



Upper Flint Plan Review Committee Report February 7, 2011

UF Plan Review Committee

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Committee Meeting: February 2, 2011

- Meeting summary hand-out
- Reviewed changes in Jan. 21st draft
- Discussed further plan revisions
- Developed recommendations to Council for today's meeting

Table 6-1: Prioritization of Management Practices

- Use 2 categories: High and Normal (instead of 3: High, Medium, Low)
- Set priorities based on the importance of a practice to:
 - attaining the council's vision and goals
 - addressing identified gaps
- Priority selection hand-out

Section 7.4

(page 7-13, 1st bullet point under Water Policy Recommendations)

- The Council recommends that the General Assembly provide funding for continued planning by the regional water councils, as described in Section 14 of the Statewide Water Plan, in order to ensure continued progress toward state and regional water plan vision and goals. The Council also recommends that the General Assembly provide funding to support monitoring of plan implementation, data collection to support future planning, and continued refinement of water resource assessments used in the development of the regional water plans.

Section 7.4

(page 7-13, 3rd bullet point under Water Policy Recommendations)

- The Council urges the Georgia General Assembly and other state policymakers not to preclude interbasin transfer as an option for **future** water management in the region, as needed and following thorough scientific evaluation. Interbasin transfers of water exist in many places in Georgia at this time. The Council recognizes that interbasin transfers (existing or future) can play an important role in water resource management. Interbasin transfers of water can provide supply or flows to a receiving basin where water is needed. Rules recently adopted by the Georgia Board of Natural Resources in January 2011 will help to ensure that future permits of interbasin transfers are thoroughly evaluated.



Section 7.4

(page 7-13 & 14, last bullet point under Water Policy Recommendations)

- The Council supports timely settlement of the interstate water litigation in the ACF. The Council recommends that the General Assembly and other state policymakers should consider the development of an interstate compact for the ACF Basin. If any regional management institutions are created in the Basin, they would need the capacity to operate as a part of that compact. The Council recognizes the examples of the Great Lakes Basin Compact, several of the Texas river basin compacts (i.e. Sabine River Compact Commission) and other successful stakeholder led water councils managing large river basins that cross geopolitical boundaries such as the Fraser River Basin Council (British Columbia, Canada). Collective legislative action involving Georgia, Alabama, and Florida would be needed to develop such a compact.



Section 7.4: Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils

- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils recognize the critical need for more storage in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) System and recommend that a plan for additional storage be developed and implemented and that it consider the following options: better utilization of existing storage in the Chattahoochee, new storage in the Flint, and enhancement of existing storage capacity.
- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils urge GAEPD and those involved in the resource assessment modeling to improve upon existing models for future regional water planning by making greater use of actual and current data on water use and conditions and by developing assumptions that more closely approximate actual conditions.
- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils request that state and federal agencies reevaluate the scientific justification for the minimum flow requirements at Woodruff Dam that are intended to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems.

SF5 (page 6-10)

Management Practice	Description/Definition of Action
<p><i>SF5: Evaluate storage options in the Upper Flint Region that can provide for <u>supply and flow augmentation in dry periods</u></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>A full range of storage options should be evaluated, including (but not limited to) increasing the capacity of existing reservoirs and creating new off-stem reservoirs.</u>• Addressing the surface water availability gap at Bainbridge may require the addition of storage that can be used to augment <u>supply and</u> flows in the Flint River Basin.• The Council recommends creation of a study commission to evaluate storage options within the Upper Flint Region.• The Commission's evaluation should assess potential locations, viability, cost, and implementation.