



## **Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Council**

### ***Meeting Summary: October 29, 2013***

#### Welcome, Introductions, Chairman's Discussion

Chairman Matt Windom called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Steve Davis (Columbus Water Works) welcomed the Council to Columbus. Chairman Windom thanked Steve for hosting the meeting and asked the Council members and visitors to introduce themselves. Chairman Windom recognized Representative Riley from the Georgia Legislature. She commented on the importance of the water planning process.

#### Welcome and Comments from Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD)

Bennett Weinstein provided a report from GAEPD on the agency's plans to support the Regional Water Councils this year, and he explained the Council's regional plan will be updated in 2015-2016.

#### Welcome and Comments from the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center (GWPPC)

Mark Masters reported on GWPPC projects related to implementation of Council recommendations from its 2011 plan. His slides will be posted to the Council website. He discussed the GWPPC's efforts to assess conservation measures used by agricultural irrigators, to develop and implement a pilot flow augmentation project in Spring Creek, and to promote habitat conservation planning for endangered and threatened mussels. He also described a project proposed for the seed grant program that would evaluate alternative water sources in the Ichawaynochaway Basin, which includes a portion of the Middle Chattahoochee region. Mark answered a number of questions for the council members.

#### The Coming Year: Regional Water Council Activities and Implementation Assessment

Kristin Rowles gave a report on anticipated deliverables on Council work in 2013-14, including two Council meetings and an assessment of implementation to date. Her slides are available on the Council website. She also provided a GAEPD document on planning guidance for the Council. Kristin said that the GWPPC will be working with the Council to develop the Implementation Assessment report. The report will highlight regional activities that implement the Council's plan and identify opportunities for near term implementation activities. A more

thorough evaluation against the councils benchmarks and goals will be reserved for the plan update process in 2015-2016. The Council agreed with the general Implementation Action Categories framework presented by Kristin as a starting outline. There will be future opportunities for review and comment by the Council. Kristin will coordinate with the Council via email to identify specific Implementation Activities. Chairman Windom suggested it made sense to coordinate reports and activities with neighboring Councils.

The Council will have two meetings in this fiscal year. The second meeting will be in the spring, and at that time the Council will review the draft Implementation Assessment. Chairman Windom suggested waiting until after the first of the year to set the next meeting date.

#### US Army Corps of Engineers report on Water Control Manual Update Process

Kris Mullins (USACE, Mobile District) provided a report on the ACF Water Control Manual update process. Her slides are available on the Council website. She reviewed the schedule for the update process and described its various components, including the Environmental Impact Statement and the public participation process. The scoping report was released in March 2013. They are currently formulating alternatives and conducting technical analyses. The USACE expects to release a draft Water Control Manual and Environmental Impact Statement in the summer of 2015, with a public comment period to follow the release of the drafts. They expect that the process will be complete in 2016. She said that this is an aggressive schedule. She encouraged the audience to provide input to the process.

In response to questions, she commented that USACE is actively tracking the ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) planning project and look forward to considering the results of their planning. The USACE has met with Dr. Georgakakos, who is conducting the modeling for ACFS. She is cautiously optimistic that their information will be useful to the update to the WCM. She also commented that the new lawsuit between FL and GA is not expected to impact the WCM update schedule.

#### Report on ACF Stakeholders Sustainable Water Management Planning Process

Billy Turner, president of ACF Stakeholders, Inc., provided an overview of that organization and gave an update on the ACFS sustainable water management planning process. His slides are available on the Council website.

#### Elected Official and Public Comment

There were no comments.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.*

Council Members Attending 10-29-2013 Meeting:

Matt Windom  
Harry Lange  
Jimmy Bradley  
Aaron McWhorter  
Robert York  
Robert Watkins  
Don Watson  
Steve Davis  
Ken Penuel  
Walter Rosso  
Gordon Moss  
Jimmy Knight  
Alan Bell  
Joe Griffith  
Jimmy Thompson  
Gardiner Garrard