

## Draft Technical Memorandum

**Prepared For:** Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council and  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division

**Prepared By:** Jacobs JIG Planning Team

**Date:** September 20, 2011

**Subject:** **Public Outreach and Involvement**  
Section 1 Supplemental Document  
Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan

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### Introduction

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council (Council) adopted a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) early in the regional water planning process (November 2009). The goal of the PIP is to provide opportunities for diverse input from key stakeholders, members of local governments, and the general public throughout the planning process. The Council, assisted by its regional planning contractor (PC), implemented the PIP. This Technical Memorandum documents the Council's public involvement efforts, in conjunction with EPD's public outreach and involvement activities, and in adherence with EPD's guidelines. The adopted PIP is included as Appendix A.

The Council adhered to the following public involvement principles throughout the regional water planning process:

- Providing public outreach and involvement that is proactive and as wide-reaching to all facets of the population and stakeholders as possible;
- Conducting the regional water planning process with concurrent public comment throughout;
- Considering and incorporating input from the public, key stakeholders, local governments, and non-governmental organizations in regional water planning council work products; and
- EPD providing public notices and taking public comments on draft regional water plans after they are submitted.

Major public involvement efforts conducted by the Council include:

- **Maintaining the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region website**, containing essential information on the region's planning efforts and provides a vehicle for public comment. Meeting information, including notices, agendas, pre-meeting materials, presentations, and meeting summaries were posted on the website.

- **Holding 11 public Council meetings** (including 10 regular meetings and one interim meeting) to discuss regional goals, resources assessments, forecasts, and management practices, as well as to receive feedback and comments on planning efforts during the plan development period.
- **Forming ad hoc committees and three ongoing subcommittees (technical, plan review and interstate coordination subcommittees)** that included council members in various sectors to gain input on specific issues.
- **Collecting input and feedback on population/employment forecast.** Initial population projections were reviewed and provided to local governments in June 2009, the Council facilitated understanding of the data and encouraged local government feedback for the revised population projections published in March 2010.
- **Collecting input and feedback on demand forecasts.** An initial questionnaire detailing the water and wastewater data to be used for planning projections was provided to local utilities in October 2009. Feedback was requested to improve upon projections and follow-up contacts were made through December 2009; demand forecasts were updated based on responses. County summaries of the updated forecasts were provided to local utilities for review.
- **Providing public outreach presentations to various civil organizations and interest groups.** The presentations took place throughout the planning process and in various counties.
- **Conducting one local government and utility outreach information meeting and a public comment process** for review of draft Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan.

These efforts are described in further detail below.

#### Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region Website

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region website (<http://www.savannahupperogeechee.org/>) has served as an essential communication vehicle throughout the planning process. As an effective resource tool for the Council and EPD, the site provided timely information to key stakeholders, members of local governments, and the general public, as well as a means for public comment. The website contains reference information on the planning efforts, including:

- Summary of the region,
- Regional maps,
- Council fact sheet,
- List of Council members,
- Council's identified vision and goals,
- Memorandum of Agreement between the council, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs,
- Meeting notices with agendas, location, pre-meeting materials,

- Meeting Summaries and presentations,
- Draft plan in progress (for Council review under “Our Plan” link), and
- Links to EPD guidance documents, forecasting and resource assessment documents.

EPD, along with the PC, updated the website throughout the planning process. EPD used the website to publicize the results of water demand forecasts and resource assessments. In addition, EPD’s planning guidance and updates also have been posted on the website.

### Public Council Meetings

All Council meetings have been open to the public and time was allotted at each meeting for input from stakeholders and the public, as well as provisions for written comments. The Council held ten meetings between March 2009 and September 2011 (Table 1), discussing regional water planning goals, resource issues, and management practices, as well as providing summaries of the Technical Subcommittee and ad hoc committee meetings/activities. The meetings facilitated an open dialogue between concerned citizens, council members, EPD representatives, and regional industry leaders.

Public Notices (including meeting time and location) and a draft meeting agenda were created for each of the council meetings and distributed on an average of three weeks in advance, with the shortest notice being five days in advance for the interim meeting. Notices were sent to council members, local governments, and media in addition to posting on the council website and at the meeting location. Appendix B contains a list of all council members; Appendix C includes a list of all local governments and media notified. Meeting summaries were posted on the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region website.

**Table 1: Public Council Meetings**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Public Attendees*</b>
Council Kick-off	March 13, 2009	Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta	Unknown
Council Meeting 1	May 7, 2009	Savannah Rapids Pavilion; Martinez	17
Council Meeting 2	June 17, 2009	Cateechee Golf Club; Hartwell	9
Council Meeting 3	September 17, 2009	Cateechee Golf Club; Hartwell	16
Council Meeting 4	November 10, 2009	Thomson Depot; Thomson	12
Council Meeting 5	March 25, 2010	Richard B. Russell State Park; Elberton	18
Interim Council Meeting	May 5, 2010	Augusta Technical College; Waynesboro	4
Council Meeting 6	June 22, 2010	The Gatherings; Louisville	16
Council Meeting 7	September 8, 2010	Thomson Depot; Thomson	11
Council Meeting 8	December 14, 2010	Thomson Depot; Thomson	8
Council Meeting 9	March 18, 2011	Washington	8
Council Meeting 10	September 20, 2011	Northeast Georgia RDC; Athens	4

\*includes those attending from partnering agencies and the general public

### Ad Hoc Committees and Ongoing Committee

The Council formed three committees to gain input from targeted stakeholders on specific issues. Council members served in these committees are listed in Appendix D. In addition, the Vision and Goals ad hoc work group worked on forming the final Vision and Goals language for the Council's review. The municipal demand forecast ad hoc committee included council members representing water utilities in the region. These members attended ad hoc meetings held by EPD in Fall 2009 and provided feedback on forecasting methodology.

The Council has three ongoing committees, including a Technical Committee, a Plan Review Committee, an Interstate Coordination Committee. The committees were formed in Summer 2010 and included council members representing water utility, local government, commerce, and industry and energy sectors (see Appendix D). The committee reviewed and provided feedback on technical documents such as demand forecast methodology and Resource Assessments, and directed the PC in the development of the Regional Water Plan. Their input was instrumental in the selection of management practices. The committee's suggestions and recommendations are reported to the full Council for ultimate Council consideration, voting and adoption. The primary functions of these committees are described below:

1. **Technical Review Committee**: Provided recommendations and comments on technical issues, including forecasts, resource assessments, and management practices. Council members serving in this committee include Tom Wiedmeier (Chair), Don Dye, Pat Goran, Tim McGill, and Mike Eskew.
2. **Plan Review Committee**: The main duty of this committee is to review draft plan sections and supplemental documents for the draft plan. Council members serving in this committee include Bruce Azevedo (Chair), Dan Fowler, Larry Guest, Chris McCorkle and Tenia Workman.
3. **Interstate Issue Committee**: Representing the Council and attended interstate coordination meetings with South Carolina; reported outcome of meetings to Council and provided advice on interstate issues for Council consideration (sole committee member: Scott McGregor).

**Table 2: Committee Meeting Dates and Topics**

Date	Committee	Meeting Topics
June 15, 2010	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Assessments</li> <li>• Management Practices</li> </ul>
July 30, 2010	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Water Use</li> <li>• TMDLs</li> </ul>
September 21, 2010	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Water Use</li> <li>• Resource Assessments and Management Practices</li> </ul>
Oct 23, 2010	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management Practices</li> </ul>
February 9, 2011	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Plan Review</li> </ul>

Date	Committee	Meeting Topics
August 11, 2010	Interstate	• Meet with SCDHEC on Resource Assessment
June 8, 2010	Interstate	• Savannah River Basin Advisory Council
September 22, 2010	Interstate	• Savannah River Basin Advisory Council
June 14, 2010	Plan Review	• Preliminary Draft Sections for EPD August Submittal
September 7, 2010	Plan Review	• Draft Plan Review for EPD October Submittal
November 11, 2010	Plan Review	• Draft Plan Review for EPD December Submittal
Jan 19, 2011	Plan Review	• Draft Plan Review to address Council and EPD comments
January 27, 2011	Chair, Co-chair and committee chairs	• Review Initial Recommended Draft Plan

### Population/Employment Forecast Feedback

Population projections by county were prepared by the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), the state agency responsible for demographic data, with assistance from the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government – Applied Demography Program. Following release of draft population projections in June 2009, the Council facilitated understanding of the data and encouraged local government feedback by presenting the OPB forecasts at a Council meeting, along with handouts. Additionally, the draft population projections were provided on DVD by EPD to Mayors or Commission Chairs, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), and members of the Water Planning Councils. OPB received over 400 correspondences statewide and revisions were made based on these comments. As a result, revised population projections were published in March 2010.

### Demand Forecast Input and Feedback

During the data collection process for water and wastewater forecasts, the Council directed the PC to seek input from major water and wastewater providers in the region. The PC designed a questionnaire and a feedback form and distributed the documents to 56 water and wastewater providers in the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region. The PC also assisted in numerous EPD conference calls and ad hoc meetings, providing interpretation of the demand forecast data. Appendix E includes a sample questionnaire, feedback form, and list of utilities contacted. Municipalities that did not respond to the survey were contacted in December 2009 and January 2010 to ensure that they understood the feedback form and process. In addition, the Council selected one council member per county as the point contact for each county in the region. This council member was responsible for contacting local stakeholders for feedback on the initial water and wastewater forecasts in Winter 2009. Appendix D contains a list of these "county" point persons.

In addition, draft forecast data summaries by county were prepared and provided to council members and major water providers in the region for review and comments; the refinement process continued through spring and summer of 2010 as feedback was provided.

To solicit feedback on the planned municipal and industrial forecasting methodologies, EPD held two Municipal Ad Hoc Group meetings statewide in September 2009 (located in Macon and Augusta). From fall 2009 through spring 2010, EPD conducted ad hoc meetings with representatives of Georgia's major water-using industries to gather water use information for the development of these forecasts.

The Technical Memorandum - Demand Municipal and Industrial Water and Wastewater Forecasts (April 2011) contains details of the forecasting process.

### Public Outreach Presentations

Several public outreach presentations were given to various civic groups throughout the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee region. These presentations included a general overview of the water planning process. Presentations were given by either Council members or the PC. Table 3 lists the date and location of each presentation given.

**Table 3: Public Outreach Presentations**

Date	Audience	Speaker
October 13, 2009	Town Hall Meeting; Columbia County	Ron Cross, Council Chair
2009 – 2011	Lake Hartwell Association meetings and newsletters	Jeff Larson, EPD Pat Goran, Council Member
April 20, 2011	South Carolina Savannah River Basin Advisory Council	Jeff Larson, EPD Bill Martello

### Local Government Outreach and Information Meeting and Public Comment Process

The Council held one information meeting in on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to introduce the Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan and to solicit initial feedback from local governments and utilities. The meeting was open to the general public. EPD made the draft Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan available for public comment between May 9, 2011 and June 23, 2011. Comments received during this period were compiled by EPD and the PC and reviewed by the Council for consideration between July and September 2011. A summary of comments received during the public comment period is provided in Appendix F.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A	Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region Public involvement Plan
Appendix B	Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council Members
Appendix C	Local Government and Media Notified for Public Meetings
Appendix D	Ad Hoc Committee and Technical Subcommittee Members
Appendix E	Demand Forecast Questionnaire, Feedback Form, and Utilities Contacted
Appendix F	Summary of Public Comments for Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Draft Regional Water Plan

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region Public Involvement Plan**



## Public Involvement Plan Outline (Revised in CM4 11-10-2009)

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council will follow this Public Involvement Plan throughout the regional water planning process. The Public Involvement Plan follows the template provided by EPD for all regional water planning councils.

The Chair of the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council will use discretion in permitting additional public comment or adjusting to adapt to specific meeting timelines and constraints, so long as the intent and expectations described below are followed.

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council, assisted by their regional planning contractor, will follow the adopted Public Involvement Plan to provide opportunities for meaningful input from key stakeholders, the members of local government advisory body, and the general public.

### *Guiding principles*

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council recognizes the benefit and importance of providing opportunities for diverse input throughout the regional water planning process. The principles of the public input process are:

- Stakeholders and regional water planning council members will treat each other with respect and dignity;
- All participants will have an open mind and participate openly and honestly;
- The regional water planning process will continue with concurrent public comment throughout;
- EPD will provide public notice and take public comment on draft regional water plans after they are submitted;
- Stakeholder comments will be pertinent to the topic of the meeting at which they are expressed; and
- Input from the public, key stakeholders, and the members of the Local Government Advisory Body will be considered and incorporated in regional water planning council work products.

### *Key stakeholders*

The key stakeholders for the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee water planning region are identified below. All members of the public will have opportunities for input, even if not specifically identified in this section.

- Local government officials – includes one representative from each city and county within the water planning region

- Neighboring regional water planning councils – water planning councils that share borders and/or water resources including the Coosa-North Georgia, Metro Water District, Upper Oconee, Altamaha, and Coastal Georgia regional water planning councils.
- Regional Commissions – agencies supporting local and regional comprehensive planning including the Central Savannah River Area, Coastal, Northeast Georgia, and Georgia Mountains Regional Commissions.
- Agriculture – includes water permit holders for agricultural applications
- Businesses – includes local businesses (this audience may be sub-divided into more specific categories)
- Industries – includes industrial water permit holders and municipally-supplied industrial facilities
- Forestry – includes owners of managed forest lands and the forest products industry
- Institutions/educational/schools – includes public and private schools as well as institutions
- Tourism – includes public and private organizations related to local travel and tourism
- Recreation – includes citizens and industry related to recreational water uses
- Environment – includes citizens, agencies, and groups focused on environmental protection
- Public – any citizen interested in the regional water planning process
- Neighboring States – EPD will coordinate as appropriate with South Carolina, including municipal and industrial users that share water resources
- Agencies – includes other agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers

### ***Procedural criteria***

Time will be provided at every Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council meeting for input from stakeholders and the public. The procedural criteria are intended to ensure the public respects the regional water planning council's schedule constraints and the regional water planning council respects the public's opportunity to present relevant and different opinions. To facilitate a fair and efficient process, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee water planning council has adopted the following procedures for public comment.

- All regional water planning council meetings will be open meetings;
- Stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to provide comments pertinent to the topic of the meeting in which they are expressed;
- Time will be provided at the end of all Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council meetings;

- Persons wishing to provide public comment must sign up at the beginning of the meeting and will be limited to 3-minutes of comment time, unless the Chair provides for additional time; and
- Provisions for written comments will be made at all regional water planning council meetings.

The Chair of the regional water planning councils will use discretion to manage public comment under different circumstances in ways that enable the council to progress with its work and respect those who want to comment.

### ***Meeting announcements***

All regional water planning council meetings will be open meetings, including at least a 2 week notice of any meetings. The following provisions will be made for all Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council meetings to inform the public of upcoming meetings.

- Posted on the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council website with a meeting agenda or summary of topics to be covered, meeting time, and meeting address.
- Posted at the meeting location with a meeting agenda or summary of topics to be covered, meeting time, and meeting address.
- Meeting summaries will be posted on the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council website.

### ***Stakeholder and public comment opportunities***

Specific opportunities during the regional water planning process for stakeholder and public input include but are not limited to the following.

- Meetings of the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council;
- Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council website (documents will be posted periodically with timeframes for comment and mechanisms for comment clearly stated);
- Letters may be mailed to EPD;
- Emails to the regional water planning council and/or EPD;
- EPD public notice period for the resource assessments; and
- EPD public notice period on the draft regional water plans.

### ***Local government officials***

Much of the implementation of the regional water plans is the responsibility of local governments; therefore input will be sought from the local government officials on the following specific topics.

- Regional population, economic and employment forecasts;
- Fiscal implications of water management practices; and
- Draft regional water plan.

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council and local government officials should identify proper communication pathways. The following actions are intended to coordinate activities of the local government officials with the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee regional water planning council.

- Local government officials will be provided an opportunity at the end of the regional water planning council meetings to comment on the regional water planning process and items on the meeting agenda;
- Local government officials may provide written comments to the regional water planning council, as needed; and
- Members of the local government advisory body wishing to provide public comment must sign up at the beginning of the meeting and will be limited to 3-minutes for comments, unless the Chair provides for additional time.

### ***Other regional water planning councils***

In order to plan and coordinate the use and protection of shared water resources, the regional water planning council will coordinate with adjacent and hydrologically-connected councils throughout the regional water planning process. EPD will convene some meetings to discuss shared water resources, such as on the current resource assessments. The regional water planning councils will use the following communication pathways to coordinate with adjacent regional water planning councils.

- Members of the regional water planning council will attend shared resource meetings and other joint meetings;
- At the discretion of the Chair, an opportunity may be provided at regional water planning council meetings for announcements or progress reports from adjacent regional water planning councils; and
- EPD will be responsible for convening appropriate meetings with neighboring councils, as requested by the Chair of any regional water planning council.

The Chair of the regional water planning councils may use their discretion to provide additional coordination with adjacent regional water planning councils, as deemed appropriate.

### ***Review and consideration of public input***

The objective of this process is to gather relevant and diverse input to improve the quality of the recommended regional water plans. Once public comments are received from the public and key stakeholders the regional water planning council with the assistance of the regional planning contractor will consider and address these comments. Written comments and web comments will be summarized and provided to the regional water planning council members. Verbal comments will be summarized and included in meeting summaries.

**APPENDIX B****Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Primary Sector</b>
Bruce Azevedo	Madison	Commerce
Braye C. Boardman	Richmond	Environment
Jerry L. Boling	Banks	Agricultural
Charles Cawthon	Franklin	Local Government
Deke Copenhaver	Richmond	Local Government
Barry W. Cronic	Franklin	Industry, Agricultural
Ron C. Cross	Columbia	Local Government
Donald E. Dye	Stephens	Water Utility
Mike Eskew	Wilkes	Local Government
Dan T. Fowler	Jefferson	Energy
Patricia T. Goodwin	Columbia	Commerce
Patrick D. Goran	Hart	Water Utility
Larry Guest	Elbert	Local Government
Toye Hill	Lincoln	Commerce
Robert Jenkins	Jenkins	Agricultural, Forestry
Thomas C. Jordan	Jefferson	Industry
Scott P. MacGregor	Richmond	Local Government
Eddie Madden	Elbert	All but local government
Chris McCorkle	McDuffie	Agricultural
Tim McGill	Columbia	Industry (Energy)
James H. Newsome	Warren	Local Government
Charles G. Newton	McDuffie	Local Government
Lewis P. Sanders	Stephens	Agricultural
Stan Sheppard	Screven	Forestry
Larry S. Walker	Rabun	Forestry
R. Lee Webster	Burke	Agricultural
Tom Wiedmeier	Richmond	Water Utility
Tenia S. Workman	Hart	Agriculture
Rep. Tom McCall		Ex Officio
Sen. Ralph Hudgens		Ex Officio

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**APPENDIX C****Local Government and Media Notified of Public Meetings**

<b>City</b>	<b>GMA Contact Name</b>	<b>Title (2009)</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>County</b>
City of Colbert	John Waggoner	Mayor	waggonercolb@aol.com	Madison
City of Elberton	Larry Guest	Mayor	gms@elberton.net	Elbert
City of Hartwell	David L. Aldrich	City Manager	daldrich@hartcom.net	Hart
Town of Hephzibah	Rogers James	Utilities Director	cityofhephzibah@bellsouth.net	Richmond
Town of Homer	Douglas Cheek	Mayor	tesa2001@yahoo.com	Banks
City of Hull	Paul Elkins	Mayor	paul3703@charter.net	Madison
City of Lavonia	Gary M. Fesper	City Manager	gary@lavonia-ga.com	Franklin
City of Louisville	Don Rhodes	City Administrator	jdradmin@bellsouth.net	Jefferson
Town of Maxeys	John Stephens	Mayor	cityofmaxeys@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Town of Mountain City	Grace R. Watts	Mayor	jmlaw@windstream.net	Rabun
City of Royston	William C. Stewart	Mayor	bseng@bellsouth.net	Franklin
City of Sky Valley	Linda Smith	City Manager	svcitymanager@windstream.net	Rabun
City of Thomson	Donald (Don) Powers	City Administrator	dpowers@thomson-mcduffie.net	McDuffie
City of Tignall	Richard Gammon	Mayor	cityoftignal@nu-z.net	Wilkes
City of Toccoa	Billy Morse	City Manager	bmorse@cityoftoccoa.com	Stephens
Town of Alto	Lisa Turner	Finance Officer	altocityhall@windstream.net	Banks
Town of Mitchell	Scott V. Lamb	Mayor	mittchelltownof@bellsouth.net	Glascock
City of Wrens	Arty Thrift	Administrator	athrift@cityofwrens.com	Jefferson

<b>County (ACCG) Representative</b>	<b>Title (2009)</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>County</b>
Milton Dalton	Chairman	mdalton@co.banks.ga.us	Banks
Lynne Dockery	Chairperson of Water & Sewer Authority	lritchie@habershamga.com and ronedoc@hotmail.com	Habersham
H. Wade Johnson	Chairman	wjohnson@lincolncountyga.com	Lincoln
Anthony Dove	Chairman	adove@madisonco.us	Madison
Fred Guerrant	Planning Director	fguerrant@thomson-mcduffie.net	McDuffie
Phil Sanders	District Commissioner	sbpeterman@windstream.net	Oglethorpe
Jim Bleckley	County Administrator	jbleckley@rabuncountygov.com	Rabun
Charles Ware	Chairman	taliaferro@nu-z.net	Taliaferro
Sam Moore	Chairman	wilkescoboc@yahoo.com	Wilkes

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<b>Local Newspaper</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
The Augusta Chronicle	bill.kirby@augustachronicle.com	Augusta	Richmond
The True Citizen	rchalker@bellsouth.net	Waynesboro	Burke
The Millen News	themillennews@yahoo.com	Millen	Jenkins
The Sylvania Telephone	enoch.autry@morris.com	Sylvania	Screven
The Toccoa Record	toccoarecord@alltel.net	Toccoa	Stephens
The Hartwell Sun	hartwellsun@hartcom.net	Hartwell	Hart
The Elberton Star	starexaminer@elberton.com	Elberton	Elbert
The News-Reporter	editor@news-reporter.com	Washington	Wilkes
The Lincolnton Journal	journal@nu-z.net	Lincolnton	Lincoln
The Columbia County News-Times	cnt@newstimesonline.com	Evans	Columbia
Franklin County Citizen and The News Leader	fccitizen@alltel.net	Lavonia	Franklin
McDuffie Mirror	jason.smith@mcduffiemirror.com	Thomson	McDuffie
The Clayton Tribune	thetribune@theclaytontribune.com	Clayton	Rabun
The News and Farmer	news@thenewsandfarmer.com		Jefferson

**Note:** During the planning process some Council members, media and agency staff, and elected officials changed. Contacts have been continuously updated as PC was informed of changes.



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Ad Hoc Committees and Ongoing Subcommittee Members**

#### ***AD HOC COMMITTEES***

##### ***VISION AND GOALS COMMITTEE***

<b>Member</b>	<b>Council Affiliation</b>
Pat Goran	Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Larry Walker	Rabun County
Thomas Jordan	Jefferson County Economic Development Authority
Braye Boardman	Richmond, Environmental and Commerce

##### ***MUNICIPAL DEMAND FORECAST COMMITTEE***

<b>Member</b>	<b>Council Affiliation</b>
Tom Wiedmeier	Augusta Utility Department
Pat Goran	Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Don Dye	City of Toccoa
Charlie Newton	McDuffie County Commissioner
Bruce Azevedo	Madison County Industrial Development Authority
Ron Cross	Columbia County Commissioners
Margaret Doss*	Columbia County Water Utility
Mike Eskew	City of Washington
Marvin White*	Madison County

\*non-Council member

#### ***ONGOING COMMITTEES***

##### ***TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE***

<b>Member</b>	<b>Council Affiliation</b>
Tom Wiedmeier (chair)	Augusta Richmond county Utility
Pat Goran	Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Don Dye	City of Toccoa Water and Wastewater Utility
Tim McGill	Southern Company
Mike Eskew	City of Washington

***PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE***

<b>Member</b>	<b>Council Affiliation</b>
Bruce Azevedo (chair)	Madison County Industrial Development Authority
Larry Guest	City of Elberton
Tenia Workman	Georgia Golf Course Superintendent Association
Chris McCorkle	Nursery and Green Industries (McCorkle Nurseries)
Dan Fowler	Jefferson Energy Cooperative

***INTERSTATE COORDINATION COMMITTEE***

<b>Member</b>	<b>Council Affiliation</b>
Scott McGregor (chair)	Columbia County

***SAVANNAH UPPER-OGEECHEE COUNTY CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES  
FOR DEMAND FORECAST FEEDBACKS AND OTHER OUTREACH***

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>County</b>
Jerry Boling	Banks
Lee Webster	Burke
Ron Cross	Columbia
Eddie Madden	Elbert
Don Dye	Franklin
Charlie Newton	Glascok
Pat Goran	Hart
Thomas Jordan	Jefferson
Robert Jenkins	Jenkins
Patricia Goodwin	Lincoln
Bruce Azevedo	Madison
Charlie Newton	McDuffie
Bruce Azevedo	Oglethorpe
Larry Walker	Rabun
Tom Wiedmeier	Richmond
Stan Sheppard	Screven
Donald Dye	Stephens
N/A	Taliaferro
Chris McCorkle	Warren
Mike Eskew	Wilkes

**APPENDIX E****Demand Forecast Questionnaire, Feedback Form, and Utilities Contacted*****Utilities Contacted During Demand Forecast Feedback Efforts<sup>1</sup>***

<b>Utility</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>County</b>
Banks Co. Board of Commissioners	Milton Dalton, Chairman	Banks
Town of Homer	Douglas Cheek, Mayor	Banks
Maysville	Jerry Baker, Mayor	Banks
City of Waynesboro	Jerry Coalson, City Administrator	Burke
Columbia County Water System	Margaret Doss, Water Quality Manager	Columbia
City of Grovetown	George James, Mayor	Columbia
City of Grovetown	Shirley Beasley, City Administrator	Columbia
City of Harlem	Bobby Culpepper, Mayor	Columbia
City of Elberton	Lanier Dunn, City Manager	Elbert
Elberton Water Works	David Hudson, Utility Director	Elbert
City of Bowman	Roberta Rice, Mayor	Elbert
City of Bowman	Jerry Elrod, Director of Water Department	Elbert
City of Canon	Jr. Woods, Water and Street Superintendant	Franklin
City of Carnesville	Harris Little, Mayor	Franklin
City of Franklin Springs	Franklin J. Ginn (County Manager)	Franklin
City of Lavonia	Gary Fesperman, City Manager	Franklin
City of Lavonia	James Moseley, Water Superintendent	Franklin
City of Royston	William Stewart, Mayor	Franklin
City of Gibson	Jamie Kitchens, Water Superintendent	Glascocock
Town of Mitchell	Scott Lamb, Mayor	Glascocock
Hart County Water and Sewer Authority	Patrick D Goran, Director	Hart
City of Hartwell	David Aldrich, City Manager	Hart
City of Hartwell	Dennis White, Public Works Director	Hart
City of Hartwell	Ken Lystiuk, Chief Operator	Hart
Jefferson County	Paul C. Brian, County Administrator	Jefferson
City of Louisville	Don Rhodes, City Administrator	Jefferson
City of Wadley	Herman Baker, Mayor	Jefferson
City of Wrens	Arty Thrift, City Administrator	Jefferson
City of Wrens	Wayne Davis, Public Works Director	Jefferson
City of Millen	H. Lamar Faircloth, City Manager	Jenkins
Lincoln County	Roby Seymour, Public Works Director	Lincoln
Lincoln Co. Board of Commissioners	H. Wade Johnson, Chairman	Lincoln
Madison County Water System	Marvin L. White, Executive Director - Ind. Auth	Madison
City of Colbert	John Waggoner, Mayor	Madison
City of Comer	Stephen Sorrels, City Clerk	Madison

**DRAFT Technical Memorandum – Public Outreach and Involvement**

Draft Supplemental Document  
Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan

September 20, 2011

APPENDIX

<b>Utility</b>	<b>Person Contacted</b>	<b>County</b>
City of Danielsville	Glenn Cross, Mayor	Madison
Town of Hull	Paul Elkins, Mayor	Madison
Piedmont Water (Colbert Office)	Steve Burroughs	Madison
Thomson-McDuffie County	Scott Huff, Public Works Director	McDuffie
Thomson-McDuffie County	Donald Powers (City Administrator)	McDuffie
Thomson-McDuffie County	Fred Guerrant (Planning Director)	McDuffie
Oglethorpe County	Shonda Peterman, County Clerk	Oglethorpe
Lexington, Crawford and Arnoldsville	George Spearing, Water Superintendant	Oglethorpe
City of Maxeys	John Stephens, Mayor	Oglethorpe
Clayton-Rabun Water & Sewer Authority	P. Michael Thomas, Department Manager	Rabun
Clayton-Rabun Water & Sewer Authority	Jerry Hood, Engineer	Rabun
Mountain City	Grace R. Watts, Mayor	Rabun
City of Sky Valley	Linda Smith, City Manager	Rabun
City of Augusta	Frederick Russell, City Administrator	Richmond
August Richmond County Utilities Dept	Brantley Kuglar, Water Superintendent	Richmond
Fort Gordon	Steve Willard, Chief of Environmental Services	Richmond
Fort Gordon	Glenn Stubblefield, Chief of O&M	Richmond
Fort Gordon	John Arthur, Facilities Manager	Richmond
Town of Blythe	David Young, Facilities Manager	Richmond
Town of Haphzibah	Roger James, Utilities Director	Richmond
Town of Newington	Brian Barrs, Water Works Manager	Screven
City of Oliver	Michael O'Neal, Water Superintendant	Screven
Sylvania Water System	Tony Thompson, Utility Director	Screven
Sylvania Water System	Shane Warren, Water Superintendant	Screven
City of Toccoa	Donald Dye, W/WW Utility Director	Stephens
Town of Martin	Bob Stovall, Clerk	Stephens
Taliaferro Co Board of Commissioners	Charles Ware, Chairman	Taliaferro
City of Crawfordville	Eddie Jackson, Utility Superintendant	Taliaferro
Warren County Water System	John R. Graham, Chairman	Warren
City of Warrenton	Pat Rogers, Water Plant Manager	Warren
Wilkes Co Board of Commissioners	Sam Moore, Chairman	Wilkes
City of Washington	Mike Eskew, City Administrator	Wilkes
City of Tignall	Clyde Davis, Water Superintendant	Wilkes
City of Commerce	Clarence H. Bryant (City Manager)	Jackson <sup>2</sup>

**Notes:**

1. During the planning process some Council members, media and agency staff, and elected officials changed. Contacts have been continuously updated as PC was informed of changes.
2. The City of Commerce in Jackson County was contacted due to drainage basin overlap.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **Summary of Public Comments for Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Draft Regional Water Plan**

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan  
Summary of Comments Received During Public Comment Period That Require Council Consideration

No	Comment Author	Comment
1	Edward Kozinsky 156 Herndon Road Waynesboro, GA 30830	The SAVANNAH UPPER OGEECHEE RECOMMENDED WATER PLAN is far too optimistic. The conclusions in section 3.2.3 that groundwater is adequate is wrong. Although the water withdrawal permit process claims to protect against 'negative impacts' ,the current level of groundwater usage is already impacting stream flows. Five springs have dried up within a mile of my home in Burke county. As a result there is little or no flow into the Waynesboro lake other than stormwater. Further south, near Sardis, Beaver Dam creek, which use to flow continuously from springs, is essentially stagnant in dry months. Any plan which says current usage is not in violation of the requirements is a lie. The situation appears to be rapidly deteriorating. While the plan projects modest growth in irrigation usage, the number of center pivots I see from the road has doubling in the last year. Any plan built on these lies is doomed to failure. A halt to new irrigation permits is needed and a phaseout begun to restore springs and streamflows.
2	Georgia Farm Bureau (Zippy Duvall, President)	<p>The letter includes discussion of already existing economic incentive for conservation in business decisions (i.e., farmers don't want to buy water if they don't really need to). In addition, the issue of property rights is brought up with respect to water use (excerpt: "<u>Landowners have a reasonable right, above the rights of other citizens, to use water located on their private property.</u> "). The letter also emphasizes that the need for additional supply is just as important as conservation in meeting the water needs of Georgians. Also discussed is how expensive it is to establish groundwater systems (related to recommendations that groundwater be used rather than surface water) and that it is not a feasible solution on all properties. They support incentives and cost-share opportunities to assist farmers with voluntary transitions. Farm Bureau supports the installation of meters on agricultural wells in order to obtain data on actual water use in agricultural operations and appreciates the current cost-sharing available for conservation practices. In addition, they support the recommendation of several councils that studies be done to determine whether agriculture water use is actually 100% consumptive. Full text of comments specific to SUO are provided below:</p> <p><i>On page 7-5, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee recommends the council will look for ways to "Develop drought management plan and implement instream flow protection measures, "and to "Incorporate drought management into new agricultural withdrawal permits. "We wonder what is meant by these statements. Farm Bureau would applaud council support for a program similar to the Flint River Drought Protection Act. Under this Act, landowners voluntarily submit bids to receive compensation from the state to forego their right to irrigate crops. Farm Bureau supports programs that provide incentives for farmers, who so choose, to temporarily suspend their rights in order to render a benefit to the general public.</i></p>
3	Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition (GIEC) (Gregory L. Jones, Vice Chair and Tammy R. Wyles, Chair) submitted online by Deborah Phillips	<p>The entire comment package, including attachment and figures, submitted by the Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition can be viewed at <a href="http://www.giec.org/WaterWorkgroupActivities.shtml">http://www.giec.org/WaterWorkgroupActivities.shtml</a>. In summary, the GEIC is concerned about the assumptions made in the water quality modeling,</p> <p>The only comment that could be related directly to the SUO plan is one regarding the assumptions of septic tank consumptive use. They state that the 100% consumptive use assumed in development of the draft plans is not correct.</p>

No	Comment Author	Comment
4	Georgia Power	<p>Georgia Power provided comments of a general nature related to energy forecasting and water use. A summary of those comments is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) although plans recognize that statewide energy use is projected to increase from current levels through 2050, the plans do not consistently anticipate such need for water at the region level past 2020.</li> <li>2) plans anticipate future short-term energy production consumptive use declines due to more water efficient technology improvements, but do not recognize that competing regulatory and policy requirements may increase consumption over time</li> <li>3) recommendation that plans include clear language stating the plans should not be used to alter the permitting standards and the EPD develop a consistent policy on this issue</li> <li>4) plans do not fully recognize the requirement that permittees follow the water conservation and drought contingency plans they developed as part of the permitting process; concern is that 2 layers of requirements that essentially overlap will exist</li> <li>5) recommendation that permitted rather than actual water use continue to be the basis for assessments</li> <li>6) EPD should clarify the future role of water planning councils and how the future plans will be coordinated</li> <li>7) EPD should ensure that plans use the same definition of key terms (i.e. gap, assimilative capacity, consumptive use)</li> <li>8) plans should acknowledge that only Tier 1 demand management practices are mandatory at this time</li> </ol>
5	Georgia Water Alliance (Katie Kirkpatrick)	<p>GWA provides recommendations that are all related to general issues that EPD must address or provide guidance to the councils. These issues include use of the plan in EPD permitting, use of unimpaired flows, reconstitution of the councils, benchmark establishment, and incorporation of plans into one document. These may require potential revisions to all plans. Specifics of recommendations are below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) EPD should clearly state in each regional plan the following: "This regional water development and conservation plan shall be used to guide permitting decisions by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division but should not be considered as legally binding when developing water withdrawal and discharge permits. The Division retains the legal authority to issue permits that are consistent with state law and that consider, but may not fully conform with, this regional plan."</li> <li>2) Each water resource assessment and regional water plan should contain a clear discussion on the use of unimpaired flows and the use of the assessment. This discussion should definitively state that the assessment is for general planning purposes only and is not to be used for permitting decisions.</li> <li>3) Each regional water council should be reconstituted. Each regional water plan should include an implementation strategy with funding sources identified. These sources should not rely solely on local governments but a mix of local, state, federal and private dollars. Human capital must also be assessed and immediate action items should be included.</li> <li>4) Each regional plan should establish reasonable benchmarks by which progress can be measured. The basin plans should also offer a reasonable glide path to closing all modeled gaps, over time, to assure both water quantity and water quality for downstream users.</li> <li>5) Publish a strategy for integrating the 11 regional water plans into one document. A rationale should also be developed demonstrating that the plans have met the long-term water needs of Georgia. In conclusion, Georgia must remain a competitive state and remain open for business. Perception by our peers and critics is that Georgia is out of water. These plans are a critical link to demonstrating that Georgia is taking proactive steps to ensure adequate water resources for our water future.</li> </ol>

No	Comment Author	Comment
6	Georgia Water Coalition	<p>The general concerns and recommendations contained in the letter are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including at least one public meeting solely for the purpose of presenting information, soliciting and answering public queries and accepting public comments.</li> <li>- clarification of the plan's legal effect by future legislation that empowers regional councils to issue binding policies</li> <li>- water planning that follows river basin boundaries, not geopolitical boundaries</li> </ul> <p>Timing and Quality of Information Provided to Regional Water Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information provided to the regional water councils was poorly organized, both as to the content of that information and the time at which it was shared with the councils.</li> <li>- concern that information was provided to councils too late in the game; of particular example was the thermoelectric power plants use data</li> <li>- concern that EPD, either directly or through its contractors, has inserted management option recommendations into regional plans that were never supported by council members</li> <li>- concern that only "worst-case" energy water use was utilized in process; should include other scenarios that reflect water conserving energy options</li> <li>- concern that only high growth population projections were included; should include a range of growth contingencies, not just the high-growth scenario</li> <li>- concern that municipal water forecasts improperly assume that water consumption must increase as population increases. should incorporate aggressive water efficiency in order to secure water supply for new residents, as well as to augment stream flows</li> <li>- concerns with the selection of the planning nodes being arbitrary</li> <li>- concern with use of current minimum instream flow policy without analysis for other scenarios</li> <li>- concern that reservoir management was assumed to provide protection from problems with adequate flows when reservoir management is driven by too many other factors to assume this to be the case</li> <li>- concern with groundwater modeling assumptions and results</li> <li>- concern that interstate considerations were not fully incorporated into plans</li> </ul>
7	NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources (Jeff Manning)	<p>Comments specifically related to SUO plan are as follows:</p> <p>* There is mention of collaboration with SC DHEC but no mention of NC DENR coordination. This is understood because of the small portion of the watersheds within NC. However, there are some impairments in the Hiwassee in NC that flow into GA, so we could work together to address these impairments.</p> <p>* There's a 2 mile impaired segment of the Little Tennessee River flowing into NC from the GA line. We would be interested in collaborating with GA to address activities that may be contributing to these impairments.</p>
8	Lawrence E. McSwain (Larry) 35 Glengarry Chase Covington GA 30014 770-786-3221 HOME 678-410-9728 CELL	Mr. McSwain provides comments that relate to the protection of instream flows (EPD-funded studies to develop protective instream flow policy/protect flows downstream of new reservoirs), inclusion of aggressive watershed practices (reduction of nonpoint source pollution, TMDL implementation), inclusion of conservation practices as first priority for closing gaps, ensuring reservoir site selection matches locations of need, and concern for the selection of nodes and data used for resource assessments.



No	Comment Author	Comment
9	Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (Sara Barczak, Program Director and Rita Kilpatrick, Georgia Policy Director)	<p>Most comments provided are of a general nature and not specifically related to SUO. Recommendations include revisions to the baseline energy scenario in EPD's Energy Forecasting TM and incorporation of a water-conserving scenario that incorporates energy efficiency. Specific comments related to SUO include questions about the discussion in Section 4 regarding the Public Service Commission's role in utility energy planning. In addition, the comments explain that the utility resource plans and forecasts are not made public. The specific comment is provided below for reference.</p> <p>Some of the draft regional water plans draw erroneous conclusions about state agency roles in utility energy planning that need correction. For example, the Savannah Upper-Ogeechee Water Planning Council states in its initial plan that "As part of a planning process regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), Georgia Power and other power companies develop energy forecasts every 3 years for a 10-year planning period as part of their integrated public resource plan. The Savannah Upper-Ogeechee Water Planning Council believes that, while the current forecast is sufficient for this planning effort, updates to the Regional Water Plans should incorporate data from future PSC public resource plans." It is not correct that the PSC regulates a planning process for other power companies beyond Georgia Power. This poses a serious informational gap in statewide energy forecasting for the state and the regional water councils. Contrary to the Savannah Upper-Ogeechee Water Planning Council's belief, no updates for the electric membership corporations (EMCs) and municipal electric companies in Georgia will be possible through PSC reviewed utility resource plans because no such oversight exists for those utilities.</p>
10	The Nature Conservancy – Georgia Chapter (Shelly Lakly, PhD., Executive Director)	<p>Recommendations offered by the Nature Conservancy were primarily directed to EPD and their use of the regional water plans and do not suggest any revisions to the current regional plans. These included validation of the resource assessments, stream ecology studies, revision of interim instream flow guidelines, funding of future studies based on plan recommendations. Comments that may require revisions to the plans include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All regional water planning councils should include in their plans the implementation of at least Tier 3 water conservation management practices.</li> <li>- All regional water planning councils should include in their plans the maximization of returning clean water to streams and rivers before constructing water supply reservoirs.</li> <li>- All regional water planning councils should include in their plans a specific analysis of how they followed the statewide water management plan's comprehensive water supply reservoir policy.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: one recommendation was for all plans to include a recommendation in the SUO plan: "Evaluate minimum instream flow and unimpaired flow assumptions in the Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment. Consider pilot site-specific instream flow studies in the "X" basin (at locations predicted to have instream flow shortage). In combination with a low flow monitoring program and an agricultural use metering program, confirm the magnitude and frequency of predicted gaps. Update Surface Water Availability and Surface Water Quality Resource Assessment models based on the results of the studies for future Regional Water Plan update."</p>

No	Comment Author	Comment
11	U.S. Department of Interior (Sandy Tucker)	<p>1) The regional water plans do not meet a basic goal of the 2004 Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act - protecting natural systems</p> <p>2) The regional plans fails to ensure that management practices are incorporated in water planning that will protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act, or those addressed in the Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan or State Wildlife Protection Act. We recommend that the councils meet with scientists in DNR, UGA and USGS to develop management practices that will protect natural resources</p> <p>3) The regional water plans do not include conservation savings in calculations of future water demands (with the exception of two plumbing code changes)</p> <p>4) The regional water plan do not evaluate the effects of large-scale interbasin transfer on water resources in the donor basin.</p> <p>5) The regional water plans focus on water supply and conservation, but do not emphasize minimizing impacts of upstream activities that increase sediment-loads in the river and reduce water storage capacity in existing and future reservoirs</p> <p>6) The language for many of the goals and management practices needs to be stronger and more proactive</p> <p>7) We recommend the basin plans include evaluation of the effects of upstream activities on downstream water users</p> <p>8) We recommend the basin plans prioritize those management practices that will achieve water conservation as soon as possible</p> <p>9) We recommend the basin plans include drought contingency planning and water demands be adjusted based on occasional drought conditions</p> <p>10) We recommend the basin plans incorporate the realities of new reservoir construction and base needs on local information rather than the coarse overview of water supply shortfalls utilized for the draft plans.</p> <p>11) We recommend the basin plans require implementation of educational programs to inform the public of the need for water conservation in their communities and how they can be a part of that conservation</p> <p>12) We recommend all the basin plans be modified to incorporate an awareness of the interrelationship of surface water, ground water and water quality</p>
12	Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (on behalf of several organizations, including Savannah Riverkeeper)	The Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper provided comments that were not specific to any one plan but applied to all of them only because the comments related to the resource assessments. Major areas of comment include lack of integration among and deficiencies of the resource assessments, population projections, economic growth projections and the responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

No	Comment Author	Comment
13	Harris Little	<p>I continue to be concerned that all the enforcement of any rules that may be written as a result of this plan will be brought to bear on local governments, while local governments are responsible for withdrawals and discharges of water most do a great job of returning water back to the streams that is of higher quality than is in the stream. Because of this, governments that do a good job managing water and waste-water should be encouraged to use water not penalized for that use. While conservation is something that people should make a personal decision whether to do or not do, it (conservation) should not be the linchpin of our water planning. Increasing treatment capacity and doing everything possible to encourage interconnections between systems is by far the the better way to insure we all have adequate drinking water supplies.</p> <p>There needs to be more examination of exactly how much water we have compared to what we use. All uses of water, whatever they may be, are a collective drop in the bucket compared to what we have available to us. Georgia gets a huge amount of rain, even in drought years, we get in the 30 inch per year range. Let the public know this, tell them how much water we have. 99% of people have no clue.</p> <p>Further effort must be made in regards to how the Corps of Engineers manages the federal reservoirs inside and on our state borders. Drinking water and other public uses must be the first priority. Work with our legislative delegation in Washington to make these changes. We have more than enough storage of water in this state, use what we have. Building more little "buckets" (reservoirs) is a colossal waste of time and money. People need to get off this fear of transferring water where you need it. Water is just a natural resource, like wood, natural gas, and others. Nobody cares where the wood that built your house comes from, or where the natural gas you cook or heat with originates, why this concern over water. If Atlanta needs the water we have, treat it and sell it to them, they have the money and we have the water. Thank God we can't hem up the air we breathe, some folks would want to stop the wind from blowing. One last point on transfers, water transfers happen and have been happening since the earth started. You'll notice I don't call them inter-basin transfers because there is only one basin, all water flows to the oceans and all the oceans are connected. These natural water transfers are commonly called rain. Surely nobody thinks the water that falls on Georgia evaporated from Georgia?</p> <p>Lets start thinking more regionally when it comes to water supply, and I don't mean basin regionally.</p> <p>I'm thankful that these resources have been studied and concern has been placed on water supply, I hope the people involved began to realize that we have an abundant supply of water, and maybe they understand that we need more aggressive plans to use what we have and encourage interconnections and regional cooperation.</p>

No	Comment Author	Comment
14	Jack Gleason (Concerned Citizen)	<p>1. In the interest of procuring a real implementation of "Change" with regard to substantially IMPROVING the States otherwise negatively impacted Streams and Rivers -- this for insufficient Stormwater Management Practices implemented of Development Interests activities occurring within it over the last decade specifically -- the ACF must be designated a "Regionally Important Resource" (RIR) immediately! Otherwise dissolve the DCA as an important-fassad of State Regulatory Bureaucracy.</p> <p>2. In the interest of procuring a higher level of both Quality and Sustainability, All of the entire REGIONS "Stormwater Management Plans" need to incorporate more comprehensive protective measures taken with regard to Future Development occurring within both "Small" Water supply Watersheds and "Minor" Aquifer Recharge Zones/Groundwater Recharge Areas (ARZ/GRA) -- especially when occurring upon BOTH -- by determining prudent and enforceable (Maximum Percentage Allowable) Impervious Surface Coverage (ISC), and Maximum Allowable Percentage-Change of Water Temperature of Discharge (WTD), while very well too, increasing by at least 25% the specifications regarding "Sedimentation" and Time/Volume release of Stormwater from ALL SOURCES within those particularly Environmentally Sensitive (Water supply Watersheds and ARZ/GRA) Impact-Components.</p> <p>3. Impose strict Implementation and Enforcement (I&amp;E) of both existing (a.) Un-disturbed Riparian Corridor Vegetative and (b.) Impervious Surface Coverage Buffers, and (c.) include protections being extended toward true "Lay-of-the-land" Ephemeral Streams specifically existing within "Small" Water supply Watersheds, ARZ/GRA, and other geological features contributive to the "Top of the Watershed".</p> <p>In consideration of both today's and Our Future "Landscape" with regard to procuring a Sustainable Water supply for the Region I strongly believe that implementation of these considerations only make Common Sense and can be implemented by the simple universal change of "Should" to "Shall" as it exists within current ordinance nomenclature.</p>
15	Larry Walker (Council Member)	<p>I was a member of the Savannah Upper Ogeechee Council. I think our plan became much too technical as the process evolved. I believe that by far the most important contributions of the Council are in the Goals, and by far the most important one of those is regarding inter-basin transfers.</p> <p>No other factor, now or in the future, will or could have as much bearing on this watershed as inter-basin transfers. If nothing else is said or done regarding this effort, it should be remembered that this Council raised a flag of concern about inter-basin transfers, especially those that might be done to feed an insatiable appetite for water by a water wasting society in metro Atlanta.</p>

No	Comment Author	Comment
16	Michael Massey	<p>Disappointment –</p> <p>Plenty of good data gathering and documenting in sections 1-5 but: It is another well documented work of suggestions, guidelines and benchmarks for monitoring. I am not sure WHO or WHAT AGENCY will grab this and move forward with it. There are no strong legislative recommendations. Perhaps they have recognized that they have little strength to go forward with a hard recommendation.</p> <p>The final paragraph on page 8-5 says it all:</p> <p>The Council requests to form a permanent Savannah and Ogeechee water planning organization as the conduit for bringing together all stakeholders and assisting the State with implementation of water resource goals in the entire basin. One third of the current Water Planning Council will be grandfathered on the permanent organization. The discussions on this new organization are in the very initial stage. The Council recommends that any plan amendments be reviewed and approved by EPD until a future organization is formed. Any meetings conducted to review and approve future plan amendments should invite stakeholders and allow for general public input.</p> <p>MY REVIEW:</p> <p>It certainly does little to provide a feeling that there will be major accomplishments resulting from this list of proposals.</p> <p>This is a disappointing end (at this point) for a lot of hard work. Little accomplishments in the pipeline.</p>
17	Sam Booher	<p>Mr. Booher states he attended all of the Regional meeting and several Joint Regional meetings since 2008 and was pleased with his experience. One of his concerns is that the planned energy projects were not mentioned in the plans and/or considered in the assessments and could therefore make the results irrelevant. In addition, he is concerned that water conservation measures and interbasin transfers were not included in the recommendations to the state in the plan.</p> <p>Mr. Booher recommends that Buford Dam be raised, that Georgia must not implement water management plans that impact downstream communities of future economic growth through Interbasin Transfers, that future Regional Councils need upfront information from Southern Company on specific locations, size, and planned water consumption of future power plants being considered and that Georgia should focus on aggressive water conservation measures which will provide water at a cost less than the expensive options currently being considered.</p>