Regional Water Planning Councils
Middle Ocmulgee Region

The goal of Middle Ocmulgee’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.

RECENT NEWS
Overview of Judge Magnuson’s July 17, 2009 Ruling

PUBLIC MEETINGS
Council Meeting #3

High Falls State Park
Water Resource Assessments

Resource assessments along with the forecasts form the scientific basis for the regional WDCPs. Three resource assessments will be provided to the regional water planning councils:

1. Groundwater Availability
2. Surface Water Availability
3. Surface Water Quality

Assessments are completed based on the boundaries of the resource, not the water planning region.
Forecasts

Resource assessment information, together with forecasts describing water needs, form the basis for long-term sustainable water management. Four forecasts will be provided to the regional water planning councils:

1. Municipal Water Demand
2. Industrial Water Demand
3. Agricultural Demand
4. Energy Demand
Development of Forecasts

Experts:
- Inventory available data
- Develop sound methodology

Peer review of aspects of methodology

Preliminary forecasts

Input from local governments and water use sectors

Briefings for regional water planning councils

Forecasts finalized
Public Participation

The WDCP development process must be open and inclusive, as participation from a diverse audience will result in better implementable decisions and a wide base of support for implementation. The following will be hallmarks of the efficient, effective, transparent regional planning process:

1. Open Meetings
2. Web-posted Documents and Reports
3. Direct Solicitation of Public Input
Agricultural Demand Forecasts

Statewide Withdrawals

Annualized Withdrawals (MGD)

http://www.nespal.org/sirp/waterinfo/State/awd/agwaterdemand.htm
Path Forward: Information Flow/Products

- Vision and Goals
- Gap Analysis
  - Forecast of demand
  - Assessment of baseline resource capacity
- Are goals met and gaps filled?
- Management practices to adjust demand and resource capacity
- Recommended regional water plan

**KEY:**
- Council-led products
- Information provided by EPD
- Joint EPD-Council evaluation
Identification of Gaps

Forecasts

- Total Forecasted Demand
- Resource Capacity

2010  2020  2030  2040  2050
Management Practices

Selecting Management Practices to Reduce Demand

- Total Demand Projection (Broken line indicates total demand with conservation)
- Baseline Resource Capacity
- Capacity reached
- Reducing demand meets needs through 2040
Management Practices

Selecting Management Practices to Decrease Demand & Increase Resource Capacity

Baseline Resource Capacity

Capacity reached

Reducing demand meets needs through 2040

Increasing capacity meets needs through 2050

Forecasts Demand

Total Demand Projection (Broken line indicates total demand with conservation)

2010 2020 2030 2040 2050
The Director of Georgia EPD is charged with the review of recommended WDCPs as outlined in the State Water Plan, and subsequent approval.

The Director will either:
1. **Adopt the recommended WDCP as submitted**
2. **Advise the regional water planning council of necessary changes to make the plan approvable**
3. **Adopt a recommended WDCP with conditions**
Council Responsibilities

- Develop a recommended plan
- Submit to EPD by January 31, 2011
- Make revisions based on EPD and public comment and finalize recommended plan by June 30, 2011
Recommended Plan and Adoption by EPD

EPD Responsibilities

• Provide guidance and template to ensure completeness and consistency
• Provide public notice and 45-day comment period
• Review recommended plan for consistency with State Water Plan, rules, and guidance
• Adopt recommended plan if consistent with State Water Plan, rules, and guidance
• Use final adopted plan to guide agency decision making
What You Can Do

• Observe and participate in meetings
• Urge your local governments and local industries/businesses to participate
• Provide comments to forecasts
• Provide comments to draft plans
  ➢ Through council members
  ➢ Through council websites
Helpful websites for Georgia Water Planning

Statewide:
www.gawaterplanning.org

Middle Ocmulgee:
www.middleocmulgee.org

Ag Water Use:
www.nespal.org/sirp/waterinfo/State/awd/agwaterdemand.htm