



**Proposal for Water Management Practices Survey and Report
for the ACF Stakeholders
February 23, 2011**

Introduction

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) proposes to develop for the ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) a survey to collect data from ACFS members on current water management practices designed to improve water quality, increase conservation, and improve water use efficiency in the ACF river basin. In addition to developing and distributing the survey, CVIOG will compile the data obtained from survey respondents. The purpose of this survey and its results will be to inform members as to which water management practices and activities would be best applied to their stakeholder group or community, and the extent to which certain practices are already being used.

Scope of Work

The survey to be developed by CVIOG will seek basic information on water conservation and management practices, as well as water quality management and land use practices, in communities and businesses represented by ACFS members. In order to obtain the widest array of current practices in three states which are at different stages of water management, the practices to be enumerated in the survey will be drawn from existing sources such as the Georgia Department of Community Affairs "Water First" application; the Georgia Water Stewardship Act; Conserve Florida; guidance documents, booklets, and brochures created by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, UGA Cooperative Extension, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Water Policy, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; The Georgia Water Stewardship Act; and regional Water Development and Conservation Plans currently under development as part of the Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan. For ease of completion, the survey will primarily be a 2-3 page checklist asking recipients to identify which water management practices are currently being done in their community, but will also have space for written comments, expanded answers, and descriptions of management practices not listed in the survey.

The survey will be sent electronically to ACFS members as a Word document form that they can complete and return to CVIOG electronically. Follow up requests are anticipated, as are follow up contacts for clarification and additional data. If necessary, follow-up mailings will be conducted. The survey and compilation are not intended to be comprehensive or quantitative analyses of water management practices in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, but are intended to be a qualitative survey of water management practices in the ACF basins for informational purposes. State and local water quantity and quality statutes, rules, and codes will not be tabulated, only the results of member survey responses.

Deliverables

Survey results will be compiled and tabulated as the numbers of members or member communities engaging in the management practices listed in the survey, both as a grand total and as totals categorized by size of community, the number of water users, and the type of water use (community, commercial, agricultural, etc.). Compilation will also include a ranking of the most commonly used practices, and will be accompanied by a narrative report that discusses the results, methods used, and sources used to select management practices. A GIS-based report showing the geographic distribution of management practices will also be provided.

Staff

Dr. Rob McDowell, Director, CVIOG Environmental Policy Program. Rob McDowell was principal author and coordinator of the Flint River Basin Regional Development and Conservation Plan. In addition to writing most of the final report, he facilitated and led the Flint Plan technical advisory committee meetings, coordinating the efforts of biologists, geologists, economists, and hydrologists. After successful completion of the Flint Plan in 2006, McDowell was also directly involved with development of the Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan, specifically in development of the guidance for regional planning. Rob McDowell also facilitated a stakeholder process to revise the NPDES General Permits for erosion and sedimentation control at construction sites. The revised permits were later cited by USEPA as model permits. Lastly, he is a registered Professional Geologist in the State of Georgia, and is very familiar with the groundwater geology of the Flint River Basin.

Dr. Jason Evans, Public Service Associate, CVIOG Environmental Policy Program Jason Evans is an environmental sustainability analyst in the Vinson Institute's Environmental Policy Program. Trained as an interdisciplinary systems ecologist, he is an expert in the use of diverse tools for developing environmental policy recommendations such as life cycle assessments (LCA), geographic information systems (GIS), and multi-stakeholder evaluations. His most recent

research projects included development of GIS-based models of bio-energy crop suitability and detailed Life Cycle Analyses that quantify the environmental tradeoffs associated with alternative bio-energy production scenarios in the Southeast. He also developed multi-criteria evaluations of invasive aquatic plant management strategies in Southeastern lakes, reservoirs, and streams. Dr. Evans's work at the Institute includes adoption of these analyses to Georgia conditions as well as communication with local and state stakeholders to identify priority issues for integrating science with environmental policy development.

Timetable

| <u>Task</u> | <u>Completion</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Survey developed by CVIOG, with input and approval by ACFS | March 15, 2011 |
| Surveys distributed to members electronically | April 1, 2011 |
| Follow-up contacts and calls to respondents and non-respondents | April 15, 2011 |
| Survey results tabulated, GIS report generated | May 15, 2011 |
| Final report delivered to ACF Stakeholders | June 1, 2011 |

| <u>Budget</u> | |
|--|----------------|
| Activities and Deliverables | Cost |
| Development, preparation, and distribution of survey materials | 100.00 |
| Follow-up contacts, including mailings | 100.00 |
| Compilation of survey results, development of GIS report of survey results | 1000.00 |
| Preparation of survey final report | 500.00 |
| Travel expenses, meals and lodging | 300.00 |
| Total | 2000.00 |