



Georgia's  
**State Water Plan**

**Altamaha Water Planning Council**  
**January 30, 2018**

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# Council Meeting Agenda



## Altamaha Regional Water Council Meeting Draft Agenda – January 30, 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

9:30–10:00	Registration
10:00–10:15	Welcome and Introductions - Ed Jeffords
	Approve meeting minutes from June 8, 2017 Council Meeting
	Approve meeting agenda
10:15-10:45	Review of Regional Water Plan Outreach Materials - Danielle Honour
	-Altamaha RWP Fact Sheet
	-Altamaha RWP PowerPoint Presentation
10:45 -11:15	Council Member Survey Results - Danielle Honour/Jennifer Welte
11:15 -11:45	EPD Seed Grant Opportunity Review and Timelines - Danielle Honour/Shayne Wood
11:45-12:00 pm	319(h) Grant Update - Rahn Milligan, Pine Country RC&D
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Jaycee Landing Project - Leigh Elkins, Carl Vinson Institute of Government
1:15 - 1:30	EPD Permitting Activity Updates - Jennifer Welte
1:30-1:45	Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments
1:45 - 2:00	Next Steps / Wrap Up
2:00	Adjourn



## Council Business

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# 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

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# RWP Outreach Materials – Fact Sheet

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

2017 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

ALTAMAHA REGION

**BACKGROUND**

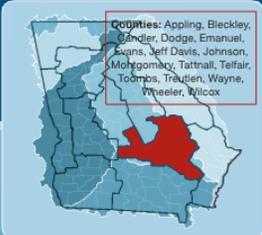
The Altamaha Regional Water Plan was initially completed in 2011 and subsequently updated in 2017. The plan outlines near-term and long-term strategies to meet water needs through 2050. The Altamaha River, formed by the confluence of the Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers, is the major surface water feature in the region. The Altamaha Region encompasses several major population centers including Vidalia, Jesup, Swainsboro, Eastman, and Glennville.

**OVERVIEW OF ALTAMAHA REGION**

The Altamaha Region includes 16 counties in the south central portion of Georgia. Over the next 35 years, the population of the region is projected to increase from approximately 256,000 to 285,000 residents. Key economic drivers in the region include agriculture, forestry, professional and business services, education, healthcare, manufacturing, public administration, fishing and hunting, and construction.

Groundwater (the majority from the Floridan aquifer) is forecasted to meet about 70% of the water supply needs, with agricultural and industrial uses being the dominant demand sectors. Surface water is utilized to meet about 30% of the forecasted water supply needs, with agriculture and energy as the dominant demand sectors. The energy sector is a major user of surface water from the Altamaha River.

**ALTAMAHA WATER PLANNING REGION**



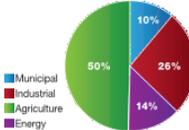
Counties: Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Montgomery, Tattall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wilcox

**KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL**

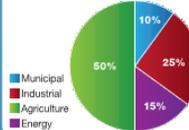
1. Current and future groundwater supplies for municipal/domestic, industrial and agricultural water use
2. Sufficient surface water quantity and quality to accommodate current and future surface water demands
3. Low dissolved oxygen and other water quality issues in streams during periods of low flow
4. Collaboration with other regions that share water resources to ensure that activities do not adversely impact water resources of either region
5. Climate and water supply variability and extremes

**FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS**

**2015 WATER DEMAND**  
TOTAL = 255 MGD



**2050 WATER DEMAND**  
TOTAL = 287 MGD





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ALTAMAHA REGION

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# 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 Altamaha Region over the planning horizon.

**SURFACE WATER QUALITY:** Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the need for improved wastewater treatment in some facilities within the Altamaha, Ocmulgee, Ogeechee, and Suwannee 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 Altamaha Region is projected to cause stream flows in the Canoochee River at the Claxton planning node to fall below targets for support of instream uses (resulting in "potential gaps"). Increased demand in the region may also add to modeled potential surface water gaps downstream of the region on the Ogeechee River at the Kings Ferry, Eden planning nodes, the Satilla River at the Atkinson node, and the Alapaha River at the Statenville 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 ALTAMAHA 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
Claxton	15	3	292
Eden	3.3	16	1,430
Kings Ferry	3	24	2,364
Statenville	12	21	684

\*Model simulation period is 1939 - 2013

### ALTAMAHA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Altamaha Plan describes over 60 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:** Implement practices in Water Stewardship Act; evaluate practices for agricultural water use in areas with shortfalls in streamflow; promote conservation education programs.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Provide incentives for dry-year releases from farm ponds, groundwater development, wetland restoration, and increases in wastewater returns.

**WASTEWATER & WATER QUALITY:** Increase permitted wastewater capacity; monitor nutrient pollution; implement nutrient management practices.

**INFORMATION NEEDS:** Study human impacts on water quality; refine agricultural consumption data; research groundwater potential to address surface water shortfalls; irrigation efficiency education and research; study impacts of wetland restoration on streamflow; monitor and evaluate estuaries.

**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; continue monitoring to help conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources.

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

# RWP Outreach Materials – Presentation

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- [Switch to RWP Powerpoint]



# Council Member Survey Results

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# 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



*Altamaha River*

# 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, the contractors are still working on drafting their recommendations to EPD
- Updates will be provided as this process moves forward

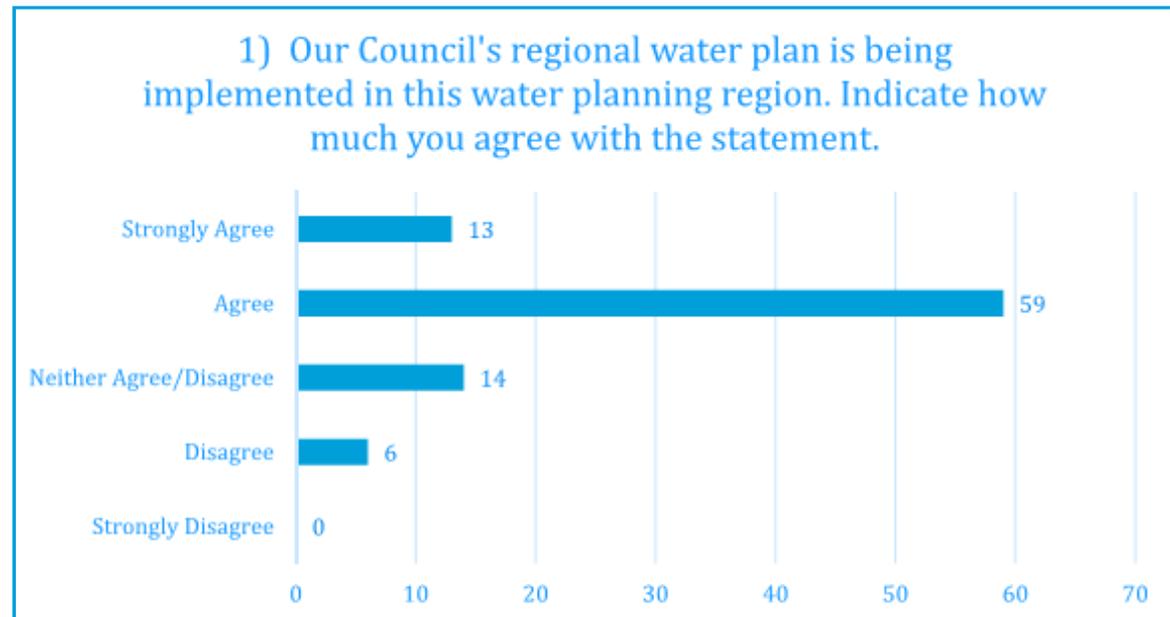
# Council Member Survey Results

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- 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

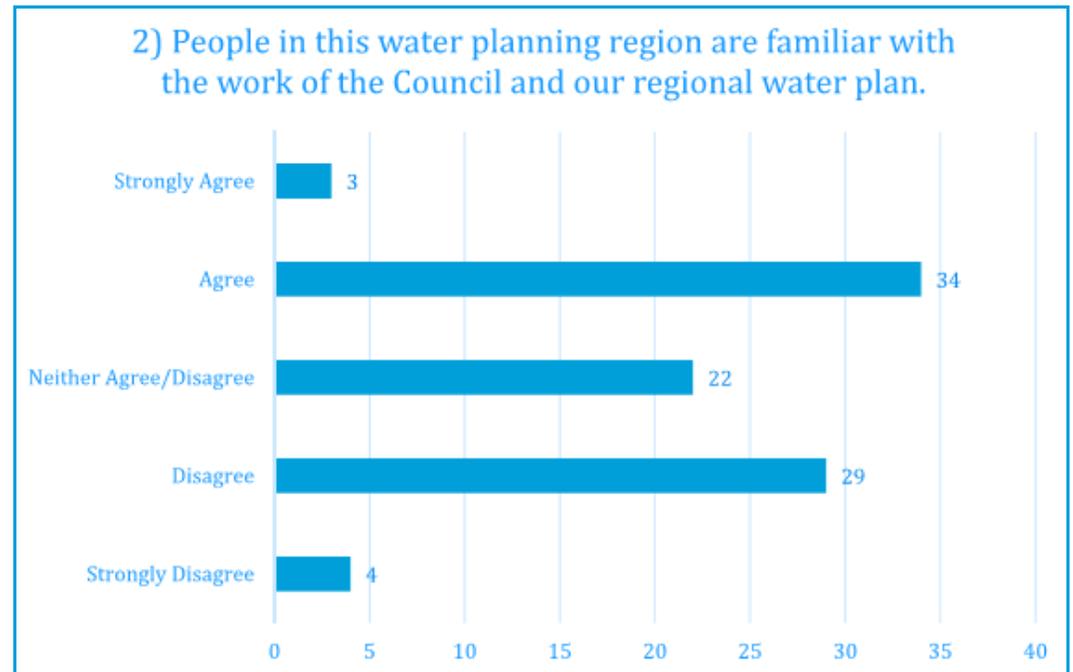
- Response: Agree with statement (78%)
  - 15% neither agree/disagree
  - <7% disagreed



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

# Question 2 Response

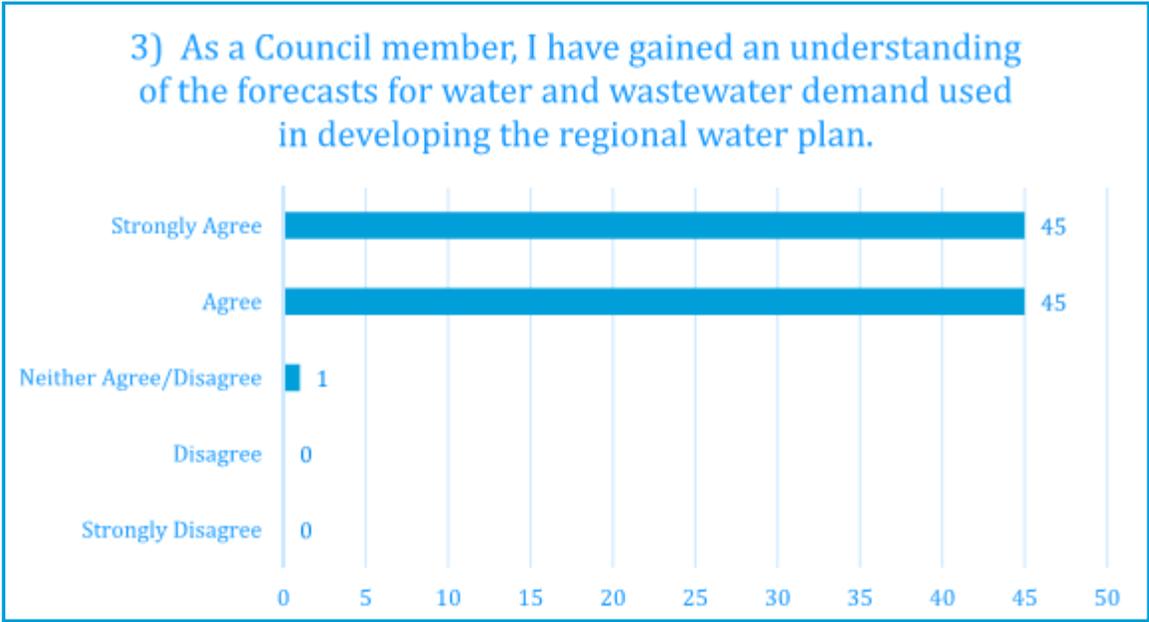
- Response: Varied
  - 40% agree or strongly agree
  - 32% disagreed
  - 24% neither agree/disagree



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

# Question 3 Response

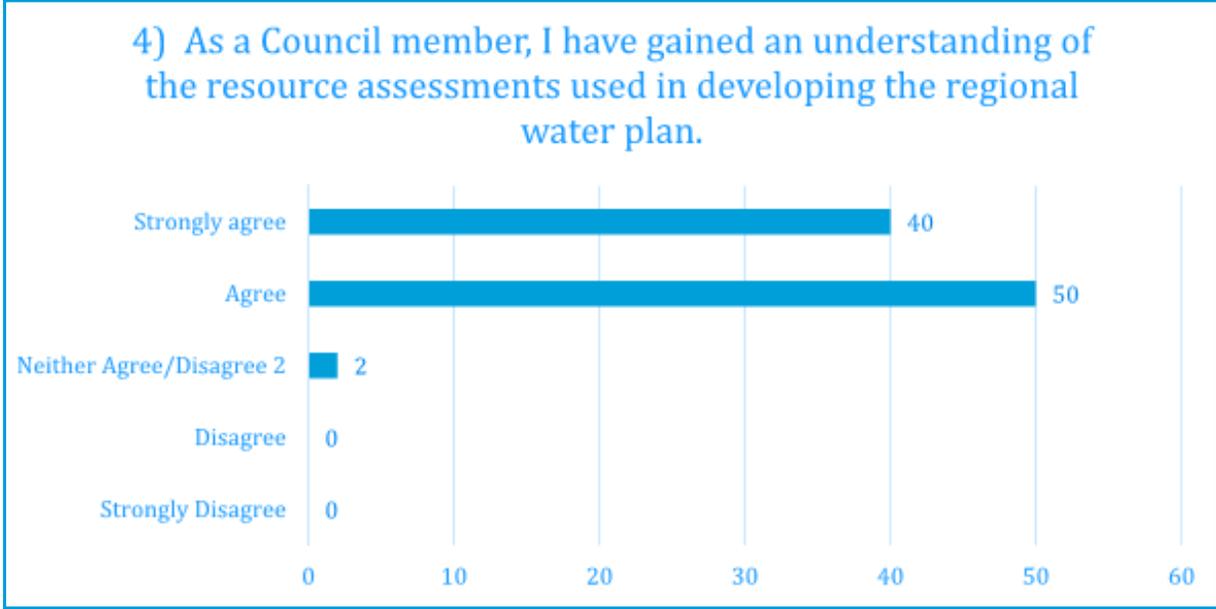
- Response: Agree with statement (90 %)
  - 1 respondent neither agrees/disagrees



Source: Back & Veatch, 2017

# Question 4 Response

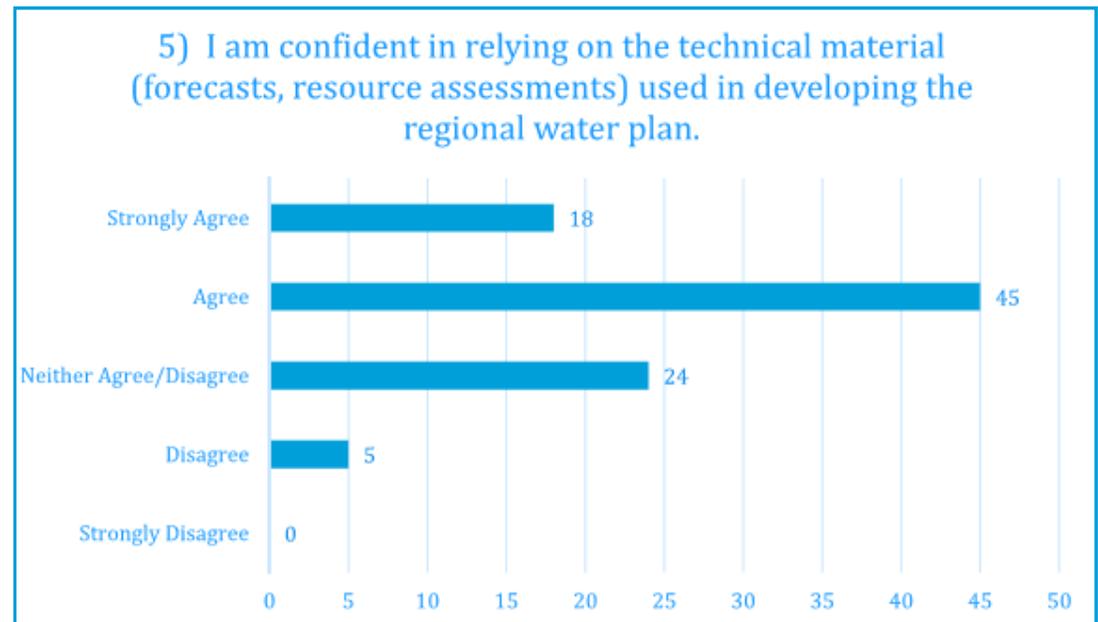
- Response: Agree with statement (98%)
  - 2% neither agree/disagree



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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Funds

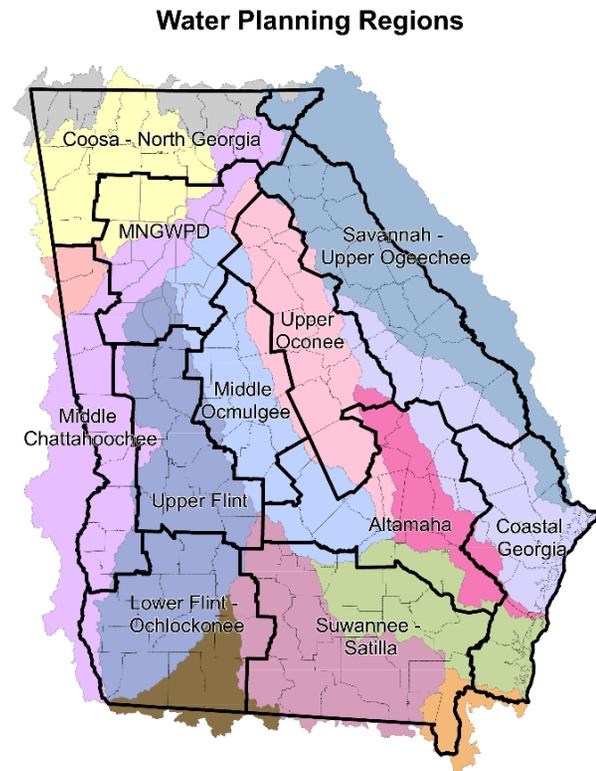
- In October 2017, EPD announced the availability of state fiscal year 2018 funds to support the continuation of the Regional Water Plan Seed Grant program
- A total of \$300,000 is available for competitive grants
- Project proposals:
  - Had to address implementation of management practice(s) or other 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 submitted by Dr. Gary Hawkins (Crop and Soil Science Department, University of Georgia)
- Includes three of the RWP Councils: Altamaha, Coastal and Suwannee-Satilla
- Implements two of the management practices common to all the RWPs and one management practice specific to our region



# 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

- Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program Grant (Due January 2018)
  - Grantor: U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Offers a two-year cooperative agreement opportunity to state or local water-resources agencies that collect groundwater data to participate in the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network
- Longleaf Stewardship Fund Grant (Due February 2018)
  - Grantor: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
  - Soliciting proposals to expand and enhance longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and management across longleaf pine's historical range, as well as the restoration and enhancement of bottomland hardwood forests within priority focal areas

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

# Other Grant Funding Opportunities

- Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program (Due January 2018)
  - Grantor: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
  - Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and stormwater management. Projects should also increase access to the benefits of nature, reduce the impact of environmental hazards and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach and implementation.

# Other Grant Funding Opportunities

- Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program (Due February 2018)
  - Grantor: U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities, Inc.
  - Primary focus for applicants should be protection and stewardship of land in the watershed, rather than restoration of degraded habitats or projects with a strictly water quality improvement

# GEFA Funding Updates

- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
  - Funds provided to various projects in the region through loans, or combination of loans/grants
- Loans for land acquisitions
  - \$25M loan to The Conservation Fund to acquire 19,577 acres of Sansavilla property on the Altamaha River in Wayne and Glynn Counties (Nov. '14) – now the Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area
  - \$20M loan to The Conservation Fund to acquire 11,000 acres in Bryan, Bulloch, Jeff Davis & Appling Counties (Jun. '16) – part of Bullard WMA

# GEFA Funding Updates

- Clean Water loan/grant program
  - Appling Co., Baxley WWTP, \$1.8M 650 KW solar array project (Jan. '16)
  - Bleckley Co., Cochran, \$4M sewer rehabilitation project (Aug. '15 - Feb. '16)
    - Includes rehabilitation of existing sewer lines and manholes to reduce inflow and infiltration and prevent sewage overflows
  - Johnson Co., Wrightsville, \$5.3M sewer rehabilitation project (Feb. '16)
    - Includes video of all sewer lines and repairs of deficient sewer mains/lines
  - Wayne Co., Jesup WWTP, \$1.7M solar array project (Dec. '16)

# GEFA Funding Updates

- Drinking Water loan/grant program
  - Bleckley Co., Cochran, \$2.57M water distribution upgrades project (Feb. '16)
    - Includes meter replacement, tank rehabilitation & line replacements
  - Evans Co., Claxton, \$2.85M water system improvements projects (May '14 – Jan. '16)
  - Tattnall Co., Glennville, \$0.95M water meter replacement project (Feb. '16)
    - Installation of approximately 1,700 residential meters
  - Telfair Co., McRae-Helena, \$2.3M water system improvements (Oct. '17)
    - Connecting two water systems, including rehabilitations and upgrades

# GEFA Funding Updates

- Georgia Fund loan program
  - Dodge Co., Chester, \$609k LAS rehabilitation project (Jun. '15)
  - Emanuel Co. Development Authority, \$920k water system improvements project (Nov. '17)
  - Telfair Co., McRae-Helena, \$1.8M for pump stations at Helena & Telfair State Prison (Jul, '15)
  - Telfair Co., Scotland, \$250k for removal of radon from wells (Feb. '15)
  - Wilcox Co., Abbeville, \$139k to extend water and sewer service to the Abbeville Industrial Park (Nov. '16)
  - Wilcox Co., Rochelle, \$283k to extend water and sewer service to Wilcox County School (Aug. '16)

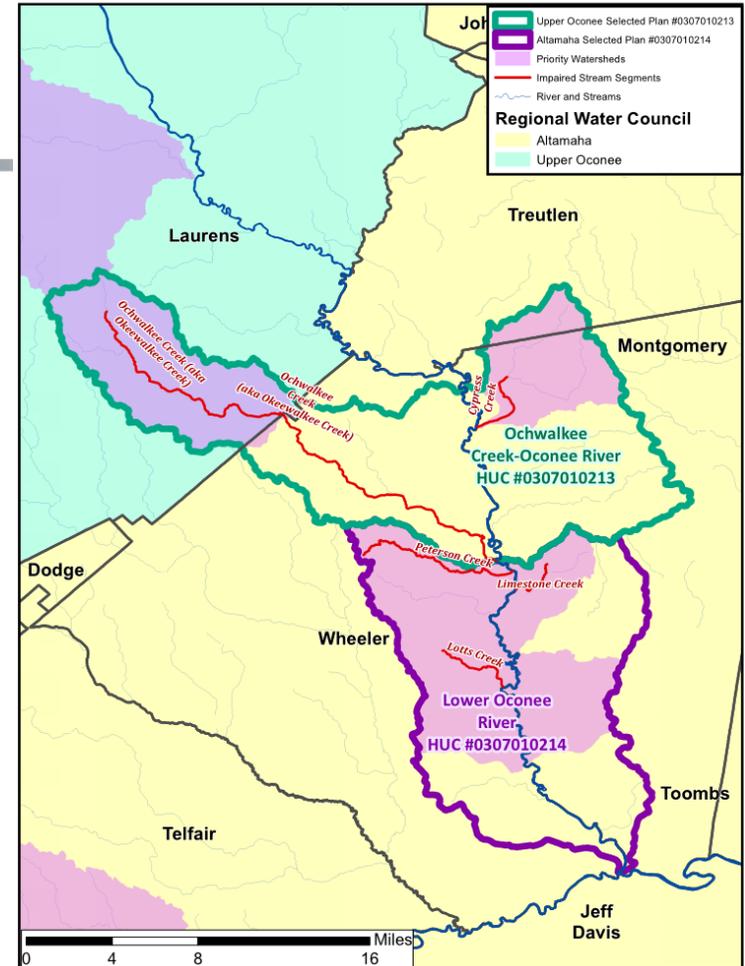


# Section 319(h) Georgia's Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Funding

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# 319(h) Grant Funding

- Council selected the priority water area in Montgomery and Wheeler Counties (Peterson Creek, Limestone Creek and Lotts Creek)
- Upper Oconee Council selected priority watershed Ochwalkee Creek that borders the Altamaha region (includes areas in Montgomery, Wheeler and a small part of Treutlen Counties)





## Jaycee Landing Project Update

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)



## EPD Permitting Activity Updates

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# EPD Permitting Updates: Water Withdrawals

- City of Abbeville (Wilcox Co.)
  - New municipal groundwater withdrawal permit
  - Issued Sept. 2016
  - 0.864 MGD monthly avg. / 0.675 annual avg. withdrawal from the Floridan aquifer
- Chemours Company, LLC - Amelia A&B Mines (Wayne Co.)
  - New industrial groundwater withdrawal permit
  - Issued Dec. 2017
  - 0.605 MGD monthly/annual avg. withdrawal from the Floridan aquifer

# EPD Permitting Updates: Wastewater Discharges

- City of Wrightsville – Ohoopee WPCP (Johnson Co.)
  - Expansion of municipal wastewater discharge permit (Oct. 1, 2017)
  - From 0.75 to 1.0 MGD monthly avg. discharge
  - Outfall relocated from Big Cedar Creek to the Ohoopee River
- Chemours Company – Amelia A&B Mine (Wayne Co.)
  - New industrial wastewater discharge permit (Aug. 1, 2017)
  - Titanium surface mining operation with discharge of approx. 0.142 MGD process water to Milliken Bay



# Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)



## Next Steps / Wrap Up

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# Next Steps During Interim Period

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- 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 Altamaha 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

# Thank You!

Questions? Comments? Need  
More Information?

[Honourdm@cdmsmith.com](mailto:Honourdm@cdmsmith.com)

[Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov)