

UPPER OCONEE REGION

BACKGROUND

The 2004 Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act authorized the development of the State Water Plan. The State Water Plan, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2008, calls for:

- the preparation of regional water plans;
- the establishment of ten regional water planning councils to prepare the plans; and,
- the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) with providing technical assistance to the councils including contractor support, guidance, resource assessments and forecasts.



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, 2009-2011

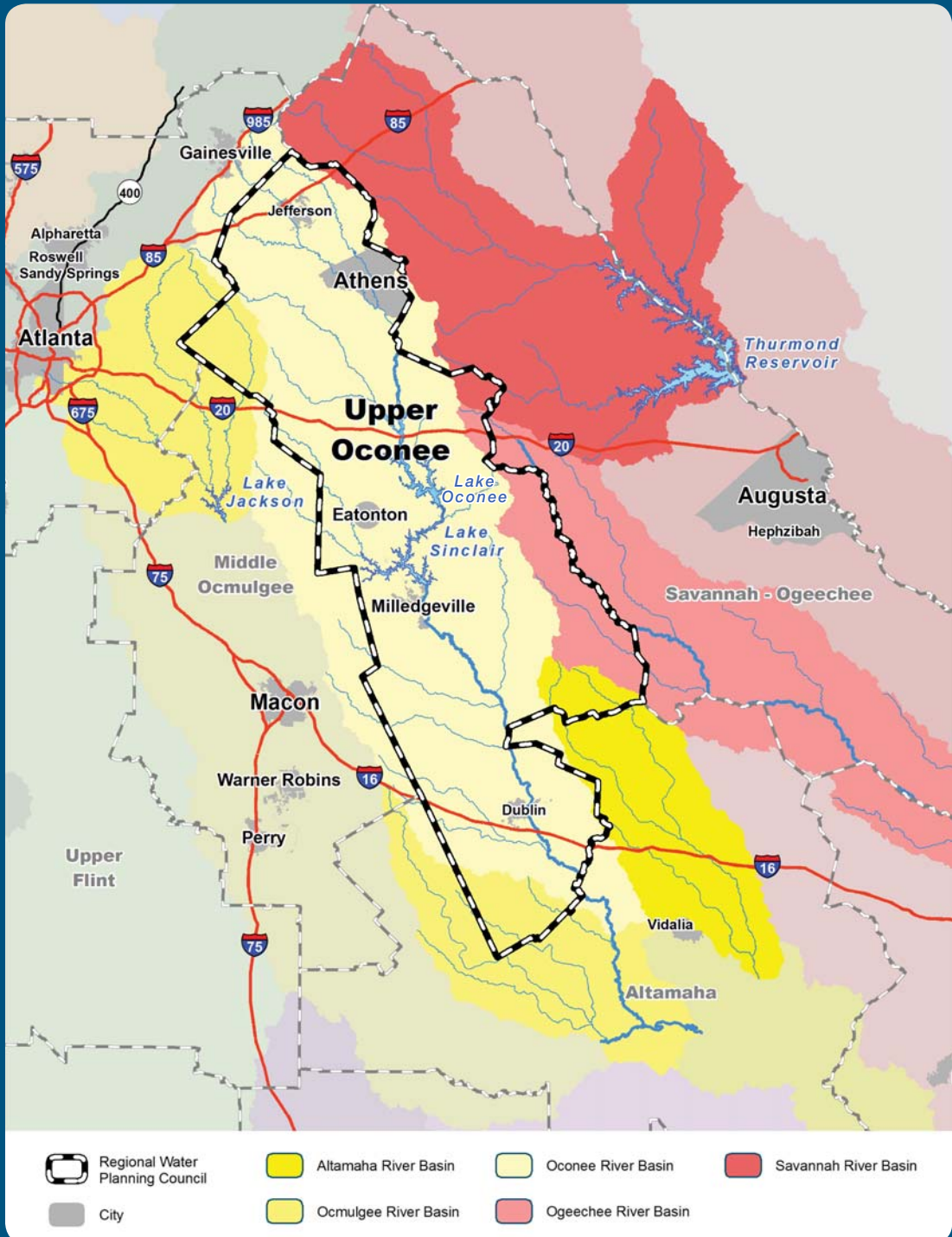
ACTIVITY	STATUS
Council Meetings	5 in 2009 / 4 in 2010 / 2 in 2011
Council Leadership	Richard Bentley, Chair and Dennis W. Holder, Vice Chair
Memorandum of Agreement	Executed with Department of Community Affairs and EPD
Vision and Goals	Adopted
Public Involvement Plan	Adopted
Subcommittees	Three technical subcommittees (composed of representatives from groups of counties within the region)
Draft Water Resource Assessments	EPD presented, January 2010
Draft Water and Wastewater Demand Forecasts	EPD presented, March-June 2010
Management Practices	Select, evaluate, refine, finalize, June 2010-May 2, 2011
Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan	Submit to EPD, May 2, 2011
Address Public Comments	Review and revise based on public comments received
Final Recommended Regional Water Plan	Submit to EPD Director for adoption, September 30, 2011

KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Efficient use of water by all sectors, recognizing the diverse characteristics of the Upper Oconee region
2. Future water supply storage in the upper basin (Jackson, Barrow, Oconee, and Walton Counties) where localized growth in demands is expected to exceed existing capacity
3. Future water supply demands in the central basin (Morgan, Putnam, and Greene Counties) and potential limitations placed on future surface water supplies in existing impoundments
4. Protecting the water quality of Lakes Oconee and Sinclair and the Oconee River by reducing nonpoint source nutrient loads
5. Future water supply yield of Coastal Plain aquifers
6. Assimilative capacity in the lower basin (Laurens, Washington, and Wilkinson Counties) due to zones of low dissolved oxygen



KEY WATER FEATURES OF THE UPPER OCONEE REGION



UPPER OCONEE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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- BILL ROSS**
Statham, Barrow County
- BENJAMIN R. TARBUTTON**
Sandersville, Washington County
- GREG THOMPSON**
Monroe, Walton County
- REP. TERRY ENGLAND**
(Ex-Officio)
- SEN. BILL COWSERT**
(Ex-Officio)

CURRENT WATER DEMAND

TOTAL = 1258 MGD

Note: For 2005 the Upper Oconee region total thermoelectric water demands were 1,092 MGD and total returns were 1,090 MGD.

