

Water Planning Process driven by 2002-2004 Drought

- HB 237 passed legislature in 2005
- EPD tasked with formation of task force
 - To minimize withdrawals
 - To maximize returns
 - To Support in-stream and off-stream uses
 - To monitor water quality

Task Force

- 5 Basin Advisory Committees – wide range of stakeholder representation
- 1 Technical Advisory Committee
- 1 Statewide Policy Advisory Committee

Water Planning Process reinforced by 2006-2008 drought

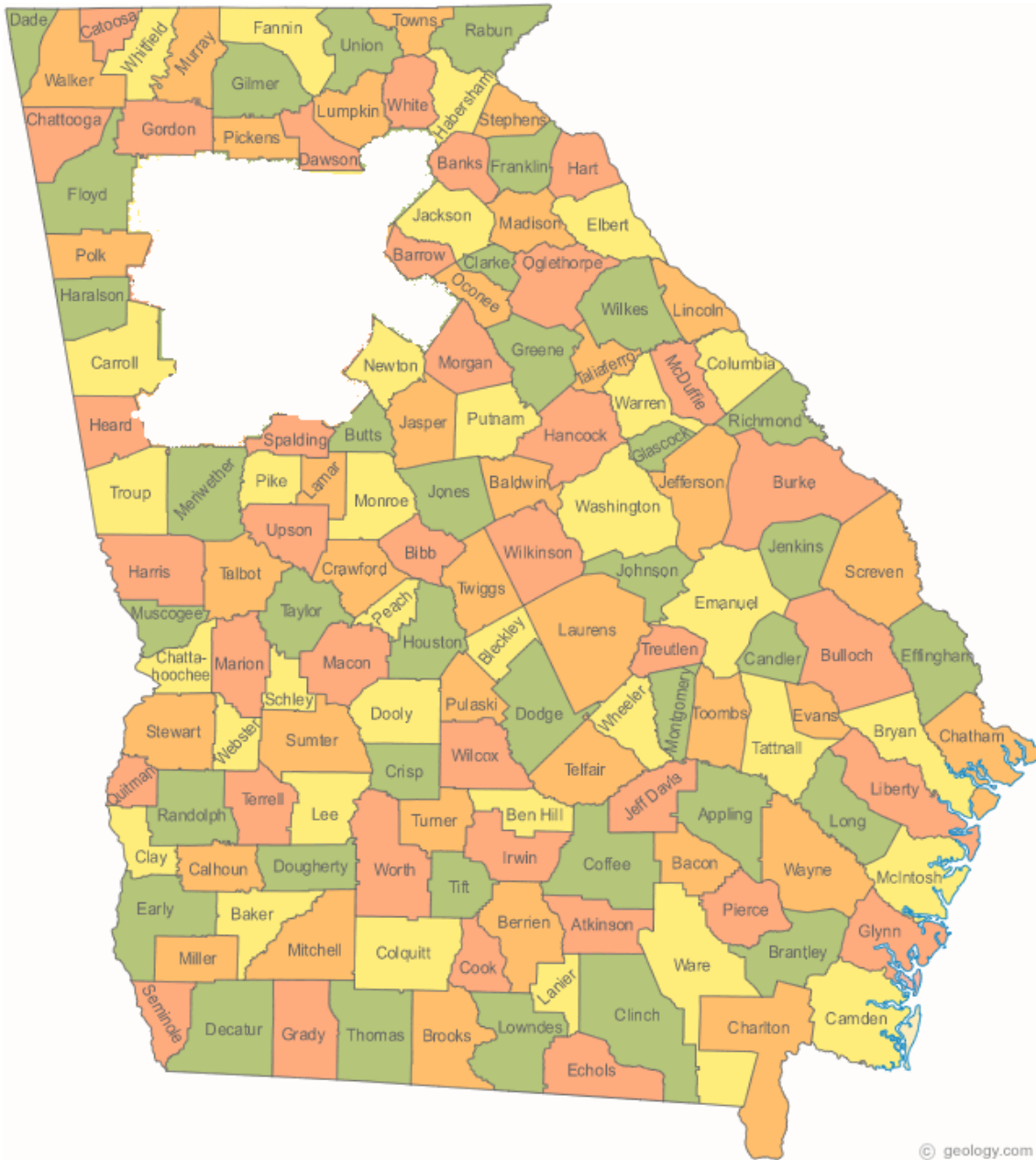
- Much of the process took place during second drought
- Recommendations from BACs with the most support (mid 2007)
 - Watershed Boundaries
 - Local (Regional) Control of Planning Process

Finalization of Plan to Plan (positive aspects)

- Re-asserts that water is a public resource
- Proposes studies to define quality and quantity water resource
- Recognizes different regions need different approaches

Finalization of Plan to Plan (boundaries)

- First Proposed Plan to Plan as a Rule (Attorney General)
- Changed to a Process, highly defined
- Boundaries originally coincided with Regional Development Councils
- Changed to loosely coincide with partial watersheds
- Excludes Metro North Georgia Water District (2003 legislation)



Regional Development Centers

State of Georgia

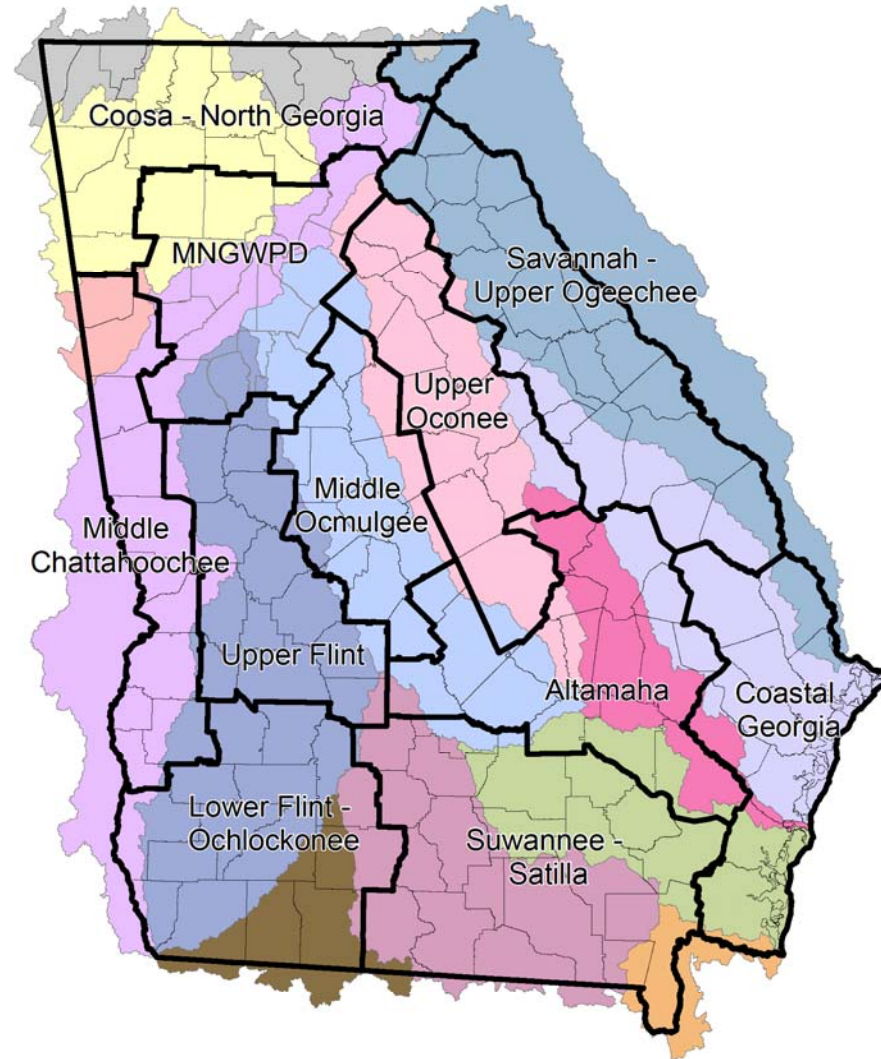


Last Amended July 1, 2003

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs, June 2003



Water Planning Regions



Finalization of Plan to Plan (composition of councils)

- Governor appointed 13 members + alternate + ex officio legislator
- Lieutenant Governor appointed 6 members + alternate + ex officio legislator
- Speaker appointed 6 members + alternate + ex officio legislator
- Three year terms for voting members, two year terms for ex-officio members

Mission Statement

The goal of Savannah-Upper Ogeechee's Water Development & Conservation Plan is to support the region's economy, protect the public health and natural systems, and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council

Name	City	County	Name	City	County
Bruce Azevedo	Colbert	Madison	Thomas C. Jordan	Louisville	Jefferson
Braye C. Boardman	Augusta	Richmond	Scott P. MacGregor	Augusta	Richmond
Jerry L. Boling	Homer	Banks	Eddie Madden	Elberton	Elbert
Charles Cawthon	Lavonia	Franklin	Chris McCorkel	Dearing	McDuffie
Deke Copenhaver	Augusta	Richmond	Tim McGill	Martinez	Columbia
Barry W. Cronic	Canon	Franklin	James H. Newsome	Warrenton	Warren
Ron C. Cross (C)	Evans	Columbia	Charles G. Newton (VC)	Thomson	McDuffie
Donald E. Dye	Toccoa	Stephens	Lewis P. Sanders	Stephens	Stephens
Mike Eskew	Washington	Wilkes	Stan Sheppard	Sylvania	Screven
Dan T. Fowler (A)	Wrens	Jefferson	Larry S. Walker	Lakemont	Rabun
Patricia Goodwin (A)	Evans	Columbia	R. Lee Webster	Waynesboro	Burke
Patrick D. Goran (A)	Hartwell	Hart	Tom Wiedmeyer	Augusta	Richmond
Larry Guest	Elberton	Elbert	Tenia S. Workman	Hartwell	Hart
Toye Hill	Lincolnton	Lincoln	Rep. Tom McCall	Ex-Officio	
Robert Jenkins	Millen	Jenkins	Sen. Ralph Hudgens	Ex-Officio	

Joint Kick-off Meeting, March 13, 2009

Council Priorities

- 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.

Power Invested in Councils

- Power to run their own affairs with EPD guidance
- Power to gather information
- Power to negotiate with other Water Planning Councils (except MNGWPD)
- Power to recommend to EPD
- Power to recommend to the legislature

Meeting Savannah Rapids Pavilion, Augusta, May 7, 2009

- First SUO Council meeting
- Worked out MOA on procedures and rules for meetings and communication
- Election of Officers
- Presented information about basin
- Website capabilities
(<http://www.savannahupperogeechee.org/>)
- Factors affecting future of water in region

Information about Savannah River basin

- 38 surface water permits
- 336 MGD total permitted flow (monthly average flow)
- 43 groundwater withdrawal permits
- 56 MGD total permitted flow
- 831 agricultural water withdrawal permits
- 121,558 acres total irrigation area
- 4.5 M acres in the basin
- 58.6% forested
- 207 permitted discharges (majority from municipal WW systems)
- 90.2 MGD total flow (disputed)

Factors affecting future of water in region

- Economic development
- Federal projects/lake management Interbasin transfers
- TMDLs (tmdl, oxygen levels, mercury levels)
- Shared resources (population growth, interstate usage)
- Regulatory (conservation, drought, irrigation)
- Non-point source pollution
- Drought/climate conditions
- Agriculture changes
- Groundwater impacts/availability

Meeting Cateechee Golf Club, Hartwell, June 17, 2009

- MOA for Procedures and Rules approved
- Chairman dispensed with EPD presentations
- Population and employment projections were met with skepticism
- Agricultural demand for water
- Resource assessment and modeling
- Distribution of water within the basin
- All information developed will be available to public

Meeting Cateechee Golf Club, Hartwell, September 17, 2009

- Agricultural demand forecast, increasing ~0.5%/yr, data available online
- Draft of vision statement, input here possible
- Public involvement encouraged, information online
- Joint meetings – meet with adjoining councils on ground water and surface water
- Demand forecasts for agriculture, municipalities, industries, and power generation
- Reservoirs introduced by EPD
- Assimilation capacity introduced by EPD