

The Council established a series of subcommittees which met and held conference calls throughout the original planning process to assist in development of specific elements of the Regional Water Plan. These included an executive, agriculture, media, and MP subcommittee. Results of subcommittee discussions and recommendations were presented at full Council meetings and aided in the development of specific elements of the Regional Water Plan.

For this plan update, a similar approach was followed including a review of the original vision and goals, updates to the water and wastewater demands, updates to the resource assessments, and a re-evaluation of future gaps. Public/local government input and coordination with other regional water planning councils also informed the plan update.

1.3 Upper Oconee Water Planning Region Vision and Goals

This Regional Water Plan update reflects extensive efforts on the part of the original and current participants of the Council. These efforts are described in detail in the supplemental document titled *Upper Oconee Water Council: Summary of Public Outreach and Coordination Activities* (2011), which is available on the Council website. In developing the original plan, one of the Council's first responsibilities was to establish the vision and goals for water management in the Region; these components played a critical role in the evaluation and selection of MPs that would best meet the Region's needs. The Council adopted the following vision and goals to guide the development of the original Regional Water Plan and this update:

Vision: *Create a regional plan that focuses on managing water as a critical resource vital to our health, economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Build trusting partnerships with neighboring regions and develop an educated and engaged citizenry that embraces sound water management.*

Goals:

- Promote alternatives and technologies that conserve, reuse, return, and recycle water within the Upper Oconee region.
- Ensure that management practices balance economic development, recreation, and environmental interests.
- 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.
- Encourage the development of and accessibility to data and information to guide management decisions.
- Identify programs, projects, and educational messages to reduce non-point source pollution to protect water quality in lakes and streams.



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- 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.
- Identify and plan measures to ensure sustainable, adequate water supply to meet current and predicted long-term population, environmental, and economic needs.