



Georgia's State Water Plan

Suwannee-Satilla Water Planning Council
March 22, 2018

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Council Meeting Agenda



Georgia's State Water Plan

Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Council Meeting
Agenda - March 22, 2018

Objectives:

- 1) Review Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials
- 2) Review Council Survey Feedback
- 3) Review 2018 Grant Opportunities and Timelines
- 4) Share Information on Regional Activities since Adoption of RWP

10:00 - 10:30	Registration
10:30 - 10:45	Welcome and Introductions - Scott Downing Approve meeting minutes from June 5, 2017 Council Meeting Approve meeting agenda
10:45 - 11:15	Review of Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials - Shayne Wood - Suwannee-Satilla RWP Fact Sheet - Suwannee-Satilla RWP PowerPoint Presentation
11:15 - 11:45	Council Member Survey Results - Danielle Honour
11:45 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 12:45	EPD Seed Grant Opportunity Review and Timelines - Shayne Wood
12:45 - 1:15	Floridan Aquifer Collaborative Engagement for Sustainability (FACETS) Project - Mark Masters, GWPPC
1:15 - 1:45	Legislative Update and EPD Permitting Activity Updates - Cliff Lewis
1:45 - 2:00	Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments Next Steps / Wrap Up
2:00	Adjourn



Council Business

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Council Meeting Overview

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approve meeting minutes from June 5, 2017 Council Meeting
- Approve meeting agenda



Review of Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials

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RWP Outreach Materials – Fact Sheet

- Fact Sheets (previously distributed)
- Highlights of Adopted RWP
 - Background
 - Overview
 - Key Issues
 - Forecasted Demands

2017 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION

BACKGROUND

The Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plan was initially completed in 2011 and subsequently updated in 2017. The plan outlines near-term and long-term strategies to meet water needs through 2050. Major water resources include the Suwannee, Satilla, and St. Marys rivers, some of their tributaries and the Floridan aquifer system. The Suwannee-Satilla Region encompasses several major population centers including Douglas, Tifton, Waycross and Valdosta.

Counties: Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Flory, Lanier, Lowndes, Phoebe, Tift, Turner, Ware

OVERVIEW OF SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION

The Suwannee-Satilla Region encompasses 18 counties in the south central portion of Georgia. Over the next 35 years, the population of the region is projected to increase from approximately 416,000 to 499,000 residents. Key economic drivers in the region include agriculture, forestry, professional and business services, education, healthcare, manufacturing, public administration, and construction. Recreation and fishing are also important to the area.

Groundwater, mainly from the Floridan aquifer, is needed to meet about 82% of the future water needs of the Region, with agriculture, municipal, domestic, and industry uses being the dominant demand sectors. Surface water is needed to meet about 18% of these needs, with agriculture as the dominant demand sector.

KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Periodic gaps in modeled surface water availability in the Suwannee and Satilla river basins
2. Sufficient surface water quantity and quality to accommodate future municipal and industrial wastewater needs
3. Low dissolved oxygen reaches in the Suwannee, Satilla and Saint Mary's river basins and other water quality issues
4. Development of groundwater and surface water resources to meet future needs
5. Protection of recreational and environmental resources in the region

SUWANNEE-SATILLA WATER PLANNING REGION

FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS

2015 WATER DEMAND TOTAL = 276 MGD

Category	Percentage
Agriculture	76%
Municipal	18%
Industrial	6%

2050 WATER DEMAND TOTAL = 319 MGD

Category	Percentage
Agriculture	75%
Municipal	18%
Industrial	7%

Georgia's State Water Plan

SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION

For more information, please go to:
waterplanning.georgia.gov/suwannee-satilla-water-planning-region

RWP Outreach Materials

- Highlights of Adopted RWP (cont.)
 - Resource Assessment Results
 - Potential Gaps
 - Management Practices

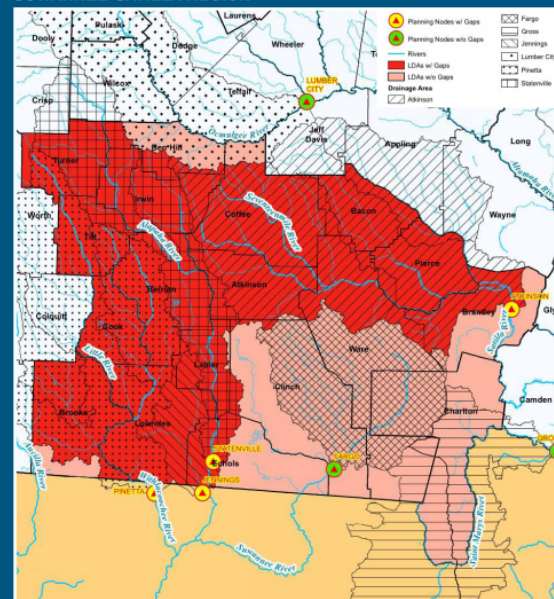
SUMMARY OF 2017 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

GROUNDWATER: At the regional level, for modeled aquifers, no groundwater resource shortfalls are expected to occur in the Suwannee-Satilla Region over the planning horizon.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY: Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Suwannee, Satilla and St. Marys river basins. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY: Over the next 35 years, the modeling analysis indicates that forecasted surface water demand within the Suwannee-Satilla Region is projected to cause stream flows in the Alapaha River (at the Jennings and Stateville planning nodes), Satilla River (at the Atkinson planning node) and Withlacoochee River (at the Pinetta planning node) to fall below targets for support of instream uses (resulting in "potential gaps"). A map of the node locations, their drainage areas, and a summary of the potential gaps are provided below.

POTENTIAL 2050 SURFACE WATER GAPS IN THE SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION



SUMMARY OF MODELED 2050 POTENTIAL SURFACE WATER GAPS

Node	Duration of Gap (% of total days*)	Avg. Flow Deficit (MGD)	Long-term Avg. Flow (MGD)
Atkinson	5	13	1,445
Jennings	8	23	892
Pinetta	9	30	1,112
Stateville	12	21	684

*Model simulation period is 1939 - 2013

SUWANNEE-SATILLA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Suwannee-Satilla Plan describes over 70 management practices targeted toward current and future needs. Actions for surface and groundwater are grouped and listed by the water use sectors that will implement them. The Plan also includes practices for resources shared with other regions. Representative practices are summarized here.

WATER CONSERVATION: The Suwannee-Satilla Council supports the 25 water conservation goals contained in the 2010 Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), including adherence to Tier 1/Tier 2 measures. Other recommendations include irrigation audits and metering of irrigation systems.

WATER SUPPLY: Provide incentives for dry-year releases from farm ponds, groundwater development, wetland restoration, and increases in wastewater returns. Study feasibility of seasonal surface water permit conditions.

WASTEWATER & WATER QUALITY: Increase permitted wastewater capacity; monitor nutrient pollution; upgrade or replace treatment facilities.

INFORMATION NEEDS: Acquire additional data/information on agricultural consumptive use to confirm or refine if it is less than 100% consumptive; Refine surface water agricultural forecasts & Resource Assessments to improve data on source of supply and timing/operation of farm ponds and dual source irrigation systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE: Focus on education, incentives, collaboration, cooperation, and enabling and supporting plan implementers; institutionalize and fund water planning; focus funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls. Work with Georgia EPD's Agricultural Water Metering Program, as well as other partners to improve agricultural water use data collection and management.

PRODUCED: AUGUST 2017

RWP Outreach Materials – Presentation

- PowerPoint slides summarizing the highlights of the RWP process
- Talking points provided
- To be used by Council Members to share information about the RWP process and to educate stakeholders in the region
- Can be tailored to meet specific needs
- Will work with Council to identify forums where knowledge can be shared



Council Member Survey Results

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Council Member Survey Results

- EPD requested the planning contractors to help think about improvements to make to the regional water planning process
- Contractors are basing recommendations on their expertise with the RWP process as well as engagement of outside experts



Council Member Survey Results

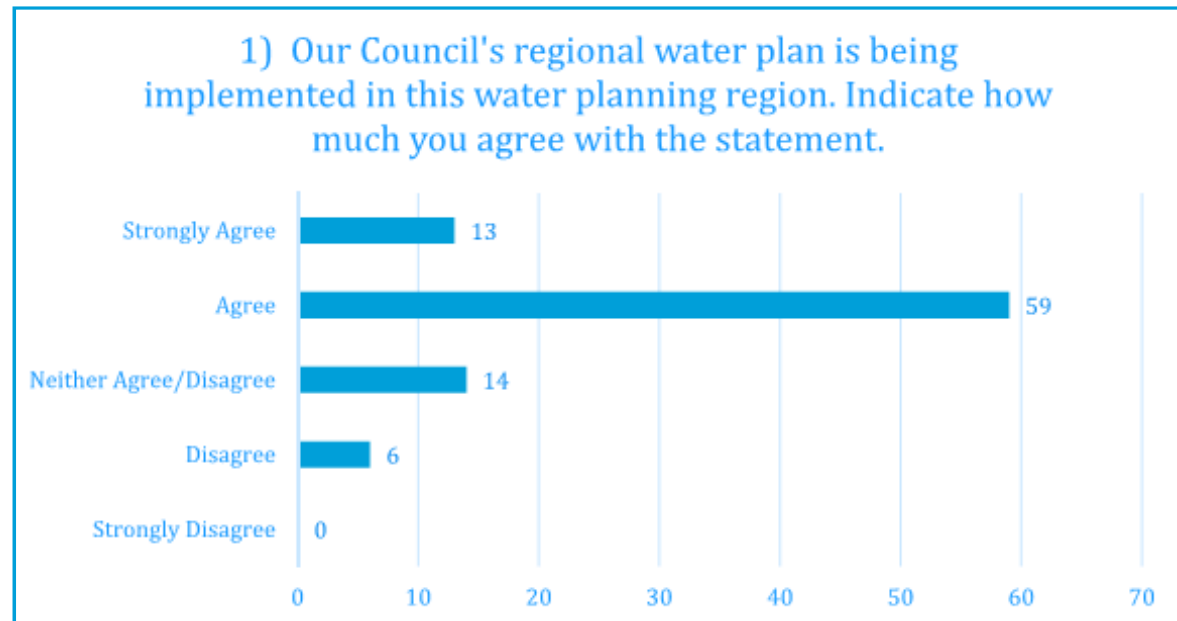
- Critical to forming recommendations is input from Council members
 - Surveys were sent out in late October and the contractors gathered input from Council members through early November
 - In-depth phone interviews with the Chairs of each Council were also conducted
- Currently, EPD is reviewing the contractor's recommendations
- Updates will be provided as this process moves forward

Council Member Survey Results

- Survey sent to all council members in the 10 regional councils
- Total of 91 survey responses were received / 36% response rate of all Council members
- 7 questions in total
 - 6 questions were how much you agree/multiple choice
 - 7th question was open-ended

Question 1 Response

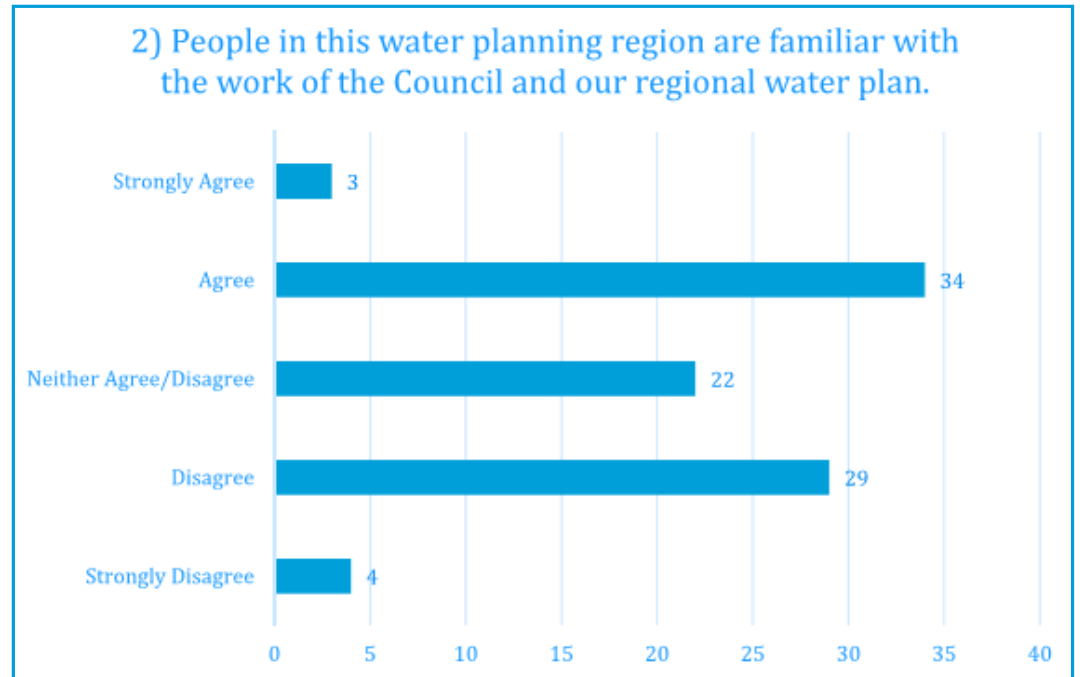
- Response: Agree with statement (78%)
 - 15% neither agree/disagree
 - <7% disagreed



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 2 Response

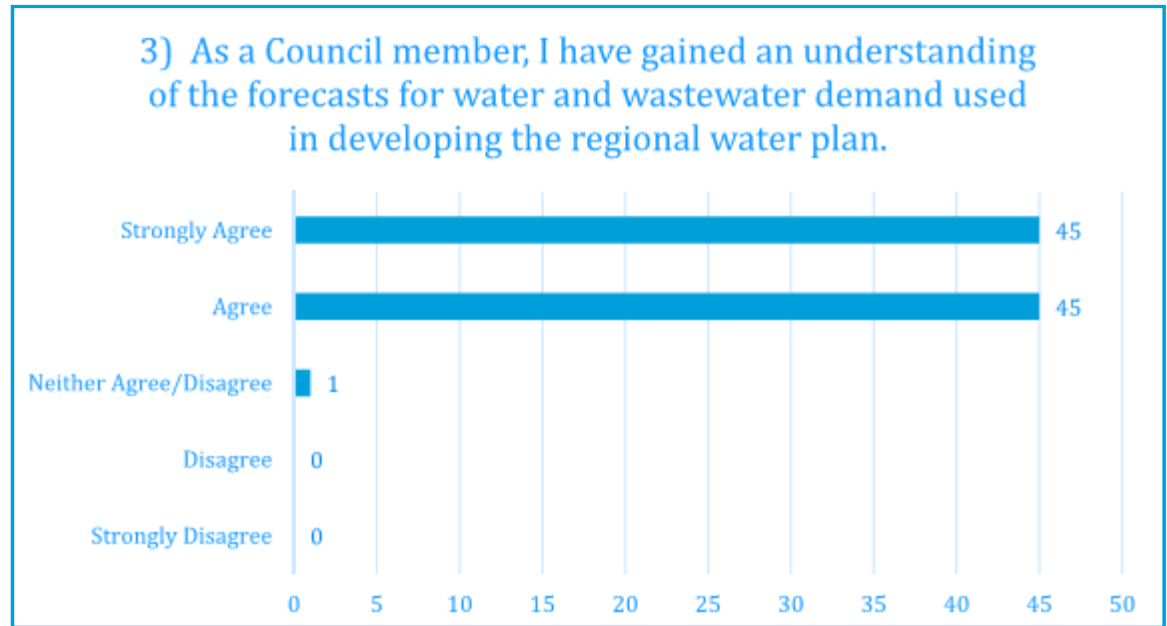
- Response: Varied
 - 40% agree or strongly agree
 - 32% disagreed
 - 24% neither agree/disagree



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 3 Response

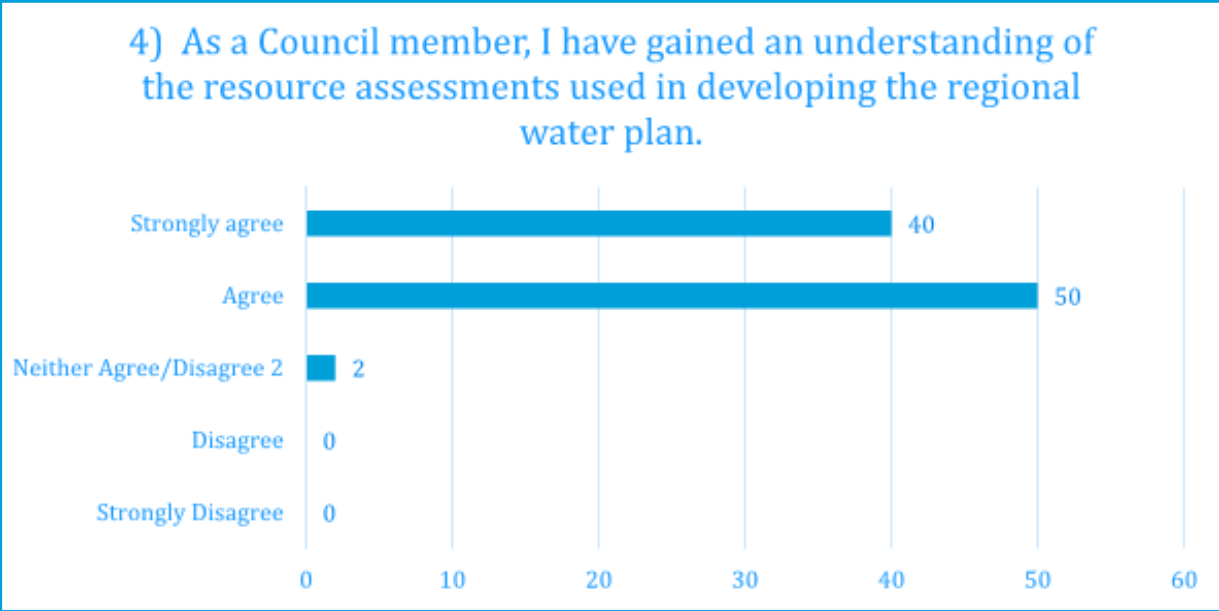
- Response: Agree with statement (90 %)
 - 1 respondent neither agrees/disagrees



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 4 Response

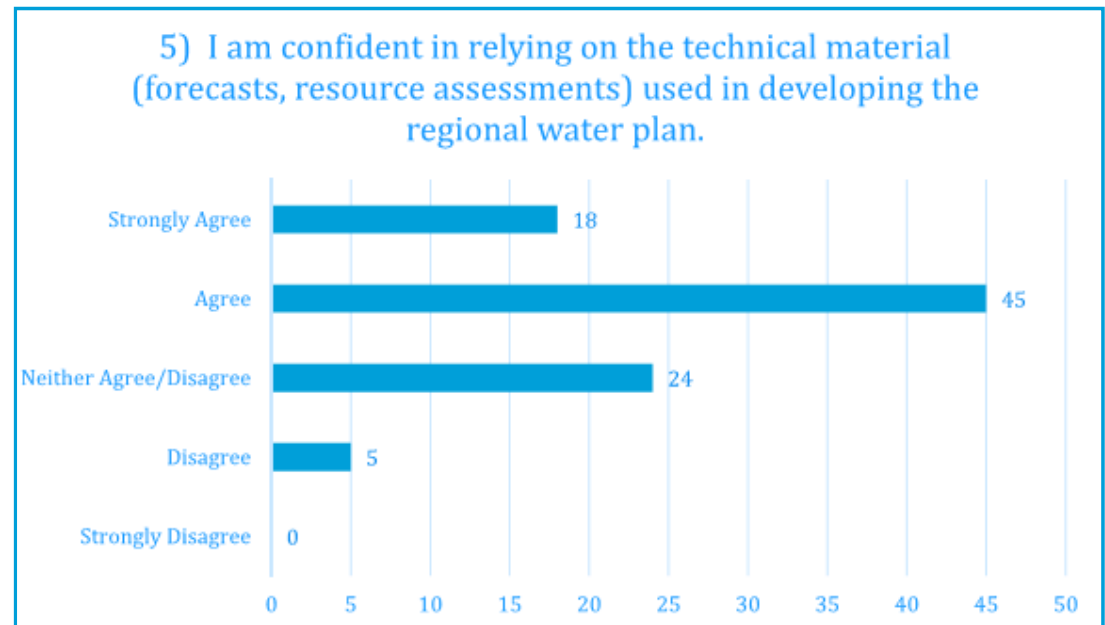
- Response: Agree with statement (98%)
 - 2% neither agree/disagree



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 5 Response

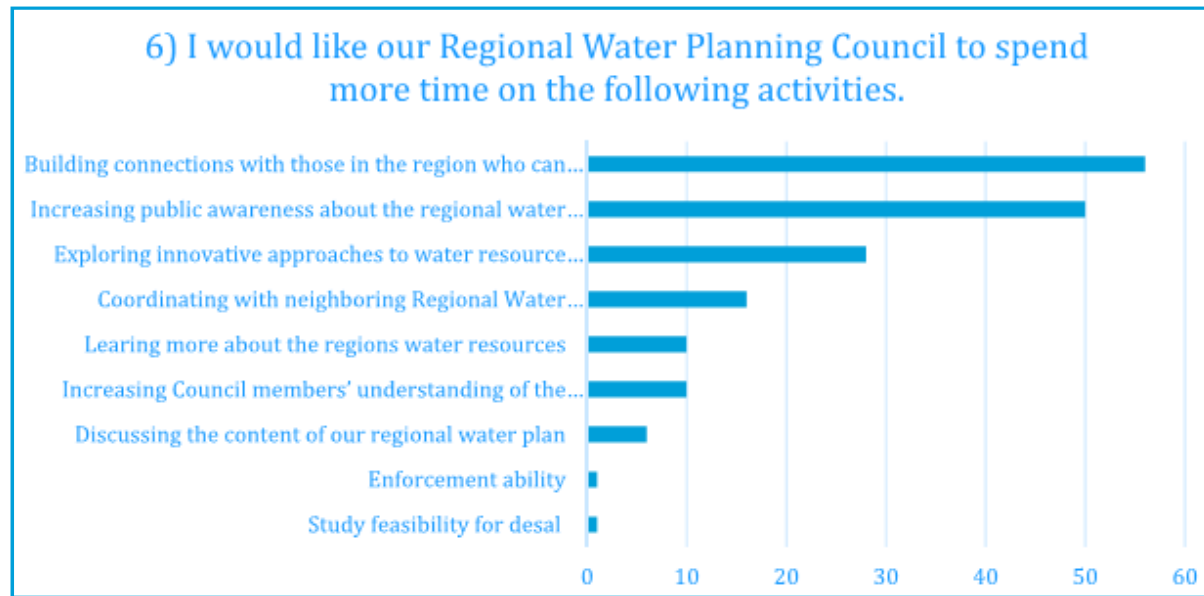
- Response: Varied
 - 68% agree or strongly agree
 - 5% disagreed
 - 26% neither agree/disagree



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 6 Response

- Multiple response question
 - “Building connections with those in the region who can implement the plan” received highest response
 - “Increase public awareness about the regional water plan” next most frequent response



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

Question 7 Response

- Open response question to allow CMs to provide recommendations to improve the process
 - Common Themes:
 - Local government and regional actor participation, and involve more stakeholders
 - Public awareness of the plan
 - Increase understanding of the information
 - Implementation or enforcement of the plan
 - Council member involvement
 - Funding
 - Technical Recommendations

Council Chair Interviews

- 10 Council Chairs were interviewed and asked a series of 11 questions about the RWP process
- Interview questions included:
 - “What was your councils most important accomplishment?”
 - “What were the greatest obstacles in the water planning process?”
 - “How can the water planning process be improved?”

Council Chair Interviews

- Successes
 - Plan and Plan Update
 - Relationship Building
 - Awareness
- Challenges
 - Data
 - Member Participation
 - Building Connections with Those in the Region that Can Implement the Plan
 - Increasing Public Awareness of the Regional Water Plan



Grant Opportunities & Funding Updates

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Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

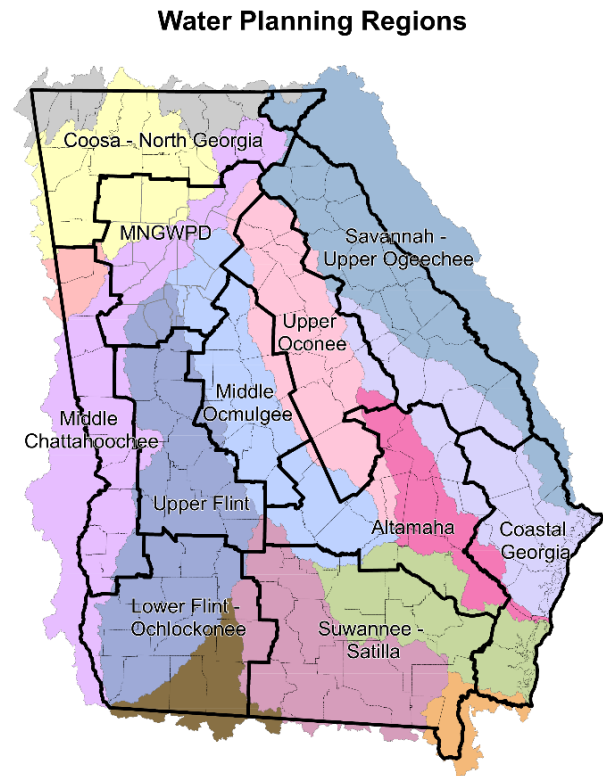
- In October 2017, EPD announced the availability of state fiscal year 2018 funds to support the continuation of the Regional Water Plan Seed Grant program
- A total of \$300,000 is available for competitive grants
- Project proposals:
 - Had to address implementation of management practice(s) or other recommendation(s) from one or more Regional Water Plans
 - Required applicants seek and obtain a letter of endorsement from the Council Chair(s) or designee(s) of the relevant regional Water Planning Council(s).

Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

- Maximum reimbursement amount for a RWP Seed Grant is capped at **\$75,000** and **limited to 60% of the total project cost**
- Award recipients must provide **a minimum match amount of 40%** of the total project cost
- Of the required 40% match, **a minimum of 10% of the total project cost must be in the form of a cash expenditure** with the remaining amount in the form of local or in-kind services/resources
- Proposals were due December 29, 2017

Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

- Proposal was prepared and submitted by Dr. Gary Hawkins (Crop and Soil Science Department, University of Georgia)
- Included three of the RWP Councils: Altamaha, Coastal and Suwannee-Satilla



Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

- Notified of grant award in early March, 2018
- Implements two of the management practices common to all the RWPs and one management practice specific to our region



Richard E. Dunn, Director
Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

Mr. Gary Hawkins
University of Georgia, Crop and Soil Science Department
1420 Experiment Station Road
J. Phil Campbell REC
Watkinsville, GA 30677

RE: SFY2018 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant – Integrating UGA Extension with the Altamaha, Coastal Georgia and Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plans

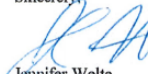
Dear Mr. Hawkins:


The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is pleased to inform you that your application for a SFY2018 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant has been reviewed and is recommended for funding. Final approval for funding for this project will be contingent upon successful completion of a final Scope of Work and verification of match contributions. Your project is recommended for grant funding of \$75,000 with a required local match of \$37,500 and \$12,500 cash contribution.


A member of the Grants Unit will contact you soon to discuss any modifications, comments, or suggestions that arose during our application review process. Based on those discussions, please begin revising your project proposal into a Scope of Work to expedite the contracting process.

Congratulations on your successful application for a SFY2018 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant. If you have any additional questions, please contact Veronica Crow, Grants Unit Manager at 404-651-8532.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Welte
Altamaha Water Planning
Region Liaison


Reid Jackson
Coastal Georgia Water
Planning Region Liaison


Cliff Lewis
Suwannee-Satilla Water
Planning Region Liaison

VC:vc

cc: Mr. Ed Jeffords, Chairman, Altamaha Regional Water Planning Council
Mr. Benjy Thompson, Chairman, Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council
Mr. Scott Downing, Chairman, Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council

Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

Water Plan Region*	Management Practice	Description	Area Addressed
Coastal Altamaha Suwannee-Satilla	NPS-2 Research and Address Impairment Issues	Monitor and determine sources of nutrient-pollutant loading. Develop management programs to mitigate impairments.	Urban
Coastal Altamaha Suwannee-Satilla	NPSA-1 Soil Erosion Reduction Measures	Encourage implementation of conservation tillage and cover crops to reduce soil erosion.	Agriculture
Altamaha Suwannee-Satilla	WC-12 Application Efficiency Technologies	Encourage and improve use of crop water management technologies and techniques.	Agriculture

Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

- Team also proposed to develop a comprehensive document for each Council that will include those MPs that can be implemented by UGA Faculty and other Implementing Actors.
- Documents will be designed to see what practices can be done by citizens in promoting and protecting water resources within the region
- By developing these documents, the project team hopes to get increasing implementation involvement in the Regional Water Council Plans

Other Grant Funding Opportunities

Organization	Timelines for Applications
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)	Applications are received year round. Competitive, deadline specific programs may have a separate application.
USDA Rural Development	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce	Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDAP Federal Funding Opportunity .
National Rural Water Association	Applications and supporting documents can be sent by mail or email.
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
CoBank	Applications are accepted continuously.
Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Application period closes at the beginning of April each year (CDBG Program)

Other Grant Funding Opportunities

Organization	Timelines for Applications
Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Potential applicants should contact their state ARC program manager to request a pre-application package (ARC grant)
OneGeorgia Authority	Applications are received year round.
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division	Applicants MUST meet or conference call with the GAEPD Grants Unit prior to application deadline (319h grants)
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division	A Request for Proposal is issued annually every fall with applications due in January or February each year.
Water Well Trust	Applications are received year round.

Other Grant Funding Opportunities

- Georgia Municipal Association also maintains a website of Grants and Award Opportunities
- Minimal water focused opportunities on near-term horizon

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NEWS + GRANTS

Grants & Award Opportunities

Title	Grantor	Posted	Due
Local Food Promotion Program	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 19	May. 7
Farmers Market Promotion Program	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 19	May. 7
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grants	Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation	Mar. 13	May. 24
Employment Incentive Program	Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)	Mar. 13	Dec. 31
Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Mar. 13	Apr. 26
Rural Business Development Grants	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 13	Apr. 30
Wells Fargo Corporate Giving	Wells Fargo	Mar. 7	Apr. 1
Accessible Golf Program Grants	National Alliance for Accessible Golf	Mar. 6	Dec. 31
Certificates in Performance Management	International City/County Management Association (ICMA)	Mar. 6	May. 1
Georgia Innovative Highway Safety Grant Programs	Governor's Office Of Highway Safety In Georgia	Mar. 2	Apr. 20

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
The Grants Update is sent each day at 3:00 PM when new grants have been added in the previous 24 hours.

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

CAPTCHA verification: 596683

SUBSCRIBE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Grant and Loan Program
Due: March 22, 2018

Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program
Due: March 29, 2018

<https://www.gmanet.com/News-Grant-Opportunities/Grants-and-Award-Opportunities.aspx>

GEFA Funding Updates

- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
 - Funds provided to various projects in the region through loans, or combination of loans/grants

GEFA Funding Updates *(cont.)*

- Clean Water loan/grant program
 - City of Blackshear, \$5.3M upgrade 2 existing WWTPs (Jul. '17)
 - Cook Co., \$2.7M solid waste landfill cell construction (Oct. '17)
 - Lowndes Co., \$1.7M WWTP rehabilitation (Nov. '17)

GEFA Funding Updates *(cont.)*

- Drinking Water loan/grant program
 - City of Adel, \$1.15M water main and water meter replacement (Mar. '15)
 - Town of Argyle, \$103k elevated water tank rehab (Feb. '17)
 - City of Homerville, \$710k automatic meter reading (AMR) system installation (Feb. '16)
 - City of Nashville, \$1.0M water meter replacement and AMR system installation (Jul. '16)
 - City of Ocilla, \$623k AMR system installation (Jul. '16)
 - City of Waycross, \$3.5M, meter replacement with AMR system (Mar. '17)
 - Satilla Regional Water & Sewer Authority, \$1.69M, AMR Water Meter Replacement (Dec. '17)

GEFA Funding Updates *(cont.)*

- Georgia Fund loan program
 - City of Ashburn, \$750k sanitary system improvement (Nov. '14)
 - Cook County, \$1.4M solid waste landfill expansion (Oct. '17)
 - Lowndes Co., \$1.7M Alapaha WTP Upgrade Project (Nov, '14)
 - Will include installation of an advanced ion exchange unit to treat disinfection byproducts



Floridan Aquifer Collaborative Engagement for Sustainability (FACETS) Project

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Legislative Update and EPD Permitting Activity Updates



Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments

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Next Steps / Wrap Up

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Next Steps During Interim Period

- Potential Action Items for Council to Consider:
 - Knowledge Sharing
 - Identifying forums to share the RWP/distribute fact sheets
 - Identifying implementing actors to invite to future meetings
 - Grant Opportunities
 - Review grant opportunities/timelines at each meeting
 - Identify potential project proposals/project champions/funding mechanisms

Next Steps During Interim Period *(cont.)*

- Potential Action Items for Council to Consider:
 - Projects/Activities in the Region
 - Identify ongoing/planned projects in region
 - Identify and invite speakers to future meetings
 - Shared Resources
 - Invite speakers from adjacent regions that impact Suwannee-Satilla to discuss local issues within their region so Council is more informed
 - Others?

Next Steps During Interim Period

- Schedule Quarterly Meetings
 - Target next meeting timeframe

Thank You!

Questions? Comments? Need
More Information?

woodsh@cdmsmith.com

Cliff.Lewis@dnr.ga.gov