## Georgia's State Water Plan

Regional Water Development and Conservation Plan Review and Revision Upper Oconee Regional Water Planning Council March 2, 2017

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

## Upper Oconee Council Meeting 4

#### **Objectives:**

1)	Review	Regional	Water	Plan	Deliver	ables
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- 2) Review and Discuss Management Practices
- 3) Discuss Approach and Timelines for Remaining Regional Water Plan Updates

9:00 - 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 - 9:45	Welcome and Introductions
	Approve Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2016 Individual Council Meeting
	Approve Meeting Agenda
9:45 - 10:15	Regional Water Plan Deliverables
	Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum
	Updates to Regional Water Plan Sections
	<ul> <li>Schedule for Remaining Regional Water Plan Updates</li> </ul>
10:15 - 10:45	Review and Discuss Management Practices
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:45	Continue Review and Discussion of Management Practices
11:45 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30	Continue Review and Discussion of Management Practices
1:30 - 1:45	Break
1:45 - 2:30	Finalize Review and Discussion of Management Practices
2:30 - 2:45	Wrap Up/ Next Steps/ Council Meeting 5 Preview
2:45 - 3:00	Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments
3:00	Adjourn



## **Upper-Oconee Council Meeting 4**

### **Approve Meeting Minutes**

#### Memorandum

То:	Upper Oconee Regional Water Planning Council
From:	Dale Jones and Zakiya Seymour, Jacobs
Date:	December 22, 2016
Subject:	Upper Oconee Council Meeting 3 Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Process

Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Process Draft Meeting Summary (subject to Council review and approval)

This memorandum provides the meeting summary of the Upper Oconee Regional Water Planning Council individual meeting, which took place during the Joint Council Meeting held on November 17, 2016 at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin, Georgia. A Joint Council Meeting was held for the six eastern Regional Water Planning (RWP) Councils (Altamaha, Coastal Georgia, Middle Ocmulgee, Suwannee-Satilla, Savannah- Upper Ogeechee and Upper Oconee) from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Upper Oconee RWP Council held a brief individual Council Meeting during the afternoon portion of the Joint Council Meeting. Council Member Hunter Bicknell ran the meeting in Chairman Davis and Vice-Chair Graham's absence. The meeting



## **Remaining Schedule**

- Draft updated Plans completed before March 31
  - Input from Council during Today's meeting
  - Further work/edit with Subcommittee or Full Council: March
- Public Notice period: March 31 May 15
- Council Meeting 5: late May early June
   Updated Plans finalized in June



## **Remaining Schedule**

## **Questions for the Council**

Have a Subcommittee or the Full Council dive deeper into a review of the Plan Sections?

Subcommittee

- PC Updates Sections for Review: March 10-13
- Feedback meeting with Subcommittee: March 14-17
- PC Incorporates Feedback: March 20-24

Have an additional Council Meeting after review

- Potential Dates: March 24-29
- In person, conference call, or email voting to accept final draft
- Have a Subcommittee or the Full Council review as well as address EPD and public comments?



## Forecast Technical Memorandum Review

- Introduction
  - General Methodology
  - Population Update
- Municipal Water Forecasting
- Municipal Wastewater Forecasting
- Industrial Forecasting
- Agricultural Water Forecasting
- Energy Water Forecasting
- Regional Summary



## Section 3 Review

**REGIONAL WATER PLAN** 

#### 3. Water Resources of the Upper Oconee Region



## Section 3. Water Resources of the Upper Oconee Region

This Section summarizes existing conditions in the Region, including existing water usage by sector (i.e., municipal industrial, agriculture, and energy production), surface water and groundwater availability, and water quality conditions.

#### 3.1 Major Water Use in Region

Major water use and water returns are summarized for the Upper Oconee region based on data compiled by USGS in the report 'Water Use in Georgia by County for 2010 and Water-Use Trends, 1985-2010'. For planning purposes, water "withdrawal" is defined as Section Summary

Resource Assessments The indicate that most streams in the Region have sufficient assimilative capacity; however, select segments of the Oconee River and its smaller tributaries have exceeded their available assimilative capacity. There are potential groundwater sustainable yield limitations in the Crystalline rock system, which serves portions of Athens-Clarke, Jackson, Barrow, and Oconee Counties.



## Section 4 Review

4. Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs



**REGIONAL WATER PLAN** 

### Section 4. Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

Water demand and wastewater flow forecasts and the Resource Assessments described in Section 3 form the foundation for water planning in the Region and serve as the basis for the selection of the MPs discussed in Sections 6 and 7. Any differences between the 2005–2010 USGS data presented in Section 3 and the data in this Section are due to variations in data sources and methodologies.

This Section presents the regional water demand and wastewater flow forecasts at 10-year intervals

#### Section Summary

Total water demands are expected to increase from  $\frac{1,377166}{1,412226}$  MGD in 2050. Wastewater flows are likewise anticipated to increase from  $\frac{1,329141}{1,354205}$  MGD in  $\frac{2010}{2050}$ .

Energy generation is forecast to continue to make up the largest portion of future water withdrawals; however, the majority of this water is not consumptive, i.e., it is returned to



## Section 5 Review

#### Round 1 Table 5-6 (Round 2 Table 5-8): Summary of Potential Gaps, Needs, or Shortages by County Surface **Municipal Municipal** Water Quality -Water Quality Ground-County Water Water Wastewater Assimilative water Gaps 303(d) Issues Needs **Shortages Capacity Gaps** Gaps Yes/No Yes Baldwin Yes/No Yes Yes/No Yes Barrow Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Athens-Clarke Yes/No Yes Yes/No Yes Yes/No Yes Greene Yes Yes Hancock Yes/No Yes/No Yes Jackson Yes/No Yes Yes Laurens Yes/No Yes Yes Morgan Yes/No Yes Yes/No Yes Oconee Yes Yes Putnam Yes Yes Walton Yes/No Yes Yes/No Yes/No Yes Washington Yes/No Yes Yes Wilkinson 3/0 4/3 4/2 7/1 7/4 13 **Total Counties**

Notes: "Yes" indicates that there is a potential gap or need/shortage in the indicated county or a water quality issue.

"Gap" is defined as a condition where the existing or future conditions exceed the Resource Assessment metric.

"Need" and "Shortage" are defined as a condition where the current permitted capacity of water and wastewater treatment facilities, respectively, is less than the future forecast demands.



## Process to Update Management Practices



- Review High Priority Management Practices Identified during Interim for Potential Revision
- Categorize Remaining Management
   Practices
  - Keep As-Is
  - Edit
  - Delete
  - Add New
- Review Recommendations to the State
- Have Subcommittee/Full Council
  - Finalize language for edited Management Practices
  - Finalize full set of revised Management Practices & Recommendations to present for approval





## 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM



## Review and Update Management Measures

### Summary of Round 1 Water Conservation Management Practices – Upper Oconee Regional Water Planning Council – *Water Conservation*<sup>1</sup>

Management Practice	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals	Identification of Plan Elements for Review
WC-1. Encourage conservation pricing	Encourage conservation pricing to provide economic incentive for people to use water more efficiently within the entire Region. Specific measures for implementation are to: (1) eliminate declining block rate structures, (2) perform a rate and revenue analysis, and (3) review and update pricing on a regular basis.	Vision: Manage water as a critical resource. Supports WS, RS, ES, and CR goals <sup>1</sup> .	
WC-2. Develop water conservation goals	Identify achievable, measurable goals to help local governments evaluate long-term water supply needs and to provide benchmarks for determining progress in reducing water supply gaps through conservation. Goals will be both regional and local with focus on areas where water supply gaps exist.	Vision: Manage water as a critical resource. Supports WS, CR, ES and BP goals <sup>1</sup> .	It was noted by the Council that water conservation goals may be more appropriate by individual jurisdiction in relation to gaps and already implemented measures.
WC-3. Consistently meter and report agricultural water withdrawals (> 100,000 gallons per day [gpd])	Meter agricultural withdrawals throughout the Region, allowing GAEPD to estimate safe yield and available supplies to more accurately characterize existing conditions.	Vision: Manage water as a critical resource and develop an educated and engaged citizenry that embraces sound water management. Supports WS, WQ and CR goals <sup>1</sup> .	Council discussed possibly updating or removing recommendation based on work already being done in this area.
WC-4. Implement education and public awareness program	Research existing education programs to determine if one can meet water conservation and water quality improvement awareness needs. If an appropriate program does not exist, develop a Region-wide education and public awareness program. Implement the new program.	Vision: Develop an educated and engaged citizenry that embraces sound water management. Supports WS, WQ, ES, and CR goals <sup>1</sup> .	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Table 6-1(a), Upper Oconee Regional Water Plan (November 2011)

## Review and Update Management Measures

## **Management Practices**

- Water Conservation & Reuse Management
  - Conservation practices
  - Better planning and management
- Water Supply Management
  - Storage, such as reservoirs
  - Water master plans

Wastewater

- Wastewater master plans
- Septage system planning

Water Quality Management

- Reduction in nonpoint source pollution



## Review and Update Management Measures

## **Management Practices**

- Data Management
  - Accessible data and information
- Revenue Strategies
  - Sufficient revenues
- Education
  - Educational materials targeting different audiences
- **Balance** Priorities
  - Economic development, recreation, and environmental interests



## Water Conservation

## **Gap Review**

Groundwater Availability

- No groundwater resource shortfalls expected over the planning horizon
- Surface Water Availability
  - Increased demand in the Region may add to a modeled surface water gap downstream of the region at the Eden planning node on the Ogeechee River (Greene, Hancock, and Washington Counties)



#### WC-2. Develop water conservation goals

2011	Identify <u>achievable</u> , <u>measurable goals</u> to help <u>local</u> <u>governments</u> evaluate <u>long-term water supply needs</u> and to <u>provide benchmarks</u> for determining progress in <u>reducing water supply gaps</u> through conservation. Goals will be both <u>regional and local</u> with focus on areas where water supply gaps exist.
2015	Water conservation goals may be <b>more appropriate by</b> <i>individual jurisdiction</i> in relation to gaps and already implemented measures.



WC-3. Consistently meter and report agricultural water withdrawals (> 100,000 gallons per day [gpd])

2011	<u>Meter agricultural withdrawals</u> throughout the Region, allowing GAEPD to estimate safe yield and available supplies to more accurately characterize existing conditions.
2015	Council discussed possibly <b>updating</b> or <b>removing</b> recommendation based on work already being done in this area.



#### WC-7. Encourage non-potable reuse

2015	Council discussed possibly <b>reviewing non-potable</b> <b>reuse based on public perception</b> of water quality in areas like parks.
	<ul> <li>Encourage industries to use reclaimed water for processes such as cooling when feasible.</li> </ul>
2011	<ul> <li>Promote irrigation with high quality treated effluent in unrestricted areas, such as golf courses and parks.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Identify areas with potential for reuse application to offset existing or future withdrawals.</li> </ul>



WC-8. Require installation of rain sensor shut-off switches on new irrigation systems

	<ul> <li><u>Require installation or retrofitting</u> to utilize irrigation</li> </ul>		
	systems that automatically shut off during rain		
2011	events or moist soil conditions.		
2011	<ul> <li>Investigate the potential for legislation or local</li> </ul>		
	government ordinances to require installation in		
	new facilities where shortages are anticipated.		
	Courseil discussed revising this recommon detion to		
2015	Council discussed revising this recommendation to		
2015	distinguish between residential, commercial, and		
	industrial irrigation systems.		



#### WC-9. Require new car washes to recycle water

	<ul> <li>Require all <u>new car wash establishments to recycle wash</u></li> </ul>
	water to minimize the amount of potable water used during
	their processes.
011	• Programs can either be mandated for <u>new establishments or</u>
	voluntary. For voluntary programs, incentives, such as a
	certification that can be displayed and/or advertised, can
	be offered.
	Council discussed the need to review and possibly extend this
	recommendation. There was a concern about the <b>smaller-</b>

2015 scale car washes not re-using water and being difficult to monitor or observe.

It was also noted that this is a **potential water quality issue** with runoff of soap suds into waterways.

## 2011 Water Conservation Management Practices

WC1 - Encourage conservation pricing

WC4 - Implement education and public awareness program

WC5 - Implement golf course water management education program

WC6 - Encourage variable rate agricultural irrigation systems

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



## 2011 Water Conservation Management Practices

WC10 - Encourage residential water audits

WC11 - Encourage certification of irrigation specialists

WC12 - Encourage commercial water audits

**Anything Missing?** 

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



## 2011 Water Supply Management Practices

## WS1 - Expand existing reservoirs

WS2 - Construct new water supply reservoirs

WS3 - Develop new groundwater wells

WS4 - Encourage development of water master plans with periodic update Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



## 2011 Water Supply Management Practices

WS5 - Encourage indirect potable reuse

WS6 - Expand existing withdrawals from available reservoirs

WS7 - Encourage water system asset management

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

**Anything Missing?** 



# Lunch

## 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM



## Municipal Water and Wastewater Capacity

## Needs & Shortage Review

## Municipal Water

- Estimates were calculated by comparing the permitted monthly average withdrawal limit with the forecast annual average demands.
- Future water needs were identified only in Barrow and Oconee Counties.

## Municipal Wastewater

- Future demands for municipal wastewater management can largely be met with existing permitted facilities.
- Walton County is the only anticipated county to have a wastewater capacity shortage.



## 2015 Priority Wastewater Management Practices

WW-6. Provide local government with acceptable parameters for septage disposal at facilities

2011	<ul> <li>Develop a plan and acceptable parameters for <u>septage disposal</u>.</li> <li>Collect <u>septage manifests</u> and provide to County Boards of Health.</li> <li>Consider septage disposal needs when upgrading or designing <u>new wastewater treatment facilities</u>.</li> </ul>
2015	Council expressed concerns about <b>unauthorized septic</b> <b>disposal</b> and potentially expanding this recommendation to allow for more regulation.



## 2015 Priority Wastewater Management Practices

WW-7. Implement grease management program

2011	<ul> <li>Develop procedures for <u>grease control and</u> <u>enforcement</u>.</li> <li>Implement fats, oils, and grease (FOG) <u>education</u> <u>efforts</u>.</li> </ul>
2015	Council expressed an interest in encouraging the development of <b>monitoring and enforcement capacity</b> for grease management.



WW1 - Encourage implementation of centralized sewer in developing areas where density warrants

WW2 - Encourage development of local wastewater master plans / Evaluate wastewater treatment and disposal options to meet future demands Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

WW3 - Develop recommendations for decentralized sewer systems



## 2011 Wastewater Management Practices

WW4 - Develop septic system planning and management policies and guidance

WW5 - Develop and implement sewer system capacity, management, operation, and maintenance (CMOM) program Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

**Anything Missing?** 



## Water Capacity – Assimilative Capacity and 303(d)

## Gaps & Issues Review

Assimilative Capacity

- Reaches that exceeded assimilative capacity under the current conditions include:
  - Alligator Creek (Ocmulgee Basin); and
  - Glady Creek, Little Commissioner Creek, Turkey Creek, tributary to Big Indian Creek, and portions of Oconee River (Oconee Basin).
- EPD will continue to evaluate and modify future permit requests and adjust permit limits to avoid potential DO violations

303(d)

- Lake Oconee Dam Pool: chlorophyll level increase slightly due to point and nonpoint sources.
- Lake Sinclair: chlorophyll a levels projected to increase between current and 2050 conditions.



WQ1 - Encourage comprehensive land use planning

WQ2 - Encourage local government participation in construction erosion and sediment control

WQ3 - Encourage implementation of agricultural nutrient management programs

WQ4 - Encourage forestry management practices Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



## WQ5 - Encourage stream buffer protection

WQ6 - Evaluate water quality credit trading

WQ7 - Encourage floodplain management / flood damage prevention

WQ8 - Encourage general stormwater practices

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



WQ9 - Support total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation

WQ10 - Encourage agricultural cropland management practices

WQ11 - Promote postdevelopment stormwater management

WQ12 - Monitor long-term ambient trends

**Anything Missing?** 

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete





## 1:30 PM – 1:45 PM



## Implementing Water Management Practices (Section 7)

- 7.1 Implementation Schedule and Roles of Responsible Parties (Change as Management Practices change)
- 7.2 Fiscal Implications of Selected Management Practices (No Changes)
- 7.3 Alignment with Other Plans (No Changes)
- 7.4 Recommendations to the State


# Funding

Identify long-term funding mechanism, beyond grants, to assist responsible parties with implementation.

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Work with existing organizations such as the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission to identify incentives to encourage the installation and use of variable rate irrigation systems by a certified irrigation professional.



# Coordination

Coordinate with DCA and the RCs to serve as the clearing house and coordinator for ongoing Regional Water Plan planning activities.

Keep, Edit, or Delete

To provide continuity between Regional Water Plan updates, a minimum of six to nine members of the original Council should be reappointed

The Council should meet bi-annually to track implementation and address potential issues or questions regarding implementation or plan amendments Keep, Edit, or Delete



# Coordination

Work with existing organizations, such as ACCG, GMA and GAWP to develop templates and materials that each Regional Council, with the assistance of DCA or the RCs noted in Section 2.3, can adapt for regional / local implementation.

Topic areas from Table 7-1 could include: public education program, water conservation goals regional residential and commercial water audit program materials, golf course water management, grease management, CMOM, general stormwater management and stream buffer protection.

Work with existing organizations such as the GSWCC and the State's University System to develop regional watering, nutrient management, cropland management guidelines for the major crops grown in the Region.

Keep, Edit, or Delete



# Coordination

**Coordinate with State and local Public Health Departments to:** 

- Develop consistent, minimum design standards that anticipate future centralized sewer connections where appropriate.
- Develop example policies for connections to public sewer.
- Develop regional recommendations and a model ordinance for decentralized sewer systems.

Coordinate with GEMA on development of a model flood damage prevention ordinance.

Keep, Edit, or Delete



# Policy/Programmatic

Develop and implement a consistent program to meter and report agricultural water withdrawals greater than 100,000 gallons per day.	Keep, Edit, or Delete
Consider modifying (limiting) the extent of exemptions found in O.C.G.A. § 12-7-17 regarding the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.	Keep, Edit, or Delete
Revisit DO criteria for South Georgia, and the Region in particular, to consider naturally low background levels found in the Region.	Keep, Edit, or Delete



# Policy/Programmatic

Develop regulatory framework and guidelines for water quality credit trading in Georgia.

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Build on existing GAEPD monitoring program to develop a regional long-term ambient trend monitoring network for the Region.



# Next 5-Year Update

Refine Resource Assessment models to allow presentation of results at a finer resolution.

Conduct further study on the Cretaceous aquifer in Washington, Wilkinson, and Laurens Counties to clarify sustainable yields.

Collect and monitor withdrawal and discharge data from the kaolin industry to refine the water balance and wastewater return ratio assumptions.

Support the evaluation of the current instream flow policy to determine whether revisions are needed to protect aquatic resources. Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete

Keep, Edit, or Delete



# Upper Oconee Council Meeting 4

- Wrap Up
- Next Steps
- Council Meeting #5



# 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? Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov Christine.Voudy@dnr.ga.gov Dale.Jones@jacobs.com Zakiya.Seymour@jacobs.com



# **Optional Slides**



# Population Changes (Planning Period: 2015 – 2050)

Counties with Highest Projected Population Growth		Barrow	148%
	% Change	Walton	83%
		Jackson	80%
	Ba	Barrow	111,900
	# People	Walton	74,200
		Jackson	51,000

Counties with Lowest Projected Population Growth		Hancock	-48%
	% Change	Wilkinson	-21%
		Washington	-8%
		Hancock	-4,200
	# People	Wilkinson	-2,000
		Washington	-1,600

Negative numbers reflect a decrease in county population



# Water Demand (Planning Period: 2015 – 2050)

Counties with Highest Water Demand Increase (Excluding Agriculture)		Barrow	135%
	% Change	Walton	74%
		Jackson	70%
		Barrow	12
	MGD	Walton	7
		Jackson	5

# Wastewater Demand (Planning Period: 2015 – 2050)

Counties with Largest Increase in Wastewater Flows		Barrow	144%
	% Change	Walton Jackson	<b>126%</b>
			<b>70%</b>
		Walton	13
	MGD	Barrow	11
		Jackson	4





# Demand Forecasting Statistics (cont.)

 Water Demand by sector over the Planning Period (2015 – 2050)

Counties with Highest Surface Water Demand Increase (Excluding Agriculture)		Barrow	138%
	% Change	Walton	76%
	Jacl	Jackson	70%
		Barrow	8
	MGD	Walton	5
		Jackson	4

		Barrow	130%
Counties with Highest Ground Water Demand Increase (Excluding Agriculture)	% Change	nge Walton Jackson	69%
			68%
		Barrow	4
	MGD	Walton	2
		Oconee	0.9

\*Red text denotes counties with highest population growth statistics



# Oconee Basin DOSAG Model Results: Upper Portion



Round 1

#### Round 2



# Oconee Basin DOSAG Model Results: Middle Portion

#### Legend



- ----- Very Good ≥ 1 mg/L DO available
- ---- Good 0.5 mg/L to < 1 mg/L DO available
- Moderate 0.2 mg/L to < 0.5 mg/L DO available</p>
- Limited >0 mg/L to <0.2 mg/L DO available</p>
- At Assimilative Capacity 0 mg/L DO available
- www.None or Exceeded < 0.0 mg/L DO available
- Unmodeled Lakes and Streams





Poa

Oconee River

#### Round 1

#### Round 2



# Oconee Basin DOSAG Model Results: Lower Portion



Avalable Assimilative Capacity

- ✓ Very Good ≥ 1 mg/L DO available
  ✓ Good 0.5 mg/L to < 1 mg/L DO available</p>
- Moderate 0.2 mg/L to < 0.5 mg/L DO available
- ---- Limited >0 mg/L to <0.2 mg/L DO available
- At Assimilative Capacity 0 mg/L DO available
- ---- None or Exceeded < 0.0 mg/L DO available
- Unmodeled Lakes and Streams





#### Round 1

#### Round 2



## Oconee Basin: Total P Heat Maps - Dry

# Current Conditions





## Oconee Basin: Total P Heat Maps - Wet





## Oconee Basin: Total N Heat Maps - Dry



#### Current Conditions



## Oconee Basin: Total N Heat Maps - Wet





## Altmaha Basin: Total P Heat Maps - Dry

#### **Current Conditions**





## Altmaha Basin: Total P Heat Maps - Wet





## Altmaha Basin: Total N Heat Maps - Dry



#### Current Conditions



## Altmaha Basin: Total N Heat Maps - Wet



#### **Current Conditions**



# Surface Water Quality/Assimilative Capacity Gaps

- EFDC Lake & Estuary
   Model Results
  - Limited to no assimilative capacity in lower reaches of Altamaha River and Altamaha Sound
  - Lower assimilative capacity may be due to slower moving waters which contribute to naturally low DO levels



- •••• None or Exceeded < 0.0 mg/L DO available
- Unmodeled Lakes and Streams



# Upper Oconee Goals Related to Water Conservation

## Goal# 1

Promote alternatives and technologies that conserve, reuse, return, and recycle water within the Upper Oconee region.

#### Goal# 3

Educate stakeholders in the region on the importance of water quality and managing water as a resource including practices such as water conservation and increased water efficiency.

#### Goal# 6

Recommend innovative strategies (water, sewer, and/or stormwater) that provide sufficient revenues to maintain a high level of service while promoting water conservation and efficiency.



# 2015 Priority Water Conservation Management Practices

#### WC-2. Develop water conservation goals

## 2011

Identify <u>achievable</u>, measurable goals to help local governments evaluate longterm water supply needs and to provide benchmarks for determining progress in reducing water supply gaps through conservation. Goals will be both regional and local with focus on areas where water supply gaps exist.

## 2015

Water conservation goals may be **more appropriate by individual jurisdiction** in relation to gaps and already implemented measures.



2015 Priority Water Conservation Management Practices

WC-3. Consistently meter and report agricultural water withdrawals (> 100,000 gallons per day [gpd])

## 2011

<u>Meter agricultural withdrawals</u> throughout the Region, allowing GAEPD to estimate safe yield and available supplies to more accurately characterize existing conditions.

## 2015

Council discussed possibly **updating** or **removing** recommendation based on work already being done in this area.



#### WC-7. Encourage non-potable reuse

## 2011

- Identify areas <u>with potential</u> <u>for reuse application</u> to offset existing or future withdrawals.
- Promote irrigation with high <u>quality treated effluent in</u> <u>unrestricted area</u>s, such as golf courses and parks.
- Encourage <u>industries to use</u> reclaimed water for processes such as cooling when feasible.

## 2015

Council discussed possibly reviewing non-potable reuse based on public perception of water quality in areas like parks.

## 2015 Priority Water Conservation Management Practices

WC-8. Require installation of rain sensor shut-off switches on new irrigation systems

## 2011

- <u>Require installation or</u> <u>retrofitting to utilize irrigation</u> systems that automatically shut off during rain events or moist soil conditions.
- Investigate the potential for legislation or local government ordinances to require installation in new facilities where shortages are anticipated.

## 2015

Council discussed revising this recommendation to **distinguish between residential**, **commercial**, **and industrial irrigation systems**.



# 2015 Priority Water Conservation Management Practices

#### WC-9. Require new car washes to recycle water

### 2011

- Require all <u>new car wash</u> <u>establishments to recycle</u> <u>wash water</u> to minimize the amount of potable water used during their processes.
- Programs can either be mandated for <u>new</u> <u>establishments or voluntary</u>.
   For voluntary programs, incentives, such as a certification that can be displayed and/or advertised, can be offered.

## 2015

Council discussed the need to review and possibly extend this recommendation. There was a concern about the **smallerscale car washes not re-using water** and being **difficult to monitor or observe**.

It was also noted that this is a potential water quality issue with runoff of soap suds into waterways