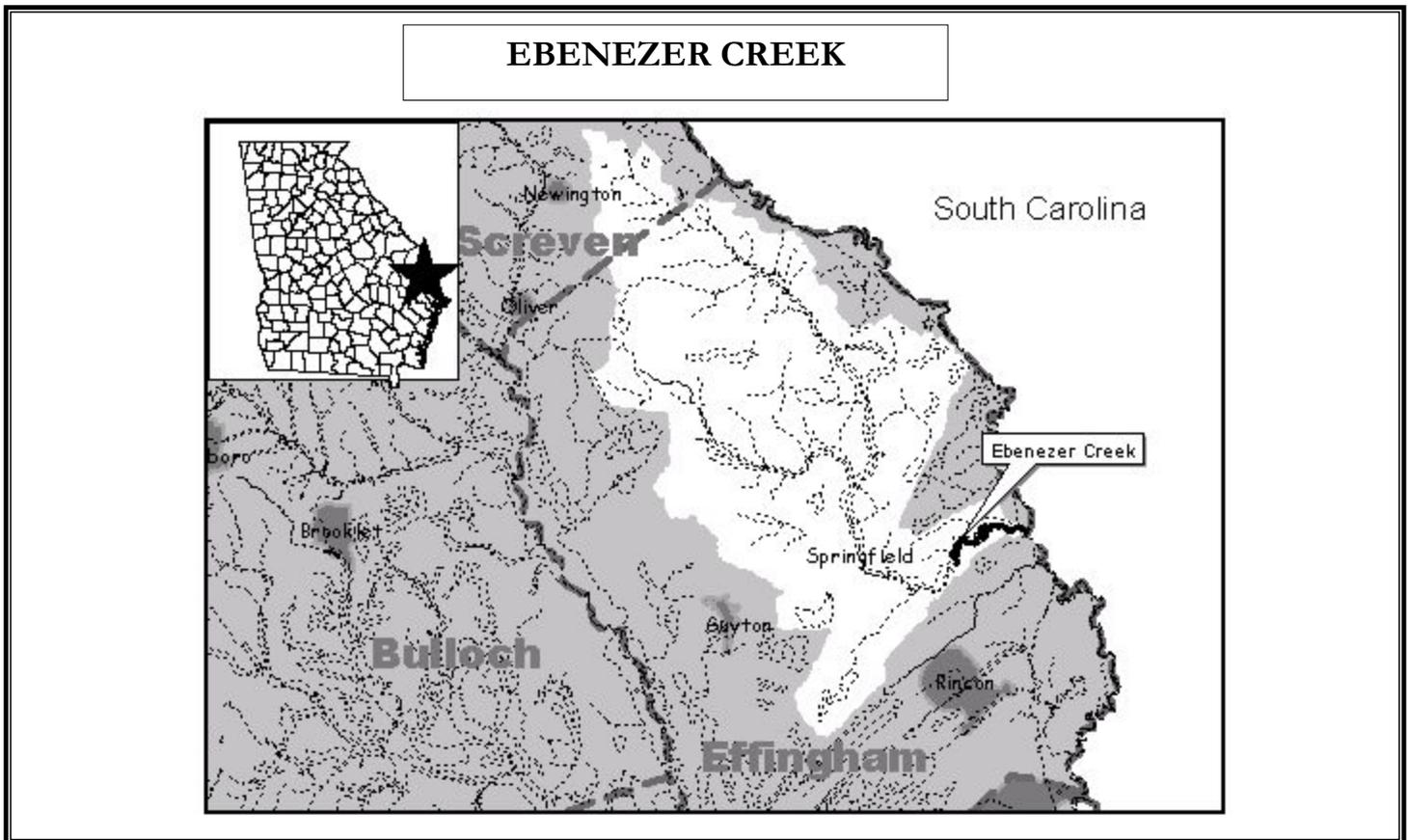


**STATE OF GEORGIA  
TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**EBENEZER CREEK  
(Dissolved Oxygen)**

Prepared by  
**The Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division  
Atlanta, GA**

TMDL Implementation Plans are platforms for establishing a course of actions to restore the quality of impaired water bodies in a watershed. They are intended as a continuing process that may be revised as new conditions and information warrant. Procedures will be developed to track and evaluate the implementation of the management practices and activities identified in the plans. Once restored, appropriate management practices and activities will be continued to maintain the water bodies. The overall goal of the Plan is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia. This plan was originally prepared as an implementation inventory by the Coastal Georgia RDC with a Section 604(b) Grant. TMDL load allocation information has been updated to reflect the approved TMDL.



<b>Impaired Waterbody*</b>	<b>Impaired Stream Location</b>	<b>River Basin</b>	<b>Miles/Area Impacted</b>	<b>Partially Supporting/ Not Supporting</b>
Ebenezer Creek	Long Bridge to Savannah River near Springfield	Savannah	6	Not Supporting

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD  
IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN

**EBENEZER CREEK**  
DISSOLVED OXYGEN



P.O. Box 1917 Brunswick, Georgia 31521  
(912) 264 - 7363

STATE OF GEORGIA  
TMDL PLAN FOR DISSOLVED OXYGEN  
EBENEZER CREEK  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

**Background**

Ebenezer Creek (HUC 03060109) is located in eastern Effingham County in southeast Georgia and is a tributary to the Savannah River. The Ebenezer Creek watershed is located in the Lower Savannah River basin. Ebenezer Creek is a State Scenic River and a National Natural Landmark. It is a backwater, black water creek. It has ancient cypress and water tupelo and extensive swamps. Georgia's final 1998 303(d) list identified Ebenezer Creek as not supporting its designated use as a fishing water. The pollutant of concern being biological oxygen demand (BOD) causing depressed levels of dissolved oxygen. The Springfield Wastewater Control Plant (NPDES Permit #GA0020770) has outfalls that discharge to Ebenezer Creek. Springfield has a NPDES permit and a Land Application System (LAS) permit. Springfield is currently utilizing its LAS for treatment of effluent.

**Source Assessment**

The Springfield facility represents the only point source discharge to Ebenezer Creek and was considered the only source of oxygen demanding material in the development of the TMDL. Uncontrollable sources of oxygen demanding materials that were not considered in the TMDL are stormwater runoff and low dissolved oxygen water draining from the swamp.

**Process**

Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (CGRDC) contracted with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to work with stakeholders and develop an inventory of programs operating within the watershed that may affect or monitor the biological oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen in the Effingham Creek watershed. CGRDC formed a Technical Advisory Committee, a Regional Water Resources Committee and a list of stakeholders. A general orientation meeting was held on May 30, 2001 to provide the committees and the public with information regarding TMDLs and the role of the CGRDC. In June of 2001, a Watershed Questionnaire was mailed out to local government staff, officials and stakeholders. Upon due notice a public hearing was held for the Ebenezer Creek watershed on June 3, 2001 at the Effingham County Commission meeting room in Springfield, Georgia in Northern Effingham County. Approximately sixteen people attended this meeting. Attendees ranged from county administrator, county commissioners and private citizens to members of the local Ogeechee River Valley Association (see attached list). This meeting afforded an opportunity for the public to offer comments, open discussion of the watershed questionnaire handout and general discussion regarding the stream.

**Additional Activity**

Several groups have worked within this watershed to determine causes for low dissolved oxygen and to study remediation measures. Further studies within this watershed are anticipated. The Coastal Georgia RC & D, Effingham County Commissioners, Georgia DNR, Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ogeechee River Soil and Water Conservation District and the Corps of Engineers are all currently involved in projects relating to the low dissolved oxygen levels of Ebenezer Creek. The Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center is also attempting to obtain funding for a watershed management approach in the Ebenezer Creek watershed to address dissolved oxygen levels. The final TMDL prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency- Region 4 (March 7, 2000) calls for additional surveys and data collection to support the development of a comprehensive TMDL that addresses both point and nonpoint source impacts on dissolved oxygen.

## PLAN OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

STATE OF GEORGIA

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR: Ebenezer Creek (STREAM) Dissolved Oxygen (PARAMETER) RIVER BASIN: Savannah River  
 PLAN DATE: August 31, 2001

Prepared by: <u>John A. Henry, J.D., LGSC</u>  <u>Coastal Georgia</u> Regional Development Center Address: <u>P.O. Box 1917</u> City: <u>Brunswick</u> State: <u>Georgia</u> Zip: <u>31521</u> e-mail: <u>planner@darientel.net</u> Date Submitted to EPD: <u>August 31, 2001</u>		Or Prepared By:  Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ e-mail: _____ Date Submitted to EPD: _____	
General Information		Significant Stakeholders	
Obtain this information from the TMDL document or other information. When completed, this document will be a self-contained report independent of the TMDL document.		Identify local governments, agricultural organizations or significant landholders, commercial forestry organizations, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups with a major interest in this water body.	
TMDL ID (to be entered by EPD)	SAV0000008	Name/Organization	
Water body name	Ebenezer Creek	Address	
HUC basin name	Savannah River	City	State Zip
HUC number	030601090301	Phone	e-mail
Primary county	Effingham	Name/Organization	
Secondary county		Address	
Primary RDC	Coastal Georgia R D C	City	State Zip
Secondary RDC		Phone	e-mail
Water body location	Long Bridge to Savannah River near Springfield	Name/Organization	
Miles or area impacted	6.0	Address	
Parameter addressed in plan	Dissolved Oxygen	City	State Zip
Water use classification	Fishing	Phone	e-mail
Degree of impairment	Partially supporting use <input type="checkbox"/>	Name/Organization	
	Not supporting use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Address	
Date TMDL approved by EPA	March 7, 2000	City	State Zip
Impairment due to	Point sources <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone	e-mail
	Nonpoint sources <input type="checkbox"/>	Name/Organization	
UNDETERMINED	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Address	
Point source-Form A; Nonpoint source-Form B; Both-Form A+B+C		City	State Zip
		Phone	e-mail

If more, add to comments on last page.

FORM B

SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION MODEL RESULTS FROM TMDL DOCUMENT\* (existing load, target TMDL, and needed reduction)

EXISTING LOAD	TARGET TMDL	NEEDED REDUCTION
Unknown	1,175 kg/day BOD	Unknown

\*Additional information needs to be collected to determine all sources of oxygen demanding materials in this water. EPA intends to do additional data collection on this segment and expects, based on this data, to revisit this TMDL.

I. IDENTIFY **NONPOINT SOURCE** CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES OR INDIVIDUAL SOURCES WHICH MUST BE CONTROLLED TO IMPLEMENT LOAD ALLOCATIONS:

List major nonpoint sources contributing to impairment including those identified in TMDL document.

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRIBUTION TO IMPAIRMENT	RECOMMENDED LOAD REDUCTION (FROM TMDL)
Nonpoint Source Runoff	Possible contribution of oxygen demanding material and fecal coliform	Unknown
Natural Occurrence of Low DO	Further testing needed to determine contribution	Unknown

II. DESCRIBE ANY REGULATORY OR VOLUNTARY ACTIONS INCLUDING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROLS BY GOVERNMENTS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE LOAD ALLOCATIONS IN THE TMDL:

Existing or required regulatory actions

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY	NAME OF REGULATION/ORDINANCE	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
EPA/ Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act, Section 404, CFR Part 232.3	Requires normal forestry practices adhere to BMPs and 15 baseline provisions for forest road construction and maintenance in and across waters of the U.S. including lakes, rivers, perennial and intermittent streams, wetlands, sloughs, and natural ponds in order to qualify for the silvicultural exemption from the permitting process.	06/1988	Current
EPA/ Army Corps of Engineers	Memo to Field: Application of BMPs to mechanical silvicultural site preparation activities for the establishment of pine plantations in the Southeast.	Identifies certain wetlands that should not be subject to unpermitted mechanical silvicultural site preparation activities.	11/1995	Current
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Federal Farm Bill	Prohibits landowners from converting forested wetlands to agricultural uses. (Swampbuster Act)		Current
Georgia DNR and Local Governments	Georgia Growth Planning Act (OCGA 12-2-8)	Authorizes Georgia Department of Community Affairs to establish minimum planning standards and procedures that local city and county planning and zoning jurisdictions could adopt and enforce.	1991	
Georgia DNR - EPD	Georgia Water Quality Control Act (OCGA 12-5-20)	Makes it unlawful to discharge excessive pollutants (sediments, nutrients, pesticides, animal waste, etc.) into waters of the State in amounts harmful to public health, safety, or welfare, or to animals, birds, or aquatic life or the physical destruction of stream habitats.	1964	Current

Effingham County	Land Development Review Process	Ensures compliance with land use, engineering, and environmental regulations		Active
Effingham County	Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinances	County Codes allowing for permitting and enforcement of land disturbing activities.		Active
Effingham County	Greenspace Plans	Emphasis to be placed upon water quality protection. To be determined.		Anticipated
Effingham County	Part V Environmental Protection Ordinances	Water Supply/ Watershed Protection River Corridor Protection Wetlands Protection		Active
Effingham County Environmental Health Department	Septic Tank Installation and Design Standards	Rules and Regulations as promulgated by On-site Sewage Management Systems Chapter 290-5-26 Georgia DHR Division of Public Health Environmental Health and Injury Control Branch Environmental Services		Active
Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters	Standards of Practice (OCGA 43-1-19)	Failure to practice professional forestry in accordance with generally accepted standards of practice (including BMPs) shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall be grounds for disciplinary action.	1993	Current
Georgia DNR, EPD	Ogeechee River Basin Management Plan	To provide relevant information on the characteristics of the Ogeechee River basin, identify present and future water resource demands, present and facilitate the implementation of water quality protection efforts, and enhance stakeholder understanding and involvement in basin planning.	2001-2005	Current

Existing voluntary actions

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY	NAME OF ACTION	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
Ogeechee River Valley Authority (Ralph Yarbrough)	Conservation Efforts	This organization seeks to promote protection of the waters in and near the Ogeechee River watershed.		Active
Georgia Forestry Commission	Forestry Water Quality Program	Designated by EPD to be lead agency in forest water quality program. Led effort to develop BMPs, educational BMP programs, forestry complaint resolution process and BMP monitoring. Other cooperators include USFS, GA Forestry Association, University of Georgia, AF&PA, SWPA, etc. in educational efforts to educate forest community on BMPs through training workshops and demos. Biennial BMP monitoring: complaint investigation and mediation.	1978 [Manual updated January 1, 1999.]	Current
USDA-NRCS, County Extension Agency, Other Interested Groups	Ebenezer Creek Agricultural BMP Demonstration Project	Project to establish 8 BMP demonstration areas, carry out 2 field days, issue press releases and disseminate fact sheets, use Farm-A-Syst program to assess potential water quality problems among agricultural operators and identify management measures to address low DO in the watershed.	March 2001 to February 2003	Current
International Paper Company	Sustainable Forestry Initiative	Private company guidelines to ensure proper water quality protection.		Current

Additional recommended regulatory or other measures, which should be implemented to reduce the loads of the TMDL parameter

ENTITY/ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE	NAME OF PROPOSED REGULATION/ORDINANCE/ OTHER	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center	Ebenezer Creek Watershed Management Project	Study and preparation of a watershed management plan to be implemented by local government and other agencies.	Anticipated 2001	Under Review
Effingham County	Code Enforcement	Enforcement of existing codes and ordinances that will lead to improved water quality. An emphasis should be placed on impaired watersheds.		
Georgia Forestry Commission	BMP Monitoring	Within the watershed, can conduct monthly aerial reconnaissance to identify recent forestry practices, conduct BMP audit, and make recommendations for remediation if problems are found.	Currently Ongoing	
Effingham County Environmental Health Department Officials	Septic system survey and public education	A septic system survey should be performed to determine where "hot spots" of aging systems are located within the watershed. Once determined public outreach and education should be focused on these areas to address maintenance and repair of potential faulty systems.		
Effingham County	Greenspace Plan	Emphasis should be placed upon conservation and riparian buffers and limitations to development in areas surrounding stream corridors.	Currently in Development	
Effingham County and State of Georgia DOT	Roadway Planning	Plan, site and develop roads, highways, and bridges to limit land disturbance such as clearing and grading and cut and fill to reduce erosion and sediment loss. Also, site design and maintain bridge structures so that sensitive and valuable aquatic ecosystems and areas providing important water quality benefits are protected from adverse effects. In addition, identify opportunities to improve runoff management systems for existing roads and bridges, addressing both runoff volume and pollutants.	As needed	
Effingham County	Conservation Easements	County controlled conservation easements that run with the land adjoining sensitive waterways.		

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream	Adopt-A-Stream Program	Coordination of an AAS group for the impaired waterway. Would achieve community action within the watershed, monitoring of the waterway and a conscious awareness of the problems within the waterway.		
Multi-Agency	Cooperation between groups monitoring waters in the watershed.	There exists a need to determine which entities are sampling and monitoring and the parameters for which they are testing. An internet-based clearinghouse would provide access and cooperation between multiple agencies.		

III. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROL ACTIONS:

These **must be implemented within five years** of when the implementation plan is accepted by EPA.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Form stakeholders group					
Organize implementation work with stakeholders and local officials to identify remedial measures and potential funding sources					
Identify sources of TMDL parameter					
Develop management programs to control <u>runoff</u> including identification and implementation of BMPs (Phase I):					
Agriculture					
Forestry					
Urban					
Organize and implement education and outreach programs					
Detect and eliminate illicit discharges					
Evaluate additional management controls needed					
Monitor and evaluate results					
Reassess TMDL allocations					
Provide periodic status reports on implementation of remedial activities					
If needed, begin process for Phase II (next 5 years) and subsequent phases					

IV. PROJECTED ATTAINMENT DATE AND BASIS FOR THAT PROJECTION:

The projected attainment date is **10 years** from acceptance of the implementation plan by EPA.

V. MEASURABLE MILESTONES:

- Number of management controls and activities already implemented \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of management controls and activities proposed in five-year work program \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of management controls and activities actually implemented in five-year work period \_\_\_\_\_ (to be completed after 5 years)
- Stream sampled to identify areas of concern See monitoring plan

VI. MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring data that placed stream on 303(d) list will be provided if requested.

Describe previous or current sampling activities or other surveys to detect sources or to measure effectiveness of management measures or other controls.

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>PARAMETERS</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
University of Georgia Extension Service	Currently	Fecal	Study currently being conducted to determine the contribution of wild animal fecal matter with regards to impairing stream quality and amounts of contribution from natural causes.	Ongoing with future implications for watershed
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)	Currently		Study currently being conducted on the effectiveness of BMPs with relation to TMDLs.	Future implications for

				watershed
Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC)	Biennial		Conducts BMP implementation surveys to determine rates of implementation, effectiveness of BMPs and to determine areas for increased education for landowner groups and regions.	Ongoing
Ogeechee River Basin Management Planning (Georgia EPD)	2000 – 2001 Majority of work on segments in the Ogeechee River will be addressed in the next cycle in 2001-2005	Multiple	Identifying, assessing, and prioritizing water resource issues, developing management strategies and providing opportunities for targeted, cooperative actions to reduce pollution, enhance aquatic habitat, and provide a dependable water supply.	

Describe any planned or proposed sampling activities or other surveys. (Scheduled EPD sampling can be found in the Basin Planning document.)

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>PARAMETERS</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
EPD	2001-2005		TMDL Schedule of Actions	

VII. CRITERIA TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE:

- % concentration or load change (monitoring program)
- Categorical change in classification of the stream (delisting the stream is the goal)
- Regulatory controls or activities installed (ordinances, laws)
- Best management practices installed (agricultural, forestry, urban)

COMMENTS:

## Potential Funding Sources

### Agriculture

- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)

### Coastal Waters

- U.S. Department of Commerce*
  - Coastal Services Center Cooperative Agreements (NOAA)
  - Coastal Zone Management Administration/Implementation Awards (NOAA)
  - National Sea Grant College Program (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior*
  - Coastal Program (FWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - National Estuary Program (NEP)

### Economic Development

- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities (RUS)
- U.S. Department of Commerce*
  - Public Works and Development Facilities Program (EDA)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
  - Community Development Block Grant Program (CPD)

### Education and Research

- Corporation for National Service*
  - Learn and Serve America Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (CSREES)
  - Water Quality Special Research Grants Program (CSREES)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Environmental Education Grants Program (OEE)
  - Science to Achieve Results (ORD)

### Environmental Justice

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Environmental Justice Grants to Small Community Groups (OEJ)
  - Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Grants Program (OEJ)

### Forestry

- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Cooperative Forestry Assistance Programs (FS)
  - Forestry Incentives Program (NRCS)

### Monitoring

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (OEI)

### Pollution Prevention and Control

- Small Business Administration*
  - Pollution Control Loans

- U.S. Department of the Interior*
  - Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (FWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Technical Assistance Grants (CEPPO)
  - Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Grants (OPPTS)
  - Pollution Prevention Incentives for States (OPPTS)

## **Water and Septic System**

- Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority*
  - Georgia Fund
  - Environmental Emergency Loans
  - Construction Loans
  - State Revolving Loan Fund

## **Watershed and Drinking Water Source Protection**

- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (NRCS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation*
  - Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Funding Programs (FHWA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior*
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants to States (NPS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (OWM)
  - Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (OGWDW)
  - Great Lakes Program (GLNPO)
  - Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants (319 Program) (OWOW)
  - Water Quality Cooperative Agreements (OWM)
  - Watershed Assistance Grants (OWOW)

## **Wetlands**

- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Wetlands Reserve Program (NRCS)
- U.S. Department of the Interior*
  - Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Program (FWS)
  - National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (FWS)
  - North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program (FWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - Five-Star Restoration Program (OWOW)
  - Wetlands Program Development Grants (OWOW)

## **Wildlife**

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*
  - Bring Back the Natives Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture*
  - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (NRCS)
- U.S. Department of Commerce*
  - Community-Based Restoration Program (NOAA)
  - Fisheries Development and Utilization Research and Development Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior*
  - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (FWS)
  - Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Program (FWS)

## **Other**

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources*
  - Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM- CRD)

Coastal Incentive Grants

*Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project*

Loan Fund for Water, Wastewater, Housing & Economic Development

## Ebenezer Creek Watershed Stakeholders List

Julie Vann  
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The Coastal Environmental Organization  
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Neel Ackerman  
Mayor, City of Springfield

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Ralph Yarbrough  
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Eden, GA 31307

Jackie Davis  
Buidling and Zoning  
Effingham County

Lowell Morgan  
City of Springfield  
Public Works Department

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912-265-9010

David A. Rutherford  
Effingham County Administrator  
P.O. Box 307  
Springfield, GA 31329  
912-754-2123

ATTENDANCE LIST  
EBENEZER CREEK  
TMDL PLAN MEETING  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSION  
JUNE 3, 2001

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
1. Ralph Yarbrough	Ogeechee River Valley Authority
2. Jackie Davis	Effingham County Building Off.
3. Herb Jones	Effingham County Dev. Auth.
4. Teresa Concannon	Coastal Georgia R D C
5. Lowell Morgan	Springfield Public Works Dept.
6. John A. Henry, J.D.	Coastal Georgia R D C
7. Austin Blackburn	USDA- NRCS
8. Bill Tyson	County Extension Agent
9. Neel Ackerman	Mayor, City of Springfield
10. Wesley Parker	USDA- NRCS
11. Phillip King	Effingham County Commission
12. Gregg Howze	Effingham County Commission
13. Hubert Sapp	Effingham County Commission
14. Stephen Mack Thompson	Effingham County Commission
15. Homer Wallace	Effingham County Commission
16. David Rutherford	Effingham County Administrator