

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council Meeting

October, 5 2023



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Welcome and Opening Remarks

Council Chair, Bruce Azevedo



Council Business

Council Chair, Bruce Azevedo



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Approve today's
meeting agenda

Approve June 6, 2023,
meeting summary



Georgia's State Water Plan

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Council
Draft Agenda – October 5, 2023

10:00 am

Phinizy Center for Water Sciences (Education Classroom)

1858 Lock and Dam Rd., Augusta GA 30906

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

To Join Meeting by Phone: (844) 566-5330, Meeting ID: 416 822 318#

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Council Registration/Guest Sign In, <i>Ashley Reid and Autumn McNeill, CD</i>
10:00 – 10:05 a.m.	Welcome
10:05 – 10:15 a.m.	Council Business, <i>Chairman Azevedo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve June 6, 2023 draft Council Meeting Summary• Approve today's draft meeting agenda
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Regional Water Plan Revision Recap, <i>Ashley Reid, CDM Smith</i>
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Regional Seed Grant Project Status Updates and SFY24 RWP Seed Grant <i>Haydn Blaize and Jackie Encinas, Georgia EPD</i>
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Seed Grant Project Updates, <i>Oscar P. Flite III, Ph.D, City of Augusta Stor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Frequency Monitoring and the Effects of Agricultural Water• Pilot study to Preserve In-stream Water Quality and Instream Flow
10 MINUTE STRETCH BREAK	
11:40 – 11:45 a.m.	Potential Seed Grant Projects, <i>Ashley Reid, CDM Smith</i>
11:45 – 12:00 a.m.	Soil Amendments Regional Update, <i>Tonya Bonitatibus, Savannah Riverke</i>
12:00 – 12:10 p.m.	Speaker/Topic/Field Trip Brainstorm Exercise, <i>Ashley Reid, CDM Smith</i>
12:10 – 12:15 p.m.	Online Participants Only - Meeting Wrap up/Public Comment
30 MINUTE BREAK FOR LUNCH	
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	In-Person Participants - Phinizy Center Lab Tour, <i>Jillian Amurao, Phinizy Ce</i>
1:30 – 1:35 p.m.	Public Comment
1:35 – 1:45 p.m.	Next Meeting Plans/Meeting Adjourned

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Memorandum

To: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council

From: Ashley Reid, CDM and Michelle Vincent, Jacobs

Date: June 6, 2023

Subject: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council Meeting Summary (subject to Council review and approval)

Welcome, Introductions, and Council Business

Chairman Bruce Azevedo called the meeting to order. Chairman Azevedo called for a motion to approve the prior Savannah-Upper Ogeechee (SUO) Council Meeting Minutes (March 23, 2023). A minor spelling correction was noted, but no additional changes were needed. Minutes were approved by motion, second, and unanimous vote.

Chairman Azevedo called for a motion to approve the draft revised agenda with corrections to the date. Agenda was approved by motion, second, and unanimous vote.

GA EPD Updates

Planning Process Updates

Hadyn Blaize, GA EPD provided a status update on the regional planning process, including deadlines for final plans submissions. Noting that all plans were due to EPD by Friday, June 23, to be adopted by June 30, 2023, Mr. Blaize also discussed a few of the potential surface water supply challenges that have been identified as part of the resource assessment process, including 7 facilities in the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region. Mr. Blaize will be sending them each an email to let them know what modeling challenges were identified, and how they can start to address the challenges with their future planning. Similarly, 13 facilities have been identified to have wastewater assimilation capacity challenges and will be contacted as well.

Seed Grant Updates

Hadyn Blaize, GA EPD gave the Council a brief update on seed grant status. Savannah-Upper Ogeechee currently has 4 active seed grants. Two will be completed in 2023, and two will be completed in 2024. Mr. Blaize also informed the Council that the Seed grant application season was open. Pre-application meetings are to be held no later than October 15, 2023, and the final applications are due by October 31, 2023. This year, there is a new application system, and the grant application must be completed online. A pre-meeting with the Council leadership is very important to ensure application packages are meeting the goals and vision of the Council. Coordination with the Council should take place before the EPD pre-application meeting.

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. The river is dark and reflects the sky. The forest is lush and green. In the distance, some buildings and a road are visible. The overall scene is serene and natural.

2023 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

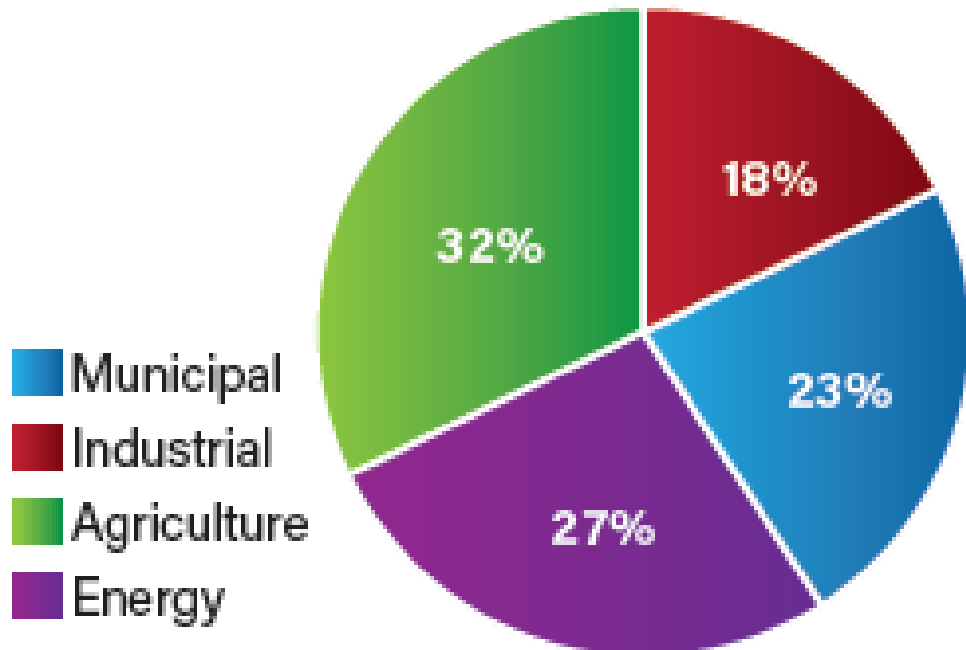
ASHLEY REID, CDM SMITH

Overview of 2023 Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan

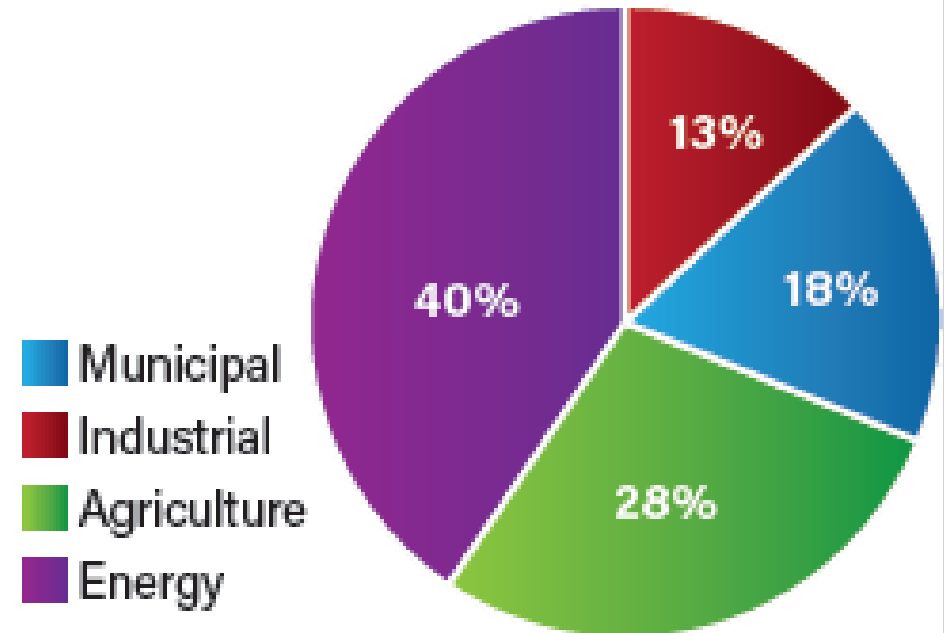
- The plan outlines near-term and long-term strategies to meet water needs through 2060
- Key Water Resource Issues Addressed:
 1. Low dissolved oxygen levels and other water quality concerns in the Savannah River and Harbor and the sharing of substantial load reductions between Georgia and South Carolina dischargers
 2. Coordination with South Carolina on shared water resources in the Savannah Basin
 3. Potential challenges in surface water availability in the Ogeechee Basin
 4. Concerns about interbasin transfers of water out of the Savannah Basin
 5. Long-term operating procedures at the USACE reservoirs and the use of adaptive management to maintain conservation pools at the highest possible levels
 6. More efficient use of water in the region

2023 Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Forecasted Water Demand

2020 WATER DEMAND
TOTAL = 404 MGD



2060 WATER DEMAND
TOTAL = 537 MGD

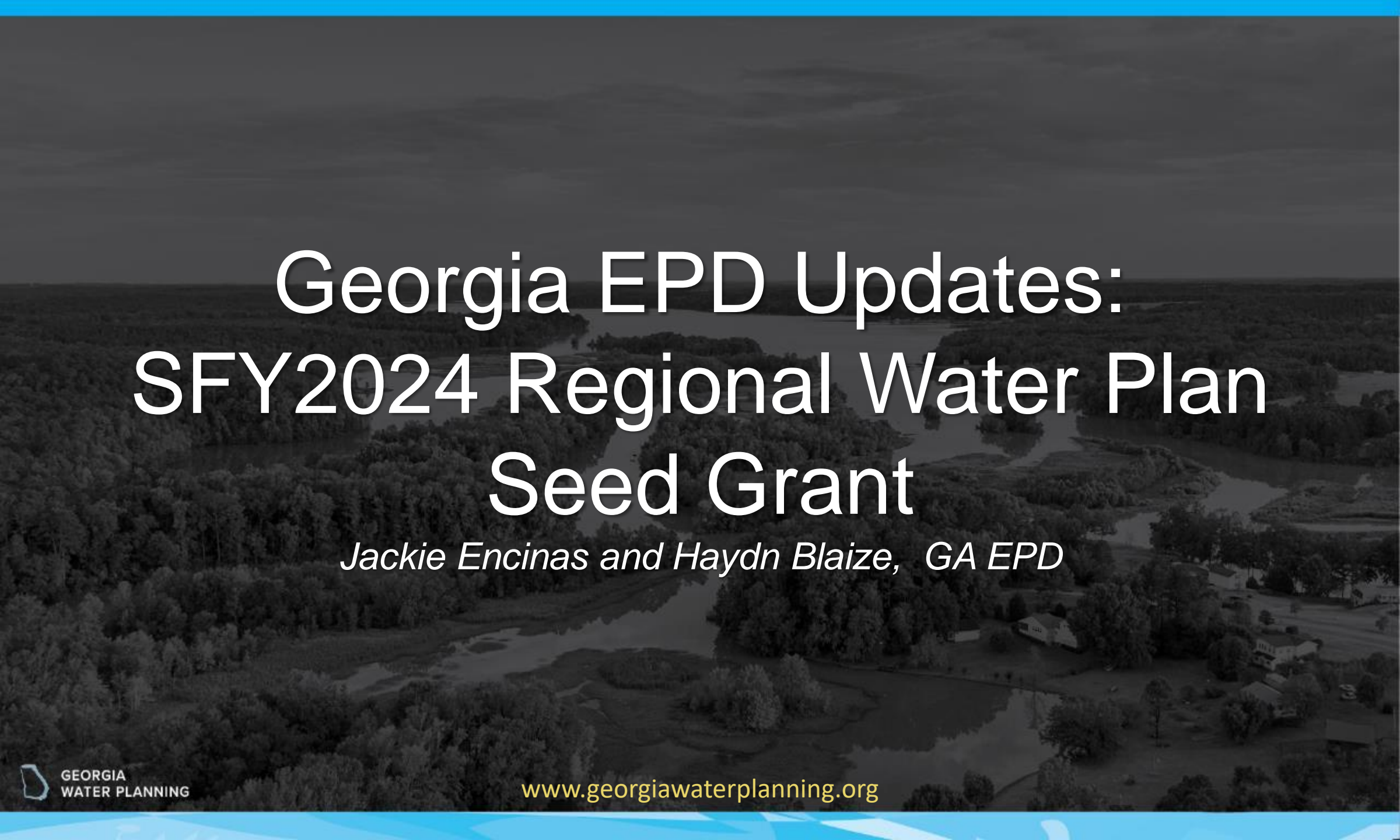


2023 Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater Supply - At the regional level, there will be adequate supplies to meet the region's future groundwater supply needs over the planning horizon.

Surface Water Quality - Assimilative capacity assessments predicted that some stream segments, including the Savannah Harbor, will have limited capacity to accept future wastewater discharges. 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 40 years, the modeling analysis indicates that the water supply and instream flow needs in the region are not met hydrologically at 7 withdrawal locations and 13 discharge locations. Potential surface water challenges exist at these locations. A map of the surface water availability model node locations with and without surface water quantity modeled challenges is provided below.



Georgia EPD Updates: SFY2024 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant

Jackie Encinas and Haydn Blaize, GA EPD



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

SFY2024 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant

**Watershed Protection Branch
Nonpoint Source Program Grants Unit**



SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE SEED GRANT PROJECTS

SFY15: Savannah River Fish and Insect Data– Completed 2017

SFY17: Variable Rate Irrigation Initiative in the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region – Completed 2019

SFY19: Initiating and Upgrading Publicly Accessible Water Monitoring for the SUO RWP – Completed 2021

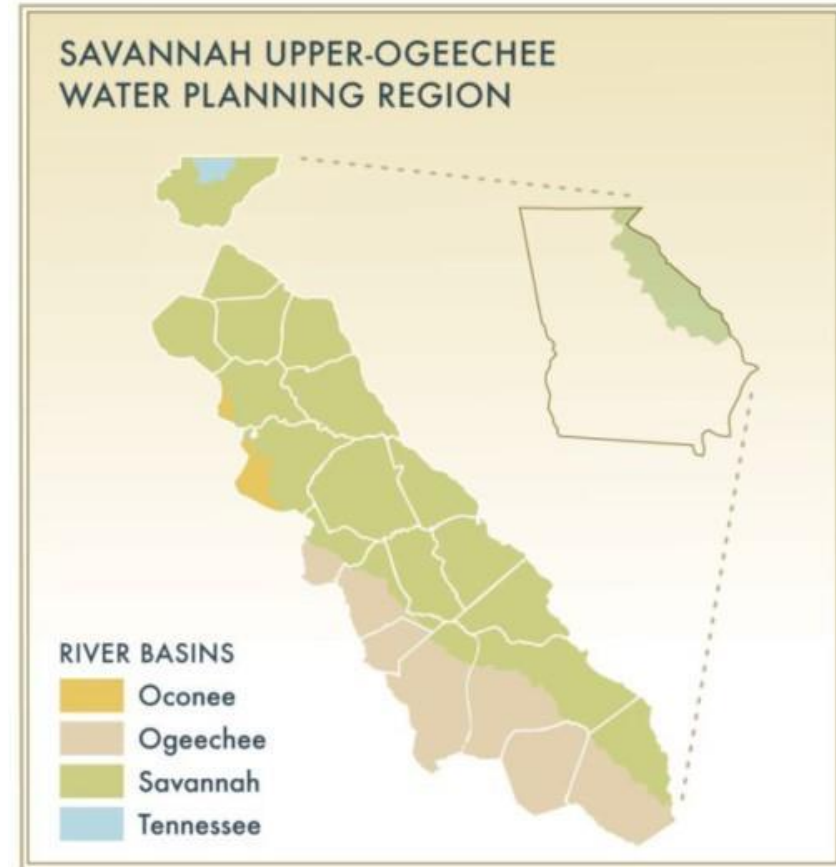
SFY20: Historical analyses of in-stream water quantities for the Ogeechee, Savannah, Altamaha, and Oconee River Basins – Completed 2022

SFY20: High frequency monitoring and the effects of agricultural water withdrawal in the Savannah Upper Ogeechee Watersheds – City of Augusta will be completed 2023

SFY21: Upgrading Publicly Accessible Water Monitoring for the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee RWP - City of Savannah will be completed 2023

SFY22: Effect of reduced water quantities on the instream function including physicochemical attributes, nutrients, algae, and macroinvertebrates of the Savannah River – City of Augusta will be completed 2024

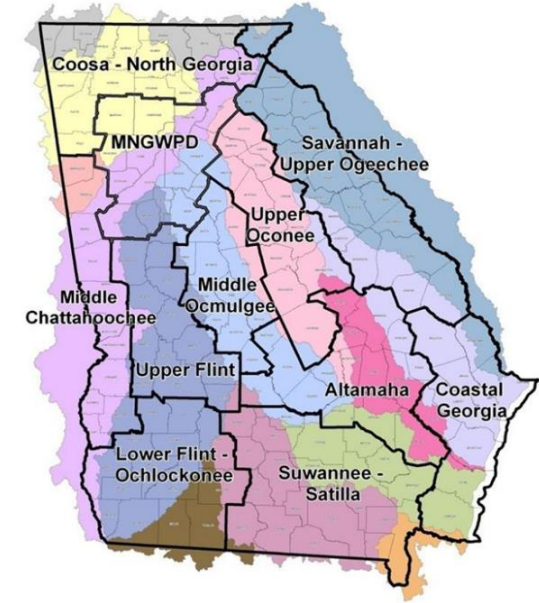
SFY22: Pilot study to preserve in-stream water quality and instream flows below an urban pond complex using a real-time control system – City of Augusta will be completed 2024





SFY2024 REGIONAL WATER PLAN SEED GRANT CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OPENED JULY 17, 2023

- Up to \$75,000 per project to Implement Regional Water Plans
- Cost-Share: 60% state funds/40% local match (10% of project total as cash)
- Letter of Support from Regional Water Planning Council(s)
- Accepting applications for SFY2024 until **October 31, 2023**
- Apply using online Grant Application Portal at https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/gaepd_seedgrant



LINK TO SFY2024 Regional Water Planning Seed Grant:
<https://epd.georgia.gov/outreach/grants/regional-water-plan-seed-grant-funds>



ELIGIBILITY

- Project proposals that specifically implement management practice(s) or other recommendation(s) from the 10 Regional Water Plans.
- Letter of endorsement from the Chairs of the appropriate Regional Water Planning Council(s).
- Eligible applicants include local, regional, and State units of government, authorities that operate local government service delivery programs, regional commissions, resource conservation and development councils, local school systems, State colleges and universities, and State agencies.



STEPS TO APPLY

- Prior to applying, applicants are required to meet (in person or by teleconference) with Grants Unit staff.
- Schedule the pre-application meeting by October 17, 2023.
- Access the SFY2024 Grant Guidelines for detailed instructions on how to apply using the Grant Administration Portal.
- Grants Unit staff are available to guide applicants through the process of successfully applying using the online portal.



AWARD & MATCH

- Funding through the RWP Seed Grant is limited to \$75,000 and 60% of total project cost.
- Applicants must provide a minimum match of 40% of total project cost.
- Of the required 40% match, a minimum 10% of the total project cost must be in the form of a cash expenditure, while the remaining amount may be in the form of in-kind services and resources.
- Each project period is limited to thirty (30) months in duration.



CONTACT INFORMATION

To inquire about potential projects or to schedule a pre-application meeting, contact

Jackie Encinas

jacqueline.encinas@dnr.ga.gov

470-524-0620

Visit the GAEPD RWP Seed Grant website for specifics on eligible activities, application requirements, and grant resources:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/outreach/grants/regional-water-plan-seed-grant-funds>

SEED GRANT PROJECT UPDATES:

HIGH FREQUENCY MONITORING AND THE EFFECTS OF
AGRICULTURAL WATER WITHDRAWAL

PILOT STUDY TO PRESERVE IN-STREAM WATER QUALITY
AND INSTREAM FLOWS

OSCAR P. FLITE III, PH.D, CITY OF AUGUSTA STORMWATER SERVICES

An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a vast, dense forest. The river is light-colored, contrasting with the dark green of the trees. On the right side, a small cluster of buildings and a parking lot are visible, suggesting a nearby settlement or park area. The sky is overcast and grey.

10 MINUTE BREAK



POTENTIAL SEED GRANT PROJECTS

ASHLEY REID, CDM SMITH

Remember the Management Practices

SUO has fifteen (15) priority management practices grouped as follows:

- Four demand management practices,
- Five supply management practices,
- Four water quality management practices, and
- Two education initiatives.

Remember the Management Practices

- Four demand management practices
 1. Implement Water Conservation Practices Required by SB370 or the EPD rules for water efficiency and drought management
 2. Evaluate/ Encourage (Non-Farm) Water Conservation Practices
 3. Evaluate/ Encourage Agricultural Water Conservation Practices
 4. Monitor Agricultural Use

Remember the Management Practices

- Five supply management practices
 1. Evaluate/Update Local Water Master Plans
 2. Monitor Streamflow to Confirm the Frequency and Magnitude of the Predicted Challenge
 3. Conduct Instream Flow Studies
 4. Increase Groundwater Supplies
 5. Decrease Surface Water Use during Low Flow Periods

Remember the Management Practices

- Four water quality management practices
 1. Evaluate/ Update Local Wastewater Master Plans
 2. Upgrade Existing Wastewater Treatment Facilities
 3. Construct New Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facilities
 4. Support Forestry Commission Water Quality Program
- Two education initiatives
 1. Develop Regional or Customize State or Other Available Educational Program and Materials for Localized Implementation
 2. Promote Coordinated Environmental Planning

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. The river is dark and reflects the sky. The forest is lush and green. In the distance, some buildings and a road are visible. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Soil Amendments Regional Update

Tonya Bonitatibus, Savannah Riverkeeper

Council Meeting Speaker/Topic and Field Trip Brainstorm Exercise

Ashley Reid, CDM Smith

Presentation Topic Ideas

- Lead in Drinking Water/LCRR Requirements
- Municipal WWTP/WTP Improvements
- Local Water Quality Reports
- Water Conservation Practices in Agriculture
- Leveraging Federal Funding to meet local needs

Field Trip Ideas

- Farm/Agriculture operation tour
- Municipal WTP/WWTP tour
- Industrial/Energy facility tour
- Hydro facility tour
- Stream restoration/stormwater BMP site tour



Public/Elected Officials Comments/Questions



Thank You

Need More Information?

reidan@cdmsmith.com



30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK

Followed by Phinizy Center Lab Tour