Coosa North Georgia Regional Water Council

Opportunities for Enhancing Inter-Council Planning

Background

In preparation for the 2015-2016 update of the regional water plan, the Coosa-North Georgia Water Planning Council met three times between April and October 2015 to review necessary updates for the Water Plan, and to make recommendations on InterCouncil Planning and on Involvement of Key Supporting Actors. The Council also received input from EPD Water Council Coordinator Becky Champion and from the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, a membership of utility providers and local governments which serves as the implementing arm of the Water Planning Council. The Partnership works with the Council to apply for federal and state funding, including Regional Water Planning Seed Grant funds, to implement the Water Plan.

Recommendations for Enhancing Inter-Council Planning

The Water Council provided the following recommendations on improving InterCouncil Planning which will establish a protocol to ensure that neighboring Councils, especially Middle Chattahoochee and the Metro Water Planning District, are involved in partnering efforts such as updates and implementation of the Water Plan.

The Coosa North Georgia Water Planning Council has included and invited representatives from the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Council and the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District at each meeting in 2015- in April, June, and September. This precedent will continue, along with more direct coordination to include the following steps:

- Invitations will be sent to the surrounding Councils and Council support staff to attend upcoming Council meetings, and to engage with them in outreach and planning.
- Coosa- North Georgia Council members will participate in future Metro North Georgia and Middle Chattahoochee Council meetings.
- Water Partnership, Water Council and staff of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission and/or Georgia Mountains Regional Commission will meet with staff of the Metro North Georgia District to assure coordination in implementation steps including studies and implementation of plan measures for water supply, water conservation, etc.
- The Council will send the Water Management Survey (attached) to Middle Chattahoochee and Metro North Georgia Councils, and will send minutes of the Coosa North Georgia Council meetings to these Councils.
- The Chair of the Water Council and the Chair of the Water Partnership will meet with the Chair and staff of the Middle Chattahoochee and Metro North Georgia Water Planning Districts to coordinate at the first of the update process and throughout the update and implementation of
the new Water Plan, on an ongoing basis and as needed. These meetings will focus on shared studies such as the Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study, as well as data assessments and forecasts, and on ongoing implementation steps.

- Additional opportunities for Inter Council planning may occur as the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission assist their respective cities and counties with preparation and updates of the local comprehensive plan and regional plans; these plans require consideration of the Water Plan in which the jurisdiction is located. For example, NWGRC assists Haralson County with the preparation of their local comprehensive plan which requires consideration of the Middle Chattahoochee Water Plan in which Haralson is located. This allows NWGRC staff opportunity to reach out to Middle Chattahoochee Council members, EPD and Council consultants to collaborate on planning for that county, as well as for the region.

The planning contractor, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, has compiled these steps based on the Coosa North Georgia Water Planning Council recommendations. These recommendations have been reviewed by the Chair of the Water Council to ensure accuracy.
Appendix:

Coosa North Georgia Water Management Practices Survey