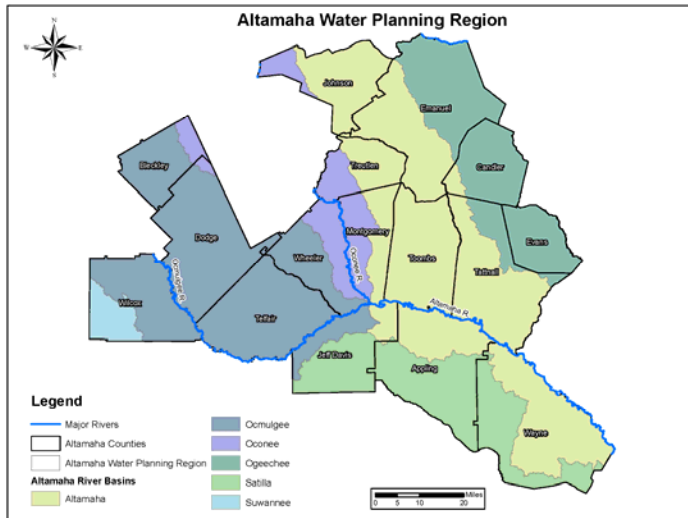




Georgia's State Water Plan

Adopted Vision and Goals Altamaha Regional Water Planning Council



A major element of Georgia's state and regional planning process is the identification of the region's vision and goals that describe the economic, population, environmental and water use conditions that are desired for the region. The vision and goals articulate what is important to the regional water planning Council in regard to water resource use and management. This information will be used to help guide the identification and selection of water

management practices for the region and to help other regions of the state understand the priorities and values of the Altamaha region.

The following vision statement for the region was adopted by the Council at the September 17, 2009 meeting. The Council intends to revisit this vision statement over the coming months and make necessary amendments to the statement as more information becomes available during the water planning process.

Vision Statement – September 17, 2009

The vision of the Altamaha Regional Water Planning Council is to wisely manage, develop, and protect the region's water resources for current and future generations by ensuring that the Altamaha basin's water resources are sustainably managed to enhance quality of life and public health, protect natural systems, and support the basin's economy.

The Council has also identified the following goals for the region. These goals were adopted by Council at the November 19, 2009 meeting. The Council intends to revisit these goals over the coming months and make necessary amendments as more information becomes available during the water planning process. It is important to note that the goals are not presented in order of priority.

Goals – November 19, 2009

The Altamaha Regional Water Planning Council recognizes that we are generally not the primary implementation entity associated with water resource development, use, and management. Nevertheless, the Council wishes to express meaningful, action oriented goals for the future use and management of water resources in our region. The following goals are identified with this principle in mind.

Water Systems/Supply Sustainability

- Help ensure protection and management of surface and groundwater recharge areas to ensure sufficient long-term water supplies for the region.
- Identify opportunities to maximize and optimize existing and future supplies.
- Promote water conservation and water use efficiency for all water use sectors to allow for sufficient long-term water supplies.
- Identify opportunities to better prepare for, and respond to, climate and water supply variability and extremes.
- Identify and implement cost effective water management strategies.

Economic Sustainability and Development

- Manage and develop water resources to sustainably and reliably meet domestic, commercial, agricultural, and industrial water needs.
- Manage ground and surface water to encourage sustainable economic and population growth in the region.
- Identify opportunities to minimize excessive regulations and the resulting negative economic impacts (especially in rural areas); while maintaining quality and quantity of water supply.

Quality of Life and Public Health Enhancement

- Ensure an adequate water supply of suitable quality to meet current and future human, environmental and recreational needs of the region and citizens of Georgia.
- Optimize existing water and wastewater infrastructure, including identifying opportunities to implement regional water and wastewater facilities.
- Identify opportunities to manage water, wastewater, and stormwater to improve water quantity and quality, while providing for wise land management, wetland protection, and wildlife sustainability
- Work collaboratively with other regions that share resources to help ensure that activities outside the Altamaha region do not adversely impact the region.