

**Flint River Basin Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee**  
**Permitting Recommendations**  
**Final as of November 14, 2005**

1. The largest scale on which water management and permitting decisions should be based should be a sub-basin level corresponding to the USGS HUC-8 designation. In the Flint River Basin these are:

- G. Upper Flint
- H. Middle Flint
- I. Kinchafoonee-Muckalee Creek
- J. Lower Flint
- K. Ichawaynochaway Creek
- L. Spring Creek

Permitting decisions in these sub-basins will take into account the water use characteristics, hydrology, geology, any link between surface water and ground water, and the ecology unique to each sub-basin. Where necessary, and where data are available, permitting and management decisions should also take into account site-specific conditions and local stream impacts down to a HUC-12 scale.

*[The motion was made and seconded to accept #1, and the motion passed unanimously.]*

2. In considering new and existing applications both ground water and surface water, the goal of EPD will be to evaluate the effect of the proposed water use on existing users, and issue the new permit in such a way that the new permit will not adversely impact the water available to existing users. This evaluation may result in EPD issuing a permit for less than the applicant requested; requiring the applicant to use a different aquifer than requested; requiring the applicant to drill in a different location to avoid causing drawdown in an existing permitted well or unacceptable impacts on an adjacent stream or surface water withdrawal point; and imposing more stringent low-flow protection requirements on surface water users than are currently recommended (such as protecting a flow higher than 7Q10 or other appropriate tabulations of low flow characteristics.)

Because of the variable characteristics of the Floridian aquifer, there may be parts of the Flint River Basin in which groundwater withdrawals have no significant impact on nearby users or on stream flows. In these areas, permits should be issued as requested by the applicant as long as all other requirements are met (such as proof of ownership, conservation measures, etc.).

*[The motion was made and seconded to accept #2, and the motion passed with 12 for and 5 opposed to the recommendation.]*

*[Nov 14 meeting – motion was made and seconded to approve the changes to number 2 in red, and the motion passed unanimously.]*

3. Newly issued permits in the Flint River Basin (i.e. those issued after January 1, 2006 regardless of when an application was submitted) will require an economically feasible, state-of-the-art conservation plan that reduces the volume of water withdrawn, used, or applied as a condition of the permit. Such plans may include end-gun shut off switches, rain-gauge shut-off systems, and leak repair. Applicants and EPD shall refer to conservation measures recommended by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service or the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

In the event that a required conservation plan is not being followed, the permittee will be issued a notice of violation requiring correction of the problem and compliance with the conservation plan in such a way that irrigation during a growing season is not interrupted. However, the violator will have his or her permit suspended if the problem is not corrected before the next growing season.

*[The motion was made and seconded to accept #3 with changes, and the motion passed unanimously.]*

4. If irrigation is decreased during a drought year by 20% of current use in and Ichawaynochaway Creek and lower Flint River sub-basins, critical low flow criteria will be met. If irrigation is decreased during a drought year in the Spring Creek sub-basin by 20%, it is assumed this will have a beneficial affect on water levels and stream ecology even though critical low flow criteria may not be met. This will require application of the Flint River Drought Protection Act in such a way that enough irrigated acreage is temporarily converted to dry-land acreage, which can be done either through the voluntary auction process or non-voluntary irrigation suspension with compensation as defined by State law.

*[The motion was made and seconded to approve # 4, and the motion passed with 16 for and one abstaining.]*

5. For new permit applications, EPD will require proof of ownership or a lease before a letter of concurrence is issued to the applicant. EPD will also require latitudinal/longitudinal, accurate coordinates of a proposed well or surface water pump location to be included on the permit application.

*[The motion was made and seconded to approve #5, and the motion passed unanimously.]*

6. All existing permits known to be duplicate permits will be revoked by EPD. All existing permits for which initial use of water has not commenced will be considered null and void, and revoked.

*[The motion was made and seconded to approve #6, and the motion passed unanimously.]*