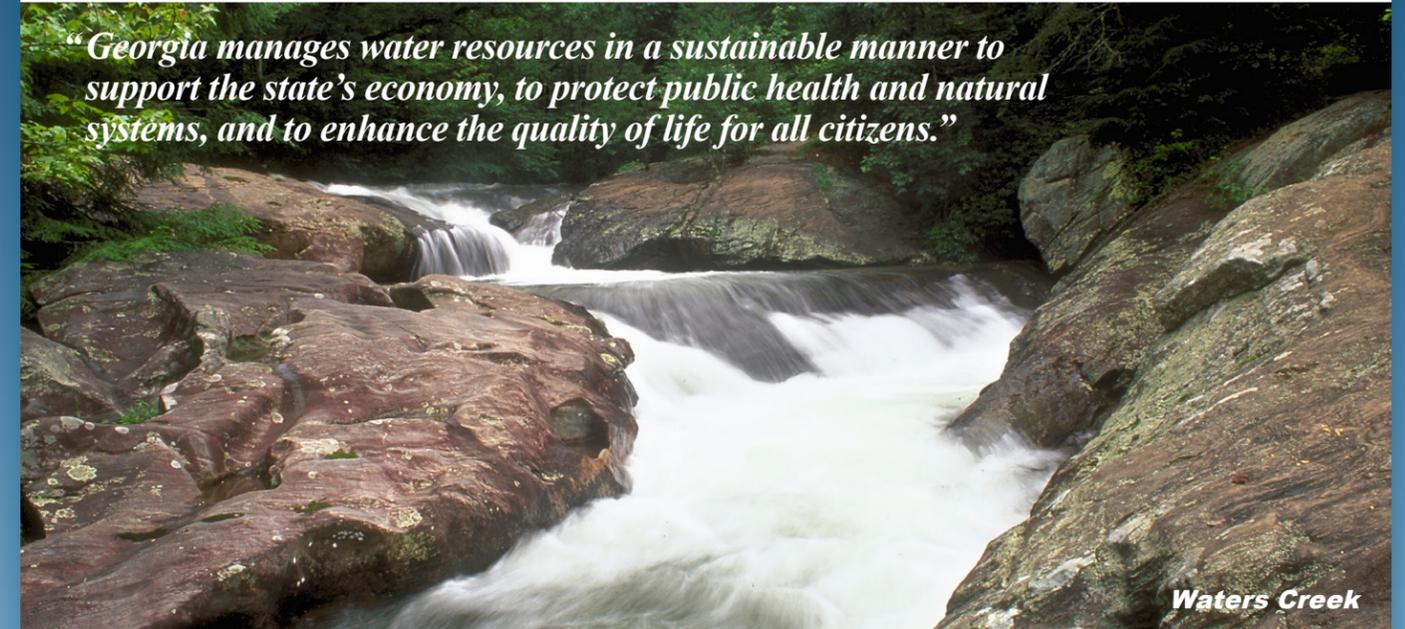
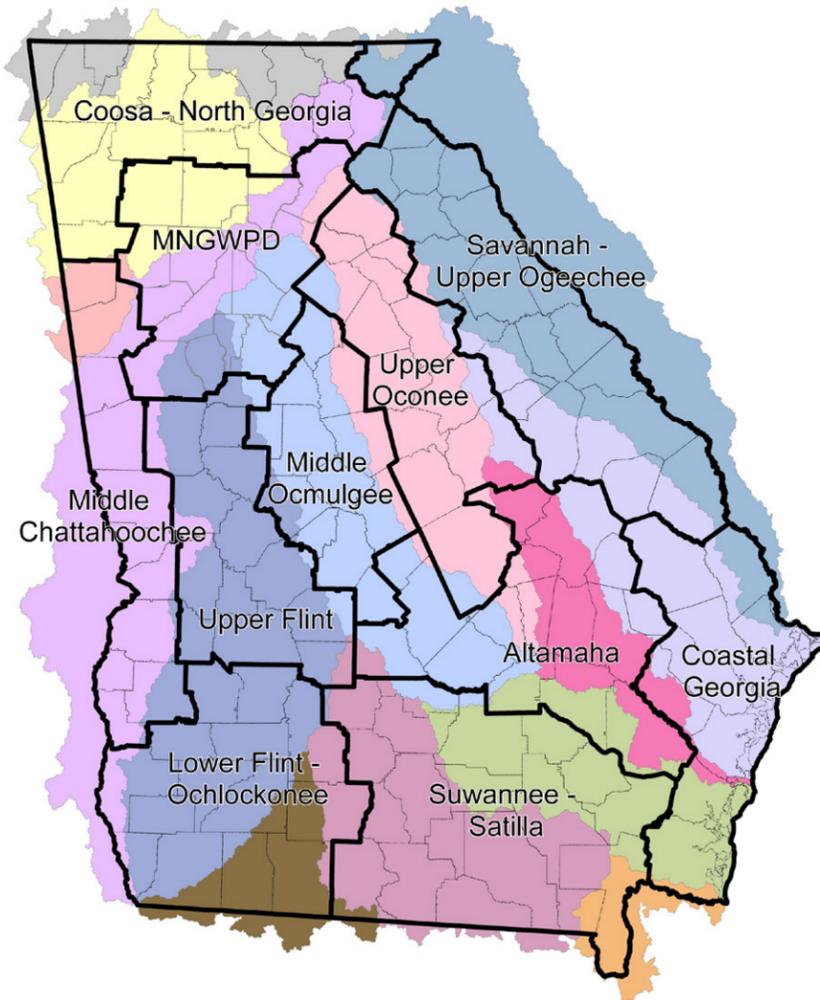


“Georgia manages water resources in a sustainable manner to support the state’s economy, to protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens.”



Water Planning Regions



For more information, visit www.georgiawaterplanning.org.

The 2004 Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act

authorized the development of the State Water Plan. The State Water Plan calls for the preparation of ten Regional Water Plans that will provide the necessary local and regional perspectives to ensure each region’s water resources are sustainably managed through at least 2050.

The Regional Water Plans will: 1) address both water quantity and water quality challenges; 2) include forecasts of future water supply and wastewater treatment needs; and, 3) identify practices to ensure that future needs can be met.

In February of 2009, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House appointed the 300 members of the ten Regional Water Planning Councils. Since then, the Councils have been preparing their initial recommended Regional Water Plans.

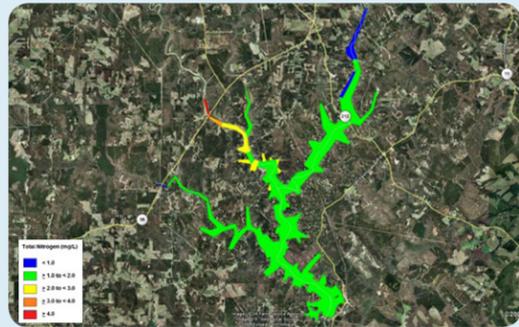
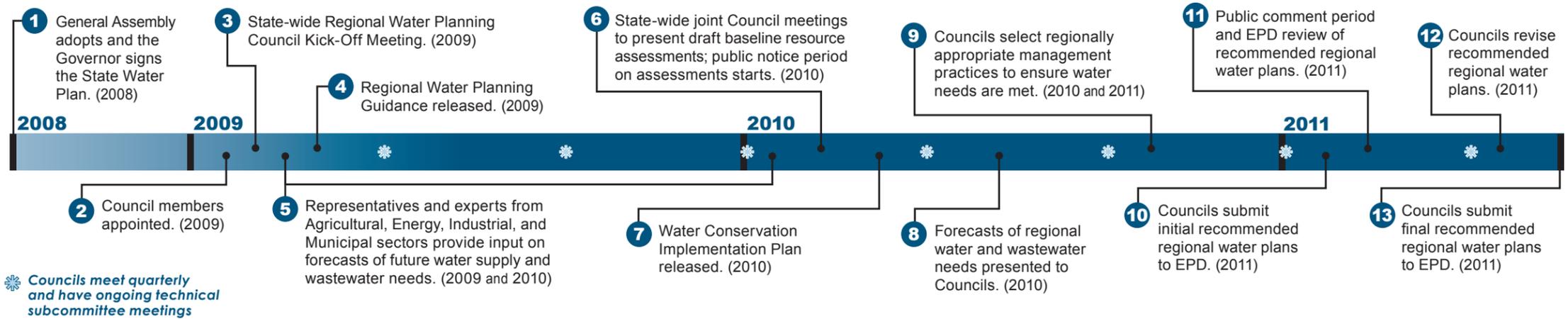
The Regional Water Planning Councils’ work is on time and on budget. The strong volunteer leadership provided by the Council members (over 15,000 hours so far) has been integral to ensuring success. This would also not be possible without the strong support from the Governor, the General Assembly, and the following State Agencies assisting the Councils with implementing the State Water Plan:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sustainability and Wildlife Resources Divisions
- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget

Products developed during Georgia’s first round of Regional Water Planning include:

- State-wide **Resource Assessments** for Groundwater Availability, Surface Water Availability, and Surface Water Quality;
- State-wide **Forecasts** of water and wastewater needs through 2050 for the Agricultural, Energy, Industrial, and Municipal sectors;
- State-wide **field assessments and information management systems**;
- Ten **Regional Water Plans** outlining management practices to meet future water needs.

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING TIMELINE

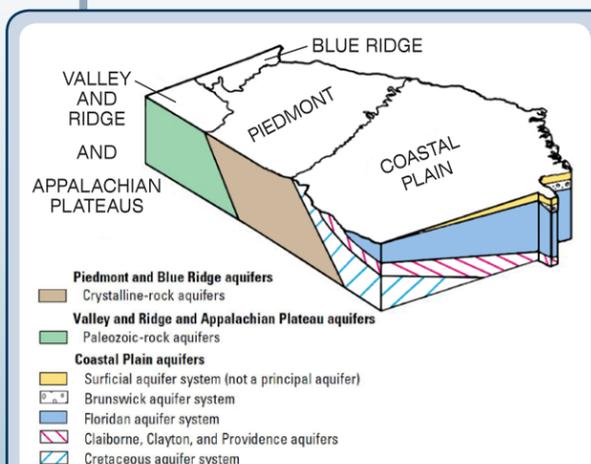
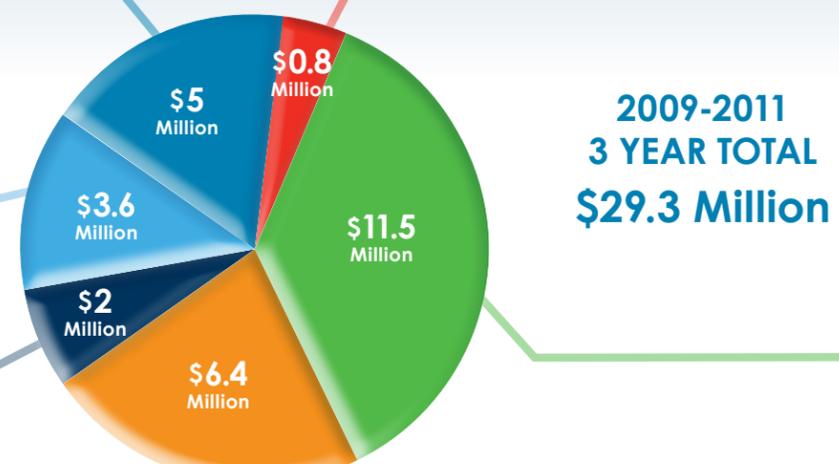
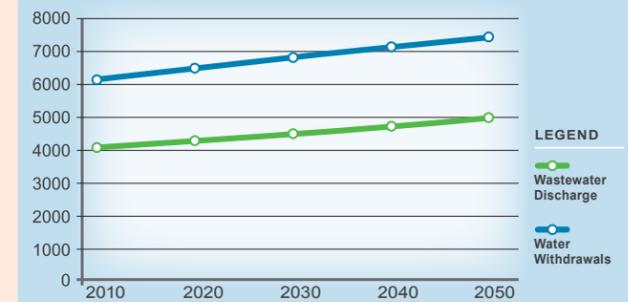


Surface Water Quality Resource Assessment

- Steady-state modeling of dissolved oxygen in streams and estuaries that receive treated wastewater discharges
- Hydrodynamic modeling of dissolved oxygen in six of the state's largest rivers
- Hydrodynamic modeling of nutrients and dissolved oxygen for 12 lakes and Brunswick Harbor
- Watershed modeling of nutrients and dissolved oxygen from both point sources and the landscape
- Modeling used to assess future water quality conditions and the capacity of surface waters to assimilate both point and non-point sources
- Compiled the best available data

Forecasts of Water and Wastewater Needs

- Statewide and regional water and wastewater needs to 2050 for Agricultural, Energy, Industrial, and Municipal sectors



- Compiled the best available data
- Developed models for seven aquifers or parts of aquifers, with more complex models done for the South Georgia aquifers that are more heavily used
- Models used to assess effects of groundwater withdrawals on aquifer levels, aquifer storage, and stream flows

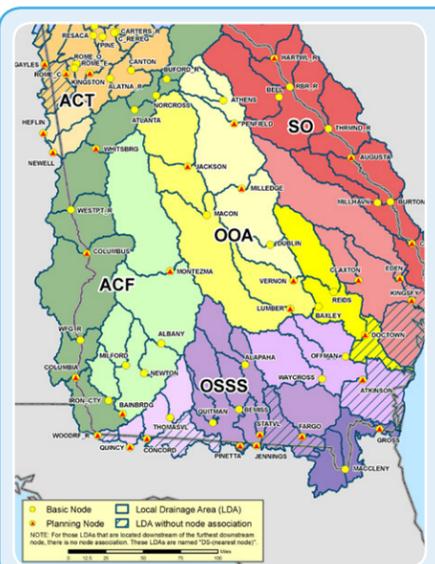
Field Assessments and Data Information Management

- Developed consistent water use and baseline flow information for all watersheds across the state
- Increased stream gages by 42, increasing installed gages from 51 to 93
- Increased water quality monitoring sites by 89 from 190 sites to 279 sites, also conducting monitoring each year rather than on a five-year rotation
- Developing a web enabled Information Management System



Regional Water Planning and Guidance

- EPD, with support from other state agencies, is providing guidance and technical assistance to the Water Planning Councils
- Water Planning Councils creating Regional Water Plans describing Management Practices to meet future needs
- Coordination among Councils and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District on shared water resources



- Developed basin-specific River Basin Planning Tool models or reservoir operation models for each of the state's river basins
- Models used to quantify the availability of surface water resources to meet instream and offstream needs
- Compiled the best available data on water use, water returns, historical flows, and meteorological data to support assessments