

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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March 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Bill Martello, JJG

SUBJECT: Kick-Off Meeting Summary
Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council Meeting

CC: Jeff Larson, GA EPD
David Ashley, JJG
Tai-Yi Su, JJG
Heather Dyke, CH2M HILL
Inga Kennedy, PEQ

Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan Regional Water Planning

Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: March 13, 2009
Location: Georgia Aquarium
Attendees: See List

1) Council Member Introduction

Facilitator Inga Kennedy asked members to introduce themselves and their roles. Kennedy noted that this is an organizational meeting.

2) Agency Member Introduction

Members were introduced to Planning Consultant Bill Martello, Technical Consultant Heather Dyke and facilitator Inga Kennedy.

3) Water Planning “35” Exercise

Council members were asked to answer the question, “What is the most important thing to keep in mind as we move as a group through this regional planning process?” After each person developed an answer, the members were asked to discuss their answers with five other council members, individually. During each discussion, the 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. Following the exercise, Martello and Kennedy asked for and recorded the top 10 scored responses. They are as follows:

- No sector can prevail in the end; the strategy needs to be sold to be public.
- We are all equal stakeholders in providing Georgia current and future water sources.
- Sharing our water resources efficiently and effectively can benefit the state as a whole.
- Water is not a limitless resource and must be managed wisely to be sustainable.
- Keep a good supply of clean water for public use.
- We are working for the future of our children and grandchildren and their environment and way of life.
- Sustainability.
- Water quality is an important aspect of any plan.
- Water is a shared resource between counties and between states (South Carolina, specifically)
- Conservation, multi-use and water quality.

Kennedy noted that the responses were similar. Next, Kennedy passed out the sign-up sheet for Council members to verify info and to indicate their preference of e-mail versus postal mail.

4) Council Notebook Walk-Through

Kennedy walked the council members through the contents of the notebook that was provided, pointing out the agenda, copy of presentation, State Water Management Plan Outline, Project Schedule through 2011, Supplemental information on the Sections of the Plan (complete plan is included in the notebook), and a Detailed Meeting schedule and topics. She noted that this group will have joint meetings with the Upper Oconee Council. She also explained the purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement, which identifies responsible parties and duties to accompany operating procedures/ commitment of involvement.

- Contact Information was also included in the notebook, and members were asked to provide Jeff Larson with any updated contact information.

Kennedy then asked Council members to cross off dates on the calendars provided which will not work for the next meeting. Based on responses, the last week of April is not available because of ACCG and GWRC commitments. May 17-20 was also eliminated because of the Georgia Rural Water Association activity. Members agreed that there would be no meetings scheduled on weekends, and that meeting time would be from 10am to 4pm.

Kennedy noted that GA EPD would be responsible for providing lunch for each meeting. Members then discussed possible meeting locations and agreed to alter locations for subsequent meetings. Suggested potential locations included: Augusta – Columbia County, Savannah Rapids Pavilion, Catechee Golf Club, Magnolia Springs State Park, Richard B. Russell State Park, Pope Center (Washington, GA), new U.S. Forestry Service office in North Georgia, Coleman’s Lake on Ogeechee River.

Kennedy took a moment to introduce Jeff Larson, EPD Assistant Branch Chief to the group, then collected Council members’ calendars.

5) Questions and Discussion

Question: What should be done about media inquiries?

Response: Direct them to GA EPD. EPD will also be issuing press releases that will identify a contact person. Another Council member noted that the small town media will also need to receive press releases and information on Council activities.

Question: What is the policy on attendance and dropping out?

Response: Council members committed as part of their application to attend. We’ll try to give adequate advance notice to help with attendance.

Question: Is South Carolina currently participating in a similar Water Planning Process? If so, this Council needs to be aware of it.

Response: Comment noted for follow-up.

6) Action Items

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