

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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June 16, 2009

## **DRAFT MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Kevin Farrell, GA EPD  
David Ashley, JJG

**SUBJECT:** Council Meeting 2 Summary  
Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council

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## **Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan Regional Water Planning**

### **Council Meeting 2 Summary**

**Meeting Date:** June 11, 2009  
**Location:** Macon Water Authority - Frank C. Amerson Water Treatment Plant  
**Attendees:** See list

#### **1) Welcome and Council Member Introduction**

Elmo Richardson, Council Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Tony Rojas, Council Member and Executive Director of Macon Water Authority, welcomed everyone to the facility and expressed the Authority's pleasure at being able to host the meeting. Council members, EPD staff, planning consultants, partnering agencies, and other attendees introduced themselves.

#### **2) Agenda and Council Meeting 1 Minutes**

Elmo Richardson presented the agenda for the meeting to the Council for approval. A motion and second were made to adopt the agenda without modifications. No discussion was forthcoming and the agenda was approved as presented.

David Ashley presented the meeting summary for Council Meeting 1. A clarification was made to the statement by Adriane Wood, from DCA, that the agency will be changing the dates for Comprehensive Plan recertification by local governments. The correct statement should be that

DCA will **not** be changing dates for Comprehensive Plan recertification, but will change dates as they expire based on outcome of Council plans.

**Question** – Regarding the Regionally Important Resources (RIR), will that information be available for this plan?

**Response** – The RIR identifies any cultural, historic, and natural resources that are of regional importance. This report has been drafted by the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, and a draft is available on their website, [www.MGRDC.org](http://www.MGRDC.org), along with a map of the identified resources.

A request was made to add a list of council members who did not attend to the meeting minutes.

### **3) MOA, Operating Procedures and Rules for Meetings**

Kevin Farrell presented the proposed changes that were captured and submitted to EPD for review. EPD then evaluated and accepted or recommended modifications. For the Middle Ocmulgee Council, changes were basically accepted with some minor rewording. Council can have further discussion on proposed changes, or can accept and sign.

Elmo Richardson requested a motion to approve changes and incorporate in MOA. A motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> were made. Discussion followed:

**Question** - On two-thirds requirement for voting, does this only apply to chair and vice-chair election or to all decisions?

**Response** – Two-thirds is a consensus, but a simple majority would rule in a conflict.

All Council Members agreed that the goal is to achieve a consensus in all decisions.

The MOA was PASSED unanimously, and the MOA document was passed around for signatures. Nineteen signatures were obtained during the meeting.

### **4) Planning Process Overview**

Farrell presented the Planning Process Overview presentation. No questions were asked.

### **5) Population and Employment Projections**

Ashley presented the Population and Employment Projections presentation. The population projections are not EPD's, but from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), which contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) at the University of Georgia, and will be the new official State forecasts. They are to be finalized by mid-August.

**Question** – Why is there a sag in year 2040 in all the population graphs?

**Response** – That is a question to ask Dr. Brown when he joins in a conference call later in the morning. All comments on population and employment forecasts are due to EPD by June 30, 2009. All local governments on the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) lists were sent the population data.

**Question**– Were the Regional Development Centers (RDCs) included in receiving the population data?

**Response** – Yes.

**Question** – Can we ask specific questions of Dr. Brown? (e.g. Butts County has had two 400-home subdivisions and the school board reports 500+ enrollment increase so far.)

**Response** – Please submit specific questions to [info@georgiawaterplanning.org](mailto:info@georgiawaterplanning.org)

**Comment** – Availability of water (e.g. excess availability at MWA Town Creek Reservoir) will promote growth in some areas that will be much different from historical patterns of growth. That needs to be considered as part of this planning process.

**Comment** – The excess capacity is really future capacity and it should include the availability in the plan.

**Question** – What is the difference in workforce and population in the future? Are those folks unemployed?

**Question** – How was the population modified to account for the workforce differential?

**Question** – Concern is the current economic situation. If economy was better, could add 5,000 people very shortly, which would be 2030 for Butts County. Don't think these population projections are correct.

**Response** – All questions have been written down, and will be posed to those participating in the conference call.

*Conference Call with Drs. Warren Brown and Jeffrey Dorfman from CVIOG and David Tanner of OPB:*

A short break was held, following which, Warren Brown and Jeff Dorfman from CVIOG, as well as David Tanner of OPB joined the meeting by telephone conference call.

David Tanner stated that the State of Georgia previously did all projections in-house until last year when they decided that more regular updates are needed and contracted with CVIOG.

Warren Brown joined UGA in January 2009, from Cornell University. He gave a more detailed overview of the process. This process used trends from both the 1990s (between 1990 and 2000 census) and since 2000, and was based on models developed by the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Jeff Dorfman explained that the workforce projections were developed using confidential data from the Department of Labor in 50 different industry classifications. They started with a statistical model that included recessions and expansions; this model was then expanded to include regional, state-wide and industry trends. The model was adjusted to keep growth from getting too high and to account for the current economic situation for 2008 to 2010. Finally, adjustments were made to retail employment upward in the far future to match population projections.

Brown and Dorfman were asked to explain the alternative projection scenarios. Scenario 1.0 indicated that the rate of net migration from the 1990s would continue through 2040, which was the limit of University of Texas-San Antonio study. The 2000 to 2007 Scenario was adjusted based on trends for the first seven years of 2000s. Scenario 0.0 included no net migration, and was more for analytical purposes. The Scenario 0.5 used half the migration rate from 1990 to 2000. The workforce-adjusted scenario ties total population growth to jobs growth. The dip is a function of the transition of the two time periods that needs to be addressed. There is no such precision as implied from this dip.

This evaluation is completely based on past trends and does not consider a water shortage or other major limitations to growth. That needs to be added from Councils/EPD/planning consultants.

**Process for input of local knowledge:** Please complete forms provided and return to planning consultant and directly to CVIOG as well as regional planners for your community.

**Question** – Were RDCs involved?

**Response** – Yes, the RDCs were involved as reviewers.

**Question** – Have there been any communications issues or have all responded?

**Response** – Resources vary by region and available monies, but all RDCs have had some level of involvement.

**Question** – What is the differential between current and projected per capita employment ratios? Unemployed?

**Response** – Major factor is aging of population and retired. By 2030, many baby-boomers will retire and the population percentage over age 65 is quite large.

**Question** – How were regional projections developed? Were they done, and then added together for state total, or was state total first then divided?

**Response** – Population was originally done at state and county levels, then added together to get regional numbers. On employment, done on regional basis, because of confidentiality issues (i.e. one large employer in a county), then adjusted regional population based on jobs ratio and divided out to counties.

**Question** – How will population growth in neighboring states impact Georgia?

**Response** – Not only do sister states have an impact, but northern states have been basically exporting people for a long time and are running out of folks to send. Therefore, our rate of migration is not expected to continue indefinitely. That has not explicitly been considered in these projections, but needs to be included in the future.

**Question** – Butts County currently has 1,200 permits outstanding, representing a lot of people. Several subdivisions have been entirely foreclosed, but have been bought recently by investors who anticipate turning them around. Also, some people have moved in with relatives from neighboring counties. There have been complaints of 12 to 15 people in one home. There is concern that the population forecasts for Butts County are significantly low.

**Response** – Outer counties with affordable housing have seen a significant drop in home values. People can now buy homes closer-in which may significantly extend how long it takes to fill the 1,200 permits.

**Question** – What is your timeline to finalize projections as related to water plan?

**Response** – CVIOG has asked for 30 days after delivery of all feedback materials to revise (mid July to mid August). They should have final projections by the end of August.

There will be workshops in the fall for input where more time will be spent on each issue. It has not been determined how they will be publicized yet.

## **6) Agriculture Water Demand Forecasts**

David Ashley gave the Agricultural Water Demands presentation, following which; three

questions were posed to the group, as follows:

1. *Questions: How does agricultural demand affect this region?*

- Mainly in the southern portion of this council area.
- Strawberries
- Irrigation of pecans and peaches is a must
- Silage crops for dairy cows
- Potato crops are growing very large in the last 2-3 years, crop is taken up by June 1 each year, resulting in double water usage for other crops
- Sod & seed
- Corn & soybeans
- Hay
- Irrigation is becoming essential for almost any type of agriculture. Lenders require in many cases.
- Urban agriculture (end users) is also a large part of demand, not just growers. Kevin Farrell responded that the irrigation component at residential sites would be included in the municipal demands portion of the process.
- Agriculture is the industry in the southern portion of the council and is THE economic engine in those counties.
- Poultry production is also a major use.

2. *Does agricultural demand significantly affect a region upstream or downstream of this region?*

- Most of the groundwater use is from the Cretaceous aquifer in the middle of the area, and in the south it is the Floridan aquifer, so don't see much impact.

3. *Do you foresee future agricultural demand for water that has not existed before in this region?*

- The agriculture industry has grown significantly in the number of permits, but has grown much more efficient. New drip irrigation technologies will drive more agricultural usage, e.g., new styles of drip irrigation systems that remain in place below ground for 3-4 years of crop rotation, then are ripped out and replaced.
- Will see more irrigation in agriculture, because lenders will not give money for a failed crop.
- May see some reductions due to rising costs, or will see more efficiency.
- Economic viability of forestry will impact crop agriculture and may move one way or another, especially with CRP program.
- Reuse of wastewater may have impacts, depending on economy of transporting wastewater.
- Where does EPD stand on former push for land application? Kevin Farrell responded that federal regulation (NPDES, – and anti-degradation) still pushes toward that, but that is shifting away as the impacts downstream have become apparent.
- Mention of purple pipe systems and requirements for installation in new developments in coastal Georgia
- Trend now toward local agriculture, vegetables grown in the community. This may require more water than was previously being used.

## **7) Modeling 101**

Eric Nease presented the modeling introduction information. Models are developed to simulate real-world systems

**Question** – Will the models be validated?

**Response** – Yes

## **8) Resource Assessments**

David Ashley went over the resource assessment presentation.

**Question** – Are we concerned with water quality or only quantity?

**Response** – Both.

**Question** – Are individual counties responsible for cleaning up their streams? We've heard of a requirement for local counties to clean up PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyl) by 2012.

**Response** – EPD is responsible for water quality, no requirement for local counties. No knowledge of PCB requirement.

**Question** – Robbins Air Force Base (AFB) discharges to the Ocmulgee River. In the past, there was some discussion on the construction of this discharge and there were metals present in the discharge. Is the Department of Defense (DoD) exempt from NPDES permitting requirements?

**Response** – No, Robbins AFB has an NPDES discharge permit with limits.

**Follow up question** – Metal concentrations in stream may go up and down as flows change.

**Response** – That is all considered in the permitting process. They also have to do toxicity testing on an annual basis.

## **9) Creating a Regional Vision**

Charlotte Weber presented a continuation of the visioning process. Members were asked to begin thinking about a vision for the Council and bring some thoughts and ideas to the next meeting. The questions to help members craft their vision and goals will be sent to Council members in the week following this meeting.

## **10) Public Involvement Plan**

David Ashley presented the EPD's desires for a Public Involvement Plan to be developed by each Council.

**Question** – How will we know what the other council's are doing below and above us? What about sharing resources? How they thought of yet of how they or we are thinking?

**Response** – In addition to our meetings, there will be a joint meeting with the chairs and vice chairs in October. As we move along in the process, additional joint meetings with other councils have also been planned.

## **11) Local Elected Officials Comments**

There were no comments by local elected officials.

## **12) Public Comment**

Terry Scarborough – Mr. Scarborough raised the issue of exclusionary practices from Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) for design professionals (related to the preparation of site hydrology and erosion control plans), don't want that included in the stormwater component of this council.

**Response** – Not an issue for this Council at this time; would be premature to raise it. MNGWPD was created under a different legislation, and the Water Planning Councils have no regulatory authority. Chairman Richardson expressed the viewpoint that the Council would not want to affect the decision about choices of qualified site design professionals; that should be a local government decision.

## **13) Meeting Wrap-up**

Calendars for September 2009 were distributed to the Council to aid in scheduling the next meeting. EPD goal is to have the next meeting between September 8 and 18.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

## **Meeting Attendees**

### Council Members in attendance

Russ Adams	Larry McSwain
Tony Bass	Hal Newberry
John Bembry	Harvey Norris
Blair Cleveland	Eva Persons
Ben Copeland Jr.	Barry Peters
Keith Dalton	Robert Ray
Jerry Davis	Elmo Richardson
Robert Dickey	Tony Rojas
Richard Haddock	Terry Scarborough
Jim Ham	Van Whaler
Bobby Hamby	William Whitten
Charlie Harris	Thomas Whicker

### Council Members not in attendance

Jason Briley  
William Lazenby  
Paul Leath  
Jay Matthews

### Staff in attendance

Kevin Ferrell – EPD  
Ted Hendrickx – EPD  
David Ashley – JIG  
Eric Nease – JIG  
Charlotte Weber – JIG

Partnering Agencies and General Public

\*Adriane Wood (Department of Community Affairs (DCA))

\*Karol Kelly (UGA Cooperative Extension – Bibb County)

\*Don McGough (Georgia Farm Bureau)

\*Keegan Malone (GSWCC - Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission)

Skip Langley (Regional Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson)

Bill Stenbridge (Regional Representative for Senator Saxby Chambliss)

Les Ager

Mark Wyzalek – Macon Water Authority

\*Indicates attendee represented an agency



## Attachment

### Summary of CM2 Evaluation: Information Needs

Council members were asked to complete an information needs evaluation form to answer questions to help target the information that EPD develops to assist them in the selection of water management practices that would meet the goals for the Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council.

*Question 1: First, consider your personal level of knowledge about the following topics. Please circle the number that indicates how much you know about each topic, with 1 indicating very little and 5 indicating a great deal.*

Results: The results show the average of the 22 Council Members who completed the form.

Topic	Average
Ways to protect groundwater resources in your planning region	3.14
Ways to protect surface water resources in your planning region	3.45
Ways to protect water quality in your planning region	3.23
Ways to restore water quality in your planning region	2.77
Water chemistry with respect to water quality	2.41
Sediment and erosion rules and management	3.45
Stormwater primer & innovative technology/practices	2.50
Agricultural water use in your planning region	2.95
Energy water use in your planning region	2.55
Energy water use around the state	2.14
Industrial water use in your planning region	2.55
Municipal water use in your planning region	3.00
Per Capita water use in your planning region	2.64
Outdoor water use in urban areas and conservation methods	3.18

The results show that based on the averages that the three topics that Council members feel that they have ample knowledge of include:

1. Sediment and erosion rules and management
2. Ways to protect surface water resources in your planning region
3. Ways to protect water quality in your planning region

The result show that based on the averages that the three topics that Council members feel that they are lacking knowledge of include:

1. Energy use around the state
2. Water chemistry with respect to water quality
3. Stormwater primer & innovative technology/practices

*Question 2: Which of these topics will be most important for your Council as a whole to explore? Please select the five topics that you think will be the most important for your Council to consider.*

*Please rank your five choices from most to least important using 1 to indicate most important and 5 to indicate least important:*

Results:

Topic	Average	Number of votes
<b>Ways to protect groundwater resources in your planning region</b>	2.44	9
<b>Ways to protect surface water resources in your planning region</b>	3.00	12
<b>Ways to protect water quality in your planning region</b>	2.58	12
<b>Ways to restore water quality in your planning region</b>	3.83	6
<b>Water chemistry with respect to water quality</b>	N/A	0
<b>Sediment and erosion rules and management</b>	4.00	8
<b>Stormwater primer &amp; innovative technology/practices</b>	3.00	4
<b>Agricultural water use in your planning region</b>	2.83	6
<b>Energy water use in your planning region</b>	4.50	2
<b>Energy water use around the state</b>	5.00	1
<b>Industrial water use in your planning region</b>	2.00	3
<b>Municipal water use in your planning region</b>	2.86	7
<b>Per Capita water use in your planning region</b>	3.20	5
<b>Outdoor water use in urban areas and conservation methods</b>	2.50	2
<b>Bacterial control technology and management practices</b>	2.00	1

<b>Other:</b>	3.00	1
Homeland security issues		
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>Not all Council members completed Question 2 correctly; therefore, the results for Question 2 do not include six Council member's results, as they did not appear to be completed correctly. In reviewing the results of question #2, it was difficult to qualify the actual topics that are the most important because of the different responses. Some of the above results had one vote, while others</i></p>		

Using the both the average and the overall number of votes, the top three topics that will be most important to the Middle Oculmugee Council are as follows:

1. Ways to protect groundwater resources in your planning area.
2. Ways to protect water quality in your planning area.
3. Ways to protect surface water resources in your planning region.

*Question 3: Are there planning efforts in other states or other parts of Georgia that you are aware of and think we should factor into our process?*

- Need to consider impact of transportation issues on future population growth (i.e. economic development)
- Don't know
- Possibly the operations of the Water Management Districts in Florida
- Colarado

*Question 4: Are there particular management practices or issues not listed above that you want to explore?*

- Aquifer Geology
- Regional stormwater quantity ponds
- Homeland security issues
- Protect biological diversity of our waterways – by maintaining proper water levels and flow
- Make waterways safe for public use

**CC:** Charlotte Weber, JJG  
Eric Nease, JJG  
Tai-Yi Su, JJG