

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Ronald M. North

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REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 1997 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held March 20-22, 1997, at The University of Georgia, Kathryn J. Hatcher, Editor, Institute of Ecology, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Panel Objective: The on-going federal and multi-state water resources study of the two sets of tri-rivers (Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Rivers) in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama has provided considerable technical detail of water needs and supplies for the various segments of the human and natural activities in the basins. The southwest Georgia region is primarily concerned with the management and allocation issues associated with the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basins. Within the ACF, the main focus of southwest Georgia interests is on the Flint River basin and the aquifers underlying this basin. There are many areas of potential conflict and unresolved policies regarding water management (supplies and demands) in the area, very roughly defined as the portions of Georgia west of I-75 and south of the fall line. Some of these issues are internal to the region, and others are external with users upstream and downstream. There is not much direct conflict in the immediate border of southeast Alabama.

The panel will address some of the important and largely (at this time) unresolved policy issues and management needs, as well as the status of scientific, managerial and technical knowledge required to use and conserve the surface and ground waters of southwest Georgia effectively and fairly.

PANELISTS

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Introduction to Southwest Georgia Water Issues

Elizabeth Blood, J.W. Jones Ecological Center, Newton, Georgia

Agricultural Practices and Water Quality

Brian Dill, Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, Macon, Georgia
Water Policy and Management Issues for Agribusiness and Agriculture

Joe Palmer, South Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Tifton

Ken Hatcher, Stevenson and Palmer Engineers

Water Management and Economic Development

Homer Hirt, Tri-Rivers Waterway Association, Dothan, AL
Waterways, Navigation and Agriculture in the ACF Basin

Linda Kuller, Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center, Camilla, Georgia 31730-0346. Tel: 912-430-4315.
Economic, Recreational and Environmental Issues of Water Management in Southwest Georgia.