



Georgia's State Water Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Middle Ocmulgee Regional Council Meeting 3

Pre-Meeting Materials

- CM3 Draft Agenda
- Cover Letter from Chair and Co-Chair
- Meeting Summary for July 13, 2009 - Council Leadership Forum
- Resource Assessment/Joint Meeting Presentation Groupings
- Draft Public Involvement Plan

REMINDERS:

- The Planning Guidance document is available on line as a PDF (or link to on-line document) http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/pages/technical_guidance/regional_planning_guidance.php
- If you have not submitted your Vision Statement Exercise please send your draft vision and goals to charlotte.weber@jgg.com or via fax at (678)432-7818

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Meeting location: Georgia Farm Bureau
1620 Bass Road
Macon, GA 31210
Contact Person: Ginger Huff
478-474-0679 ext 5203

For an overview of Judge Magnuson's July 17, 2009 ruling, how Georgia is responding and how the ruling impacts the work of the regional water planning councils is provided, please see the following posting of a memo from Dr. Couch dated August 25, 2009.

[http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/documents/20090825_Overview_of_Judge_Magnusons_ruling.p
df](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/documents/20090825_Overview_of_Judge_Magnusons_ruling.pdf)



Georgia's State Water Plan

Council Meeting
Draft Agenda

Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council

Meeting 3 Objectives:

September 10, 2009

- | |
|--|
| 1) Complete regional vision |
| 2) Plan for joint meetings to receive resource assessments and continue resource assessment discussion |
| 3) Receive final agricultural forecasts, begin municipal and industrial water forecasting |
| 4) Begin management practices training |

8:30–9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00–9:15	Welcome and Introductions <i>Summary of July 13 Meeting</i>
9:15–9:40	Planning Guidance <i>Guidance Overview</i>
9:40–10:00	Public Involvement Plan <i>Finalizing Public Involvement Plan for Council</i>
10:00–10:15	Break
10:15–10:45	Review Visioning/Goals
10:45–11:00	Planning For Joint Meetings <i>Purpose and Format of Joint Meetings</i>
11:00–11:45	Resource Assessments <i>Overview and Status Update on Resource Assessment Work</i>
11:45–12:00	Tri-State Water War/Recent Court Ruling
12:00–1:00	Lunch
1:00–2:00	Water Use Forecasts <i>Population and Employment Forecast Update</i> <i>Municipal and Industrial Water Demand Forecasting Methodology</i> <i>Final Agricultural Forecasts</i>
2:00–3:00	Management Practices <i>Introduction and Overview</i>
3:00–3:15	Break
3:15–3:45	Elected Official and Public Comments
3:45–4:00	Wrap Up/Council Meeting 3 Evaluation/Next Meeting



Georgia's State Water Plan

August 25, 2009

Dear Council Members:

We are looking forward to seeing you in our next Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council meeting on September 10, 2009. As you know, the meeting will be held at the offices of the Georgia Farm Bureau, at 1620 Bass Road, Macon, GA 31210.

We are writing to ask each of you to take time to review the attached draft agenda and the pre-meeting materials prior to the meeting. As we continue the planning process for the future of water in our region, members of the Council will be asked to make decisions that are crucial to promoting economic vitality and maintaining quality of life in the Middle Ocmulgee region. We cannot stress enough how important it is for each member of the council to come prepared to the meetings, so informed decisions can be made to move this process forward.

Please also visit our Regional Water Planning Council Website (<http://www.middleocmulgee.org/>). Information will be updated periodically by our Planning Contractor to include meeting materials and summaries from previous meetings.

Thank you again for your continued interest and involvement in this important process. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Elmo Richardson, P.E., Chair
Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Planning Council
elmoar@bellsouth.net

Ben Copeland, Jr., Vice-Chair
Middle Ocmulgee Regional Water Planning Council
bcopelandjr@supersod.com

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Chris Clark, Commissioner

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division
(404) 656-4713

July 21, 2009

Memorandum

To: Council Chairs and Vice Chairs

From: Carol A. Couch 

RE: Meeting Summary
Regional Water Planning Council Leadership Forum
July 13, 2009
Georgia Forestry Commission Macon, Georgia

Robert Farris, Commissioner of the Georgia Forestry Commission, gave a welcome to the meeting and briefly described key water activities that the Forestry Commission is involved with. The current Farm Bill requires state forest agencies that receive Cooperative Forestry funding to conduct a State Forest Assessment and Resource Strategy to provide a comprehensive analyses of forest related conditions, trends, threats and opportunities and to identify priority rural and urban forest landscapes. The Georgia Forestry Commission has a survey to indicate priority issues. Stakeholders and the public are encouraged to indicate their input by completing the survey at www.gatrees.org.

Carol Couch, Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), gave introductory remarks regarding the important work of the councils, the key role of the Chair and Vice Chair, and the regional planning work outlined in the State Water Plan. The participants did self-introductions, see attached attendees list. The Chairs and Vice Chairs developed the attached topics for discussion. Below is a summary of the key points and action items.

Population and Employment Forecasts – Many participants inquired about the population and employment forecasts, especially regarding needed revisions and use in the water plan. The following points were clarified: The forecasts released in May are draft. The comment period has been extended to July 17, 2009 in order to allow more time for more parties to provide input. All comments will be addressed. The final population forecasts are the responsibility of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). Once population forecasts are finalized, further adjustments will be made to determine the forecasted water needs for each region. The adjustments will include recognition of transient populations, military, and other factors that

influence water use. The Councils have an important role in providing comments for consideration by the OPB and then making the further adjustments in estimated water use. It is expected that OPB will issue final population forecasts in late August 2009.

Regional Water Planning Process – The Councils have the responsibility to develop the draft regional water plans. The Chairs and Vice Chairs are responsible for leading the Council and its efforts. The planning consultants are provided to assist with logistical, technical, and writing tasks at the direction of the Chair. The planning consultants are under contract to EPD. Any performance or coordination issues that cannot be resolved should be reported to Carol Couch.

Within the framework of the overall process, the Council activities, including meeting agendas, are to be set by the Chair with the assistance of the planning consultant. Prior to Council Leadership being established, the planning consultants and EPD took a much larger role in the first and second meetings than will be the case in the remainder of the meetings. The Councils, led by the Chair and Vice Chair, have the flexibility to organize the discussion to address appropriate regional issues and preferences of the group.

EPD will provide a public involvement plan template with the basic requirements. Councils may add items desired to develop the regional plan. State agencies (such as the Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and others) are sending representatives to the Council meetings. These state agency staff associates are a resource to the Council. The Council may also arrange for other guest speakers as determined by the Council.

In accordance with the State Water Plan, EPD is preparing guidance for regional planning. A summary was distributed at the meeting. The delivery of the full guidance is expected in 7 to ten days. It was delayed in order to consolidate a larger draft into a readable 30 pages containing the necessary information. There will be a conference call with Chairs and Vice Chairs to discuss the regional planning guidance approximately 2 weeks after it is issued.

Council Interactions – Carol Couch explained that the water resource assessments are being conducted on a watershed/aquifer basis. The same information will be available to multiple councils sharing a water resource. Several participants suggested that joint meetings be held to receive this information. This idea will be further refined and discussed with each Chair/Vice Chair.

Websites for Regional Councils – The statewide water planning website has been updated, but the launch was delayed due to technical difficulties. The regional sites, one for each council, will be launched by the end of this week. Chairs and Vice Chairs, with the assistance of the planning consultant, will be able to post relevant material or links to the Council site.

Metro District – The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro District) was formed in 2001 by specific legislation in advance of the formation of regional planning councils. The District prepared water plans in 2003 and an update was approved by EPD in early 2009.

Future updates of the Metro District Plans will follow the regional planning guidance and coordination will be necessary between the Metro District and neighboring councils.

Interstate Issues – Chairs and Vice Chairs inquired about the opportunity to include participation from neighboring states. It is important to note that the Water Plan is not a response to litigation with neighboring states, but an effort started after the last drought in Georgia. EPD is already coordinating with neighboring states and individual water users in other states on data compilation. It is appropriate to include representatives from neighboring communities in the regional planning process. Where we are in litigation with those neighbors, Council Chairs and Vice Chairs should work with Carol Couch on the options for participation.

Future Leadership Forums – There was some discussion about periodic meetings of this Leadership Forum to share ideas and progress with each other and to seek clarification on certain matters from EPD. Meetings may be in person or by teleconference.

Action Items – The following specific follow-up actions were discussed:

1. Every comment on the population forecasts will be specifically addressed.
2. Other factors (such as transient populations and military) will be included in the water use.
3. Carol Couch will inform OPB of the Council's interest to review population projections prior to finalization.
4. EPD will provide information to the Chairs and Vice Chairs about the scope of work and budget for the planning consultants.
5. Regional planning guidance will be issued in 7 to 10 days.
6. Chairs and Vice Chairs will review meeting summaries before posting.
7. Carol Couch will host a teleconference with Chairs and Vice Chairs regarding the regional planning guidance 10 to 14 days after release (release during week of July 20, teleconference in during first week of August).
8. Carol Couch will provide a briefing of ACT/ACF issues for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Coosa and Middle Chattahoochee Councils.
9. Periodic meetings and/or teleconferences of this Leadership group will be conducted.
10. Additional information will be developed regarding joint meetings and finalized with the Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Meeting Attendees

Council Chairs and Vice Chairs

Brinson Lanier, Chair, Altamaha
Michael Polski, Vice Chair, Altamaha
Benjamin Thompson, Chair, Coastal Georgia
Thomas Ratcliffe, Vice Chair, Coastal Georgia
David Ashburn, Vice Chair, Coosa- North Georgia
Richard Royal, Chair, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee
W.H. Haddock, Vice Chair, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee
Matt Windom, Chair, Middle Chattahoochee
Harry Lange, Vice Chair, Middle Chattahoochee
Elmo Richardson, Chair, Middle Ocmulgee
Ben Copeland, Jr., Vice Chair, Middle Ocmulgee
Ron Cross, Chair, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee
Charles Newton, Vice Chair, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee
Darvin Eason, Chair, Suwannee-Satilla
Grady Thompson, Vice Chair, Suwannee-Satilla
William David Bennett, Chair, Upper Oconee
Richard McSpadden, Vice Chair, Upper Oconee
Jim Scarbrough, Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
Birdel Jackson, Metro North Georgia Water Planning District

Council Chairs and Vice Chairs Not able to attend:

John Bennett, Chair, Coosa-North Georgia
Donald Chase, Chair, Upper Flint
Dick Morrow, Vice Chair, Upper Flint

Regional Water Council Leadership Forum

July 13, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Georgia Forestry Commission

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Populations and Employment Projections

Process Discussion

- 1) Flexibility**
- 2) Agenda and Leadership Role**
- 3) EPD Guidance**
- 4) Contractor Role/EPD staff role**

Council Interaction

Website Update

Metro District

Private Property Rights

Interstate Issues

Technology/Topic Updates

Resource Assessment Presentation Groupings

(Proposed for January and April 2010 Joint Meetings)

Coosa, Tallapoosa & Tennessee River Basins Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge, Piedmont Aquifers	Chattahoochee River Basin Piedmont Aquifer
<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>	<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coosa-North Georgia WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coosa-North Georgia WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNGWPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Chattahoochee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savannah-Upper Ogeechee WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNGWPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Chattahoochee WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Flint WPC
Altamaha, Ocmulgee & Oconee River Basins Eastern Coastal Plain Cretaceous, Piedmont Aquifers	Flint & Ochlockonee River Basins Dougherty Plain, Claiborne Aquifers
<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>	<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altamaha WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Flint-Ochlockonee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Georgia WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Chattahoochee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Ocmulgee WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Ocmulgee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNGWPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNGWPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suwanee-Satilla WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Flint WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Flint WPC 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Oconee WPC 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties of Savannah-Upper Ogeechee and Coastal WPC in the Cretaceous Aquifer 	
Satilla, Suwanee & St. Mary's River Basins Tift County Upper Floridan Aquifer	Savannah & Ogeechee River Basins Brunswick Harbor Aquifer Model, Savannah CSSI Model, Eastern Coastal Plain Upper Floridan Aquifer
<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>	<i>Councils invited to attend:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altamaha WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altamaha WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Flint-Ochlockonee WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Georgia WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Georgia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savannah-Upper Ogeechee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suwanee-Satilla WPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Oconee WPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Counties of the Upper Flint WPC in the Tift Co Floridan Aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Counties of Suwanee Satilla WPC in the Eastern Coastal Plain Upper Floridan

Public Involvement Plan

The Middle Ocmulgee water planning council will adopt a Public Involvement Plan based on the following outline. The Public Involvement Plan follows the outline provided by EPD for all regional water planning councils. It also provides for additional elements that may be adopted at the discretion of individual water planning councils.

The regional water planning councils, assisted by their regional planning contractor, will follow the adopted Public Involvement Plan to provide opportunities for meaningful input from key stakeholders, the members of local government advisory body, and the general public.

In the implementation of the Public Involvement Plan, the Chair of the Middle Ocmulgee water planning council will use discretion in permitting additional public comment or adjusting to adapt to specific meeting timelines and constraints, so long as the intent and expectations described below are followed.

Guiding principles

The Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council recognizes the benefit and importance of providing opportunities for diverse input throughout the regional water planning process. The principles of the public input process are:

- Stakeholders and regional water planning council members will treat each other with respect and dignity;
- All participants will have an open mind and participate openly and honestly;
- The regional water planning process will continue with concurrent public comment throughout;
- EPD will provide public notice and take public comment on draft regional water plans after they are submitted;
- Stakeholder comments will be pertinent to the topic of the meeting at which they are expressed; and
- Input from the public, key stakeholders, and the members of the Local Government Advisory Body will be considered and incorporated in regional water planning council work products.

Water planning council members, you may add expectations to this list as deemed necessary.

Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders for the Middle Ocmulgee water planning region are identified below. All members of the public will have opportunities for input, even if not specifically identified in this section.

- Local government officials – includes one representative from each city and county within the water planning region
- Neighboring regional water planning councils – water planning councils that share borders and/or water resources
- Regional Commissions – agencies supporting local and regional comprehensive planning (*suggestion: identify specific RDCs*)
- Agriculture – includes water permit holders for agricultural applications
- Businesses – includes local businesses (this audience may be sub-divided into more specific categories)
- Industries – includes industrial water permit holders and municipally-supplied industrial facilities
- Forestry – includes owners of managed forest lands and the forest products industry
- Institutions/educational/schools – includes public and private schools as well as institutions
- Tourism – includes public and private organizations related to local travel and tourism
- Recreation – includes citizens and industry related to recreational water uses
- Environment – includes citizens, agencies, and groups focused on environmental protection
- Public – any citizen interested in the regional water planning process

Water planning council members, you may add key stakeholders to this list as deemed necessary. Other stakeholders:

Suggestion: City and County Department Directors/Chiefs -

Procedural criteria

Time will be provided at every Middle Ocmulgee water planning council meeting for input from stakeholders and the public. The procedural criteria are intended to ensure the public respects the regional water planning council's schedule constraints and the regional water planning council respects the public's opportunity to present relevant and different opinions. To facilitate a fair and efficient process, the Middle Ocmulgee water planning council has adopted the following procedures for public comment.

- All regional water planning council meetings will be open meetings
- Stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to provide comments pertinent to the topic of the meeting in which they are expressed
- Time (3 minutes per speaker) will be provided at the end of all Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council meetings
- Provisions for written comments will be made at all regional water planning council meetings

The Chair of the regional water planning councils will use discretion to manage public comment under different circumstances in ways that enable the council to progress with its work and respect those who want to comment

Water planning council members, you may add to this list as deemed necessary. Other provisions:

Meeting announcements

All regional water planning council meetings will be open meetings, including at least a 24-hour notice of any meetings. The following provisions will be made for all planning council meetings to inform the public of upcoming meetings.

- Posted on the Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council website <http://www.middleocmulgee.org/> with a meeting agenda or summary of topics to be covered, meeting time, and meeting address
- Posted at the meeting location with a meeting agenda or summary of topics to be covered, meeting time, and meeting address
- Meeting summaries will be posted on the Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council website

Water planning council members, you may add to this list as deemed necessary. Other provisions:

Stakeholder and public comment opportunities

Specific opportunities during the regional water planning process for stakeholder and public input include but are not limited to the following.

- Meetings of the Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council
- Middle Ocmulgee regional water planning council website (documents will be posted periodically with timeframes for comment and mechanisms for comment clearly stated)
- Letters may be mailed to EPD
- Emails to the regional water planning council and/or EPD
- EPD public notice period for the resource assessments
- EPD public notice period on the draft regional water plans

Water planning council members, you as a group may use your discretion to permit additional stakeholder and public comment opportunities, as deemed appropriate. Other provisions:

Local governments

Much of the implementation of the regional water plans is the responsibility of local governments; therefore, input will be sought from members of the local governments on the following specific topics.

- Regional population, economic and employment forecasts
- Fiscal implications of water management practices
- Draft regional water plan

The regional water planning council and members of local governments should identify proper communication pathways. The following actions are intended to coordinate activities of the local governments with the regional water planning councils.

- Members of local governments will be provided an opportunity at the end of the regional water planning council meetings to comment on the regional water planning process and items on the meeting agenda
- Members of local governments may provide written comments to the regional water planning council, as needed.

Water planning council members, you may add to this list as deemed necessary. Other provisions:

Other regional water planning councils

In order to plan and coordinate the use and protection of shared water resources, the regional water planning council will coordinate with adjacent and hydrologically-connected councils throughout the regional water planning process. EPD will convene some meetings to discuss shared water resources, such as on the current resource assessments. The regional water planning councils will use the following communication pathways to coordinate with adjacent regional water planning councils.

- Members of the regional water planning council will attend shared resource meetings and other joint meetings
- At the discretion of the Chair, an opportunity may be provided at regional water planning council meetings for announcements or progress reports from adjacent regional water planning councils

The Chair of the regional water planning councils may use their discretion to provide additional coordination with adjacent regional water planning councils, as deemed appropriate.

Water planning council members, you may add to this list as deemed necessary. Other provisions:

Review and consideration of public input

The objective of this process is to gather relevant and diverse input to improve the quality of the recommended regional water plans. Once public comments are received from the public and key stakeholders the regional water planning council with the assistance of the regional planning contractor will consider and address these comments. Written comments and web comments will be summarized and provided to the regional water planning council members. Verbal comments will be summarized and included in meeting summaries.