

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council Meeting

November 10, 2022



**GEORGIA
WATER PLANNING**

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Welcome and Opening Remarks

Council Chair, Bruce Azevedo



Council Business

Council Chair, Bruce Azevedo

Approve today's
meeting agenda

Approve July 12,
2022, meeting
summary



Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Council
Draft Agenda – November 10, 2022

10:00 am

Elberton Arts Center

17 W Church St, Elberton, GA 30635

[Click here to join the meeting virtually](#)

- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Council Registration/Guest Sign In
Ashley Reid and Autumn McNeill (in-person)
Michelle Vincent (virtual)
- 10:00 – 10:05 a.m. Welcome, *SUO Council Chairman Azevedo*
- 10:05 – 10:15 a.m. Council Business, *SUO Chairman Azevedo*
- Approve July 12, 2022, draft SUO/CGA draft Joint Council Meeting Summary
 - Approve today's draft meeting agenda
- 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. GA EPD Updates
- Updates to Regional Water Planning Schedule – *Ashley Reid, CDM Smith*
 - Seed Grant Updates – *Haydn Blaize, Georgia EPD*
- 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Soil Amendments Overview and Regional Updates
- Topic Introduction and Background – *Elbert Co. Chairman Lee Vaughn and Savannah Riverkeeper Tonya Bonitatibus*
 - Experience and Status Updates – *Oglethorpe Co. Chairman Jay Paul and Wilkes Co. Chairman Sam Moore*
 - Pathway Forward – *State Representative Rob Leverett and Kathleen Bowen, ACCG*
 - How to address through the Regional Water Plan? – *Ashley Reid, CDM Smith*
- 30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Groundwater Resource Assessment – *Christine Voudy, Georgia EPD*
- 1:30 – 1:45 p.m. Next Steps/Public Comments /Local Elected Official Comments
- 2:00 p.m. Adjourn

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Memorandum

To: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council

From: CDM Smith Planning Team

Date: July 12, 2022

Subject: Savannah Upper Ogeechee and Coastal Georgia and Regional Water Planning Councils - Joint Meeting Summary - DRAFT (subject to Council review and approval)

This memorandum provides a summary of the items presented during the July 12, 2022, Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council Meeting, held jointly with the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council, at the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Center in Savannah, GA with a Microsoft Teams call-in option. This meeting was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

1) Welcome and Introductions

CDM Smith, the Planning Contractor (PC), and Coastal Georgia's Council Chairman, Benjy Thompson, initiated the meeting, welcomed Council Members and guests, and asked Christopher Curtis to give his opening remarks and overview Georgia Southern University. Christopher Curtis (Vice-provost for Research and Scholarship) began with an introduction of Georgia Southern and their research. He highlighted their new college programs, grant funding, and relevant projects.

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee's Council Chairman, Bruce Azevedo, and Chairman Thompson both introduced themselves as Council Chairmen for the joint meeting. Chairman Thompson asked each Council Member (CM) and attendee to introduce themselves. Virtual attendees were asked to type in their name and affiliation in the MS Teams chat. An outline of the agenda items to be covered during the Council Meeting was then presented and the Council agenda was approved unanimously.

2) Updates to Regional Water Planning Schedule (Ashley Reid, CDM Smith)

Ms. Reid provided an overview of the updated regional water planning schedule. She noted that the planning schedule had been extended by 6 months, with an anticipated plan adoption by June 2023. Ms. Reid noted that this extension provides additional time to integrate new appointments and model updates.

3) Seed Grant Updates (Haydn Blaize, Georgia EPD)

Mr. Blaize provided a virtual update on the SEED grants. He summarized that there have been \$2 million in grants awarded since 2015 across 10 regional water councils. This year's application period is now open and closes on October 31, 2022. The application process is fully electronic using the new online portal.

4) SEED Grant Project Overview: Know Your River (Tonya Bonitatibus, Savannah Riverkeeper)

Ms. Bonitatibus provided an overview of the Know Your River water quality website. She explained that Know Your River started as an effort to develop a real time monitoring system on the Savannah/Ogeechee Rivers, but several data gaps and single pieces of data were identified. These gaps revealed the need to compile data from several layers (federal, state (GA and SC), and the City of

An aerial photograph of a wetland area, showing a network of water channels and dense forest. The image is in grayscale, with the text overlaid in white. The background shows a vast expanse of water and trees, with some small structures visible in the lower right corner.

Georgia EPD Updates

An aerial photograph of a wetland area, showing a network of water channels and dense forest. The image is in grayscale, with a blue gradient at the top and bottom. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Regional Water Planning Schedule Update

Ashley Reid, CDM Smith

Regional Water Planning Overview & Schedule

Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Schedule

Meeting One
4th Quarter 2021

Meeting Two
1st Quarter 2022

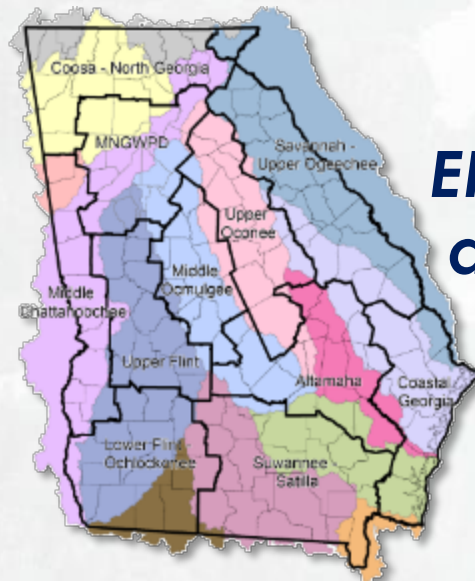
Meeting Three
2nd Quarter 2022

Meeting Four
3rd Quarter 2022

Meeting Five
4th Quarter 2022

Meeting Six
1st Quarter 2023
Draft Plan

Meeting Seven
(Final)
2nd Quarter 2023
Incorporate
Comments



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



Seed Grant Project Updates

Haydn Blaize, GA EPD

Grant Project Updates Cont'd

- Seed Grants FY20: **In Progress – 1 year no-cost time extension**
 - **High Frequency Monitoring and the Effects of Agricultural Water Withdrawal in the Savannah Upper Ogeechee Watersheds**
 - Lead Partner: City of Augusta
 - Date: 4/1/2020 – 9/30/20**23**

Grant Project Updates Cont'd

- Seed Grants FY21: **In Progress**
 - **Upgrading Publicly Accessible Water Monitoring for the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee RWP** – *(Phase II of Seed Grant FY19: Initiating and Upgrading Publicly Accessible Water Monitoring for the SUO and Coastal RWPs)*
 - Lead Partner: City of Savannah
 - Date: 9/1/2021 – 8/31/2023

Grant Project Updates Cont'd

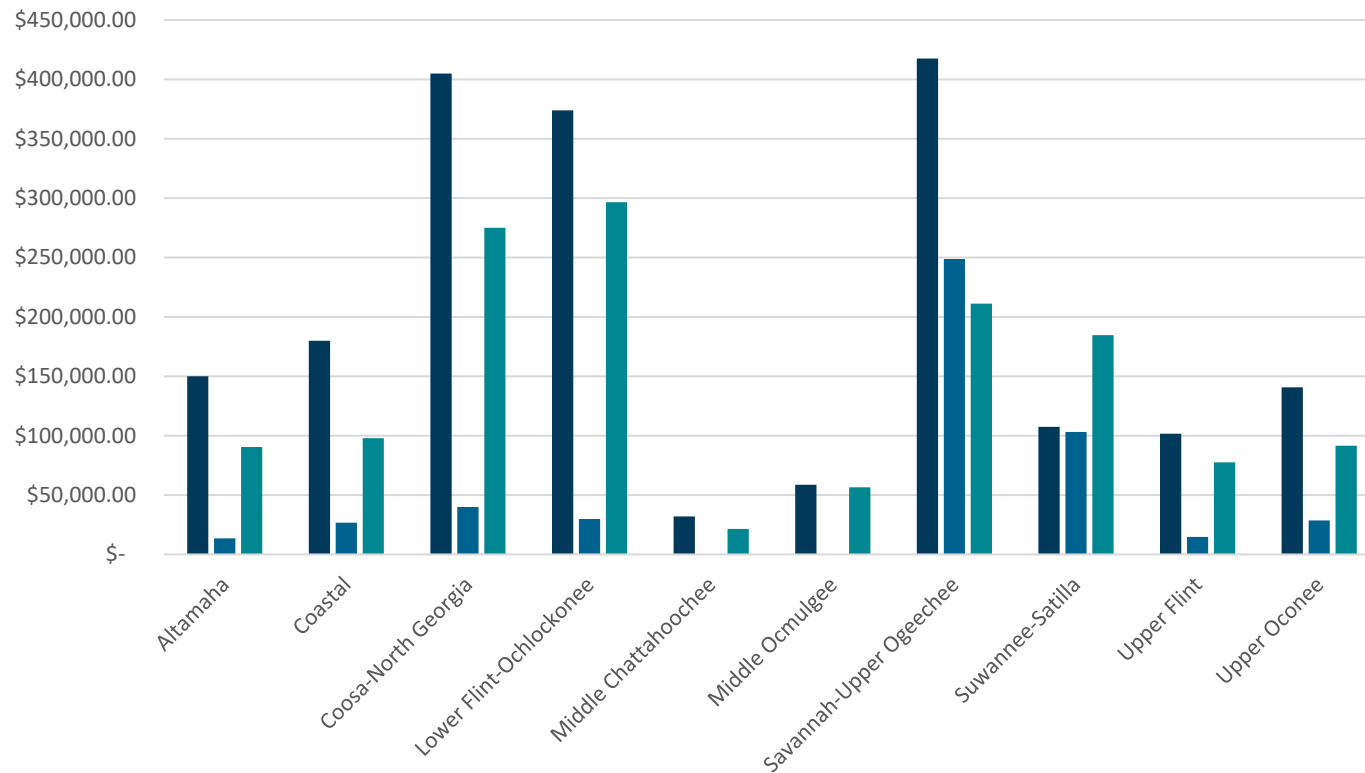
- Seed Grants FY22: **In Progress**
 - **Effect of water quantity on the instream function of the Savannah River**
 - Lead Partners: University of Georgia
 - Award Amount: \$75,000
 - Date: 04/01/2022 – 09/30/2024

Grant Project Updates Cont'd

- Seed Grants FY22: **In Progress**
 - **Pilot study to preserve in-stream water quality and instream flows below an urban pond complex using a real-time control system**
 - Lead Partner: City of Augusta
 - Award Amount: \$75,000
 - Date: 09/13/2022 - 10/31/2024

RWP Seed Grant Funding Totals

RWP Seed Grant Funds By Council
SFY2014-SFY2022



Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council Funding Totals

Grant Funds: \$417,570

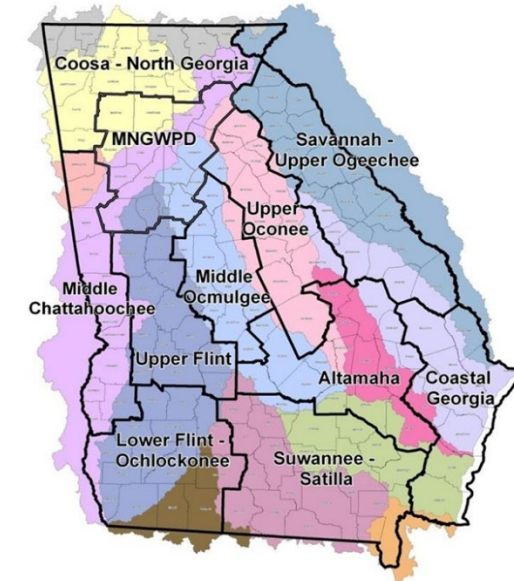
Cash Match: \$248,798

In-Kind Match: \$211,244



SFY2023 RWP SEED GRANT

- Up to \$75,000 per project to Implement Regional Water Plans
- Application window closed October 31
- 8 eligible applications received from 6 different Councils
- Proposed Coastal Council project with the City of Savannah and Savannah Riverkeeper: “Know Your River Phase 3” – continuation of SFY19 SUO project
- Funding decisions expected by December 2022



An aerial photograph of a wetland area, showing a network of water channels and dense forest. The image is in grayscale, with a dark blue sky and a light blue water body. The text "Soil Amendments Overview and Regional Updates" is overlaid in white.

Soil Amendments Overview and Regional Updates

An aerial photograph of a wetland area, featuring a winding waterway that meanders through a dense forest. The water reflects the sky, and the surrounding land is covered in thick trees. In the lower right corner, some small buildings and a parking lot are visible, suggesting a nearby facility or camp. The overall scene is serene and natural.

30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK



Groundwater Resource Assessment

Christine Voudy, GA EPD

An aerial photograph of a wetland area, showing a network of water channels and dense forest. The image is in grayscale, with a blue gradient at the top and bottom. The text "Public/Elected Officials Comments/Questions" is overlaid in white.

Public/Elected Officials Comments/Questions



Thank You

Need More Information?

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