

Water Resources Themes and Critical Regional Needs in the Eastern U.S.

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Eastern US Region Geographical Area



Eastern Region States and Commissions

Alabama	North Carolina
Connecticut	Pennsylvania
Delaware	Rhode Island
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Vermont
Maine	Virginia
Maryland	West Virginia
Massachusetts	New York
New Hampshire	Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
New Jersey	Delaware River Basin Commission
District of Columbia	Susquehanna River Basin Commission
	Great Lakes Commission

Overview of Eastern Water Themes and Needs

- Common water resources themes
 - Impetus for planning
 - Planning approaches
 - Implementation and outcomes
- Regional water resources needs
- Georgia perspective

Common Water Resources Themes

- Many of the Eastern states (particularly in the Northeast) are connected through river basin commissions and compacts
- Eastern states tend to have a stronger focus than the other regions on both water supply and water quality, and on adaptive management
- Eastern states (with notable exceptions) tend to rely on the preponderance of planning activities and regulations from multiple agencies to plan and manage their water resources
- Collaborative planning is ubiquitous among the states in this region

Common Water Resources Themes (cont'd)

- Climate change and potential impacts on the coastal areas are getting increased attention
- Many in the Eastern Region have voiced strong support for a National Water Resources Vision as a guiding framework

Common Water Resources Themes (cont'd)

Impetus for Planning:

- **Socioeconomic:**
 - Shrinking fiscal resources
 - Water shortages resulting from population and economic growth
 - Impaired water quality due to human influences
 - Infrastructure decay, non-performance or lack
 - Competition/conflict for water for different uses
- **Physical/Environmental:**
 - Natural disasters (flooding and drought)
 - Climate change and adverse impact of sea level rise
 - Habitat and species loss or degradation
 - Source or nonpoint source pollution

Water resources planning in the Eastern states is both event-based and anticipatory

Common Water Resources Themes (cont'd)

Planning Approaches:

Top-Down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent policy implementation • Compliance with state and federal standards • Efficient span of control 	Connecticut, Florida, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Delaware River Basin Commission, Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Bottom-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater local input on issues • Highly collaborative • Targeted focus 	Alabama, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia
Top-Down & Bottom-Up	New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Vermont

Common Water Resources Themes (cont'd)

Implementation and Outcomes:

- Varied methods for implementing plans
 - Florida – Implementation guided by rule-based authority
 - Georgia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts – Implementation strategy is built into the plan
 - Virginia – Separate guiding document
 - DRBC – Authority for implementation
 - ICPRB – No regulatory authority but facilitate members states to successful implementation

Common Water Resources Themes (cont'd)

Implementation and Outcomes (cont'd):

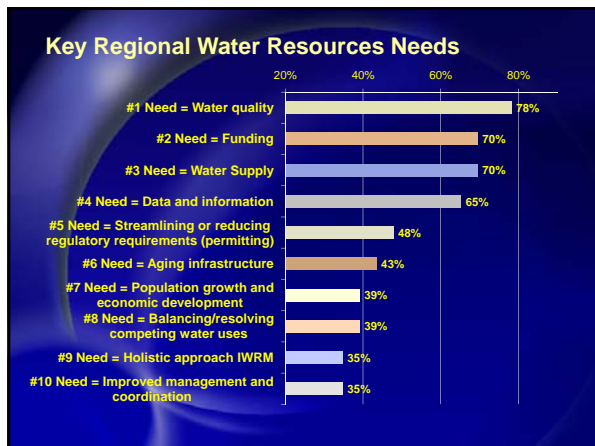
- Water quality plans guided by regulatory requirements of the USEPA
- Need for more robust assessments of plan goals
 - Explicit performance indicators
 - Quantitative performance targets and measures
 - Timetables for actions and results
 - Accountable and responsible agents

Regional Water Resources Needs

- Improve **water quality**
- Secure **reliable funding** to implement for staff, programs, and infrastructure and to implement state water plans
- Ensure sustainable sources of **water supply** to meet current and future water demand for multiple water uses
- Promote development and sharing of critical water resource data and increase access to **water data and information**

Regional Water Resources Needs (cont'd)

- Streamline and reduce **regulatory** requirements, especially permitting
- Address **aging infrastructure**
- Address **population growth** impacts
- Balance and resolve **competing water uses**
- Adopt a **holistic approach** to water management
- Improve **coordination** across state departments and **management** within and across departments and with stakeholder groups



- ### Presenter Perspectives
- The governance role and benefits of State Water Councils
 - The value of interstate organizations in regional planning
 - The importance of conflict prevention and conflict resolution strategies in interstate water conflicts
 - The value of a watershed approach for planning water withdrawals and tackling coastal issues
 - Opportunities for Federal-State-Tribal-NGO-Local partnerships to leverage resources
 - The importance/value of a unified national vision for water resources management

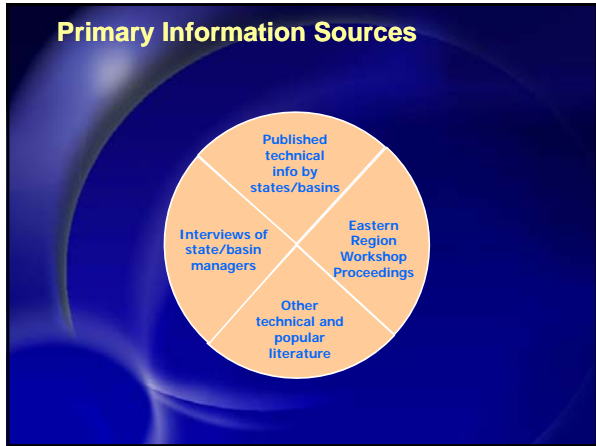
Questions?

Extra slides and information as needed

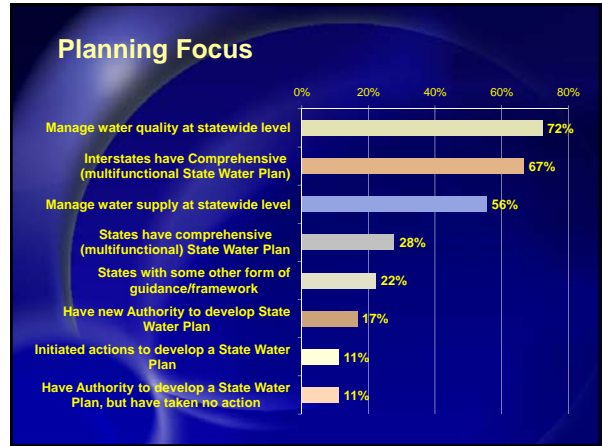
- ### Water Resources Challenges: Georgia
- Challenges:**
- Rapid population growth and impacts on water supply and water quality -- Atlanta
 - Understanding interconnectedness between surface and groundwater resources
 - Working cooperatively to manage shared water resources (interstate issues) with neighbor states
 - Developing an IWRM process across key state agencies and stakeholders inside and beyond state borders
 - Providing water resources management services and maintaining water infrastructure reliability with the continuous state budget crisis

- ### Water Resources Needs: Georgia
- Needs:**
- Implementing comprehensive statewide water plan
 - Staff to collect and organize data and develop and utilize models
 - Funding
 - Data
 - Technological resources (models)

Primary Information Sources



Planning Focus



Water Resource Management Configuration

Technical Aim	Agency/Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Water supply Water quality Regulatory Research Monitoring Emergency mgmt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Resources Environmental Quality Public Health Water Council Watershed Bureau Water Policy

Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement

- Collaborative planning is ubiquitous among states/regions
- Stakeholders take on a wide range of roles:
 - Inform needs and priorities (e.g. advisory committees)
 - Provide insight and feedback
 - Participate in on-the-ground monitoring and management
 - Raise environmental awareness and stewardship through education and outreach
- Interstate agreements (basin commissions, compacts, etc)

Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement (cont'd)

- Intrastate coordination (multi-agency involvement, "big picture", etc)
- Federal partnerships
 - Data and modeling (USGS)
 - Planning (USACE)
 - Water quality monitoring and cleanup to meet TMDL standards (USEPA)

Eastern States Collaborative Workshop, Orlando, Florida, February 17-19, 2009

ATTENDEES					
STATES	INTERSTATES	FEDERAL AGENCIES	NGOS	ACADEMIA	DEPT. OF THE ARMY
13 SC, DC, GA, WV, MA, RI, NV, VA, PA, MD, OK, NH, FL	4 DRBC, ICRPB, SRBC, Great Lakes Commission	7 BuRec, EPA, FEMA, NOAA, NRCS, NSF, USGS	5 ASCE*, ASFPM, AWRA, NAFSMA, TNC	2* Univ GA*, Univ FL*	19 USACE: MSC, HQ, OASA/CW, ERDC, CDM

Needs in Eastern States

EASTERN REGION		
State Summaries	Interviews	Workshop
Water quality	Funding and staffing	IWRM
Funding	IWRM	Infrastructure
Water supply	Data and information	Funding
Data and information	Planning and policy	Integrated databases
Streamline regulatory	Authorities/regulatory issues	Climate change
Infrastructure	Models and modeling tools	Adaptive management
Pop and econ. growth impacts	Water supply	Science of environmental flows