I. INTRODUCTION

Public involvement is a primary element in the work of the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Council (herein referred to as the "Council"). The Council prepared a Public Involvement Plan which was published on the Middle Chattahoochee Planning Region website in October 2009. This memorandum summarizes the Public Involvement Plan (included as an attachment to this technical memorandum) and the activities undertaken by the Council during the development of the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan.

The Council provided opportunities for meaningful input from key stakeholders, representatives of local government, and the general public. In general, it was at the discretion of the Chair of the Council to permit additional public comment or to adjust or adapt to specific meeting timelines and constraints, so long as the following principles of the public input process were followed:

- Stakeholders and regional water planning council members will treat each other with respect and dignity;
- All participants will have an open mind and participate openly and honestly;
- The regional water planning process will continue with concurrent public comment throughout;
- Georgia EPD will provide public notice and take public comment on draft regional water plans after they are submitted;
- Stakeholder comments will be pertinent to the topic of the meeting at which they are expressed; and
- Input from the public, key stakeholders, and local government representatives will be considered and incorporated in Council work products, and responses to public input will be provided where appropriate.

The key stakeholders for the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region are identified below. All members of the public had opportunities for input, even if not specifically identified in this section.

- Local government officials – cities and counties within the water planning region
- Neighboring regional water planning councils – water planning councils that share borders and/or water resources

- Regional Commissions – agencies supporting local and regional comprehensive planning

- Agriculture – includes water permit holders and non-permitted water users for agricultural applications
- Businesses – includes local businesses
- Industries – includes industrial water permit holders and municipally-supplied industrial facilities
- Energy – includes energy businesses, emerging power interests, and hydro-electric users
- Forestry – includes owners of managed forest lands and the forest products industry
- Institutions/educational/schools – includes public and private schools as well as institutions
- Tourism – includes public and private organizations related to local travel and tourism
- Recreation – includes citizens and industry related to recreational water uses
- Environment – includes citizens, agencies, and groups focused on environmental protection
- Water and Sewer Authorities, Utilities and Service Providers – includes public and private entities in the water planning region that provide water and wastewater services
- Public – any citizen interested in the regional water planning process
- Navigation – includes parties having interests in waterway navigation

II. Council Meetings

Time was provided at every Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Council meeting for input from stakeholders and the public. To facilitate a fair and efficient process, the Council adopted the following procedures for public comment during Council meeting:

- All Council meetings were open meetings
- Stakeholders were provided an opportunity to provide comments pertinent to the topic of the meeting in which they are expressed
- Time for public comments were provided at all Council meetings
- Provisions for written comments were made at all Council meetings

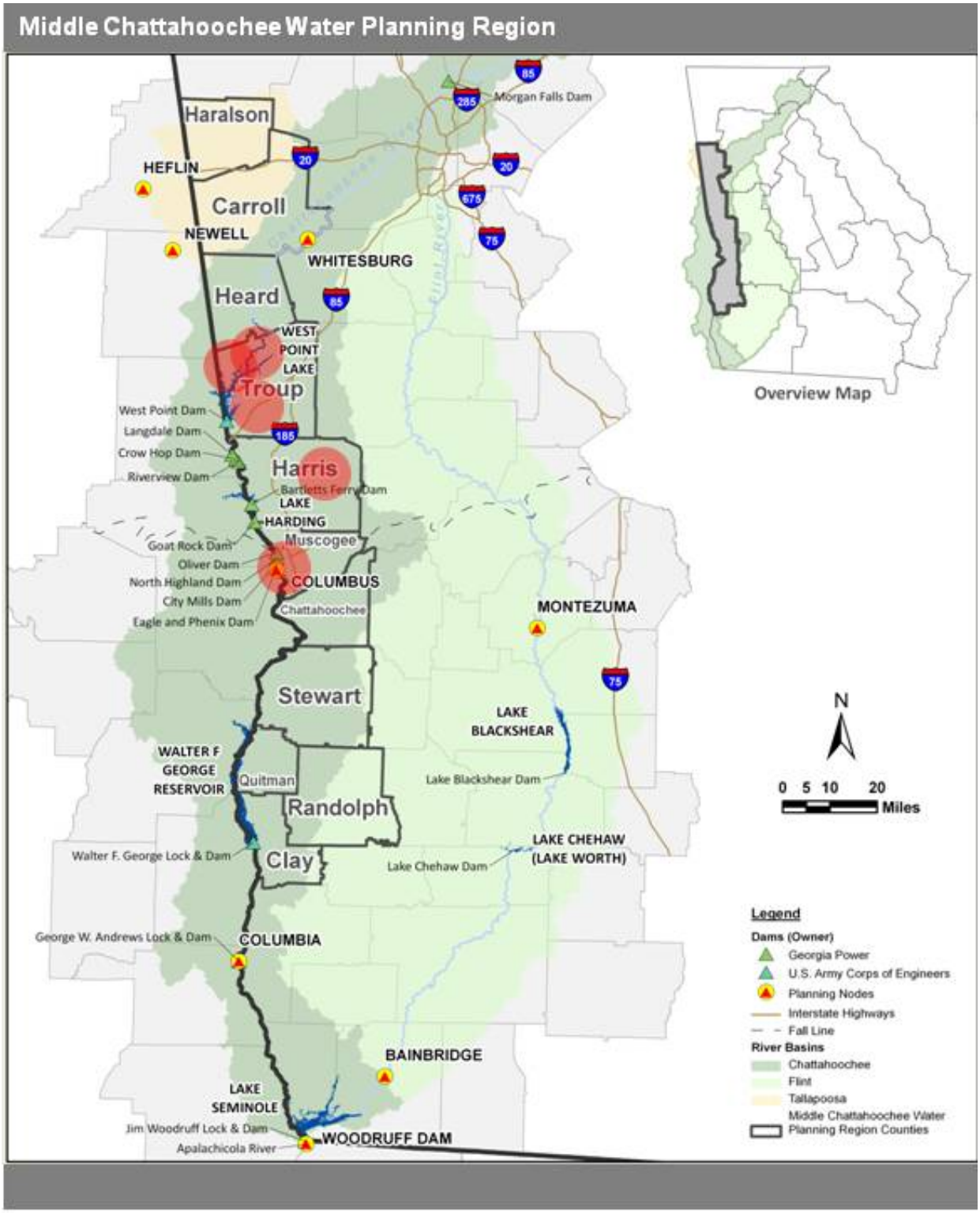
All the Council meetings were open to the public and public notices were posted on the Council website (http://www.middlechattahoochee.org) with a meeting agenda to be covered two weeks prior to a meeting. In addition the public notice was sent via email to the following:

- The Georgia Municipal Association, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Association of Water Professionals and Georgia Rural Water Association.

- All points-of-contact for each region's group of local government representatives. GMA and ACCG agreed to collect the names and contact information for municipal and county government points of contact; develop and maintain region-specific databases of these contacts; and share the databases with EPD. EPD used the databases to e-mail information to the contacts announcing upcoming council meetings.

- List of all interested parties that the public notice has been posted to the relevant regional water planning Web sites. Interested parties included: a) people who have attended Council meetings as members of a gallery and provided an email address indicating that they want to receive such notices; b) people who have asked to be notified via email correspondence with the Planning Contractors via the regional water planning Web sites or other means; and, c) people who have asked to be notified via email correspondence with EPD via the Georgia Water Planning Web site or other means.

The Council meetings were held throughout the region which gave an opportunity for the public to respond in person, if needed. The locations are noted with large red circles in the following map.


Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region
Haralson
HEFLIN
Carroll
NEWELL
WHITESBURG
Heard
WEST POINT LAKE
Troup
West Point Dam
Langdale Dam
Crow Hop Dam
Riverview Dam
Harris
Bartletts Ferry Dam
LAKE HARDING
Goat Rock Dam
Muscogee
Oliver Dam
North Highland Dam
City Mills Dam
Eagle and Phenix Dam
COLUMBUS
Chattahoochee
MONTEZUMA
Stewart
LAKE BLACKSHEAR
Lake Blackshear Dam
WALTER F GEORGE RESERVOIR
Quitman
Randolph
Clay
Walter F. George Lock & Dam
LAKE CHEHAW (LAKE WORTH)
Lake Chehaw Dam
George W. Andrews Lock & Dam
COLUMBIA
BAINBRIDGE
LAKE SEMINOLE
Jim Woodruff Lock & Dam
Apalachicola River
WOODRUFF DAM
Morgan Falls Dam
Overview Map
N
0 5 10 20
Miles
Legend
Dams (Owner)
Georgia Power
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Nodes
Interstate Highways
Fall Line
River Basins
Chattahoochee
Flint
Tallapoosa
Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region Counties

Thirteen members of the public addressed the Council during the Council meetings as shown in the following table.

Council Meeting Public Comment Summary		
Council Meeting	**Local Elected Officials**	**Members of the Public**
1	None	Patti Lanford, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2	None	Buster Haddock, Randolph County Extension Agent Ted Will, GA DNR Fisheries
3	None	Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy Ben Mosley, Georgia Soild and Water Conservation
4	None	None
5	None	Patrick Crews Page Estes, Troup County Chamber of Commerce Dick Timmerberg, Executive Director of the West Point Lake Coalition James Emery, Engineer from Troup County
6	None	Dick Timmerberg, Executive Director of the West Point Lake Coalition James Emery, Engineer from Troup County Bert Earley, water quality forester with the Georgia Forestry Commission
7	None	None
8	None	Patti Lanford, DNR-WRD
9	None	Morton Reed with Columbus Water Works Luke Crossen, GSWCC

Written comments and web comments were summarized and provided to the Council. Verbal comments were summarized and included in meeting summaries. Meeting summaries were posted on the Council website and are included with Council's regional water plan as a supplemental document located on the Council website in this Memorandum.

II. Other Participation Opportunities

The public had other ways to participate in the process. Any email or letter sent to Georgia EPD or directly to the Council was shared with the Council. These letters or emails, where appropriate, were included in the individual Council meeting summaries.

Synopses of the March 2010 Water Resource Assessments were posted for public review and comment. EPD compiled a summary of comments received and provided responses to those comments.

In addition, the regional water plans will also be posted for public review and comment beginning in May of 2011. Comments will be documented and responses will be made.

Together, these opportunities summarized in the memorandum allowed relevant and diverse input and improved the quality of the recommended regional water plans.