

Memorandum

To: Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council
From: Lee Smith, CDM Smith
Date: November 15, 2018
Subject: Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Council Meeting
Draft Meeting Summary (subject to Council review and approval)

This memorandum provides a summary of the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee (SUO) Regional Water Planning Council Meeting, held on November 8, 2018 at the Screven County Community Center, 1605 Millen Highway, Sylvania. The meeting was open to the public and was held immediately after the conclusion of the joint meeting with the Coastal Georgia (CG) Regional Water Planning Council.

This memorandum summarizes the proceedings of the SUO Regional Water Planning Council meeting. A Joint Meeting Summary was prepared as a separate document.

SUO Regional Water Planning Council Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at approximately 12:35 pm. Council members and other attendees identified themselves (see list at end of summary).

The Chairman asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the previous council meeting and the agenda for the current meeting. The minutes and agenda were approved unanimously by the council members.

New Website

Chairman Cross recapped opportunities for the region's web page, as discussed during the joint meeting.

Seed Grant Ideas

Chairman Cross asked for project ideas for seed grant funding. The Savannah Riverkeeper suggested applying for a grant to purchase new water quality monitoring equipment. Georgia EPD staff stated they would check with their monitoring program to avoid any duplication of efforts. Chairman Cross said he would check with other entities to gauge interest in serving as a grant applicant.

Council Membership/Leadership

Chairman Cross reminded the Council that he will be stepping down as the Chair at the end of the year. The Council discussed the need for additional appointments to the Council, and EPD staff stated that they would work with the Council to develop recommendations for future appointments. Council members also discussed the need to reach out to other agencies and involve more stakeholders in the process. EPD referred the Council to the Coosa-North GA Regional Water Planning Council's use of the Northwest Georgia Water Resources Partnership as a potential model for engaging stakeholders in the regional water planning process. The

Council agreed that looking to that model, as well as examples from other appointed bodies, might provide ideas for consideration.

Meeting Minutes

One council member stated that he would prefer to receive meeting minutes sooner. PC will develop a standardized process for finalizing and circulating minutes.

Local Official/Public Comment Period

The Chair then asked if any public officials were present. Other than Council members, none were present. The Savannah Riverkeeper noted that the Council has been very helpful in raising awareness of the region's water resources issues and thanked the Chair for his leadership of the Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

Council Members

- Ron C. Cross, Chairman
- Charles Cawthon
- Dan T. Fowler
- Patrick D. Goran
- Scott P. MacGregor
- Larry S. Walker
- R. Lee Webster
- Allen Saxon (proxy for Tom Wiedmeier)
- D. Scott Williams

Georgia EPD

- Jennifer Welte
- Haydn Blaize
- Hailian Liang

Planning Contractors (PC)

- Leland Smith (CDM Smith)
- Laura Hartt (Jacobs Engineering)

Public

- Tonya Bonitatibus (Savannah Riverkeeper)