



Georgia's
State Water Plan

Regional Water Development & Conservation
Plan, Review and Revision

**Savannah-Upper Ogeechee
Water Planning Council**

March 29, 2017

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Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council Meeting 5

Objectives:

- 1) Review Management Practices Subcommittee meeting
- 2) Approve draft updates to all Regional Water Plan Sections
- 3) Discuss approach and timeline for remaining Regional Water Plan Update efforts

9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve Meeting Agenda• Approve Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2017 Council Meeting• Remaining Schedule
9:45 – 10:00	Brief Overview of Subcommittee Meeting on March 9, 2017
10:00 – 10:30	Review Draft Updates for Executive Summary and Sections 1–5
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00 pm	Review Draft Updates for Sections 6–8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Council Resolution against Interbasin Transfers
12:00 – 12:30	Wrap Up/ Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments• Approve Updated Draft Plan for 45-Day Public Review
12:30	Adjourn and Lunch

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Approve Meeting Minutes

Memorandum

To: Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council

From: Andrew Jarrett & Laura Hartt, Jacobs

Date: February 23, 2017

*Subject: Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Council Meeting 4
Regional Water Plan Review and Revision Process
Draft Meeting Summary (subject to Council review and approval)*

This memorandum provides the meeting summary of the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee (SUO) Regional Water Planning Council Meeting 4, held on February 23, 2017 at the Columbia County Exhibition Center in Grovetown, Georgia. The meeting was held from approximately 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

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Remaining Schedule

- Council reviews, then pending any final edits, approves draft updated plan during today's meeting
- Contractors/EPD complete final edits/review by March 31
- EPD notices draft updated plan for public comment, 45-day period (March 31 – May 15)
- Updated Plans finalized in June

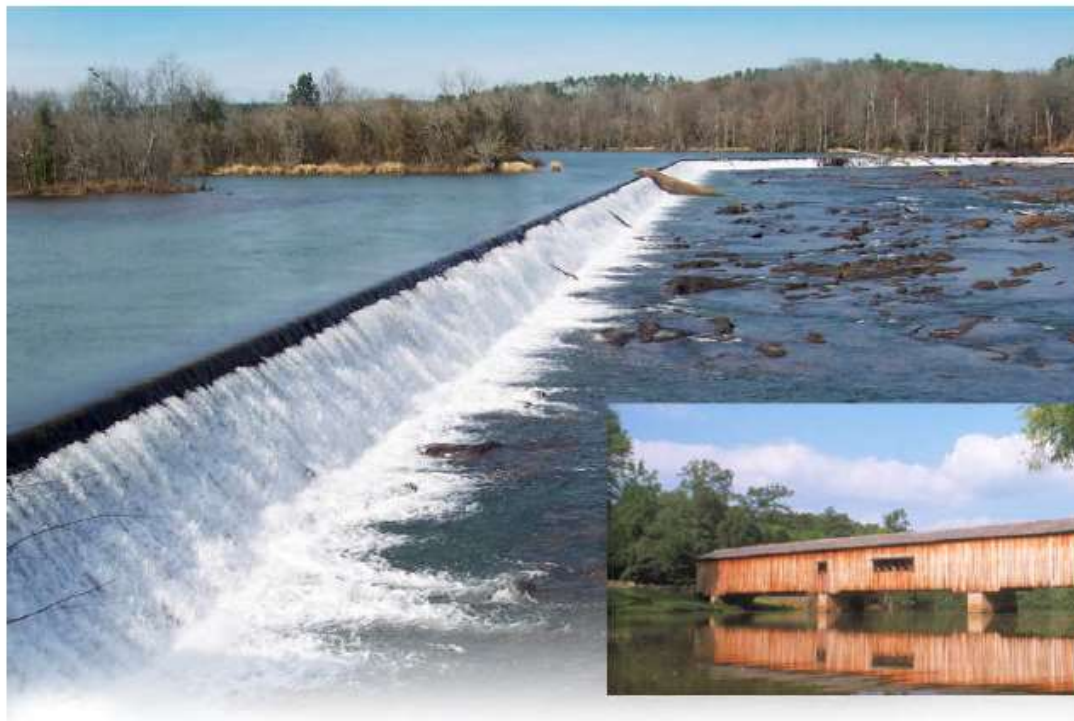
Review Subcommittee Meeting

- Convened March 9 via teleconference
- Reviewed Sections 6 and 7, including
 - Table 6-1A (WD2, WD3, WD4)
 - Table 7-3 (Recommendations to the State)
- Suggested edits, which subcontractor incorporated/ EPD reviewed

Executive Summary Review

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Executive Summary



The **Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region** is one of ten such regions established by the Georgia General Assembly in 2008 as part of the State-

Section 1 Review



Section 1. Introduction

1.1. The Significance of Water Resources in Georgia

Of all Georgia's natural resources, none is more important to the future of our state than water. The wise use and management of water is critical to support the state's economy, to protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Georgia has abundant water resources, with fourteen major river systems (See Figure 1-1) and multiple groundwater aquifer systems. These waters are shared natural resources. Streams and rivers run through many political

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region is one of eleven such regions established by the Georgia General Assembly. The region's Water Planning Council consists of ~~28-27~~ volunteer members who began working on the original regional water plan in March 2009 and this update in 2016. The plan describes water resources conditions, projects future demands, identifies resource gaps and recommends appropriate water management practices to be employed in the region through 2050.

Section 2 Review

2. The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region



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Section 2. The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region (Figure 2-1) includes 20 counties and 67 incorporated municipalities. These local governments are responsible for land use and zoning decisions that may affect the management of water resources. Many local governments are also responsible for the planning, operations, and management of water and wastewater infrastructure.

This region shares portions of four river basins - Savannah, Ogeechee, Oconee and Tennessee Rivers - with 20 counties and three states. While much of the region's water comes from surface water and regulated reservoirs, portions of the region rely on groundwater aquifers.

Section 3 Review

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3. Water Resources of the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region



Section 3. Water Resources of the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region

A summary of current surface water and groundwater use, results from the current conditions Resource Assessments developed by EPD and discussion of instream uses are provided in this section. This section's references to current conditions reflect the most recent data available at the time of the statistical development.

3.1 Major Water Use in the Region

In 2010, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region withdrew over 275 MGD for water supply (78 percent from surface water and 22 percent from groundwater sources). The region returned nearly 108 MGD of wastewater in 2010; 52 percent from industry and 48 percent from municipal sources. The region has abundant water supplies and over 90 percent of the streams analyzed were found to have adequate capacity to handle

Section 4 Review

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4. Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs



Section 4. Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

Water demand and wastewater flow forecasts, along with Resource Assessments (Section 3), form the foundation for water planning in the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region and serve as the basis for the selection of water management practices (Section 6). This section presents the regional water and wastewater forecasts from 2015 through 2050 for four water use sectors: municipal, industrial, agricultural, and thermoelectric power generation. Detailed descriptions of the forecast generation methodology and data used are located in the supplemental document *Technical Memorandum: Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water and Wastewater Forecasting (2017)*.

From 2015 to 2050, community growth in the region will increase population by 24.5 percent. Water demands will increase steadily from 316 MGD to 425 MGD. Concurrently, regional wastewater needs increase from 178 MGD to 205 MGD.

Section 5 Review

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5. Comparison of Water Resource Capacities and Future Needs



Section 5. Comparison of Water Resource Capacities and Future Needs

This Section summarizes the potential water resources management issues for the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Region. The potential gaps – areas where future demands exceed the estimated capacity of the resources – have been determined by expanding the Baseline Resource Assessments (Section 3) with the water demand and wastewater flow forecasts (Section 4). These gaps will be addressed through the selected management practices (Section 6).

5.1. Groundwater Availability Comparisons

Summary

Over the planning period, potential surface water flow regime gaps (not meeting instream flow targets) are modeled to occur at the Eden planning node.

For modeled aquifers, no groundwater resource shortfalls are expected to occur over the planning horizon.

Break

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Section 6 Review

6. Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals

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Section 6. Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals

This Section presents Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council's water management practices selected to address resource shortfalls or gaps identified and described in Section 5, and to meet the Council's Vision and Goals as described in Section 1.

6.1 Identifying Water Management Practices

The comparison of Resource Assessments and forecasted needs presented in Section 5 identifies the Region's likely resource shortfalls or gaps, and demonstrates the need for regional and resource specific water management practices. In the cases where shortfalls or gaps appear to be unlikely based on this comparison, the management practices described in this

The Savannah–Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council selected 14 priority and 14 additional management practices that will assist with maintaining adequate supply, preventing surface water instream flow shortage at the Eden Planning Node (Upper Ogeechee Basin), improving water quality, infrastructure planning, and proactive management of water resources in the region.

Section 7 Review

7. Implementing Water Management Practices

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Section 7. Implementing Water Management Practices

This section presents the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council's roadmap for the implementation of the water management practices identified in Section 6. As the State Water Plan provides, this plan will be primarily implemented by the various water users in the region. This section describes the suggested roles and responsibilities of the implementing parties as well as the fiscal implications of the practices.

Primary responsibility for implementing the regional plan will be at the local level; however, State agencies are requested to assist with implementation. The Council suggested short-term and long-term actions for the recommended priority management practices. Implementation schedules for additional management practices are to be determined by local governments, utilities and permit holders based on needs identified in detailed local master plans.

Section 8 Review

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8. Monitoring and Reporting Progress



Section 8. Monitoring and Reporting Progress

This section presents benchmarks for evaluating the implementation of this Regional Water Plan and discusses future plan update requirements and amendment processes.

8.1 Benchmarks

The benchmarks prepared by the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council and listed in Table 8-1 below will be used to assess the effectiveness of this plan's implementation and identify periodic revisions. As detailed below, the Council selected both qualitative and quantitative benchmarks that will be used to assess whether the water management practices are closing gaps over time and allowing the water planning region to meet its vision and goals.

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council selected benchmarks to assess the effectiveness of this Regional Water Plan. Progress toward implementation will be based on benchmarks designed for demand management, water supply, water quality management practices, and educational initiatives. Measurement tools include annual, biennial and other surveys on a 5-year basis prior to each Regional Water Plan Update. EPD is assumed to be the lead party responsible to administer these surveys with help from partnering agencies and local governments.

IBT Resolution

Whereas: The State of Georgia is blessed with many natural resources governed by the regions they occupy - the mountains of North Georgia, the beaches and marshlands of Atlantic Coast, and fruitful plains of South Georgia; and

Whereas: The basic desire of all concerned is to continue the State's vibrant growth while continuing to manage its abundant natural resources properly; and

Whereas: The natural resources of the State should remain in the locations originally established by nature, and the water resources should remain in the river basins created by the various collection basins around the state; and

Whereas: Interbasin transfers fundamentally and irreversibly alter the natural flows in our rivers and streams and can harm the long-term prosperity and quality-of-life of the basin of origin, species dependent on specific water flows, and downstream and contributing communities that depend on certain flows for drinking water, recreation, navigation, industry, and economic growth; and

Whereas: Socialization of natural resources and redistribution of natural resource wealth are principles that are not in keeping with the basic principles of this great State and nation and are contrary to our basic beliefs.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved: *The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council desires that present law by the General Assembly prohibiting Interbasin Water Transfers remain in force and are maintained for perpetuity. This law is necessary to ensure that the water supply across the State of Georgia remain as established by nature, and it remains stable, clean, and available for drinking water, recreation, navigation, industry, and economic growth.*

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Public Comment Period

- Please limit comments to 3 minutes total
- Council encourages written submission of comments as well

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Thank You!

Questions? Comments? Need
More Information?