



Georgia's **State Water Plan**

**Altamaha Regional Water Planning
Council Meeting 10
February 17, 2011**

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

Registration

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Welcome and Introductions, Recap CM9, Approve CM9 Summary, Approve CM10 Agenda

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM



**Altamaha Regional Water Council Meeting 10
Draft Agenda - February 17, 2010**

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) Review Draft Regional Water Plan and Seek Council Approval
- 2) Discuss Next Steps for Finalizing the Regional Water Plan - Public Comment

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome and Introductions - Chair & PC <i>Recap CM9, Approve CM9 Summary, Approve CM10 Agenda</i>
9:15-10:15	Review Draft Regional Water Plan - PC & Council Subcommittees <i>Subcommittee report out and discussion of Draft Water Plan Contents</i>
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:50	Review Draft Regional Water Plan - Continued <i>Subcommittee report out and discussion of Draft Water Plan Contents</i>
11:50- 12:00	Next Steps for Finalizing the Regional Water Plan - PC <i>Overview of schedule and public comment process for regional water plan</i>
12:00- 12:15	Local Elected Official Comments - PC
12:15 - 12:30	Public Comments - PC
12:30-1:15	Lunch - Wrap Up/Council Meeting 11 Preview

Council Meeting 11 - Date and Location

- Council Meeting 11 – Respond to public comments on Draft Plan
 - **Late June or July, 2011**
 - **Location - ??**

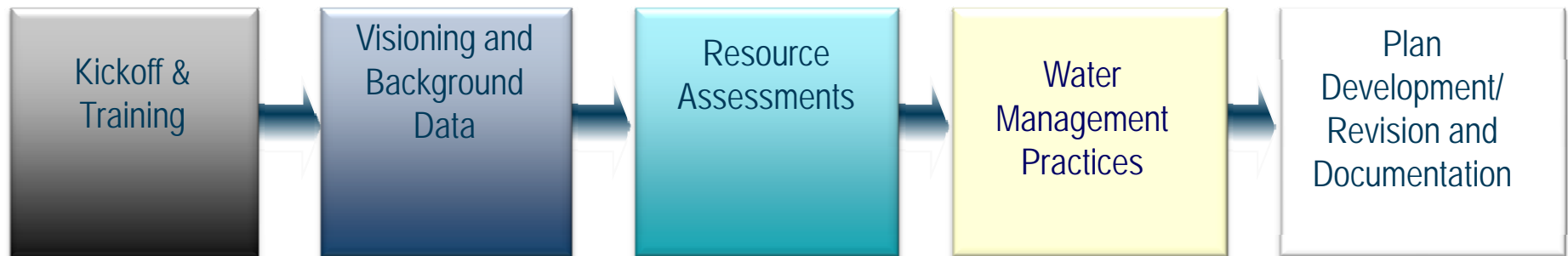
Recap of Council Meeting 9

- Selected final management practices for regional water resources;
- Discussed final information considerations for Energy Forecasts;
- Reviewed status of Water Plan drafting;
- Discussed water quality, including TMDL listed streams and 319 grant program; and
- Reviewed schedule for completing the Regional Water Plan.

Council Meeting 10 Objectives

- Review Draft Regional Water Plan and seek Council approval; and
- Discuss next steps for finalizing the Regional Water Plan – Public Comment

Overview of Regional Water Planning Process



Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan 3 Year Implementation Schedule		2008				2009				2010				2011													
		April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May
1	Resource Assessments																										
2	Data Management and Compilation (SWAVAIL); (SWQUAL); (GW)																										
3	Unimpaired Flow Development (SWAVAIL)																										
4	Current Consumptive Use Assessment Modeling & Report (SWAVAIL)																										
5	Model Development and Calibration (SWQUAL)																										
6	Current Assimilative Capacity Modeling & Report (SWQUAL)																										
7	Conceptual Model and Calibration (GW)																										
8	Determine Sustainable Yield & Report (GW)																										
9	Forecasting																										
10	Population and Employment																										
11	Irrigated Acreage and Crop Type / Agricultural Water Use																										
12	Energy Water Use																										
13	Land Use																										
14	Guidance Development*																										
15	Technical Guidance on Best Practices																										
16	Water Conservation Implementation Plan																										
17	Water Planning Guidance																										
18	Water Conservation Guidance																										
19	Rulemaking																										
20	Permitting Water Withdrawals and Discharges (Plan Section 3)																										
21	Water Conservation (Plan Section 8)																										
22	Interbasin Transfer (Plan Section 10)																										
23	Water Quality Standards - Dissolved Oxygen (Plan Section 12)																										
24	Water Quality Standards - Bacteria (Plan Section 12)																										
25	Coordinated Environmental Planning (Plan Section 13)																										
26	Regional Planning (Plan Section 14)																										
27	Regional Planning																										
28	Regional Planning Boundaries																										
29	Nominations/ Appointments																										
30	Kickoff Meeting, Training, MOA																										
31	Regional Visioning																										
32	Municipal and Industrial Water and Wastewater Forecasting																										
33	Presentation of Assessments and Forecasts to Councils																										
34	Prepare Plan's Background Sections																										
35	Initial Selection of Management Practices																										
36	Initial Future Assessments (Modeling)																										
37	Refinement of Management Practices																										
38	Future Assessment Refinement (Modeling)																										
39	Final Selection of Management Practices																										
40	Final Future Assessments (Modeling)																										
41	Recommended Draft Regional Plans to EPD																										
42	EPD Review / Public Comment																										
43	Councils Revise Plans																										
44	EPD Adopts Regional Plans																										

Review Draft Regional Water Plan – PC & Council Subcommittee

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Section 1. Introduction

- The Altamaha Regional Water Planning Council, established in February 2009 under the State Water Plan, has adopted a Vision and Goals for prioritizing water resource use and management within the region.
- These guiding principles were used to identify and select water management practices that best address the needs and resource conditions of the Altamaha Region.

Section 2. The Altamaha Water Planning Region

- The Altamaha Region encompasses 16 counties in the south central portion of Georgia. Predominant land uses in the region include agriculture, forest, and wetland areas.
- The Altamaha River, formed by the confluence of the Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers, is the major surface water resource in the region.
- The Upper Floridian Aquifer, one of the most productive aquifers in the United States, is the primary source of groundwater in the region.

Section 2. The Altamaha Water Planning Region (continued)

- The regional domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, thermoelectric power, and recreational water uses are vital to the region's economy and quality of life.

Section 3. Water Resources of the Altamaha Region

- In 2005, surface water and groundwater withdrawal in the Altamaha Region totaled approximately 237 MGD to accommodate municipal, industrial, agricultural, and energy demands.
- The majority of wastewater in the region is disposed of as a point source discharge from municipal, industrial, and energy uses.

Section 3. Water Resources of the Altamaha Region (continued)

- Under current conditions, surface water availability gaps exist within the region. In addition, gaps outside the region may be associated with water use in the region.
- Under current conditions, surface water quality gaps exist within the region due to limited dissolved oxygen to assimilate wastewater discharges.
- There are currently no groundwater gaps in the region.

Section 4. Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

- Over the next 40 years, the population in the Altamaha region is projected to grow by 49 percent, increasing the demands for surface water and groundwater and increasing the quantity of wastewater generated.
- Total water withdrawals by municipal, industrial, agricultural, and energy sectors are forecasted to increase 34 percent (90 MGD) from 2010 to 2050.
- Total wastewater flows are projected to increase by 34 percent (36 MGD) over the same period.

Section 5. Comparison of Available Resource Capacity and Future Needs

- Over the next 40 years, forecasted surface water demand within the Altamaha Region will exceed the available resource in the Canoochee River. Increased demand in the region may also add to surface water gaps downstream of the region on the Ogeechee River at the Kings Ferry planning node, the Satilla River at Atkinson node, and the Alapaha river at the Statenville node.
- Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the need for improved wastewater treatment in some facilities within the Ogeechee, Altamaha, Ocmulgee, and Suwannee river basins.

Section 5. Comparison of Available Resource Capacity and Future Needs (continued)

- At the regional level, for modeled aquifers, no groundwater resource gaps are expected to occur in the Altamaha Region over the 40 year planning horizon.

Section 6. Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals

- The Altamaha Regional Council selected management practices to help address surface water low flow conditions at the Claxton and shared resource planning nodes, and to provide for sustainable use and development of groundwater and surface water in non-gaps areas.
- Water quality management practices focus on addressing dissolved oxygen conditions at select locations and best management practices to address non-point sources of pollution and help reduce nutrient sources.

Section 6. Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals (continued)

- Additional water and wastewater permit capacity and new/upgraded infrastructure will be needed to address existing and/or future uses.

Section 7. Implementing Water Management Practices

- Implementation of the Altamaha Regional Plan will be primarily by various water users and wastewater utilities in the region. The most cost-effective and more readily implemented management practices will be prioritized for short-term implementation via an incremental and adaptive approach. If resource needs are not met and/or gaps are not closed, then more costly and complex management practices will be pursued.
- As new information becomes available, it is important the Plan remain a living document and be updated to incorporate new findings.

Section 8. Monitoring and Reporting Progress

- The Altamaha Regional Council has identified several benchmarks and means to measure progress toward meeting regional needs and goals. In most cases, efforts will require significant coordination between affected water resource managers, and local and state government.
- Successful implementation will be dependent on adequate financing, leadership and support by state agencies, and collaboration by multiple stakeholders.

Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Review Draft Regional Water Plan (continued) – PC & Council Subcommittee

10:30 AM – 11:50 AM

Next Steps for Finalizing the Regional Water Plan – PC

11:50 AM – 12:00 PM

Schedule of Remaining Water Plan Tasks

Altamaha Regional Water Council Timeline	2011							
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Finalize Draft Plan and Submit to EPD	■	■						
EPD Review		■	■	■				
Public Comment Period				■	■			
Revise Plans Based on Public and EPD Comment and Submit Final Plan						■	■	■

Local Elected Official Comments – PC

12:00 PM – 12:15 PM

Public Comments – PC

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

Lunch, Wrap Up, CM11 Preview

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM