

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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March 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: David Ashley, ALS, JJG

SUBJECT: Kick-Off Meeting Summary
Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council Meeting

CC: Kevin Farrell, GA EPD
David Ashley, JJG
Eric Nease, JJG
Charlotte Weber, JJG
Tai-Yi Su, JJG

Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan Regional Water Planning

Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: March 13, 2009
Location: Georgia Aquarium

1) Council Member Introduction

Each council member introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

2) Agency Member Introduction

Kevin Farrell, EPD Assistant Branch Chief for the Oconee/Ocmulgee/Altamaha River Basins was introduced and spoke briefly to the Council. The consultants for the Council were introduced and include David Ashley (Council Coordinator), Eric Nease (Assistant Council Coordinator), and Charlotte Weber (Council Facilitator).

3) Water Planning "35" Exercise

The following question was posed to the Council - *“What is the most important thing we need to keep in mind as a group in the Regional Water Planning Process?”* Each person was asked to write down their answer on an index card. After each person developed an answer, the members were asked to discuss their answers with five other council members, individually. During each discussion, the two council members were to divide seven points between themselves based on negotiation of the merits of each answer, and record the number of points they received. At the end of the exercise, the total number of points for each council member was summed and the ten highest scores were identified. The top ten answers for the Middle Ocmulgee Council are as follows, just as they were written:

1. Listening to the thoughts of others as we express our own concerns for our local areas
 - a. Agriculture needs
 - b. Water quality of the Ocmulgee that passes through our area
2. As a regional council, we are to study, participate and contribute to the process of building a culture of water conservation in our region, our community and our family; conservation of our water resources.
3. We must provide for a balanced allocation of water for all uses – domestic, industry, agriculture and environmental protection (water quality & quantity left in stream).
4. The Water Resources we will be making plans for are not ours. They belong to the future generations and the animal and plant life of this planet. We are only stewards of this resource. Our plan must be sure this resource is available for the well being and prosperity of all of those that will follow us.
5. Continuing to improve the quality of existing water and finding ways to have enough water to support agricultural growth and industry as well as residential future growth.
6. To become familiar with our upstream neighbors and know what the pollution factor is in each stream coming into my county and get them free of organic and non-organic pollution and ensure NO polluted water leaves my county.
7. Remember, one size does not fit all.
8. To ensure that potable, drinkable water is sustainable so that our good quality and quantity water is available now and for future generations.
9. Wastewater discharge back into natural ecosystem and education at all levels on water conservation.
10. Conserve the water and keep it clean.

4) Council Notebook Walk-Through

The various sections of the Council Notebook were discussed with a brief overview of most sections provided. The April and May calendars were removed from the notebooks and the council members were asked to write their names on any dates that they would not be able to meet as well as potential meeting locations. The calendars were collected and the council members were told that they would be contacted regarding the next meeting date that best fits the majority of the members.

5) General Logistics Questions, Project Questions and Discussion

The following general questions were raised:

- Eva Persons - Is EPD more concerned with water distribution to those who do not have it and conservation efforts, or just cleaning up the water as they are required to do by 2012?
Answer: All of the above
- Van Whaller – How do they (Council) incorporate specific development projects into this plan? That is, there are two above ground reservoir projects proposed in Butts County (City of Flovilla and a private developer).

The following additional question was posed to the council and the resulting answers were recorded.

What are the most important features of our region's water resources and water users to keep in mind as we develop our plan?

- Bob Lazenby – Where the water comes from.
- Charlie Harris – We do not want polluted water.
- Ben Copeland – How much water do we have?
- Tony Rojas – The region is unique in surface and groundwater use and diversity in land use (urban and rural).
- John Bembry– Quality of life
- Thomas Wicker – It all flows downstream, so there could be impacts to others outside our region.
- William Whitten - In rural areas people don't think about that because they have a well in their back yard.
- Eva Persons – Is it true that municipalities can tell us how much water we can pump out of our wells? *Clarification: both state level regulations and local regulations would only apply to those on public water systems.*
- Tony – Treatment issues and consumptive loss issues for new development on septic systems.
- Jim Ham- Make sure that data we receive is good and up to date.
- Tony Bass – The morning presentation had a brief overview on water use rights. Could you provide more information?

6) Action Items

- Planning Contractor to schedule next meeting and notify Council members.