



To: Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council

From: Kristin Rowles

cc: Tim Cash, Assistant Branch Chief, Georgia EPD

Subject: Meeting Summary: Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session on March 13, 2009

Thank you to everyone for attending and contributing to our kick-off meeting in Atlanta. The following is a summary of our break-out session that afternoon.

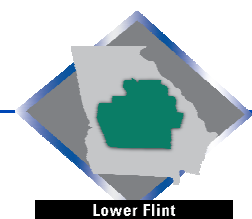
The kick-off meeting for all the regional water councils was held on March 13, 2009 at the Georgia Aquarium. After lunch, the Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council met for the first time in a breakout session. This session was called to order by Kristin Rowles, Facilitator (Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center), at 1:00 pm.

At the beginning of the meeting, contact information sheets for the council members were circulated, and each council member was requested to review and revise the contact information listed. The revised contact information sheets will be distributed to council members. In response to a question from the Council, it was emphasized that this information was to be distributed to the state agencies, the Lower Flint Ochlockonee planning consultant team, or the Council unless the information was requested under Georgia Open Records Act requirements.

Kristin Rowles briefly introduced the planning consultant team and reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Meet and Greet

Each of the council members was invited to provide a self-introduction including name, county of residence, and water use interest represented. Several of the council members offered their involvement in prior water planning efforts within the Flint River basin. A common concern of these council members was the extent to which the new Water Development and Conservation Plan would be directed by the Council and the extent to which it would be directed by the State. The response was that it had to meet State requirements, but within that framework, it was to reflect a general consensus of the Council and the residents of the basin.



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

A special recognition was offered for Representative Hanner as sponsor of the legislation creating the statewide water planning process. Mr. Hanner also recognized Council member Richard Royal (Georgia House of Representatives, retired) as playing an important role in water planning legislation. It was also recognized that Senator Bulloch, who was a member of the state Water Council, had been in attendance for the morning portion of the meeting. Rep. Hanner and Sen. Bulloch are ex-officio members of the Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council.

Council member Hal Haddock made a motion that Richard Royal be elected as the chair of the Council. This motion was seconded by Jimmy Webb. Kristin Rowles indicated that the guidance received was that this was to be an agenda item for the next Council meeting, but that a clarification of process would be requested from the Georgia EPD. Mr. Haddock and Mr. Webb agreed to table the motion until clarification from EPD.

Kristin Rowles then led the group through the "35" exercise. Each council member was given a sheet of paper and invited to write what the member believed to be the most important thing to consider in completion of the Water Development and Conservation Plan for the Lower Flint/Ochlockonee Basin. The members were then invited to share their views of most important items with at least five other members one at a time and negotiate awarding of seven points between the two items compared in any discussion by two members. At the conclusion of the session, a review was made of the items starting with the ones receiving the most points in the one-on-one discussions. The top results were as follows:

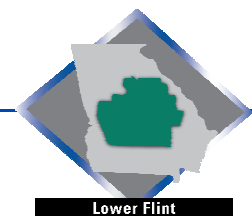
- "Smart Plan"
- Most Advantageous for Most People
- Keep Best Interest of Regions & Adjoining Regions
- Assess Needs of All Stakeholders - Decide Efficiently
- Adequate Water for Entire State
- Maintain "Our" Water for Later Generations
- Sustainable Water - Quantity & Quality

A list of all of the responses is included as an attachment to this meeting summary.

At the conclusion of the "35" process, a brief discussion was held about the purpose of delaying selection of a council chair until the next meeting of the Council, based on consultation with EPD staff. This was acceptable to the members, and they noted that it should be the first agenda item when the first Council meeting is held in the region.

Review Multi-Year Project Schedule

Kristin Rowles led the Council through a review of the materials in the notebook prepared by Georgia EPD. The contents included:



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

-
- A meeting agenda for the March 13, 2009, meeting
 - A list of the draft contact information for the Lower Flint/Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
 - An outline of the council meeting schedule and purposes of meetings
 - An outline of the contents of the Memorandum of Agreement, including processes to be followed and responsibilities assigned in development of the Lower Flint/Ochlockonee Water Development and Conservation Plan
 - An overview of morning presentations at the March 13 meeting
 - A copy of the Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan
 - Calendars for April and May 2009 to allow the Council to plan a date for the next meeting

Kristin Rowles reviewed the materials in the notebook and highlighted the schedule information therein.

Establish Council Meeting Schedule

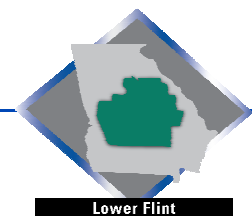
Kristin Rowles then asked the Council members to take the calendars for April and May from their notebooks and indicate dates that they would not be available for the next meeting. The target time frame is the last week of April or early in May. These calendars were filled in and returned to the team for evaluation of a meeting date. It was indicated to the Council that a preferred date and a secondary date would be sent to them for their approval and confirmation. There was also discussion of extended meeting dates, and the desirability of setting quarterly meeting dates that would best fit schedules of the Council members. A schedule for future meetings will be defined at the next meeting.

The discussion then turned to the preferred location of the next meeting. The City of Camilla was identified as a central location, and potential sites suggested within the City were the Chamber of Commerce and the Stripling Center. The planning consultant team will contact representatives from Camilla and determine a meeting location.

The final item of discussion was distribution of background materials and reports to members of the council. A commitment was made to send an internet link for both the 2006 Flint River Basin Water Development and Conservation Plan as well as the recent Georgia State-Wide Water Management Plan. For those who cannot access reports through the internet, hard copy versions can be sent.

Memorandum of Agreement Discussion

During the review of the notebook, several questions arose about the Memorandum of Agreement, such as,



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

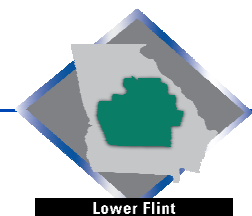
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- Are individual Council members protected from liability concerning any decisions or plans adopted by the Council?
 - Will the Council have any legal counsel available as part of the process of developing the Lower Flint/Ochlockonee Water Development and Conservation Plan?
 - What is the extent of flexibility the Council will have in negotiating the Memorandum of Agreement?

Tim Cash offered that every effort would be made to deliver the draft MOA to the Council members prior to the next meeting. Mr. Cash also indicated that he would consult with other State staff regarding the question of liability and try to have a response on that issue by the next Council meeting.

Prior to adjournment, Council members completed evaluation forms regarding the kick-off meeting. There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

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Attachments



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Attachment 1:

**Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Attendance – March 13, 2009**

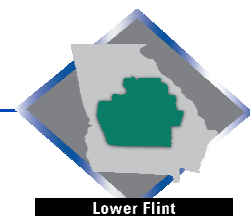
Council Members Attending

John Bailey
John Bridges
Sen. John Bulloch
Dean Burke
Jerry Chapman
Terry Clark
W. H. Haddock
Rep. Bob Hanner
John Heath
Josh Herring
Chris Hobby
Harold Hudgens
Gary Leddon
Jerry Lee
Charles Lingle
George McIntosh
Doyle Medders
Rick Moss
T.E. Moye
Greg Murray
Mike Newberry
Jim Quinn
Richard Royal
James Singletary
Howard Small
Steve Sykes
Will Vereen
James Webb
William Yearta

Council Members Not In Attendance

Georgia EPD

Tim Cash, Assistant Branch Chief
Rob McDowell, Georgia EPD



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Casey Deen

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Carlton Moore

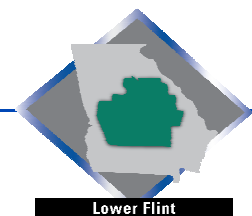
Planning Consultants

Kristin Rowles, GWPPC

Les Lampe, B&V

Mark Masters, GWPPC

Steve Simpson, B&V



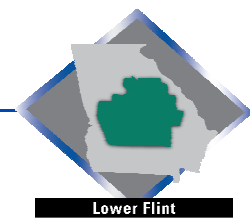
Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

Attachment 2:

**Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council “35” Responses (Yellow Cards)
Kick-Off Meeting – March 13, 2009**

- We have limited and sometimes questionable data concerning usage and assimilative capacities. How do we determine that point at which we move forward?
- Work toward the conservation use of our water source, yet be able to maintain adequate supply of clean water.
- Clean water for human consumption within region.
- Protect the rights for the users of water in the Lower Flint Basin.
- Conservation and cooperation.
- How valuable water resources are in our area.
- Water is a shared resource that everyone needs for success.
- Preserve water. Water conservation. Soil & water stewardship.
- We should keep the best interest of our region first and adjoining regions and the state second.
- Balance supply and demand and what controls the end result: remember the water cycle.
- Protecting the quality and quantity of the basin water supply.
- The most important issue facing the Lower Flint River - Ochlockonee is having local water problems solved by local representatives.
- Develop comprehensive plan that considers all stakeholders in the most economical and effective manner.
- Develop and maintain a clear adequate surface water supply for drinking, industry, agriculture, and recreation.



Lower Flint Ochlockonee Water Planning Council
Kick-off Meeting Breakout Session
Meeting Date: March 13, 2009

B&V Project 164139
March 26, 2009

-
- Identify primary water concerns and quickly develop compromise policy to enhance best conservation practices for as many as possible. Narrowing down the easiest to the hardest. Where we can spend most effectively.
 - Our job is to work out a plan that best utilizes our region's resource.
 - Equitable distribution of water.
 - Will work for all stakeholders.
 - Must continue to focus on our collaborative goals. We must listen, learn, and the lead.
 - The water needs of future generations.
 - To develop a plan that would be most advantageous to the most people at the least damage to the resource.
 - Assess the needs of all stakeholders, then make the best possible recommendations and decisions with that information in the most efficient manner.
 - The important thing is how to make sure we maintain our "water" for the generations to follow.
 - Provide adequate water (quality and quantity) for the entire state with consideration of agricultural, industrial, and municipal needs.
 - Whatever plans we develop need to be realistic, achievable, and time bound. Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time bound.
 - To ensure a sustainable water supply in terms of quality and quantity.
 - Logical management of the resource while respecting the needs of various stakeholders.

