



Lower Flint-Ochlockonee
Water Quantity
Committee Report
February 10, 2011

LFO Water Quantity Committee

- Jimmy Webb, Chair
- Steve Bailey
- John Bridges
- Jimmy Champion
- Hal Haddock
- Gary Leddon
- Chris Hobby
- George McIntosh
- Doyle Medders
- T.E. Moye
- Greg Murray
- Mike Newberry
- Richard Royal
- Howard Small



Committee Meeting: February 8, 2011

- Discussed ESA issues
- Reviewed changes in Jan. 21st draft
- Discussed further plan revisions
- Developed recommendations to Council for today's meeting

Section 6.1 (page 6-2)

In the 2nd bullet point (regarding 2008 Biological Opinion):

- Change the 2nd sentence to read as follows:
“The consultation will continue ongoing depth distribution data collection and analysis to determine the minimum flows needed in order to protect listed species.”
- Add a footnote referring to the statement of the Council’s position on this issue on page 7-13.



Page 6-8: Replace DM8 & DM9 with...

| Management Practice | Description/Definition of Action |
|--|---|
| <p><i>DM8:</i> <i>Research new tools for agricultural water demand management to determine their feasibility, costs, and benefits for Georgia.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Quantification of Agricultural Water Withdrawal Permits:</i> Currently, the tools to manage agricultural water withdrawals in drought periods are limited to the Flint River Drought Protection Act and emergency powers at the discretion of the EPD Director. Quantification of agricultural withdrawal permit limits, based on use over a period of years, could allow for more precise management in a drought period. However, quantification is difficult to implement, and water users have significant concerns over this policy approach. More study is needed to determine whether quantification would provide for more predictable and fair management of agricultural water demand in drought periods.• <i>Agricultural irrigation institutions:</i> Irrigation institutions, such as irrigation districts, are used in other states to support farmers in sharing resources and developing common supply infrastructure. They can provide for local or regional management of water resources and support more flexible management approaches. More study is needed to determine whether these institutions would be appropriate and beneficial for water users and water resources in Georgia. |