Appendix B

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

2019 Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update

Agenda –Stakeholder Workshop

9:30 – 10:00 AM: Registration and sign in.

10:00 – 10:15 AM: Introductions

10:15 – 10:35 AM: Presentation about the 2019 Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan

10:35 – 10:55 AM: Visioning exercise.

Think about these questions: How have you interacted with the Plan? What is your vision for the Plan? How do you intend to use the Plan? What would a successful update look like? What would a successful update mean for you and your community?

10:35 – 10:45 AM: Small group brainstorming

10:45 – 10:55 AM: Open discussion

10:55 – 11:05 AM: Break

11:05 – 11:45 AM: Dot exercise

11:05 – 11:10 AM: Introduction to the exercise

11:10 – 11:30 AM: Dot exercise activity

11:30 – 11:45 AM: Dot exercise discussion

11:45 AM – noon: Wrap-up discussion

Appendix B

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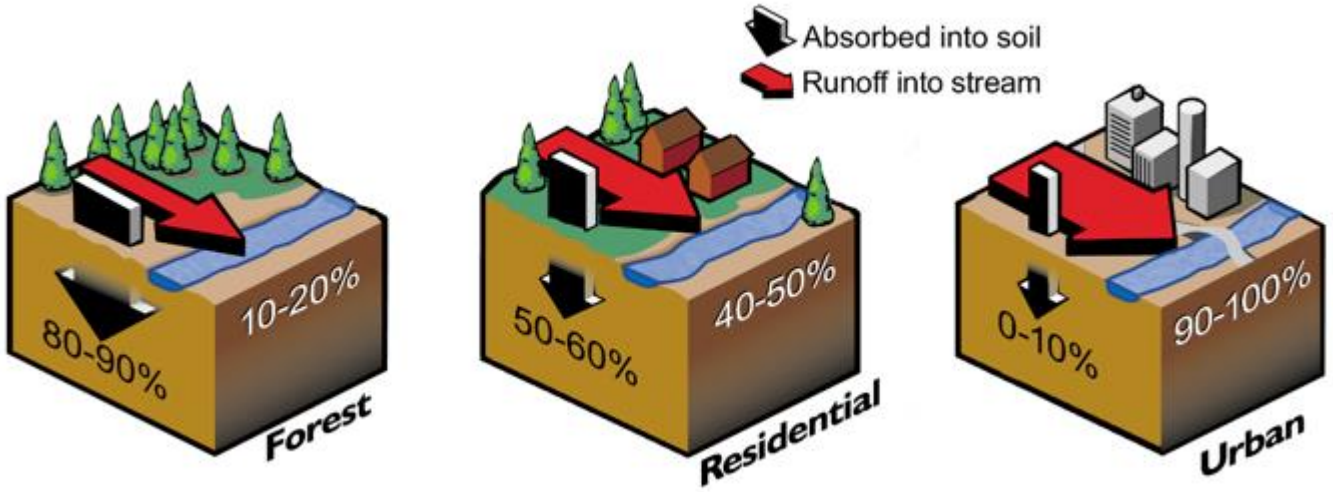
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

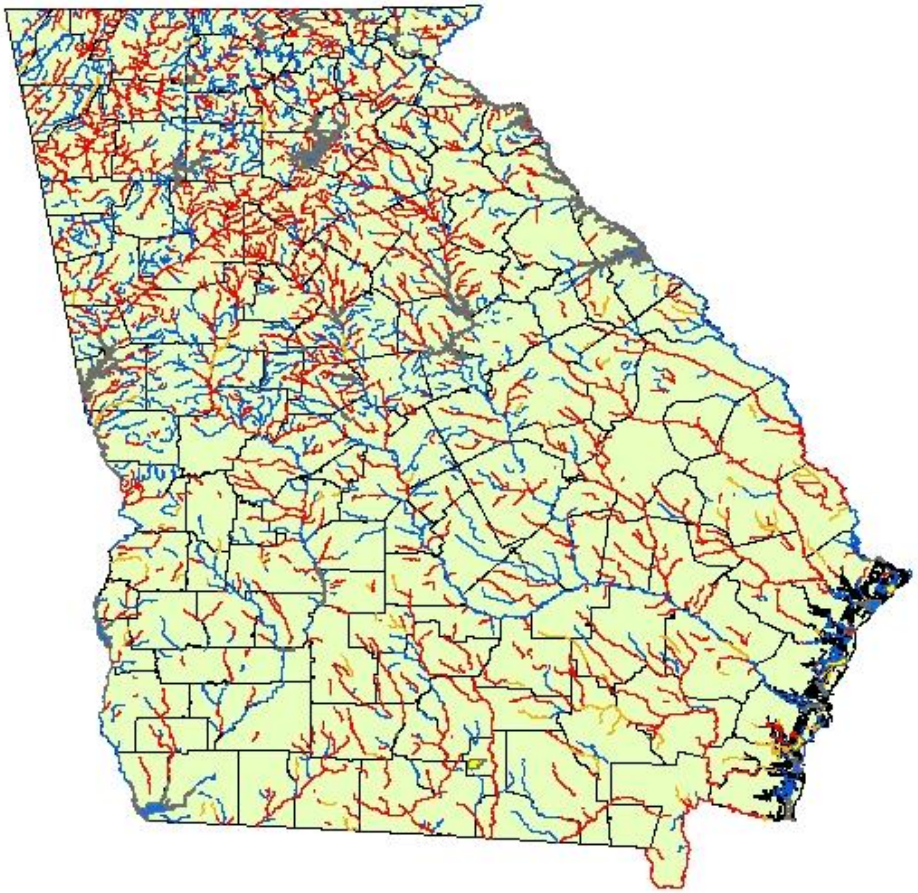
2019 Update to the Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan

NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT

- What is nonpoint source pollution?
  - Negatively defined in the Clean Water Act as everything that is not a point source
  - Stormwater, erosion, illegal dumping, etc.



NONPOINT IMPACTS



WATER QUALITY IN GEORGIA – HISTORY

- 1972: Federal Clean Water Act and NPDES
- 1987: Federal Clean Water Act Amendments
  - Section 319 – National Program to Control Nonpoint Sources of Water Pollution

WHAT IS THE NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- Required under Section 319 – all states must develop Nonpoint Source Management Programs
- Georgia implements the Nonpoint Source Management Program through the Nonpoint Source Management Plan
- Georgia also has a Coastal Nonpoint Source Program

NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN TIMELINE

Georgia NPS Management Program approved by USEPA

- January 1990

USEPA published updated NPS Management Plan Guidance

- April 2013

Georgia NPS Management Plan updated

- September 2014

Georgia's Coastal Nonpoint Source Program approved

- November 2018

COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

- Upon approval, becomes part of Statewide Nonpoint Source Program and integrated into the Plan
- Initial submittal to EPA and NOAA includes 56 management measures
- Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan highlights:
  - New initiatives
  - Key management measures identified by the coastal stakeholder work group

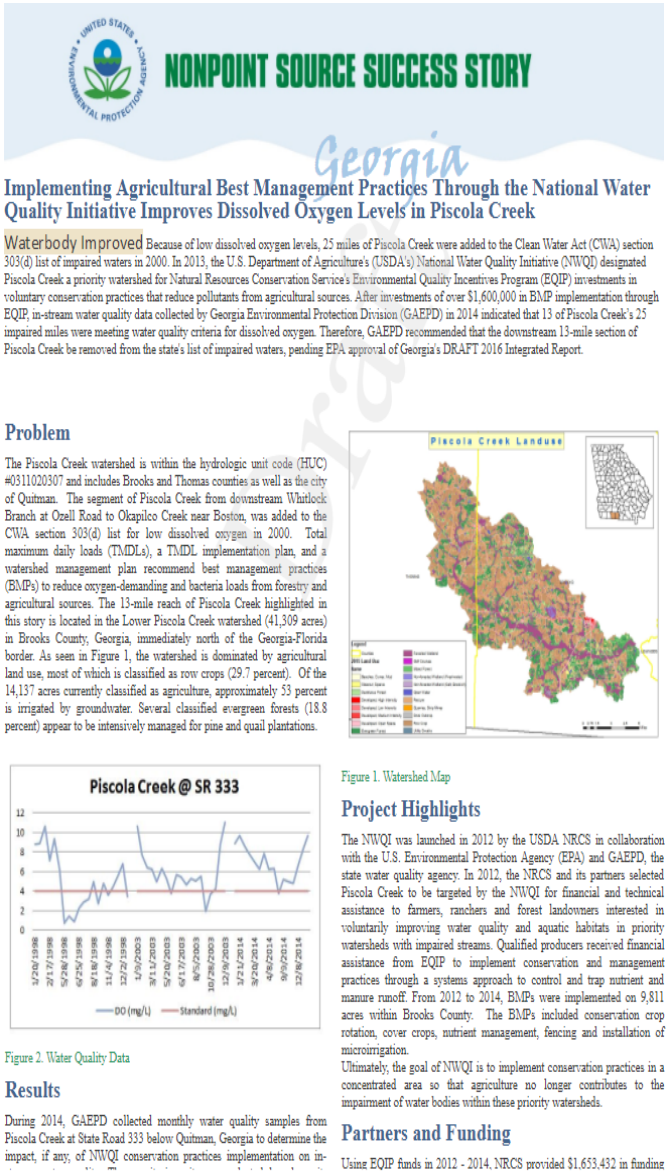
Please note: This slide was only presented at the Brunswick, GA meeting due to local interest in the Coastal Nonpoint Source Program. All other content was the same for all meetings.

WHY UPDATE THE PLAN?

- Required by the USEPA for Georgia to receive Section 319(h) grant funds
- Must be revised every five years

SUCCESS STORY: GEORGIA

- 2000: Piscola Creek impaired for DO
- 2012-2014: Implemented 9,811 acres of conservation practices
  - NRCS National Water Quality Initiative
- 2014: GAEPD collect samples
- Piscola Creek no longer impaired



NONPOINT SOURCE SUCCESS STORY

Georgia

Implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices Through the National Water Quality Initiative Improves Dissolved Oxygen Levels in Piscola Creek

Waterbody Improved Because of low dissolved oxygen levels, 25 miles of Piscola Creek were added to the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of impaired waters in 2000. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) designated Piscola Creek a priority watershed for Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) investments in voluntary conservation practices that reduce pollutants from agricultural sources. After investments of over $1,600,000 in BMP implementation through EQIP, in-stream water quality data collected by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) in 2014 indicated that 13 of Piscola Creek's 25 impaired miles were meeting water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen. Therefore, GAEPD recommended that the downstream 13-mile section of Piscola Creek be removed from the state's list of impaired waters, pending EPA approval of Georgia's DRAFT 2016 Integrated Report.

Problem

The Piscola Creek watershed is within the hydrologic unit code (HUC) #0311020307 and includes Brooks and Thomas counties as well as the city of Quitman. The segment of Piscola Creek from downstream Whitlock Branch at Ozell Road to Okapilco Creek near Boston, was added to the CWA section 303(d) list for low dissolved oxygen in 2000. Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), a TMDL implementation plan, and a watershed management plan recommend best management practices (BMPs) to reduce oxygen-demanding and bacteria loads from forestry and agricultural sources. The 13-mile reach of Piscola Creek highlighted in this story is located in the Lower Piscola Creek watershed (41,309 acres) in Brooks County, Georgia, immediately north of the Georgia-Florida border. As seen in Figure 1, the watershed is dominated by agricultural land use, most of which is classified as row crops (29.7 percent). Of the 14,137 acres currently classified as agriculture, approximately 53 percent is irrigated by groundwater. Several classified evergreen forests (18.8 percent) appear to be intensively managed for pine and quail plantations.

Piscola Creek Landuse

Figure 1. Watershed Map

Piscola Creek @ SR 333

DO (mg/L) Standard (mg/L)

Figure 2. Water Quality Data

Results

During 2014, GAEPD collected monthly water quality samples from Piscola Creek at State Road 333 below Quitman, Georgia to determine the impact, if any, of NWQI conservation practices implementation on in-

Project Highlights

The NWQI was launched in 2012 by the USDA NRCS in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and GAEPD, the state water quality agency. In 2012, the NRCS and its partners selected Piscola Creek to be targeted by the NWQI for financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in voluntarily improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. Qualified producers received financial assistance from EQIP to implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. From 2012 to 2014, BMPs were implemented on 9,811 acres within Brooks County. The BMPs included conservation crop rotation, cover crops, nutrient management, fencing and installation of microirrigation.

Ultimately, the goal of NWQI is to implement conservation practices in a concentrated area so that agriculture no longer contributes to the impairment of water bodies within these priority watersheds.

Partners and Funding

Using EQIP funds in 2012 - 2014, NRCS provided $1,653,432 in funding

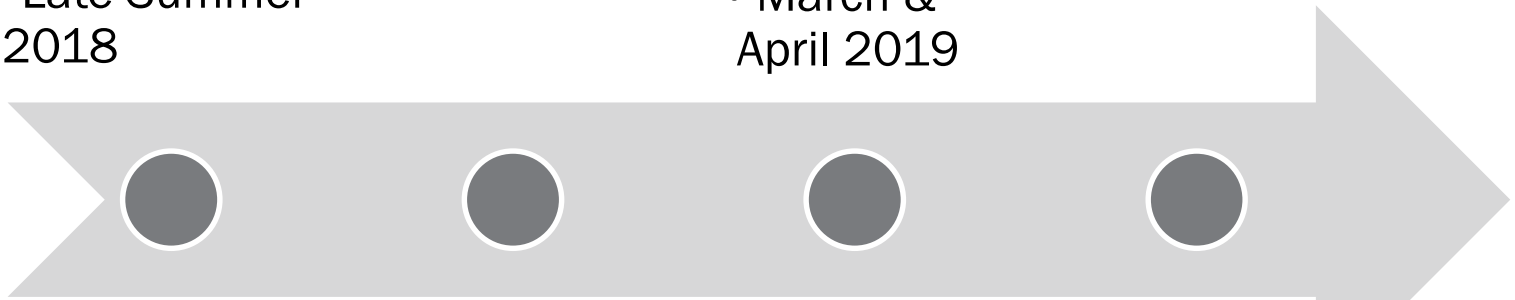
NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE TIMELINE

Sections sent to GAEPD SMEs, external partners

- Late Summer 2018

Stakeholder process

- March & April 2019



Draft 2019 Plan Completed

- March 2019

Final draft to USEPA

- June 2019

VISION FOR THE 2019 PLAN

- Useable, accessible planning document focused on targeted goals to protect and restore Georgia's waters.
- Effectively manage 319 grant funds.
- The Plan is not a comprehensive list of every GAEPD and partner activity, but rather a focused summary of key initiatives and goals.

CHANGES IN THE 2019 PLAN

- **Move from functional area to land use to align with the TMDL development and implementation process.**
  - Current chapters: agriculture, silviculture, urban, wetlands, coast, surface mining, and groundwater
  - Also include a programmatic chapter
  - Still covers required USEPA categories of nonpoint source pollution: agriculture, silviculture, construction, urban runoff, resource extraction, land disposal, and other

CHANGES IN THE 2019 PLAN

- **Move from a historical document to an active planning document**
  - Plan too lengthy and cumbersome for effective implementation
  - Historical documents, a link to GRTS, tracking spreadsheets, and the Annual Reports will be made available online

CHANGES IN THE 2019 PLAN

- **New Assessment of Plan Implementation section**
  - Tracking tables measure activity, but not outcomes
  - Develop database and GIS layer to track outcomes of plan implementation

CHANGES IN THE 2019 PLAN

- **Updated goals**
  - Removed completed goals
  - Removed goals that no longer aligned with EPD priorities
  - Removed or modified goals that were not clear, specific, and measurable
  - Added new goals per SME recommendations

GOAL SPREADSHEET REVIEW

ADDED

- Assessment section
- New goals for Agriculture, Wetlands, Coast, Groundwater, Statewide Water Planning, Urban (Septic), Urban (Safe Dams), Urban (Floodplain)
- Updated goals for all sections

REMOVED

- References to NPDES goals
- Vague goals
- Completed goals
- New Tools and Watershed Prioritization sections
- Regional Planning combined with Statewide Water Planning
- Healthy Watersheds combined with 319

CONTRIBUTORS

- Veronica Craw – Everything
- Michael Berry – NPDES permitting, Urban (Land Disturbance)
- Haydn Blaize – Urban (Floodplain)
- Liz Booth – TMDLs, Water Quality Standards, Water Quality Monitoring
- Katie Gregory and Jamie Lancaster – Surface Mining
- Harold Harbert – Education and Outreach, Water Quality Monitoring
- Lewis Hays, Tom Woosley – Urban (Safe Dams)
- Audra Dickson – NPDES permitting, Agriculture (CAFOs), Groundwater
- Jennifer Welte – Statewide Water Planning
- Cameron Wolfe – NPDES permitting, Urban (GI/LID)
- Wei Zheng, Cliff Lewis, Steve Wiedl –Agriculture, Wetlands
- Coastal Resources Division (Kelly Hill, Jan McKinnon) – Coast
- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority – Land Acquisition and Green Space
- Georgia Forestry Commission (Scott Thackston) – Silviculture
- Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission (Ben Hyer) – Agriculture

QUESTIONS

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