



To: Upper Flint Water Planning Council

From: Steve Simpson, Black & Veatch

cc: Tim Cash, Assistant Branch Chief, GA EPD

Subject: Meeting Summary: Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session on March 13, 2009

The kick-off meeting for all the regional water councils was held on March 13, 2009 at the Georgia Aquarium. After lunch, the Upper Flint Water Planning Council met for the first time in a breakout session. This session was called to order by Steve Simpson at approximately 1:00 pm.

Contact information sheets for the council members were circulated, and each council member was requested to review and revise the contact information listed. The revised contact information sheets will be distributed to council members.

Steve Simpson briefly introduced the planning consultant team and reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

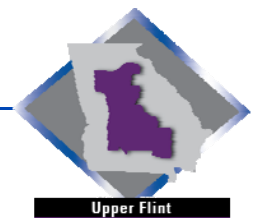
Meet and Greet

Each of the council members was invited to provide a self-introduction including name, county of residence, and water use interest represented. Steve then led the group through the “Water Planning 35” exercise. Each council member was given a sheet of paper and invited to write a response to the question, “What is the most important thing we need to keep in mind as a group during the regional water planning process?”

The members were then invited to share their response to this question with at least five other members one at a time and negotiate awarding seven points between the two responses compared in any discussion by two members. At the conclusion of the session, a review was made of the items starting with the ones receiving the most points in the one-on-one discussions.

The top results were as follows:

- All interests - inclusive
- Based on data/facts, eliminate bias
- Be Cooperative



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

- Work for Good of All
- Keep Open Mind
- Future - preserve water for all, same or better water quality
- Decisions for healthy, prosperous, environment, water quality

Steve advised that all of the responses would be collected and incorporated in the meeting summary.

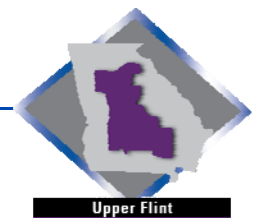
Review Multi-Year Project Schedule

After this exercise, the group reviewed the notebook that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) created for each council member. Steve led the council through a review of the materials in the notebook which included:

- A meeting agenda for the March 13, 2009, meeting
- An overview of morning presentations at the March 13 meeting
- A template for the water development and conservation plan
- The overall statewide water management plan tasks and schedule
- An outline of the council meeting schedule and purposes of meetings
- Methods of communication
- An outline of the contents of the Memorandum of Agreement
- A list of contact information for the Regional Water Planning Councils
- Calendars for April and May 2009 to allow the Council to plan a date for the next meeting
- Kickoff meeting evaluation form
- A copy of the Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan
- A summary of regional water planning steps

A number of important questions and items were discussed, including:

- The water development and conservation plan template ensures that all ten councils cover the same common elements; the content will be specific to each council.
- The work of the Upper Flint Council is shown in green under the “Regional Planning” category on the schedule.
- The “big picture” endpoint is that the draft Water Development and Conservation Plan (WDCP) will be developed by December 2010, although the finalization and adoption of the plan will continue into 2011.
- The Council noted with concern that rulemaking, particularly for water conservation, is scheduled to be completed in advance of the finalization of the regional plans. Steve advised that the Upper Flint WDCP will need to include conservation as required to meet the water needs within the available resources, with consideration of the Water



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Conservation Implementation Plan Guidance (which has been drafted and is available for review).

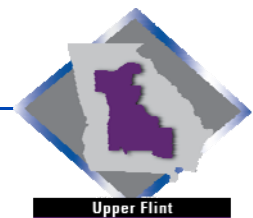
- The Council noted that the scope of the work appears to be more than can be accomplished in quarterly meetings as planned. Steve advised that the preliminary schedule has been laid out to attempt to balance the work needs with the time commitments asked of council members; if the Upper Flint council desires additional meetings, or subcommittee meetings, the Council is free to propose that as part of its operational procedures for EPD consideration.
- Several council members noted that in participating in previous planning efforts, that meeting materials were not provided enough time in advance for action; Steve advised that this desire will be relayed to EPD.
- Primary communication method from the support team will be by e-mail; preferred contact information is being collected to encourage intercouncil communication.
- All joint and council meetings are public meetings and will be noticed. Council members asked about advertisement avenues; Steve advised that the meeting notice will be posted on the website, and EPD may also use other notification means. Meeting minutes and other information developed will also be posted on the Upper Flint Council website.
- Council members were advised that all meetings, communications, and files are public records, subject to Georgia Open Records Act requests.
- Council members asked about the resource assessments and the work of others. Steve advised that there are a number of parallel efforts ongoing such as water quantity assessments, population and employment forecasting, water quality assessments, etc. The Black & Veatch team will be supporting the Upper Flint Council by providing, summarizing, and incorporating the outputs from these separate efforts in the Upper Flint WDCP.

Establish Council Meeting Schedule

Steve advised that the intent behind locating and scheduling the meetings was to maximize council participation. For that reason, it is envisioned that the location of the meetings would be moved around the region. It would also be great if a tour of local facilities could be arranged in conjunction with the meeting, so that Council members would get an opportunity to see different types of facilities that use or discharge to water resources.

The council discussed their preferred location of the next meeting. Suggestions included:

- Warm Springs - Community Bldg
- Griffin - 1 Griffin Center
- Reynolds - Flint Electric Membership
- Oglethorpe - Weyerhauser/Chase Farms
- Lake Blackshear



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

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- Middle Flint RDC Americus (Granny's Kitchen)
 - South Georgia Tech - Americus
 - Georgia Power

A proposal was made that the first meeting be held at the headwaters of the Flint River Basin; Dick Morrow advised that 1 Griffin Center could be used as the location and perhaps a tour of Griffin's reservoir could be arranged by Brant. Subsequent meetings could then be held, moving generally down the watershed. The Council agreed that the first meeting would be in Griffin, with subsequent locations identified at the next meeting.

Steve asked the council members to review the calendars for April and May from their notebooks and indicate dates that they would not be available for the next meeting and regularly occurring meetings, such as Commission or Council meetings, which would be conflicts to schedule around. The target time frame for the first meeting was early May; the council quickly identified that Fridays appear to be days with less potential meeting conflicts than others. The council reviewed their calendars and identified the following dates for the first council meetings:

First Council Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009 (preferred)
Friday, March 15, 2009 (alternate)

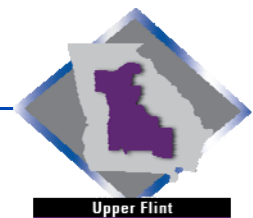
The planning consultant team will update the council with the meeting location and time when finalized.

Memorandum of Agreement Discussion

The group reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) portion of the notebook. The MOA will outline the responsibilities of the council and the Georgia EPD. The MOA will have a three year term. Several specific items were discussed, including:

- Council members asked about the organization of the council; Steve advised that generally a Chair/Vice Chair leadership was envisioned, but that more detailed information will be provided at the first Council meeting.
- Council members requested information and the MOA more than one week in advance of the council meeting – Steve advised that he will relay this request to GA EPD.
- Council members asked what the anticipated role and participation of the ex-officio members of the council was – Steve advised that ex-officio members are nonvoting members of the council; their participation is intended to keep the Georgia Assembly informed as to the progress of the planning effort and to assist in involving the appropriate state resources in the effort

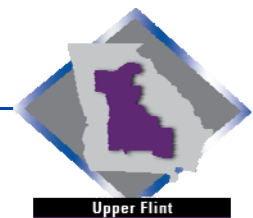
Carol Couch provided closing comments to all of the councils, thanking the councils for their participation in this important effort.



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Prior to adjournment, council members filled out kick-off meeting evaluation forms. With no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Attachment 1:

**Upper Flint Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Attendance – March 13, 2009**

Council Members

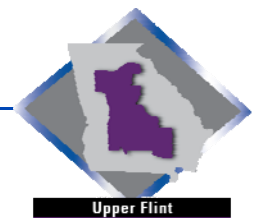
See attached list

Georgia EPD

Tim Cash, Assistant Branch Chief

Planning Consultants

Pam Kenel, B&V
Nils Thompson, LBG
Steve Simpson, B&V



Upper Flint Water Planning Council
 Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
 Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
 March 26, 2009

Attachment 2:

**Upper Flint Water Planning Council “35” Responses (Yellow Cards)
 Kick-Off Meeting – March 13, 2009**

- We have limited and sometimes questionable data concerning usage and assimilative capacities. How do we determine that point at which we move forward?
- Be cooperative- realize that the next generation is always more important than the last.
- The decisions made must ensure a healthy and prosperous Georgia in the future
- Keep open mind to each end users needs for water correct/future
- How to be fair & balanced and not be locked into one's own personal agenda
- All view points are valid, and must be heard. Each of us must participate
- We need to cooperate and work together to help solve Georgia's water problems
- That every community is a stakeholder in how our water resources are managed, used & allocated.
- Water is a finite resource. But it is a resource to be managed and used.
- Make sure future generations have the same or a better quality of water
- Working together to solve water conservation and educating the public
- To preserve water for all of Georgia
- The effects of our decisions
- Cooperation and planning
- Eliminate personal bias from decision process. Work together for good of all
- Each of us comes to this task with pre-conceived ideas. It is important that we recognize that there are differing ideas and we must respect that and be willing to compromise where and when necessary
- There should be no losers in the process. All decisions must be made for the good of all segments and all Georgian's : i.e. win:win
- We need to work as a group to resolve issues with private and Gov't prospective
- Clearly identify the ultimate goals and the process-set a central meeting place in our region
- With diversity we have, keep first things first - water council objectives
- All interests are included in final plan. Based on data
- All questions are smart ones. Respect, honesty
- The document we design will at best be a group of compromises
- Our actions should insure that we leave future generations a sustainable, quality water quality
- Communication of member while maintaining focus on the group's goal
- Water is important to everyone. We need to listen to each other and think about everyone's prospective on water and the issues that face all of us.
- Keep minds on the future - (how water is used, available, today may treated not be same as today)

