

Overview of River Basin Planning

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Introduction

RBC feedback from August Survey:

“Desire to learn more about the overall goal - big picture of what we hope to accomplish.”

Overall Goal of the RBC:

Develop a **PLAN** that will guide the policy, management and conservation of the basin's water resources over the next 50 years.

Guiding Principles

The PLAN should...

- Support the equitable use of water resources.
- Help ensure water is available for all uses, when and where needed, throughout the Planning Horizon and under drought conditions.
- Protect the public's health and well-being and balance social, economic, and environmental needs.
- Recognize existing laws and regulations but recommend needed changes.

What We Will Do to Accomplish that Goal

Phase 1

- Learn about the basins water resources
- Become familiar with rules and laws governing water use
- Evaluate water demand projections
- Become familiar with the modeling tools

Phase 2

- Evaluate current and future water availability issues
 - Identify and quantify shortages
 - Identify stream reaches of interest and groundwater areas of concerns

What We Will Do to Accomplish that Goal

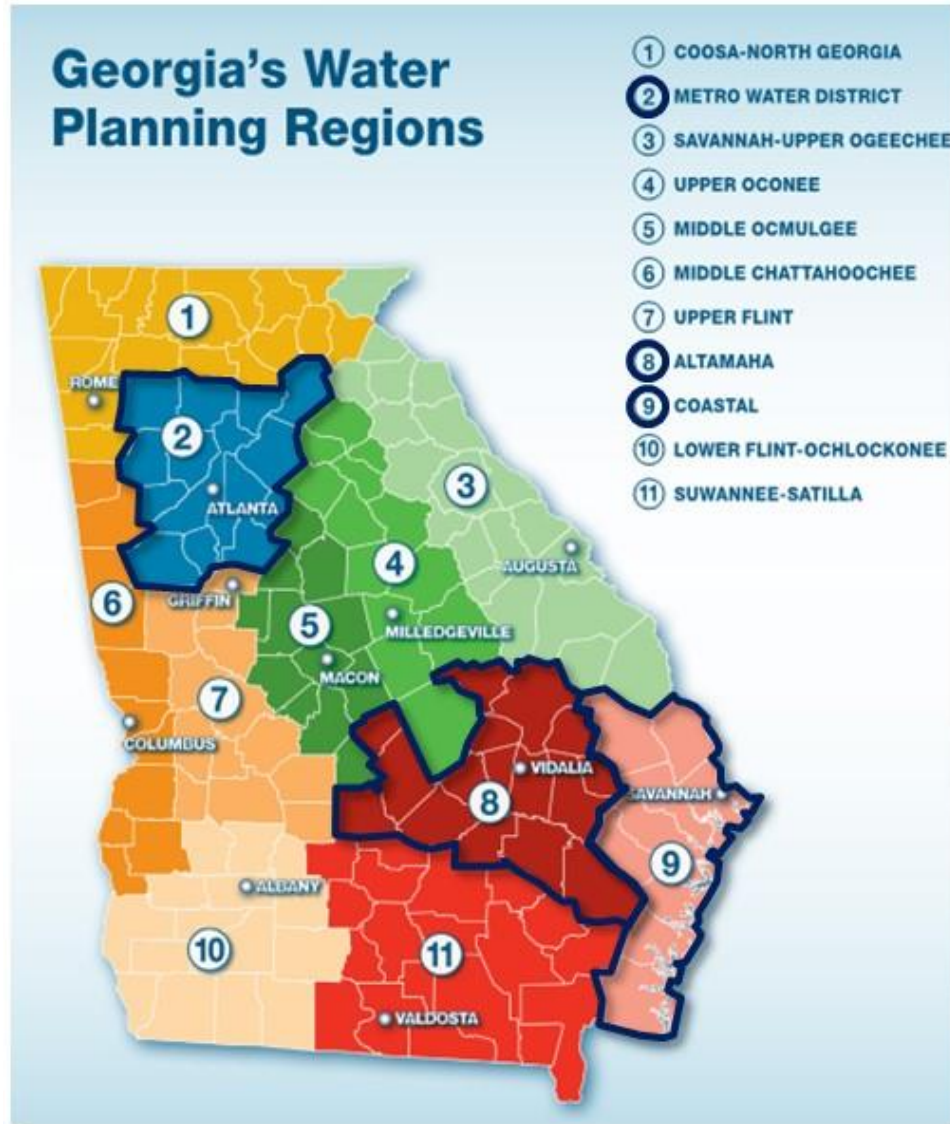
Phase 3

- Develop and evaluate water management strategies
- Recommend and prioritize strategies

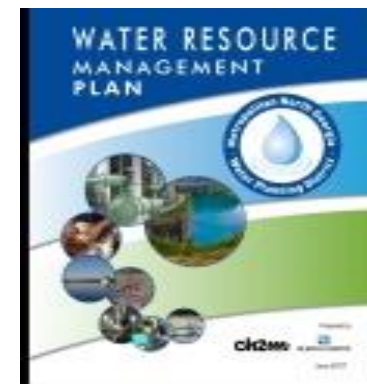
Phase 4

- Develop legislative, policy, technical and planning process recommendations
- Prepare the **River Basin Plan** that:
 - Includes an *implementation plan*
 - Identifies *drought response initiatives*
 - Considers *public input*

Example - Regional Water Planning in Georgia



Regional Water Plans
adopted in 2011
updated in 2017



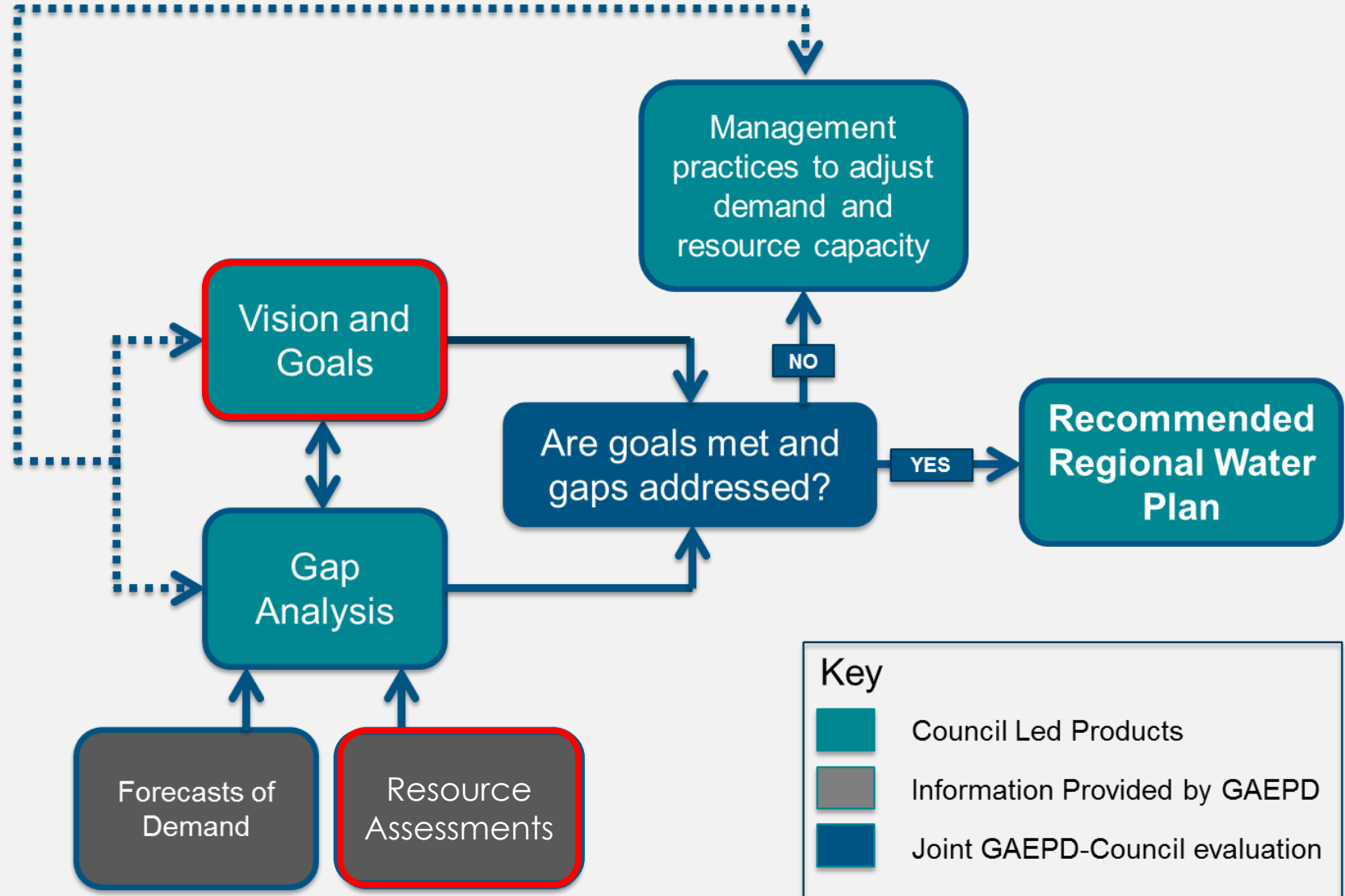
Metro Water District
Plans in 2003 & 2009
Integrated Plan in 2017

Example - Regional Water Planning in Georgia

- Pursuant to state law and regulations, Regional Water Plans are used by:
 - GAEPD to assess seed grant funding projects and inform water permitting decisions
 - GEFA to guide decisions regarding state loans for water-related projects

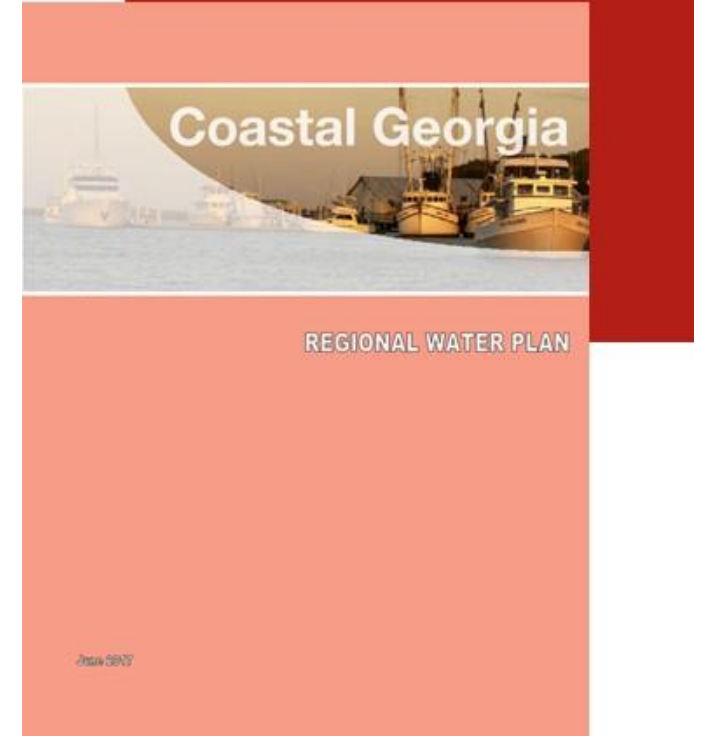
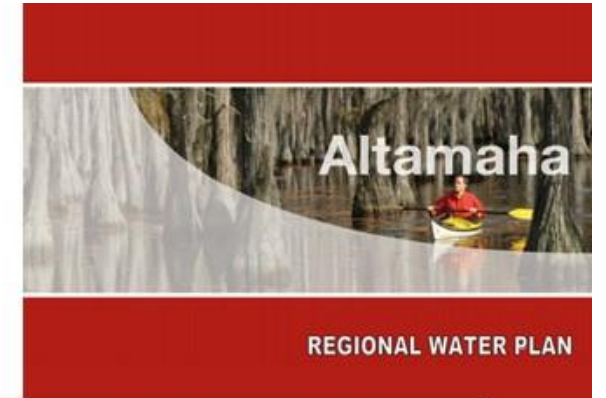
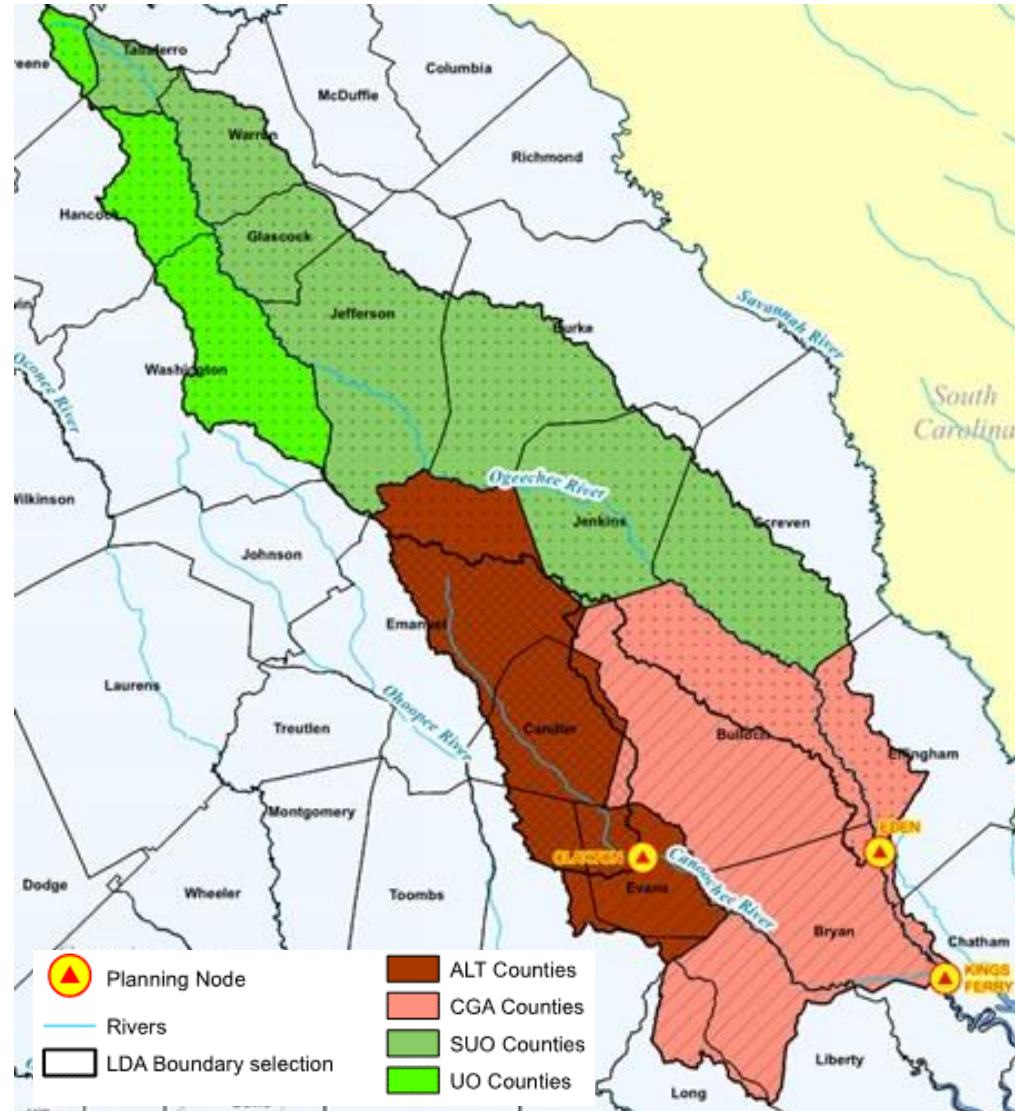


Steps in Developing the Georgia Regional Water Plans



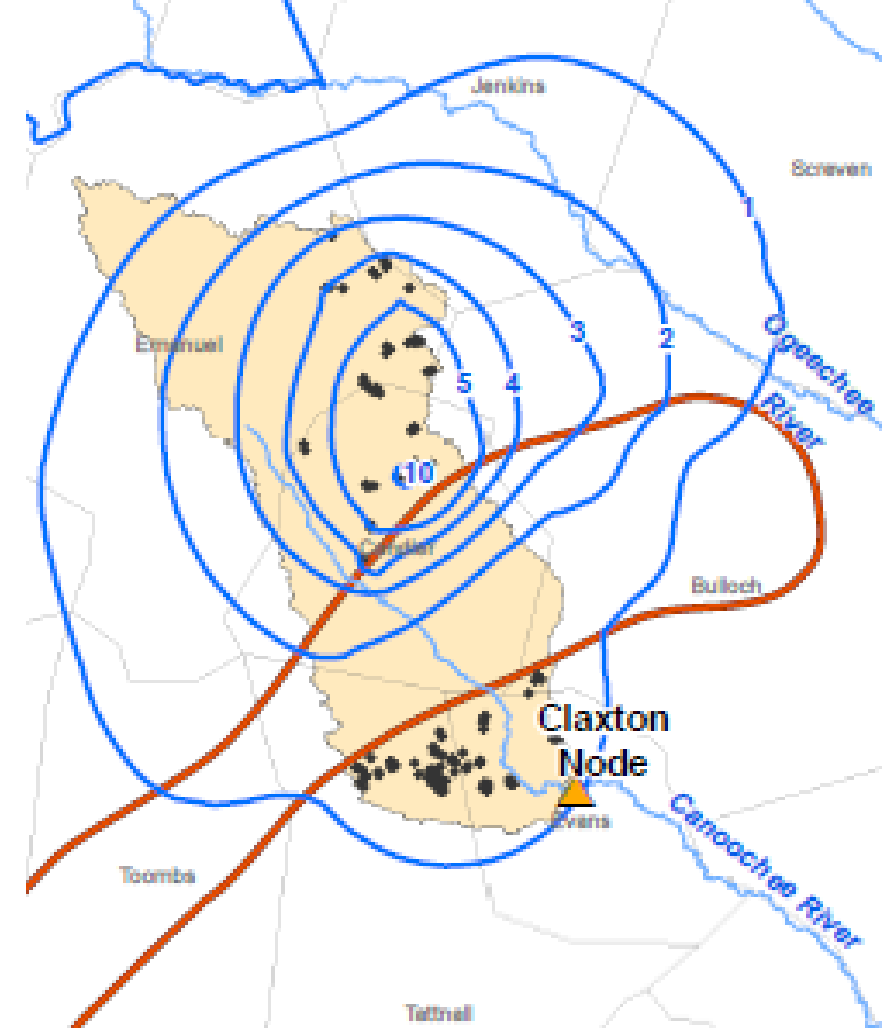
Gap Analysis

- The **Altamaha** and **Coastal Georgia** Regions shared potential surface water gaps in the Canoochee and Ogeechee Rivers



Gap Analysis

- During dry years, flows on the Canoochee River are a concern
- Groundwater modeling was conducted to determine whether groundwater from the Floridan aquifer could support those using surface water to switch over to groundwater



Modeling found that there is additional groundwater capacity to handle those users, but withdrawals should occur outside of area outlined in red (Gulf Trough)

Management Practices

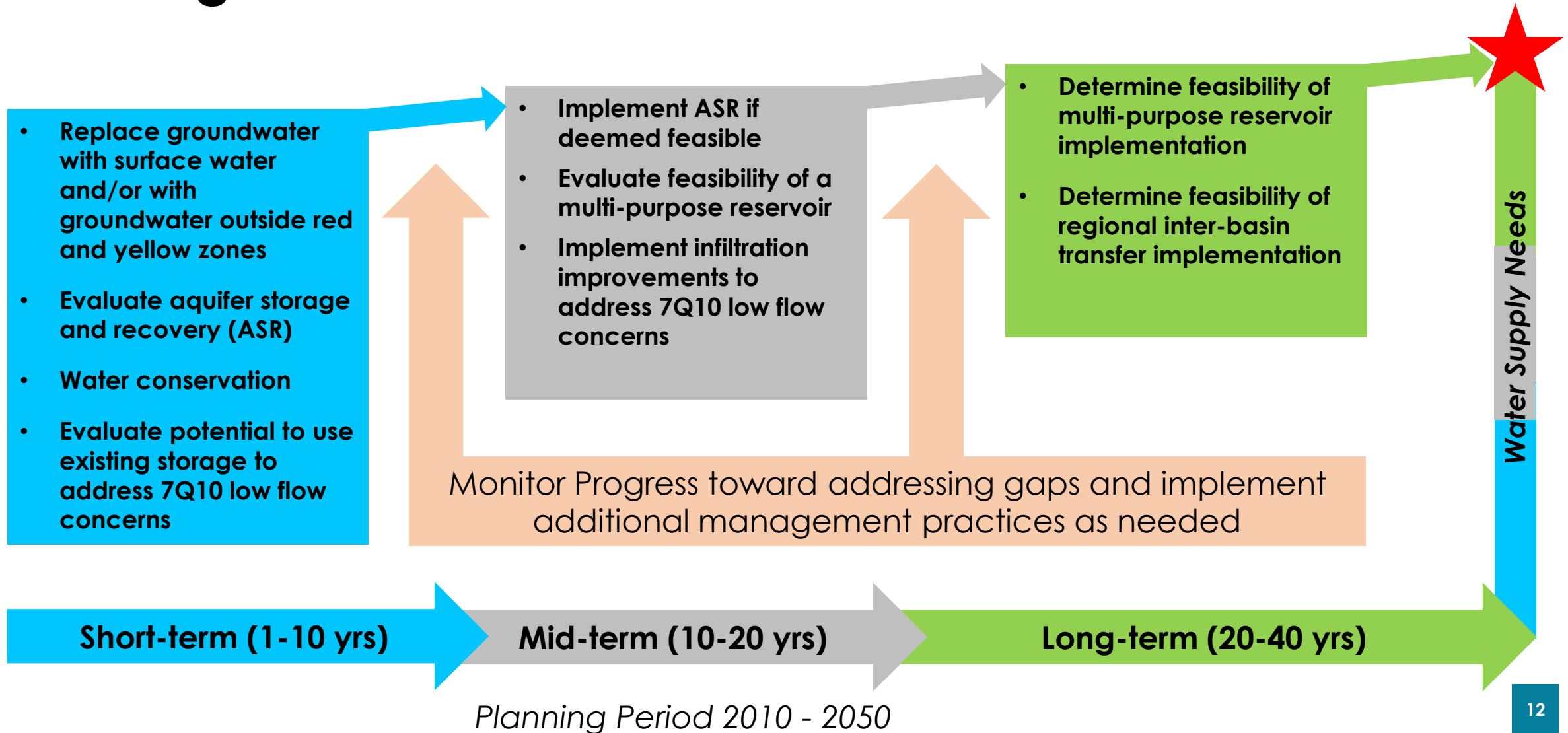
Any program or activity that:

- Helps meet the regional vision and goals
- Can be employed to ensure that there is sufficient surface water and groundwater to sustainably meet future needs
- Management practices can increase resource capacity and/or adjusts forecasted demands (i.e., water efficiency measures)

Coastal Georgia Region

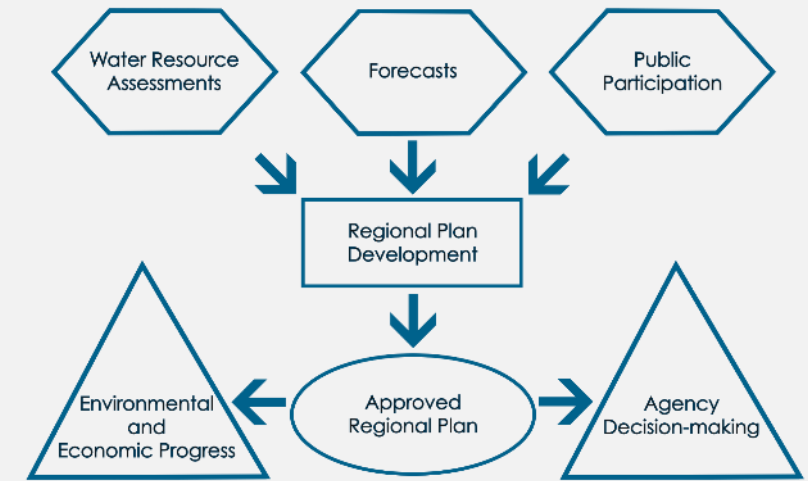
Recommended Management Practices 2011 Regional Water Plan

2050 Total Water
Supply Needed



Georgia Regional Water Plans Implementation

- Councils working to raise awareness of Plan
- Councils identifying and coordinating with partners to facilitate implementation
- State providing funds to support Council activities, technical work
- Seed grants available to support Plan implementation
- Next review and revision of Plans (2020-2022)



Coastal Georgia RWP Council Outreach Meeting

Recent and On-Going Implementation in the Coastal Georgia Region

- EPD Seed Grants have help fund \$210,000 of projects since 2015 in the Coastal Region
 - University of Georgia Study of Coastal Estuaries and Water Quality
 - UGA Extension working jointly with Coastal, Altamaha and Savannah-Upper Ogeechee on both Ag and Urban Water Conservation and Water Quality Management Practices
- GEFA has helped fund over \$160M of projects across the Coastal Region since 2010
 - \$98.7M Clean Water Fund; \$8.5M Drinking Water; \$53.2M Georgia Fund; \$100K Water Reuse

Recent and On-Going Implementation in the Coastal Georgia Region



City of Richmond Hill
Sterling Creek WRF



City of Rincon Reclaimed Water Project



City of Pooler WWTP
Membrane Bioreactor
Upgrades



City of Riceboro
Green Zone Well



Savannah Raw
Water Storage
Impoundment



Savannah River
Dissolved Oxygen
Facility



City of Ludowici
Wastewater Plant
Upgrades

Next Edisto RBC Meeting

Wed, November 18 (in 4 weeks)

Informational Topic

- Coastal Aquatic Resources
- Freshwater Aquatic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Water Law

Speaker

Joey Ballenger, Associate Marine Scientist, DNR

Chris Thomason, Fisheries Biologist, DNR

Sean Taylor, Archaeologist, DNR

Josh Eagle, USC School of Law

RBC Breakout Discussion and Housekeeping Items

- Work on Long-term Vision Statement and Goals for the Edisto Basin