Plan to EPD by Wednesday, March 29
- Draft Updated Plan will be put on Public Notice by EPD on March 31
- 45-day public comment period will end on May 15, 2023
- Council reviews/incorporates public comments received during their June meetings
- Final Updated Plan should be submitted to EPD by Friday, June 23
- EPD Director adopts plans by June 30, 2023

EPD Updates

- EPD finalized a Water Quality Trading Guidance on February 7
 - <https://epd.georgia.gov/water-quality-trading>
- Public drinking water systems: lead service line inventories (due Oct. 2024)
 - Rulemaking to address electronic submissions
 - EPD & GEFA implementing an online system to accept & track these submissions
 - <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drinking-water>
- Construction stormwater general permits will be reissued this summer
 - Stakeholder meetings have been held
 - Draft permits will go out on public notice
 - <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/stormwater>

FY2023 Section 319(h) Grant Funding

- Currently accepting applications for projects that:
 - Implement watershed management plans
 - Address impaired waters
 - Address NPS pollution
 - Install Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - Engage in partnerships
 - Collect water quality data
 - Result in measurable water quality improvement
- Submit online applications via the 319(h) Grant Application Portal (GAP) by **APRIL 30, 2023**



FY2023 Section 319(h) Grant Funding

- Cost-Share: 60% Federal/40% Non-Federal Match
- Up to \$400,000 per project
- Estimated FY2023 Total Funding Available: \$2.1 Million
- Preferred Project Period: 3 years
- Who's eligible for this funding?
 - State Agencies
 - City or County Governments with Qualified Local Government status
 - Regional Commissions
 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - Resource Conservation and Development Councils
 - Local and regional school systems
 - State colleges and universities



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Water Quantity Committee Report

Presented by Murray Campbell



Water Quality Committee: January Meeting

January 30th

- Reviewed updates made in Section 6 of the Plan relating to Management Practices and Recommendations to the State.

Members Present

- Murray Campbell, Richard Royal, Cory Thomas, Marc DeMott, Steve Sykes



Water Quality Committee: January Meeting

- Minor changes to the Management Practices - Section 6:
 - Added the phrase “or partially lifted” to DM5, to reference if the moratorium is lifted (Page 6-5).
 - Reordered the list in the description of SF4, in order to emphasize the evaluation of specific proposals for Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) (Page 6-8)
 - Softened the following language by removing “substantial”:
“Addressing surface and groundwater availability challenges in the region could require **substantial** reductions in water use in dry periods, especially by agriculture, or alternatively, they might be addressed with offsetting storage or augmentation” (Page 6-13)



Key Changes to Water Quantity

Section 6 Management Practices and Recommendations to the State

- *New Management Practice SF7 about a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) based on Recommendation to the State WP-7*
 - *Does the Council wish to keep both SF7 & WP-7 in the Plan?*
 - *Check language on next slide*



Management Practice, Page 6-10

SF7: Encourage the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to provide habitat protection for endangered and threatened freshwater mussels in the Flint River Basin while improving water security for irrigation water supply needs within region.

- The GA-FIT project described in SF2 seeks to resolve potential conflicts between agricultural water use and imperiled species in the region through an HCP. The Council encourages all appropriate state agencies to join in this process, including GAEPD.
- The Council supports continued consideration of an HCP as a tool that should be evaluated to provide for both habitat protection and irrigation supply needs in the region, while also reducing the liability and uncertainty associated with potential Endangered Species Act enforcement or litigation.
- An HCP feasibility study was conducted between 2011 and 2014 in response to a request from the Council. It was led by the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center and involved numerous agencies and stakeholders from this region. The project provided information that can be used to advance consideration of alternative approaches to address imperiled species concerns in the region.
- See Recommendation to the State WP-7.

Recommendations to the State, Page 6-17

WP-7: *The Council supports efforts of the new GA-FIT project described in Management Practice SF2 and SF7 to seek to resolve potential conflicts between agricultural water use and imperiled species in the region through the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The Council urges all appropriate state agencies to join in this process, including the GAEPD. An HCP feasibility study was conducted between 2011 and 2014 in response to a request from the Council. It was led by the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center and involved numerous agencies and stakeholders from this region. The project provided information that can be used to advance*

Key Changes to Water Quantity

Section 6 Management Practices and Recommendations to the State

Added language acknowledging FL use of Floridan Aquifer affects shared water resources (Page 6-13).

- The Floridan Aquifer crosses state lines, and use of the Floridan Aquifer by Florida water users can have impacts on this important shared water resource. These impacts may not be reflected in the groundwater resource assessment



Key Changes to Water Quantity

Section 3 & 5 Current & Future Assessment of Water Resources

The Committee asked if GAEPD could provide any information on whether the GA Pacific facility has storage options available to address their water supply challenge (Page 3-9 & 5-3).

- GAEPD stated that they received info from the facility that the on-site storage is fairly small in comparison to the challenge.



ACFS Drought Exercise Report & Discussion

Mark Masters (GWPPC)



Joint Recommendation 3 Review

Courtney Cooper



Inter-Council Coordination

Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils

- JT-3: Recommend proactive engagement among Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to collaborate on opportunities to improve planning for shared water resources in the ACF Basin.
 - Pending review by LFO in March
 - Approved by MC & UF



Inter-Council Coordination

Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils

- *Previously deleted Water Policy Recommendation addressing interstate coordination:*

The Council urges the State to seek a timely resolution of current interstate water issues that directly affect the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin. The Council recommends the development of a tri-state framework designed to address interstate water issues in the future and the inclusion of the regional water councils within this framework.



Management Practice Prioritization Activity

Courtney Cooper





Lunch




Management Practice Priorities Discussion

Courtney Cooper



Discussion of Outstanding Planning Questions



Outstanding Items

- Updated BEAM Model results
 - Changes shown in next slide for the Wastewater Assimilation Challenges Tables in Section 3 & 5
- Wastewater Discharge Challenges
 - Text explaining a challenge is not considered substantial unless the percentage of time that the instream flow fell below the 7Q10 value is greater than 10% (Page 3-11 and 5-3)
- Table 6.1 Management Practices format changes
 - Includes details addressing responsible parties and implementation timeframes (short-term & long-term actions)



Section 3: Current Results

**Table 3-3: Water Supply Challenges Indicated in Assessment Results:
Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Region**

Facility	Metric		Scenario	
			Baseline	Baseline Drought
Georgia Pacific Cedar Springs, LLC Chattahoochee	% Time		0.8%	0.8%
	Shortage million gallons	Model Period	7,174 7,032	7,078 7,079
		2007-08 Drought	1,415 1,427	1,793 1,908
		2011-12 Drought	776 772	567
BASF Corporation Ochlockonee	% Time		0.1%	0.2%
	Shortage million gallons	Model Period	10	19
		2007-08 Drought	1	1
		2011-12 Drought	0	0
*% Time is calculated as a proportion of the full model period (1939-2018). Shortage is total volume for full model period or for the drought period indicated. Each drought period includes the full two years listed.				

Section 5: Future Results

**Table 5-1: 2060 Future Scenario Water Supply Challenges Indicated in Assessment Results:
Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Region**

Facility	Metric		Scenario	
			Forecast (<u>ag</u> constant)	Forecast (<u>ag</u> growth)
Georgia Pacific Cedar Springs, LLC <i>Chattahoochee</i>	% Time		0.8%	0.8%
	Shortage <i>million gallons</i>	Model Period	<u>6,9947,266</u>	<u>6,6786,673</u>
		2007-08 Drought	<u>1,5521,874</u>	<u>1,5391,538</u>
		2011-12 Drought	<u>688614</u>	490
BASF Corporation <i>Ochlockonee</i>	% Time		0.1%	0.4%
	Shortage <i>million gallons</i>	Model Period	9	60
		2007-08 Drought	1	3
		2011-12 Drought	0	10
*% Time is calculated as a proportion of the full model period (1939-2018). Shortage is total volume for full model period or for the drought period indicated. Each drought period includes the full two years listed.				

Section 3: Current Results

Table 3-4: Wastewater Assimilation Challenges Indicated in Assessment Results: ACF Basin in Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Region

Facility	% Time Flow Below 7Q10*		Required Flow (7Q10) <i>cfs</i>
	Baseline Scenario	Baseline Drought Scenario	
Smithville WPCP	4.82.1%	9.75.7%	2.87
Leesburg Pond WPCP	0.3%	1.3%	54.99
Kinchafoonee Creek WPCP	0.2%	0.8%	62.6
Dawson WPCP	1.1%	2.0%	0.02
Leary WPCP	0.8%	1.1%	0.002
Arlington WPCP	4.0%	8.9%	0.02
Blakely WPCP	5.2%	10.8%	0.09
Colquitt	7.3%	12.7%	9.06
Donalsonville WPCP	4.2%	5.1%	1.19
*% Time is calculated as a proportion of the full model period (1939-2018). [Shortage volumes removed from this table per input from GAEPD.]			

Section 5: Future Results

Table 5-2: 2060 Wastewater Assimilation Challenges Indicated in Assessment Results: ACF Basin in Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Region

Facility	% Time Flow Below 7Q10*		Required Flow (7Q10) <i>cfs</i>
	Forecast (ag constant) Scenario	Forecast (ag growth) Scenario	
Smithville WPCP	4.82.1%	7.34.0%	2.87
Leesburg Pond WPCP	0.3%	0.8%	54.99
Kinchafoonee Creek WPCP	0.2%	0.6%	62.6
Dawson WPCP	1.1%	1.8%	0.02
Leary WPCP	0.8%	1.1%	0.002
Arlington WPCP	4.0%	7.8%	0.02
Blakely WPCP	5.2%	1.9%	0.09
Colquitt	6.9%	9.2	9.06
Donalsonville WPCP	4.2%	4.9%	1.19
*% Time is calculated as a proportion of the full model period (1939-2018). WPCP: Water Pollution Control Plant [Shortage volumes removed from this table per input from GAPEDEPD.]			

Public Comment



Approval of Draft Plans for Public review





Next Steps

Meagan Szydzik



Next Steps

- Next Meeting: June 15th, 2023
 - Final Meeting for this Planning cycle (field trip?)
 - Incorporate comments from Council input and public review
 - Council approval of the Regional Water Plan for submission to EPD Director

