



Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Plan Review Committee Report February 10, 2011

LFO Plan Review Committee

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Committee Meeting: February 4, 2011

- Meeting summary hand-out
- Reviewed changes in Jan. 21st draft
- Discussed further plan revisions
- Developed recommendations to Council for today's meeting

Table 6-1: Prioritization of Management Practices

- Use 2 categories: High and Normal (instead of 3: High, Medium, Low)
- Set priorities based on the importance of a practice to:
 - attaining the council's vision and goals
 - addressing identified gaps
- Priority selection hand-out

Section 6.2 (page 6-11)

The identified gaps, including that in the Dougherty Plain aquifer, relate to the depletion of surface water flows in drought periods, as a result of consumptive use of surface water and groundwater. At many points in the period of record, the magnitude of these gaps is sufficiently large that it cannot be addressed without drastic suspension of consumptive water use, construction of large-scale storage, or both. The gap identified in Dougherty Plain aquifer results from the impact of groundwater use on surface water and does not reflect an adverse impact of groundwater use on aquifer levels; the model predicted drawdown in the aquifer of less than five feet.

Section 6.2 (page 6-12)

- As the planning process evolves, the Council recommends the development of more precise measures of the health of its water resources. Moreover, the Council emphasizes that the resource assessment models developed and used for this plan are planning tools; they should not be relied upon as policy tool. The Council makes further recommendations about information needs and resources assessment models ~~This recommendation is explored further~~ in Section 7.

Section 7.4 (4th bullet point, page 7-14)

Delete:

Revenue raising authority should be considered for these institutions.

Add:

If a funding source is needed for these institutions, a regional sales tax would be preferred over a property tax as a potential revenue source.



Section 7.4: Coordinated Recommendations with Neighboring Councils

- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils recognize the critical need for more storage in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) System and recommend that a plan for additional storage be developed and implemented and that it consider the following: better utilization of existing storage in the Chattahoochee, new storage in the Flint, and enhancement of existing storage capacity.
- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils urge GAEPD and those involved in the resource assessment modeling to improve upon existing models for future regional water planning by making greater use of actual and current data on water use and conditions and by developing assumptions that more closely approximate actual conditions.
- The Upper Flint, Lower Flint-Ochlockonee, and Middle Chattahoochee Councils request that state and federal agencies reevaluate the scientific justification for the minimum flow requirements at Woodruff Dam that are intended to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems.