



Georgia's  
**State Water Plan**

**Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council**  
**April 19, 2018**

# Council Meeting Agenda



## Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Council Meeting - Draft Agenda

### 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

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and Introductions - Ron Cross
	Approve meeting minutes from June 8, 2017 Council Meeting
	Approve meeting agenda
9:45 – 10:15	Review of Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials - Shayne Wood
	- Savannah-Upper Ogeechee RWP Fact Sheet
	- Savannah-Upper Ogeechee RWP PowerPoint Presentation
10:15 – 10:45	Council Member Survey Results - Shayne Wood
10:45 – 11:00	EPD Seed Grant Opportunity Review and Timelines - Shayne Wood
11:00 - 11:15	Break
11:15 – 11:30	Legislative Update and EPD Permitting Activity Updates - Jennifer Welte (EPD)
11:30 – 11:45	Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments
11:45 – 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 12:30	Next Steps / Wrap Up
12:30	Adjourn



# Council Business

# Council Meeting Overview

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- Welcome and Introductions
- Approve meeting minutes from June 8, 2017 Council Meeting
- Approve meeting agenda



# Review of Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials

# RWP Outreach Materials – Fact Sheet

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

## SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE REGION

### BACKGROUND

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee 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 portions of the Savannah, Ogeechee, Oconee and Tennessee River basins.



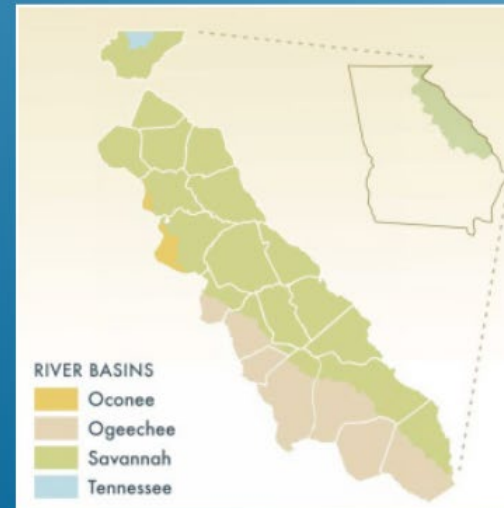
### OVERVIEW OF SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE REGION

The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region encompasses 20 counties in the northeast portion of Georgia. Over the next 35 years, the population of the region is projected to increase from approximately 629,700 to 784,000 residents. While much of the region's water comes from surface water and regulated reservoirs, portions of the region rely significantly on groundwater aquifers.

In 2015, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region withdrew approximately 316 million gallons per day (MGD) for water supply, with approximately 67 percent drawn from surface water. The region returned approximately 178 MGD of wastewater in 2015, with 52 percent from industrial and 48 percent from municipal sources.

### KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Low dissolved oxygen levels in the Savannah River and Harbor and the sharing of substantial load reductions between Georgia and South Carolina dischargers
2. Coordination with South Carolina on shared water resources in the Savannah Basin
3. Potential gaps in surface water availability in the Ogeechee Basin
4. Concerns about interbasin transfers of water out of the Savannah Basin
5. Long-term operating procedures at the USACE reservoirs and the use of adaptive management to maintain conservation pools at the highest possible levels
6. More efficient use of water in the region



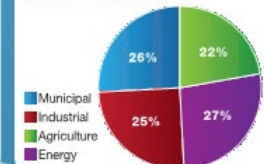
### SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE WATER PLANNING REGION

### FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS

**2015 WATER DEMAND**  
TOTAL = 316 MGD



**2050 WATER DEMAND**  
TOTAL = 425 MGD



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SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE REGION

For more information, please go to:  
[waterplanning.georgia.gov/savannah-upper-ogeechee-water-planning-region](http://waterplanning.georgia.gov/savannah-upper-ogeechee-water-planning-region)

# RWP Outreach Materials

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

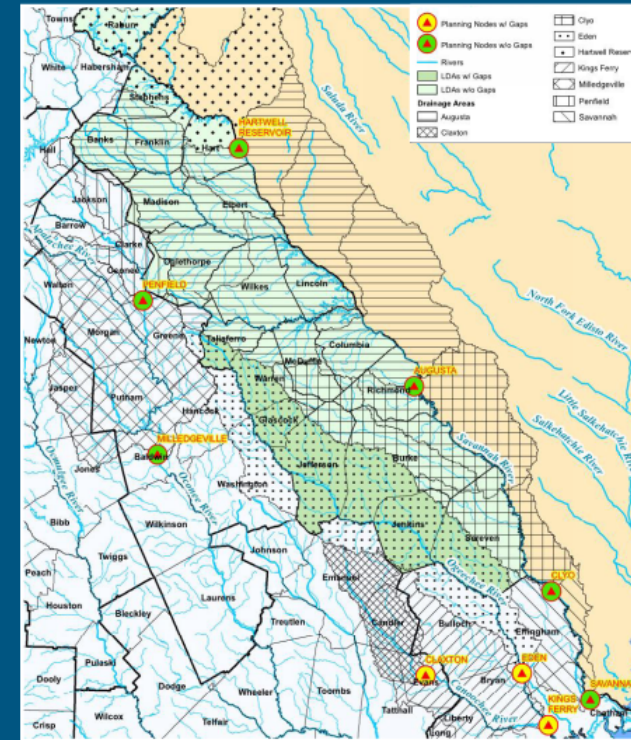
## SUMMARY OF 2017 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

**GROUNDWATER:** At the regional level, there will be adequate supplies to meet the region's future groundwater supply needs over the planning horizon.

**SURFACE WATER QUALITY:** Assimilative capacity assessments predicted that some stream segments, including the Savannah Harbor, will have limited capacity to accept future wastewater discharges. 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 the water supply needs in the Savannah River Basin can be met, assuming the USACE continues to operate its reservoirs using the current operation protocol; however, peak season agricultural irrigation may result in potential gaps in the Ogeechee Basin (at the Eden planning node). 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 SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE 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)
Eden	3	16	1,430

\*Model simulation period is 1939 - 2013

## SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To help address the region's water resources issues and comply with the Georgia Water Stewardship Act (SB 370) and EPD's rules for drought management and water supply efficiency, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Plan recommends close to 30 priority water management practices. Representative practices are summarized here.

**WATER CONSERVATION:** To prevent potential gaps in meeting instream flow needs, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Plan calls for more aggressive water conservation practices and development of drought management practices for the agricultural users/permittees in the Upper Ogeechee River Basin. The plan also recommends instream flow studies and additional streamflow monitoring in the Ogeechee River Basin.

**WASTEWATER & WATER QUALITY:** Priority practices include development of local water and wastewater plans to identify local infrastructure needs and address watershed-related issues. The Council further supports State implementation of the 5R plan for NPDES permitting to restore water quality in the Savannah River Basin and Harbor.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE:** The plan recommends that EPD continue to update and refine its water resources database and use this data in subsequent updates to the resource assessments. This information will help guide more localized planning and decision making, as well as strengthen the appropriate and scientifically sound application of management practices.

**INTERSTATE WATER PLANNING:** The ongoing discussion between the states of Georgia and South Carolina is a defining issue of the Savannah River Basin. Future updates of the USACE Comprehensive Study are recommended to emphasize the need for maintaining maximum storage in the reservoirs when possible, in light of the economic benefits the lakes bring to the region. The Comprehensive Study is a cost share with Georgia EPD, SCDHEC and The Nature Conservancy. With respect to water sharing, the Council has incorporated a preliminary assessment of South Carolina's projected water use into its planning efforts.

# 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



# RWP Outreach Materials – Presentation

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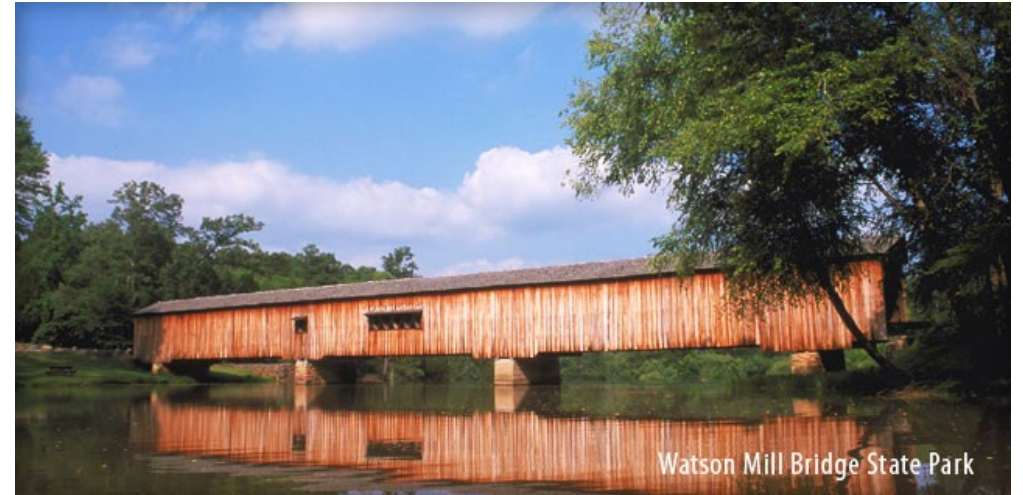
- [Switch to RWP Powerpoint]



# Council Member Survey Results

# 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

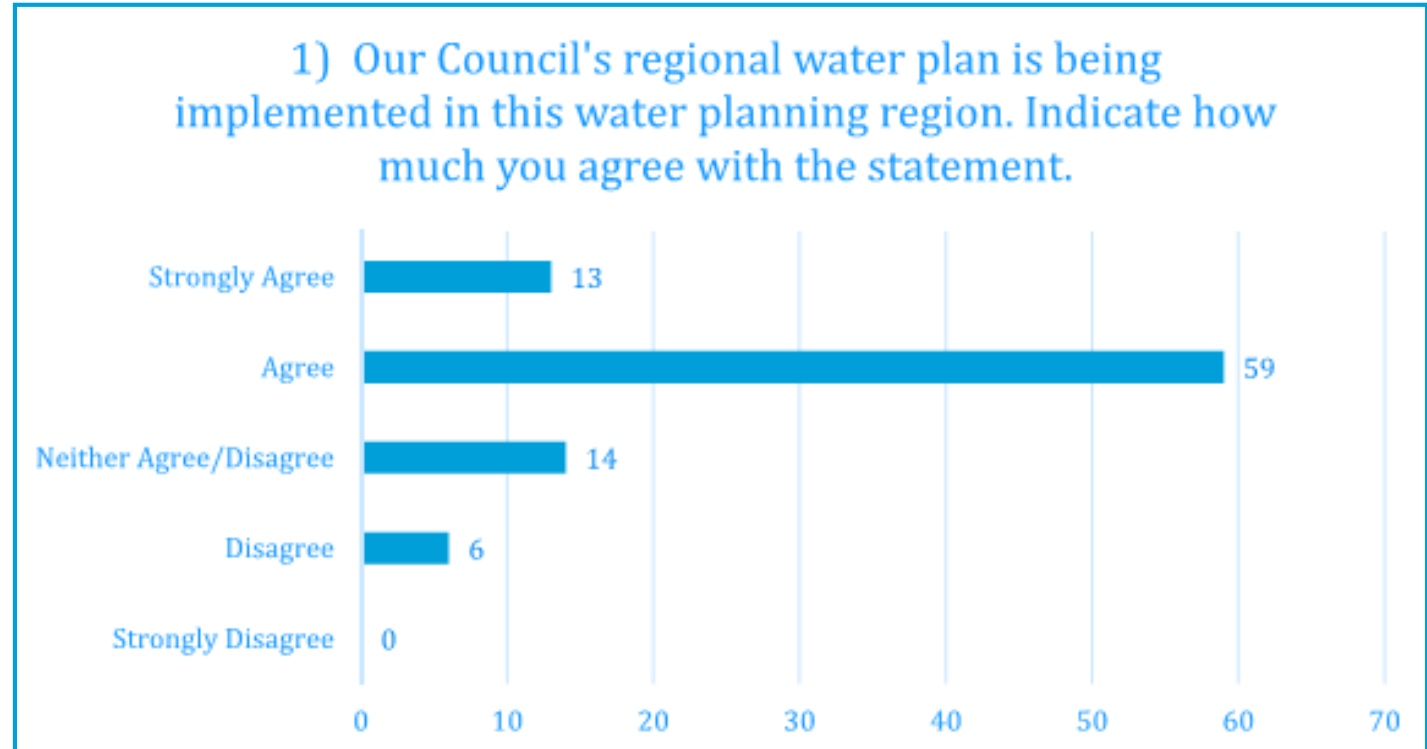
- Critical to forming recommendations is input from Council members
  - Surveys were sent out in late October and the contractors gathered input from Council members through early November
  - In-depth phone interviews with the Chairs of each Council were also conducted
- Currently, EPD is reviewing 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

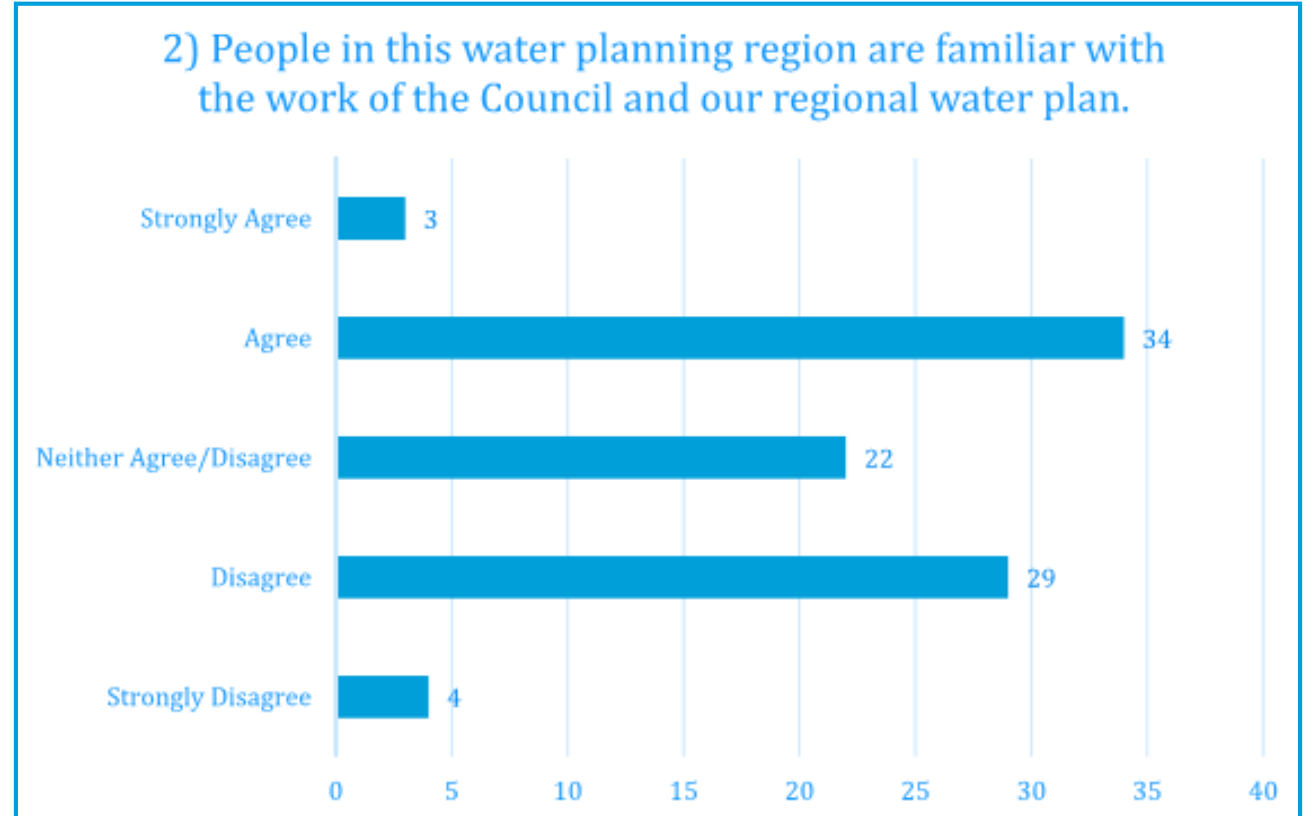
- Response: Agree with statement (78%)
  - 15% neither agree/disagree
  - <7% disagreed



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

# Question 2 Response

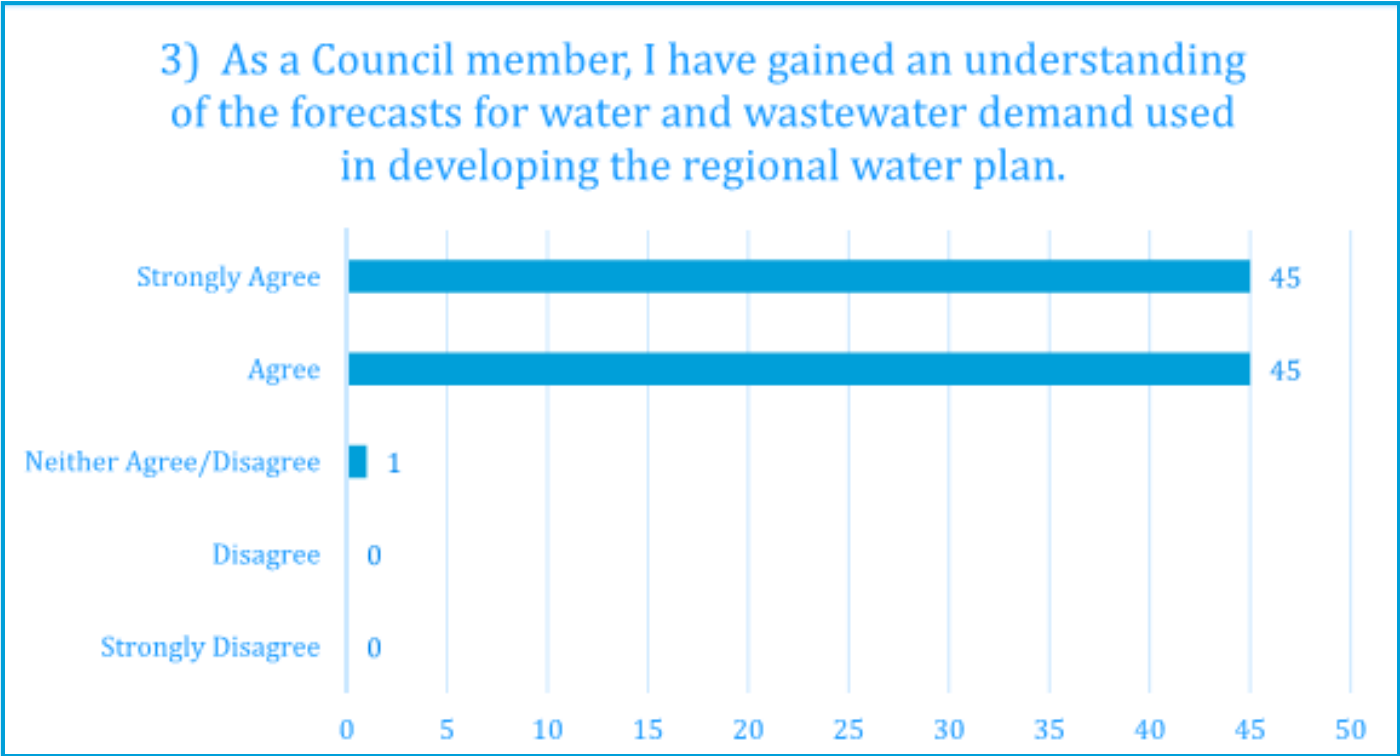
- Response: Varied
  - 40% agree or strongly agree
  - 32% disagreed
  - 24% neither agree/disagree



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

# Question 3 Response

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

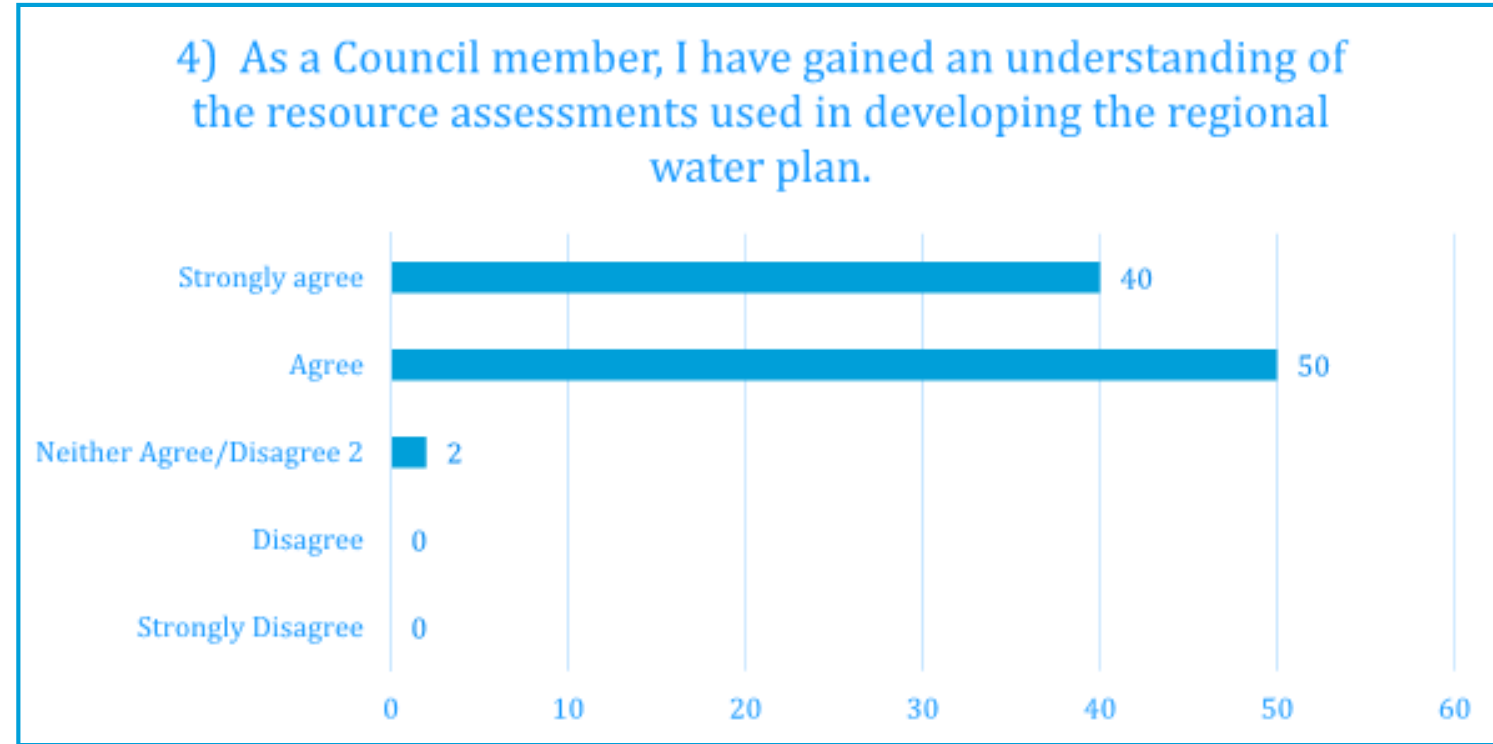


Source: Back & Veatch, 2017



# Question 4 Response

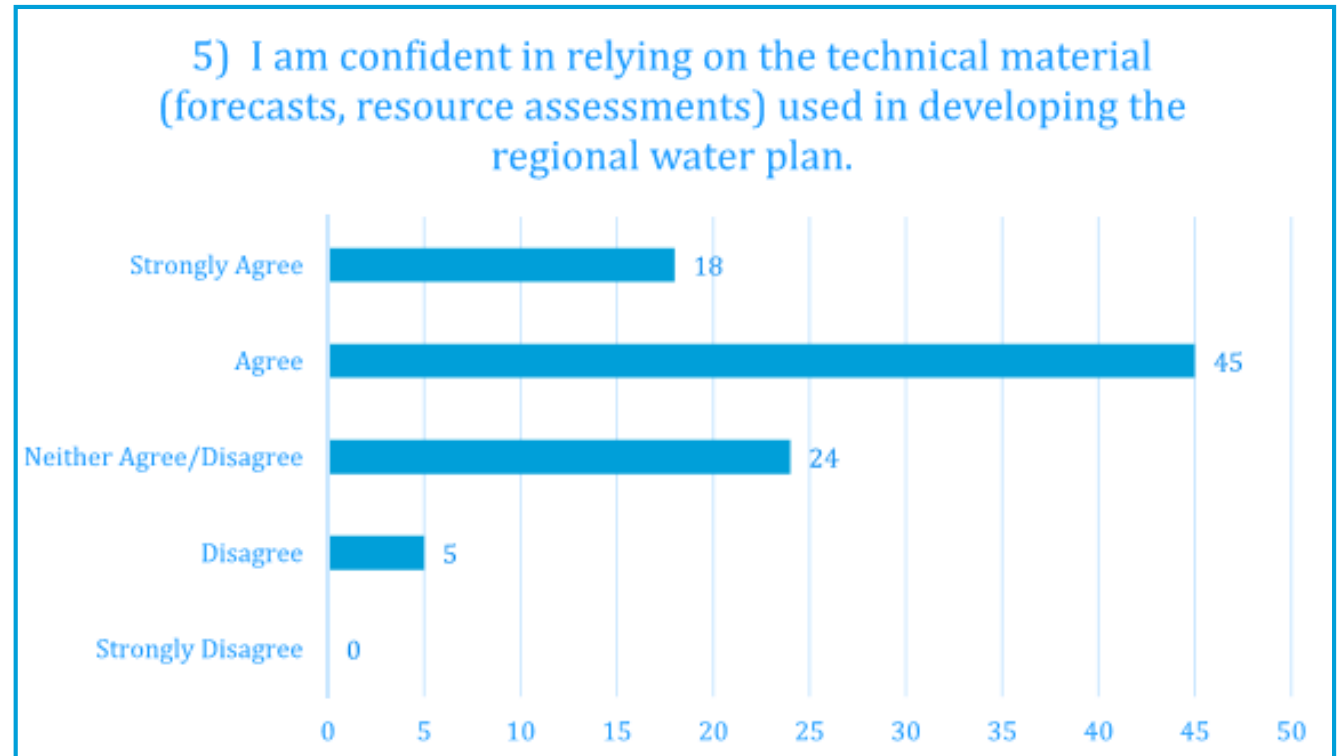
- Response: Agree with statement (98%)
  - 2% neither agree/disagree



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

# 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 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).

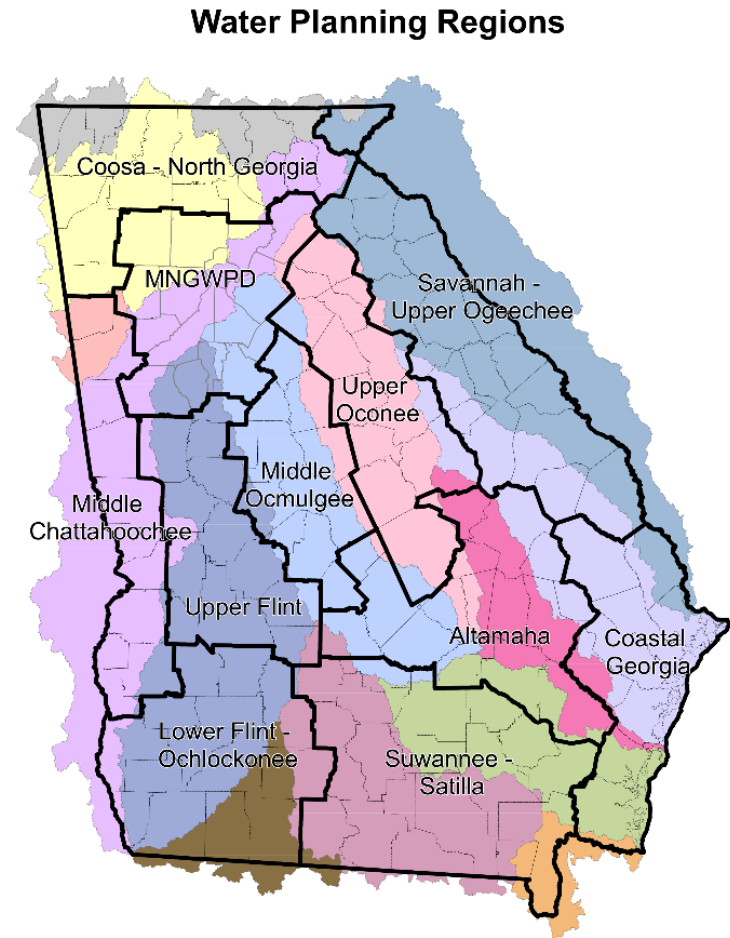


# Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

- 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 submitted by Dr. Gary Hawkins (Crop and Soil Science Department, University of Georgia)
- Notified of grant award in early March
- Includes three of the RWP Councils: Altamaha, Coastal and Suwannee-Satilla
- Implements three recommended management practices



# 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 proposes 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
- Watershed protection, habitat restoration, groundwater and streamflow monitoring opportunities have all previously been posted.
- Wetland protection opportunity currently on the list.

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NEWS + GRANTS

Grants & Award Opportunities

Title	Grantor	Posted	Due
<a href="#">Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Grant Program</a>	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	Mar. 23	May. 14
<a href="#">Region 4 Wetland Program Development Grants</a>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Mar. 22	May. 7
<a href="#">Community Connect Grants</a>	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 22	May. 14
<a href="#">Local Food Promotion Program</a>	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 19	May. 7
<a href="#">Farmers Market Promotion Program</a>	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 19	May. 7
<a href="#">Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grants</a>	Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation	Mar. 13	May. 24
<a href="#">Employment Incentive Program</a>	Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)	Mar. 13	Dec. 31
<a href="#">Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants</a>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Mar. 13	Apr. 26
<a href="#">Rural Business Development Grants</a>	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Mar. 13	Apr. 30
<a href="#">Wells Fargo Corporate Giving</a>	Wells Fargo	Mar. 7	Apr. 1
<a href="#">Accessible Golf Program Grants</a>	National Alliance for Accessible Golf	Mar. 6	Dec. 31

Like 0

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:  705137

SUBSCRIBE

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\) Support Program](#)  
Due: March 29, 2018

[Georgia Humanities Grants](#)  
Due: March 30, 2018

[FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program](#)  
Due: March 31, 2018

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

# GEFA Funding Updates

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- 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

Entity	Project	Date	Amount
City of Clayton	Sewer Rehabilitation	2/23/2015	\$2,000,000
City of Sylvania	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	5/5/2015	\$1,700,000
City of Elberton	Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades	7/24/2015	\$1,400,000
City of Hartwell	WWTP Rehabilitation	2/22/2016	\$1,000,000
City of Millen	Millen Water Solar Project	4/21/2016	\$1,030,000
Town of Camak	Camak 2016 Sewer Project	1/20/2017	\$100,000
City of Grovetown	Sewerage System Improvements, New Water Pollution Control Plant 3.0 mgd	8/9/2017	\$23,224,100
City of Maysville	Sewer Rehabilitation and Pump Station Replacements	10/19/2017	\$1,196,000
City of Royston	Sewage treatment plant improvements	11/7/2017	\$2,000,000

# GEFA Funding Updates *(cont.)*

- Drinking Water loan/grant program

Entity	Project	Date	Amount
City of Lavonia	City of Lavonia Automated Water Meter Project	9/23/2014	\$465,000
Madison County Industrial Development and Building Authority	Water System Improvements	12/15/2014	\$1,500,000
Hart County Water and Sewer Utility Authority	Bethany Church Area Water Improvements	2/26/2015	\$2,000,000
City of Clayton	Water Stewardship Program	3/18/2015	\$750,000
Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority	Rabun County WTF	7/20/2015	\$2,500,000
City of Maysville	West Side Water Improvements	3/22/2016	\$2,145,000
City of Millen	Millen Solar Project	4/21/2016	\$165,000
City of Hartwell	WTP Rehabilitation and Upgrade	10/13/2016	\$3,863,000
Town of Bartow	Water Tank Repair	3/3/2017	\$174,000
City of Comer	AMR Meters and Water Lines	9/18/2017	\$487,000

# GEFA Funding Updates *(cont.)*

- Georgia Fund loan program

Entity	Project	Date	Amount
City of Danielsville	South Tank Project	5/30/2014	\$599,900
City of Comer	Water System Improvements	9/19/2014	\$250,000
City of Sylvania	Replace Cemetery Lift Station	9/28/2016	\$372,000
City of Grovetown	Euchee Creek Interceptor Extension	12/6/2016	\$468,000
City of Washington	Sewer rehab at industrial park	10/6/2017	\$400,000



# Legislative Update and EPD Permitting Activity Updates



# Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments



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## Next Steps / Wrap Up

# 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 Savannah-Upper Ogeechee to discuss local issues within their region so Council is more informed
  - Others?



# Next Steps During Interim Period

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- Schedule Quarterly Meetings
  - Target next meeting timeframe (Jul/Aug)
  - Discuss potential for scheduling a joint meeting with the Coastal Georgai Water Planning Council

# Thank You!

Questions? Comments? Need  
More Information?

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