

- 5) Identify opportunities to optimize existing and future supplies and water and wastewater infrastructure.
- 6) Promote efficient use and management of surface and groundwater resources to allow for sufficient supplies for current and future generations.
- 7) Protect and manage surface and groundwater recharge areas to ensure sufficient long term water supplies for the region.
- 8) Protect, maintain, and, where appropriate and practicable, identify opportunities to enhance water quality and river base flows.
- 9) Protect and maintain regional water-dependent recreational opportunities.
- 10) Identify opportunities to manage stormwater to improve water quantity and quality.
- 11) Identify and implement cost-effective water management strategies.
- 12) Seek to provide economically affordable power and water resource service to all citizens of the region.
- 13) Identify and implement actions to better measure and share water use data and information.

In addition, the Regional Water Plan has adopted several Short-Term Water Quantity and Water Quality Management Practices, which the local comprehensive plan should include in order to manage water resources in a sustainable manner through the planning period and beyond. The most significant issues in the Suwannee-Satilla Region are surface water availability gaps driven by agricultural usage. As such, the majority of water supply management practices are intended to address agricultural surface water use.

Future work program activities in this plan related to water quality management practices mentioned in the Regional Water Plan are highlighted in italics following the practices below. Additionally, notes regarding water quality needs within Lowndes County are included in the appendix to this plan.

Short Term Water Quantity Management Practices (0-10 Years)

- 1) Utilize surface water and groundwater sources within the available resource capacities
- 2) Water conservation.
- 3) Data collection and research to confirm the frequency, duration, severity, and drivers of surface water gaps (forecast methodology assumptions and Resource Assessment modeling).
- 4) Evaluate and ensure that current and future surface water permit conditions do not contribute to 7Q10 low flow concerns.
- 5) Encourage sustainable groundwater use as a preferred supply in regions with surface water 7Q10 low flow concerns and adequate groundwater supply.
- 6) Identify incentives and a process to sustainably replace a portion of existing agricultural surface water use with groundwater use to address 7Q10 low flow concerns.
- 7) Evaluate the potential to use existing storage to address 7Q10 low flow concerns.
- 8) Education to reduce surficial aquifer groundwater use impacts to 7Q10 low flow Concerns.

Short-Term Water Quality Management Practices (0 – 10 Years):

- e) Point Sources:
 - a. Support and fund current permitting and waste load allocation process to improve the treatment of wastewater and increase treatment capacity.
 - b. Data collection and research to confirm discharge volumes and waste concentrations as well as receiving stream flows and chemistry