

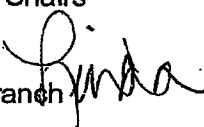
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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September 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Chairs and Vice Chairs

FROM: Linda MacGregor, Chief
Watershed Protection Branch 

SUBJECT: Regional Water Councils' Joint Meeting
October 6, 2010
Macon State College Conference Center

I would like to commend you for your work to date on Regional Planning as we move towards the completion of a truly historic planning effort, and thank you in advance for your continuing efforts related to developing your recommended Regional Water Plans. The first round of Regional Council Joint Meetings, held in January 2010, focused on the results of the resource assessments, and was structured by basin and aquifer. Now, Councils are moving towards selecting management practices and solutions to water resource issues. The next Joint Meeting of the ten Regional Water Councils and the Metro Water District will take place on October 6, 2010, and will focus on proposed management practices and solutions.

The Regional Water Councils Joint Meeting scheduled for October 6, 2010 will:

- Provide a forum for all Councils to discuss shared issues and solutions
- Serve as an informational session related to proposed management practices
- Begin to integrate solutions into regional and statewide perspectives and work towards implementation.
- Assist both Council and EPD to meet responsibilities related to coordination between adjacent councils or those that share resources, as called for in Council Memoranda of Agreement¹, and ensure coordination of planning across the boundaries of planning regions as specified in the Statewide Water Plan².

The October Joint Meeting will take place in Macon, at Macon State College Conference Center. All councils, including the Metro Water District, are invited to attend, with the expectation that each council would send representatives to serve on panels and participate in discussions on management practices and solutions. We also expect a high level of public attendance.

¹ Memorandum of Agreement, Section 1D: "Responsibilities of the Council include: Coordinating with adjacent water planning councils and/or water planning councils that share water resources." Section 2G: "Responsibilities of EPD include: Ensuring coordination of water planning across the boundaries of adjoining water planning regions."

² "Coordination activities may include joint work sessions of adjacent water planning councils, convened by the councils or EPD." (State Water Plan 14.6.ci)

The format of the meeting will consist of panel discussions and some open house time. Panels made up of representatives from councils (approx 4-6 councils per topic) will discuss four general topics. Each council representative will touch on:

- How the issue impacts their region specifically,
- Management practices and solutions the council is proposing,
- Coordination issues on shared resources among multiple councils, and
- Implementation steps and statewide implications moving forward.

The four topics will likely include at least one panel each on water quality, water quantity, and groundwater, with the fourth yet to be determined. Chairs are asked to discuss more detailed and narrow topics with their Assistant Branch Chief to allow the agenda to fully reflect the council's interests.

Possible Detailed Topics for Panel Discussions:

- Water Quality issues – Nutrients in Lakes
- Groundwater Availability and Coastal groundwater (saltwater intrusion)
- Water supply sources (Groundwater wells [dispersed supply] and reservoirs)
- Water Supply needs in 2050 (meeting forecasted demand and instream flow targets to avoid future gaps)
- Meeting demand for wastewater treatment (septic vs centralized wastewater treatment)
- Water Conservation Practices
- Agricultural management practices
- Water resource issues for urbanizing areas and areas undergoing significant land-use changes (urban runoff and nonpoint source pollution)
- Management Practices and solutions for limited assimilative capacity
- Management practices to support instream flow
- Coordination with local governments and neighboring states
- Interfacing with local governments and water and wastewater utilities on implementation

We are looking forward to vibrant and animated discussions, useful knowledge transfer and information sharing. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Michelle J. H. Vincent at 404-291-2812 for any additional information.

LM:mjvh