

Memorandum

To: Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council

From: Rick Brown and Danny Johnson and, CDM

Date: 6/06/11

*Subject: Suwannee-Satilla Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan --
Local Government, Water Utility, and Interested Parties Outreach
Meeting Summary*

This memorandum provides the meeting summary of the Suwannee-Satilla Initial Recommended Water Plan Outreach Meeting held on May 11, 2011 at the Douglas Youth Center, in Douglas, Georgia.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Darvin Eason, Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council opened the meeting and welcomed the meeting attendees and introduced himself. Chairman Eason asked Council Member Mayor of Douglas Jackie Wilson, if she would like to say a few words. Mayor Wilson welcomed folks and thanked the Council and staff for all the hard work completed over the last 3 years.

Chairman Eason stated that the completion of the Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan (Plan) and today's meeting mark a significant milestone in the Suwannee-Satilla regional water planning process. Chairman Eason asked the Council members in attendance to introduce themselves, and then had Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Planning Contractor (PC) staff introduce themselves.

Chairman Eason asked the PC to proceed with meeting agenda.

The PC also welcomed visitors and described the planning documents and handouts that were placed around the meeting room. Copies of the Executive Summary of the Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan were provided to visitors along with a summary sheet that outlines instructions for providing comments on the Plan. The PC mentioned that copies of the entire Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan and Supplemental Materials for the Plan are available on the table at the back of the room and visitors are

welcome to look through these documents which are all available on the State Water Plan website.

The PC then provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting highlighting the following objectives:

- Improve your understanding of the Regional Water Planning process
- Help you understand how to get additional information
- Answer questions about the Planning process and how the Plan may affect you

The PC mentioned that the best way to get information about the planning process and the regional plans is by visiting the State Water Planning website at <http://www.Suwannee-Satillacouncil.org/>. Information for all the planning regions can be found at this website and it was noted that an overview of the website and the water plan comment collection tool would be provided later in the meeting.

The PC then provided a PowerPoint presentation which included the following information.

- A short overview of the Drivers for state water resource planning
- Summarized the major steps in the Regional Water Planning Process
- Presented the Vision statement developed by the Council
- Described the Resource Assessments noting that three assessments were completed by EPD; Surface Water Availability, Ground Water Availability, and Surface Water Quality. The PC noted that the resource assessments are analytical models that were developed to help evaluate the capacity of the resources to meet the current and future water resource needs of the region.
- The PC then described the forecasting process that summarizes the regions forecasted water and wastewater needs over the next 40 years from 2010 to 2050. Forecasts were completed for the Agricultural, Municipal (includes commercial and self supplied), Thermoelectric Energy and Industrial sectors. It was noted that the region's population is projected to grow by 63 percent over the next 40 years growing from about 403,000 to 650,000 people. Water use is forecasted to grow from about from 254 to 316 million gallons per day. Wastewater forecast information for the region was also highlighted.

- The PC then described the Council management practices selection process which was based upon documenting and building upon existing planning and permitting activities that are currently underway. Council specific management practices to address resource needs were also developed and the PC noted some of these practices and mentioned that more information can be found in Section 6 of the Plan.
- The PC highlighted the major results of the resource assessments and noted that management practices will be needed to address resource shortfalls and future needs in the region.
 - ***Groundwater:*** Overall, results indicate that the sustainable yield for the modeled portions of the regional aquifer(s) is greater than the forecasted demands.
 - ***Surface Water Quantity:*** There are sufficient surface water supplies at several locations throughout the Suwannee-Satilla Region, but there are also surface water shortfalls during some periods of time at the Atkinson, Fargo, Jennings, Pinetta, and Statenville nodes.
 - ***Surface Water Quality:*** There are four reaches within the Suwannee River Basin, four reaches within the Satilla River Basin, and one reach in the St. Marys River Basin that exceed assimilative capacity.
- The PC noted examples of several of the categories of management practice selected by the Council and mentioned that more detailed information can be found in Section 6 of the Plan.
- The PC also mentioned that the Plan includes Council “Recommendations to the State” along with implementation considerations, timelines, possible funding sources, and benchmarks to assess water plan progress. The PC encouraged people to think about how information from that Plan may be applicable in their region or for their utility and to also think about recommendations that could be made to the state to help their community plan for their water resource future.
- The PC concluded by reminding the attendees how they can comment on the Plan noting that comments can be made through several avenues:
 - Via the web at <http://www.gaepdcommentcenter.org/login.aspx>
 - Via email at info@georgiawaterplanning.org
 - Via fax at 404-651-5778

- Via direct mail to:

Arnettia Murphy
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Chairman Eason and the PC then opened the floor for comments and discussion.

Council Member: If I understand it correct public comment goes from May 9 to June 23rd. I expect that we will not see many public comments. I am concerned that we may see a few detailed comments from select special interest groups. It is important to talk to your major constituents and encourage them to comment.

Council Member: I think it is important that the Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Association of County Commissioner provide comments.

Council Member: I think all County Commissions should consider adopting/supporting the regional plan.

Council Member: I am not sure if everyone knows this but the legislature passed an important bill regarding water projects and private-public partnerships. We need to be careful that these types of projects mesh with our regional needs.

The PC then provided an overview of the Council website and Water Plan comment collection tool.

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

**Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water
 Council
 Council Members Attendance List**

Suwannee-Satilla Council Members		5/11/2011
1	Earl Brice	X
2	Scott Downing	X
3	Darvin Eason	X
4	Greg C. Evans	X
5	Dan Raines	X
6	Miles A. Stone	X
7	Jackie Wilson	X

Total 7

**Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water
 Council
 Public Attendance List**

Public Attendee		5/11/2011	Representing
1	Ted Jackson	X	GA EPD
2	Cliff Lewis	X	GA EPD
3	Johnnie Lee	X	City of Roper
4	Randy Dobbs	X	City of Douglas
5	Greg Simmons	X	City of Alma
6	Dennis Josey	X	Not Provided

Total 6