



Georgia's
State Water Plan

Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water
Planning Council Meeting
November 13, 2017

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

- **Welcome**
- **Introductions**
 - New EPD Liaison, Veronica Crow
- **Overview**
 - Approve Meeting Agenda
 - Approve Meeting Summary from June 2017 Council Meeting

Middle Ocmulgee Council 11/13/17 Meeting



Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Council Meeting Draft Agenda – November 13, 2017

Objectives:

- 1) Overview and Discussion of Alternative Flow Regimes Pilot Study
- 2) Review Council outreach products
- 3) Grant Projects Status Updates and Discuss Upcoming Seed Grants

- | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Welcome, Introductions, and Overview | Chairman Richardson |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve Meeting Summary from last Council Meeting• Approve Meeting Agenda | |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Council Outreach Products and Implementation Efforts | Laura Hartt, Jacobs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Powerpoint and Fact Sheets• Survey distributed to Council members• Next steps for Councils | |

Approve Previous Meeting Summary

Memorandum

To: Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Planning Council

*From: Jennifer Welte, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Michelle Vincent, Jacobs*

Date: June 7, 2017

*Subject: Draft Council Meeting 6 Summary (June 7, 2017)
(Subject to Council review and approval)
Middle Ocmulgee Regional Council
Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Process*

This memorandum provides the meeting summary of the Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Planning Council Meeting 6, held on June 7, 2017 via conference call. The meeting was called to order by the chair at 10:05 AM.

Council Outreach Materials & Implementation Efforts

- Fact Sheets, PowerPoint Presentation
- Survey of Council members and Council Chairs
- Next steps for Councils

Middle Ocmulgee Council 11/13/17 Meeting

Council Outreach: Fact Sheet

2017 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

MIDDLE OCMULGEE REGION

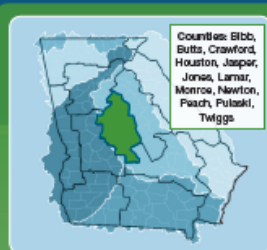
BACKGROUND

The Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Plan was initially completed in 2011 and subsequently updated in 2017. The plan outlines near-term and long-term strategies to meet water needs through 2050. Major water resources include the Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee River basins and approximately 76 percent of the region lies in the Ocmulgee River Basin. Major population centers include the cities of Macon, Warner Robins, and Covington.

OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE OCMULGEE REGION

The Middle Ocmulgee Region encompasses 12 counties in central Georgia. Over the next 35 years, the population of the region is projected to increase from approximately 586,190 to 770,960 residents. The region's leading economic sectors include government, health care, service industries, and agriculture.

In 2015, the Middle Ocmulgee Region withdrew approximately 225 million gallons per day (MGD) for water supply for all sectors, with approximately 39 percent drawn from surface water. The region generated approximately 128 MGD of wastewater in 2015, with 79 percent treated and returned to streams and 21 percent managed by onsite sewage management systems (septic systems) or land application systems.

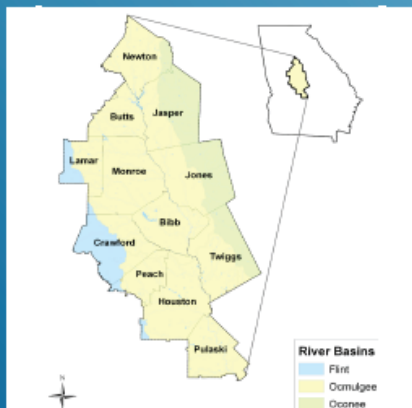


Counties: Bibb, Butts, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Monroe, Newton, Peach, Putaski, Twiggs

KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL

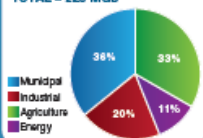
1. Effects of Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District withdrawals and discharges, as well as land use, on tributaries of Lake Jackson
2. Future water supply sources for areas above the Fall Line
3. Zones of possible low dissolved oxygen in the lower Ocmulgee River and tributaries
4. More efficient use of water in the region

MIDDLE OCMULGEE WATER PLANNING REGION

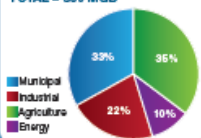


FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS

2015 WATER DEMAND TOTAL - 225 MGD



2050 WATER DEMAND TOTAL - 308 MGD



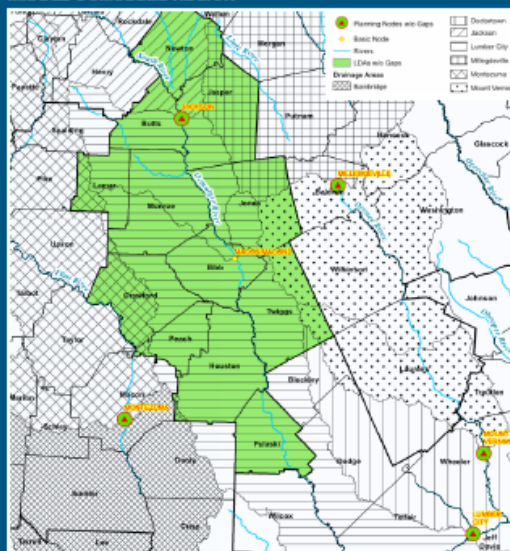
SUMMARY OF 2017 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

GROUNDWATER: At the regional level, there will be adequate supplies to meet future water demands in the areas relying on groundwater sources (generally south of the Fall Line) over the planning horizon. Rapidly growing Houston County, which currently relies upon the Cretaceous aquifer for municipal use, is expected to have a need for additional water supply infrastructure to meet its projected 2050 needs.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY: Assimilative capacity assessments predicted that some stream segments (mostly south of the Fall Line) are predicted to have limited capacity for assimilating future pollutant loads based on modeled dissolved oxygen levels. Upgrade of existing wastewater treatment facilities or advanced treatment in new facilities may be required to assimilate future pollutant loads. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY: Over the next 35 years, the modeling analysis indicates that surface water resources in the region are generally adequate to meet future water demands. A map of planning node locations and their drainage areas are provided below.

SURFACE WATER PLANNING NODE LOCATIONS IN THE MIDDLE OCMULGEE REGION



MIDDLE OCMULGEE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council recommends over 30 water management practices to help address the region's water resources issues and to meet the Council's vision and goals. Close to half are priority water management practices selected to address potential water resource shortages and existing regulations. These priority practices include:

WATER CONSERVATION (demand management): Includes practices to further manage and reduce municipal, industrial, energy, and agricultural demands in the entire region.

WATER SUPPLY: Management practices include development of local water master plans, and a coordinated regional effort evaluating the quantity and quality impacts of the metro Atlanta area's discharges into Lake Jackson.

WATER QUALITY: Management practices include development of local wastewater master plans, adoption and coordination of statewide regional and local water quality monitoring programs, upgrade of existing wastewater treatment facilities, construction of advanced treatment facilities, and promotion of coordinated environmental planning.

WATER QUALITY (enhanced pollution - non-point source management): Recommended practices for improving the existing impaired streams, including reduction of runoff from impervious surfaces, adoption of ordinances or incentive programs to protect sensitive lands, development/implementation of watershed assessment and protection plans, encouragement of total maximum daily load implementation and watershed improvement/restoration projects.

In addition to the priority practices, the plan also recommends close to 20 additional management practices to be considered by local governments and water users based on needs identified in detailed local master planning studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE:

Focus on additional data collection and modeling needs for improving future regional water planning efforts, evaluating current and future policy, funding and coordination.

Council Outreach: PowerPoint Presentation

Improving the Planning Process

- Survey distributed to Council members
- Interviews with Chairs
- Will be incorporated into recommendations to EPD on improvements to the planning process



Council Outreach: Next Steps

- Review outreach materials
- Individual Council Member outreach
 - With Jacobs assistance, identify and capitalize on outreach opportunities to build further support for plan implementation
 - Meet with decision makers and stakeholders, including civic leaders, industry leaders, chambers of commerce, professional organizations, and nonprofits

Council Outreach: Next Steps

- **Outreach by entire Council**
 - Bring implementing actors from the Region to speak about ongoing or anticipated projects at future Council meetings
 - Host a Regional Water Planning Council forum with invited members from the Region to provide information and outreach on the Council's Plan and to identify implementation opportunities

Alternative Flow Regimes Pilot Study

- Introduction & Overview
 - Gail Cowie (EPD) & Wei Zeng (EPD)
- Review of Selected Projects from Ocmulgee Basin & Elsewhere
 - Dr. Bill Tollner (UGA)
 - Dr. Ken Watson (ARCADIS)

MOC Pilot Flow Regime Study

Council Discussion

- Review Vision & Goals
- Identify flow-related services, benefits, and values within Middle Ocmulgee Basin
- Current versus Future
- Identify council members and other stakeholders to continue the discussion

Lunch

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

Middle Ocmulgee Council 11/13/17 Meeting

Middle Ocmulgee Adopted Vision (emphasis added)

as adopted by the Council (9/10/09)

*The Middle Ocmulgee Water Council will work so that our water resources, both surface and subsurface, is of exceptional **quality and quantity** for the well being and prosperity of all that will follow. Our plan will consider the **resource's natural integrity**, wise conservation, and prudent management for continuing **economic development** and **enhanced quality of life** for all the region's citizens.*



Source: <http://www.ohtmacon.com/>

Middle Ocmulgee Council 11/13/17 Meeting

Middle Ocmulgee Adopted Goals (emphasis added) *as adopted by the Council (9/22/10)*

1. Maximize **existing water supply** sources to the extent practicable.
2. Support the protection of **natural stream integrity** and the **recreation** it provides.
3. Promote **sufficient water supply** for the region.
4. Promote efficient use of water.
5. Promote properly managed **wastewater discharges** and beneficial reuse.
6. Support the reduction of non-point source pollution by advocating better land management practices.
7. Support planning and management of water resources to maintain a **healthy economy**, ensure a **high quality of life**, and **protect our natural resources**.

MOC Pilot Flow Regime Study Discussion

- Reflect on the Council's Vision & Goals
- What are the services, benefits, and values for which the Middle Ocmulgee Basin should be managed?
- Think about both short-term and long-term needs
- Which needs are flow-dependent?

MOC Pilot Flow Regime Study Discussion

- Identify Council Members interested in continued participation
- Identify stakeholders beyond the Council whose input would be valuable
- Next Steps?



Grant Projects: Status Updates & Upcoming Seed Grants

— Veronica Crow (EPD)

- Previously Awarded Seed Grants, Section 319(h) Grant
- Upcoming (FY2018) Seed Grant Opportunities

FY2018 Seed Grants: Application period is open!

- \$300,000 in total funding available
- Pre-application meetings with EPD by Dec. 8
- Applications due by Dec. 29
- Projects must implement management practices or other recommendations from Regional Water Plans and be endorsed by the relevant Council(s)
- **Discuss potential projects in the region**
 - Possible applicants?
 - Possible projects?

- **Wrap Up**
- **Next Council Meeting**
 - Topics?
 - Speakers?
 - Held as regional forum?





Georgia's State Water Plan

Public Comment Period

- Please limit comments to 3 minutes total
- Council encourages written submission of comments as well

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

Thank You!

Questions? Comments? Need
More Information?

Laura.Hartt@jacobs.com

Michelle.Vincent@jacobs.com

Veronica.Craw@dnr.ga.gov