

ACFS

Governing Board Meeting

Lake Blackshear Resort

December 13-14, 2012

Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives and Agenda

The Governing Board (GB) meeting started at 9:00am. Charles Stripling welcomed the GB and recognized the sponsors (Proctor and Gamble, Miller Coors, Coweta County Water Authority, Clayton County Water Authority, Flint Riverkeeper, SW GA Water Resources Task Force, Dollar Farm Products). Extending a particular welcome to several new GB members present, Gail Bingham asked the GB members to introduce themselves. Next, she reviewed the materials packet and the agenda.

Old Business

Vince Falcione made a motion to accept the September GB meeting summary, and Brad Moore seconded the motion. ***The motion was approved by consensus.***

Temporarily Adjourned Governing Board Meeting; Called Annual Meeting to Order

ACFS ANNUAL MEETING

Charles Stripling gave a report reviewing accomplishments for this year, including fund-raising, TOCWG work on the SWMP/IFA, the University Collaborative (TUC) work on institutional options, strengthened relationships with federal and state agencies, and development of the organization as an important player in the ACF. Stripling recognized the professional services team, the TOCWG, and others for their efforts in 2012. Jim McClatchey and Mark Masters gave a financial report for the year. The Statement of Activity and Balance Sheet are included in the meeting packet.

Adjourn Annual Meeting

BREAK

Reconvene Governing Board Meeting

New Business

Jim McClatchey presented the proposed 2013 budget for ACFS. (See ACF Stakeholders, Inc. 2013 Operating Budget, Proposed December 12, 2012, distributed as a meeting material at the meeting.) ***Bill McCartney made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Brad Currey seconded the motion.*** In discussion, it was noted that this budget does not complete the SWMP/IFA. It also includes Gail Bingham and Kristin Rowles for only the first six months of the year. If additional funds are raised, the budget can be amended to continue the SWMP/IFA work and to support organizational needs. ***The motion was approved by consensus.***

Next, McClatchey presented a motion to authorize professional service team contracting. The Executive Committee recommends the following motion to the GB:

Move that the ACF Stakeholders Governing Board (GB) authorize the Executive Committee (EC) to proceed, within the context of existing funds, in executing contractual arrangements to the professional services team as follows:

Mark Masters 12 months, \$56,608

Gail Bingham, 6 months, \$46,656

Kristin Rowles, 6 months, \$37,322

The cost of these cumulative arrangements shall not exceed \$140,586.

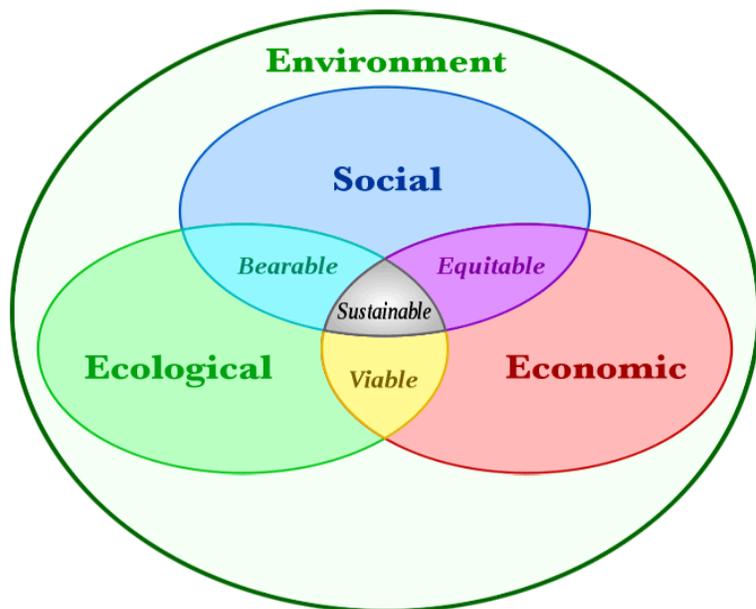
Bill McCartney made the motion; Gordon Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Next, Charles Stripling presented the slate of officers for 2013. The Executive Committee recommends ratification of the following officers for 2013:

Chair	Billy Turner
Vice Chair	Jim McClatchey
Secretary	Bill McCartney
Treasurer	Greg Elmore

Roger Martin made a motion to ratify the proposed slate of officers; Jerri Russell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Charles Stripling introduced the new president, Billy Turner. Turner acknowledged the work of ACFS to date and the work ahead for the organization. Turner commented on his observations from his 50 years of work in the water industry. He referred to a report which he helped to develop on sustainability as a member of an EPA advisory committee; he highlighted a diagram from the report that illustrates the three pillars of sustainability. He noted that ACFS is trying to get to the center of this diagram.



Issues Committee:

ACFS Scoping Comment to USACE on Water Control Manual

In introducing Jim Phillips, Issues Committee chair, Billy Turner noted that the Executive Committee met with the new USACE commander for the South Atlantic Divisions, Colonel Ed Jackson, who is very supportive of the ACFS. Next, Jim Phillips introduced the draft comments from the ACFS to USACE on the scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for the revisions to the Water Control Manual. Phillips called on Dennis Barnett from TetraTech, the consultant to the USACE for the Water Control Manual (WCM) revision process. Barnett provided an overview of the purpose of the scoping process. He said that comments from ACFS will carry great weight. Next, Gail Bingham described the process by which the Issues Committee collected input from ACFS members, and then she reviewed the content of the draft comments from ACFS. The draft comment letter recommended by the Issues Committee was provided with the meeting materials. Edits suggested in advance of the GB meeting were projected on the screen. These and other suggestions were discussed by the GB, and a small group met over lunch to work through one remaining issue.

The following are points raised during the discussion of the draft comment letter, some of which were addressed with edits and others of which will be addressed outside this comment letter, e.g. through revisions to future planning documents:

- Several suggested additions or clarifications were made to language incorporated in the letter from previously approved planning documents describing ACFS objectives. These suggestions included adding references to: wastewater treatment technology to item A, increasing storage and maintaining higher lake levels to item B, innovations in water conservation by farmers to item C, to the scope of the ACF Basin as described in item E,
- In Item 5 on page 2, disagreement was expressed over how this item is stated with an emphasis on options related to storage. It was suggested that the questions should reflect a better balance of options or generalized to avoid emphasis of one type of option over another.
- It was suggested that language could be added on page 2 to address that ACFS embraces continual monitoring of best practices and best available technology and these improvements should be considered as appropriate.
- A member asked about the choice to pose questions; are we expecting a response from USACE? Barnett said that he was not sure if USACE will respond directly to ACFS, but it is okay to provide comments as questions. The questions raise issues that the USACE may try to address in the WCM process, and there will be a comment response document prepared that indicates how the comments were addressed. In general, some comments that will be received are not within the USACE's purview, and these will not be addressed. Let the USACE know that the ACFS performance metrics are in development, and we will provide them. There is a statement in the 3rd paragraph that addresses this. Brad Moore is developing draft language to further emphasize this point.
- It was suggested that the parenthetical addition to item 7 on page 3 be deleted.

- If anything is changed in A through F, we need to change the paragraph introducing it (A through F are based on a document previously adopted by ACFS.)

A revised draft was circulated in the afternoon for members to review over night. (A copy of the final approved letter is attached to this meeting summary as Attachment A.)

BREAK FOR LUNCH

SWMP/IFA Status Report

Brad Moore provided an update on progress of TOCWG. Slides presented to the GB will be posted on the website. Major items covered in the update include:

- Water Demands – External review is recently complete, and the report is almost complete.
- Instream Flow Assessment (IFA) – Reviewed by TOCWG. Out for external review now.
- Unimpaired Inflow Dataset (UIF) – Decided to proceed with existing UIF dataset for modeling.
- Bay Evaluation – Agree that we need to evaluate effect on the Bay of water management alternatives in the SWMP/IFA. Ad Hoc Committee is now working to determine how to proceed with Bay Evaluation. Budget commits \$50,000 to initiate this work.
- Performance Metrics – All of ACFS members have contributed through the caucus meetings. Kristin Rowles and Gordon Rogers will explain the performance metrics in detail tomorrow. The GB will be asked to approve use of these metrics for modeling purposes at the next meeting.
- Water Management Alternatives (WMAs) – To date, we have received 19 WMA submissions. Still open to submissions. Got ideas at the USFWS Workshop in November. Also, expect to get ideas for WMAs from current conditions model runs. TOCWG will screen them for iterative model runs next year.
- Model runs – Decided yesterday to proceed with current conditions model runs. TOCWG agreed on adding a run constrained to meet instream performance metrics.
- Major Issues: IFA, Bay Evaluation, Funding
- Rowles said that docs being reviewed by the TOCWG can be made available to members via DropBox or other means.

Next, Moore and Rowles presented a motion for Phase E of the SWMP/IFA that was approved by the EC yesterday. The motion is included as Attachment B to this meeting summary. ***Ellis Cadenhead made this motion to the GB; Wilton Rooks seconded the motion.*** The following is a summary of the discussion of this motion:

- How do the iterative model runs relate to the rest of the SWMP/IFA? These model runs will come after the baseline/current conditions model runs, and they will be used to evaluate the effects of selected water management alternatives on the ACF.

- The funds included in this phase for the Bay Evaluation and Iterative Modeling (\$50,000 for each) are only to initiate those tasks. We do not have enough money to finish the project at this time. The Iterative Modeling task total cost is \$179,000, and the total cost for the Bay Evaluation is not known at this time. We need to do more fund-raising.
- Approval of a phase authorizes the EC to negotiate and enter the contractual arrangements to implement the tasks in a phase.

The motion was approved by consensus.

Next, Woody Hicks gave a summary of a workshop hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on technical modeling issues in the ACF. At least 11 representatives of ACFS attended the workshop, as well as state and federal agencies in the Basin. Hicks said that the workshop participants believe that ACFS is the best path forward to identify a resolution on the on-going ACF water conflicts. Hicks said that there is still distrust among the states, especially concerning data, but that the states generally agree that the UIF dataset can be used for comparative purposes.

Steve Simpson gave a presentation on the Unimpaired Flow (UIF) dataset (slides will be available on the website), the Georgia Water Resources Institute (GWRI) report on performance metrics, and the TOCWG's decision to proceed with modeling without modifying the UIFs. The following is a summary of the discussion:

- Are errors in the UIF random throughout the Basin or are there certain regions or nodes that have more error than others? The errors are not concentrated in particular nodes.
- Will ACFS reach an endpoint or be forever chasing a better dataset? ACFS has made an important decision to move forward with the existing UIF data set to run current conditions and comparative modeling.
- In approval to move forward with the existing UIFs, the TOCWG recommended that ACFS work with USACE and the states to consider corrections to UIFs.
- USACE has indicated they are open to considering changes to the UIFs, particularly if they are proposed by the three states. It was noted that supporters of changing the UIFs may need to work through Congress to get funding for USACE to act on UIF changes.

Discussion: Institutional Options

Chad Taylor introduced TUC discussion on institutional options. Laurie Fowler from UGA introduced the students working on the project. Shannon Bonney gave a presentation on the Institutional Options Study focused on functions of the institutions studied. Her slides will be available on the website.

Next, the members split into four small groups for discussion of the following questions relative to a set of functions assigned to each group:

1. What would the value be in the ACF basin if a trans-boundary institution provided this function? Is this a high, medium or low priority to you? Why?

2. What further information would you like to know about this function and how trans-boundary institutions are performing it in other basins? How would this information help the ACFS?
3. What existing organizations are undertaking this function within the ACF? Who is the best contact person for this organization? What is this organization's scope? What specifically are the gaps that a trans-boundary institution could fill in here?

After the break-out groups, each group gave a summary report. TUC will provide a summary of the group reports from the flip chart notes, and it will incorporate today's input into a future report from TUC.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

RECONVENE FOR THE DAY: Friday, December 14

Open Discussion

Billy Turner opened the day by reading the mission statement of ACFS:

To change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve:

1. Equitable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values
2. Viable solutions that ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations.

He said that the group's mission is truly sustainable, and we are making good progress toward it. He noted the importance of the TOCWG's decision on Wednesday to move forward with modeling. He said that we have a clear path forward, but only until about the middle of the year. There are difficult decisions ahead, but we have shown that we are up to the task. The big hurdle we face mid-year is funding. He asked all of the members to support the fund-raising efforts by identifying possible donors and making requests. Next, Turner reviewed the committee chairs for 2013 and tentative dates for 2013 GB meetings (April 24-26, June 26-28, Sept 25-27, Dec 11-13).

Next, the GB returned to the discussion of the comment letter to the USACE. Jim Phillips introduced the revised letter (circulated yesterday evening by e-mail). Gail Bingham reviewed the specific edits to the document. **Next, David Dixon made a motion to accept the letter as revised. Ellis Cadenhead seconded the motion.** The following is a summary of the discussion of the revised letter:

- The words "changing" and "and guide curves" were added to Item 5(a) on page 3.

- One remaining edit to Items A through F was reversed to be consistent with the decision not to change from their wording upon original adoption by ACFS. It was noted that changes to those items would be possible at the April GB meeting when the ACFS planning documents are discussed.
- A member clarified that “downstream ecological flow needs” are not the same as downstream seafood production needs, but that no changes were needed to the letter to address this comment.
- The words “downstream ecological” in Item 5(b) were changed to “all downstream” so that a broader set of downstream flow needs are addressed.
- It was suggested that ACFS include a copy of the UIF report with the letter and reference the attachment in the letter.

David Dixon withdrew his original motion and substituted a motion to accept the letter as modified. Ellis Cadenhead seconded the substitute motion. The motion was approved by consensus. Jim Phillips commented that the letter requests a meeting with the USACE and that dialogue with the USACE will be important for ACFS moving forward.

Performance Metrics for the Sustainable Water Management Plan

Kristin Rowles and Gordon Rogers gave a presentation on the process of developing the performance metrics, which are organized into a matrix. Their slides will be available on the website. They said that agreement on the performance metrics is targeted for the first quarter GB meeting of 2013. They said that agreement on the performance metrics means:

- We have gathered enough input across the full range of ACFS interests.
- These metrics are what we will use to evaluate model outputs.
- We do not necessarily agree with each other’s metrics, but we do agree that getting results reported in these terms is important to meet all stakeholders’ information needs.

They said that the following performance metrics are not yet complete:

Thermoelectric/Hydropower

- Have initial input
- Upcoming conference call for these interest groups

Environment/Conservation

- Incorporation of IFA (or alternatives) for ecological flow metrics
- IFA report out for review

Apalachicola Bay

- Bay Evaluation

The following is a summary of the discussion that followed the presentation:

- Changes to the matrix may come from current conditions or initial iterative model runs.
- We expect to adopt the performance matrix prior to full completion of the Bay evaluation. The metrics that are developed from the Bay Evaluation will be incorporated into the analysis as they become available. These metrics are expected to

be able to be evaluated via post-processing of model output results, and so they can be addressed at a later time.

- There are some metrics, like acres of oyster bars, that will require additional information from the Bay evaluation to link back to flows coming out of the model.
- It is possible that we will have a Bay assessment tool prior to the iterative model runs, which are expected to begin in June.
- Changes to the performance matrix can be made until GB adoption (expected at 1st quarter GB meeting in 2013).
- TOCWG will have further discussion on developing a process for changes to matrix post GB adoption.
 - Comment that the sub-basin caucuses should have some oversight in how metrics may be changed;
 - Several members commented that their caucus did not vote on their sub-basin caucus' set of metrics.
 - The sub-basin caucus meetings on performance metrics were designed as a forum for input instead of for official sub-basin action on the metrics, though the Lower-Middle Chattahoochee Caucus did approve their metrics in advance of the caucus meeting.
 - TOCWG has chosen to be inclusive in including metrics from the various stakeholder groups.
- Charlie Freed, Atlanta Rowing Club (a new ACFS member), had some specific comments on a metric at Morgan Falls Dam. Specific numbers have been forwarded to B&V.
- Rowles said that the state and federal agencies at the USFWS workshop in Eufaula were all very interested ACFS' performance metrics. Gail Cowie (GAEPD) reinforced this observation and noted that GAEPD is interested in using performance metrics for the purpose of informing its future modeling efforts.
- A comment was made that we need to keep in mind WMAs and/or metrics that are not easily defined as a flow or level (e.g., mitigate channelization in Apalachicola).
- Another comment noted that we need to recognize the limitations of the performance metrics.

Information Session: River, Climate and Weather Forecast in the ACF Basin

John Feldt with Blue Water Outlook gave a briefing on river, climate, and weather conditions in the ACF. His slides will be available on the website. The drought has expanded geographically in the region over the past few months. Streamflows are still very low in the Southeast. Feldt said that the big picture forecast seems to indicate the possibility of improvement of the drought. In response to a question, Feldt said that 30-year averages for rainfall can be found at: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/> In response to another question, Feldt said that the climate change outlook for the Southeast will affect precipitation patterns in the region, but it is not possible to say if the current drought is an indicator of this type of change.

In summary, Feldt said:

- SE US drought different than Central US drought

- We are in a deep hole that will take some time to dig out
- Even normal rainfall will improve conditions
- Runoff, stream flow, reservoir levels will lag
- Climatology (3-month and longer) favors improvement

Next, Dan Tonsmeire commented on current conditions in Apalachicola Bay. He said that members of the Apalachicola Caucus have been seeking funds for the Bay Evaluation. The Oyster Recovery Team, recently created in Florida, points to lack of freshwater and nutrients as well as high levels of predators in the Bay as contributors to oyster population problems. Emergency funding has been made available to restore cultch in the Bay and to provide temporary relief to oystermen. Shannon Hartsfield has led the creation of SMART, which is focused on efforts to improve management of the Bay. The primary stakeholders in that group are seafood industry workers. Tonsmeire said that the Apalachicola caucus is working to try to take actions to address the conditions in the lower part of the Basin and that the Bay is near collapse. He would appreciate any efforts that can be offered that would get more freshwater inflow to Bay.

Information Session: Agricultural Water Conservation

David Reckford, from the Flint River Basin Partnership, provided a briefing on agricultural water conservation measures in use and under development in the Lower Flint Basin (slides available on website). Reckford introduced Calvin Perry from the UGA Stripling Irrigation Research Park. Perry provided the group an overview of Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI) and remote soil moisture monitoring. Information on how many irrigation systems have had conservation upgrades was also presented.

Announcements

There will be a national Waterkeeper conference at Callaway Gardens in June (6/5-6/9). Paddle Georgia will be in the Lower Flint from June 21-28.

The GB meeting adjourned at 10:55 (Motion was made by Steve Davis, with a second from Tim Thoms.)

ADJOURN MEETING

ACFS
Governing Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting
December 14, 2012

CALL VIRTUAL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am. A quorum of members was present. John Heath, George MacMahon, and George Martin attended by teleconference.

Consideration of Possible Motion to Approve ACFS Scoping Comments to USACE

Gail Bingham reviewed the current version of the comment letter, previously approved by the GB and sent to GB members by e-mail before the virtual meeting. **Vince Falcione made a motion to approve the comment letter; David Dixon seconded the motion.** It was clarified that the charter calls for a seven day notice for a meeting, which was given, and acknowledged that the timing of the virtual meeting was not ideal, but driven by several scheduling factors. Bingham asked the teleconference participants if they had comments or questions. They did not. **Billy Turner called the question, and the motion was approved by consensus.**

Committee and Work Group Status Reports

Issues Committee: Jim Phillips gave the committee report. The ACFS 2013 Action Plan will be discussed at the April GB meeting. Comments are welcome. The plan is focused largely on the SWMP process. Phillips encouraged all members to review the document, in particular the 2013 priorities.

Finance Committee and Fundraising: The Finance Committee report was given to the GB on December 13. Brad Currey gave a fund-raising report. He referred to a meeting material document entitled ACFS Fundraising Campaign – November 30, 2012 Status Report. Currey updated the committee on the current efforts of the campaign and donations expected from prospects. He is optimistic that the remainder of the funds targeted can be committed by April for a total of \$1.5 million. It was clarified that the list of donors is not confidential.

Membership Committee and Education and Outreach Committee: Jim Poff gave the committee report. He reminded members to pay their dues. He said there are two slots open on the GB, for which there are current prospects. The meeting packet includes a recruitment plan for ACFS Membership. He referred the group to the last two bullets in the plan, focused on recruiting associate members and on the proxy process. The committee suggests that GB members not be permitted to hold more than one GB vote at a time; instead proxies would be shared with associate members. Some members expressed concern about the ability of associate members to be informed enough to participate. In response, it was noted that GB members can be proactive about informing associates and should only share their proxy with an associate

member who is informed enough to participate. The membership recruitment plan is designed to develop the depth of the organization.

A member suggested creating an introductory packet to inform new members. Mark Masters referred to several information sources available to members for this purpose (e.g., website, donor reports, and fund-raising case statement).

David Dixon made a motion to change the bylaws to state that if a GB member appoints a proxy who is not a GB member, then they should be adequately informed to participate; Homer Hirt seconded the motion. In discussion of the motion, Rooks suggested that this could be done without changing the bylaws. David Dixon accepted a friendly amendment that this not be a bylaw change, and Homer Hirt agreed. Mark Masters clarified what the charter currently states regarding proxies. It limits the use of a proxy to one time per year. (See Section V.B.e of the Charter.) **The motion was approved by consensus.**

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee: Kristin Rowles gave the report for Betty Webb. She asked that all GB members re-read and familiarize themselves with the policy adopted at the September GB meeting regarding communication by members with federal, state, and other agencies. She said that this policy is important to ensure transparent and coordinated communication with the agencies.

Outreach Committee: Deron Davis said that the committee will be considering what a professional communications strategist might be able to offer ACFS. Brad Currey has made a recommendation for such a professional. Davis noted the need for a member to serve as a coordinator for ACFS conference participation. The deadline for content for the next newsletter is December 20.

Wrap-Up and Adjournment

George Taylor commented that the presentations from the GB meeting should be available on the website. It was noted that they need to be updated and easier to find. Wilton Rooks will check on this. Jim Phillips thanked Billy Turner for his willingness to serve as president. Phillips suggested that ACFS needs to form a group to interface with the USACE. Billy Turner thanked the Flint River Caucus and Mark Masters for hosting and planning the meeting. He thanked the committees and staff for their efforts. Homer Hirt asked GB members to read the pamphlet on RiverWay South that he distributed. **The virtual meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.**

Attachments:

- A: **Working Copy of Draft Letter to USACE from ACFS with comments for scoping process for Water Control Manual Environmental Impact Statement (Nov 14 Issues Committee, Nov 28 EC) – distributed as a Meeting Material**
- B: **Motion for Phase E of the SWMP/IFA**
- C: **Draft Letter to USACE from ACFS, as adopted (12/14/12)**

Tetra Tech, Inc.
61 St. Joseph Street
Suite 550
Mobile, Al 36602-3521

Dear _____:

The ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) is a non-profit corporation created to provide a forum for diverse interests throughout the basin to work together to understand the water resources of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin and find collaborative solutions to their water management conflicts. The ACFS mission is to change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve equitable and viable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values and ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations. Additional information about the ACFS's organizational history and operating procedures is attached.

ACFS formed after the previous scoping process in 2008-2009 and welcomes the opportunity to make comments now during this update to the original scoping document. These comments have been approved by consensus of the 56 member ACFS Governing Board.

The ACFS has appreciated hearing updates at its meetings from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and looks forward to future similar opportunities to learn about progress on the Water Control Manual update and to serve as a truly basin-wide, multi-stakeholder sounding board. In addition, ACFS can serve as a source of in-depth and collaboratively developed information and analysis during the course of the Water Control Manual update. ACFS has already shared information with USACE on water demands and consumptive use and a report concerning the unimpaired flow data set, generated as part of the ACFS Sustainable Water Management Plan initiative. Over the next 12 to 18 months, ACFS, with assistance from its consultants (Black and Veatch, Georgia Tech, and Atkins) anticipates producing a series of additional documents including: performance criteria based on stakeholder interests and concerns, existing conditions model runs, an instream flow assessment, and a range of water management alternatives. The chair of the ACFS Technical Oversight and Coordination Work Group will share this information with USACE as it is developed. Further, ACFS would be pleased to designate a liaison with USACE to coordinate the exchange of information.

Specifically, ACFS urges that the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the update to the USACE Water Control Manual for the ACF Basin address the concerns of all stakeholders. The ACFS Charter and By-Laws identified 14 general areas of stakeholder interest to be considered in its mission to provide sustainable water resources management in the ACF Basin. These functional areas have been aggregated in ACFS planning documents into six major

objectives, as follows, and ACFS asks USACE to evaluate the update to the Water Control Manual with respect to these stakeholder interests:

- A. Ensure and/or maintain adequate water supplies for public supply/municipal uses including wastewater assimilation needs of current and projected future populations provided that wastewater treatment is tertiary and/or the best available technology.
- B. Maintain existing and promote future water availability and access for water dependent industries, power generation, tourism and recreational interests by increasing storage and maintaining higher lake levels.
- C. Promote the optimization of the use of water for agricultural irrigation including: types of irrigation technology, selection of crops, sustainable and resource-based permitting and water withdrawal monitoring.
- D. Determine the nature and extent of commercial navigation that the ACF Basin can effectively support.
- E. Protect the natural systems and ecology of the ACF Basin by defining and implementing desired flow regimes and lake levels, water quality enhancements, including wastewater and stormwater management and best management practices to maintain a healthy natural system and support a productive aquatic ecosystem in the Basin and the estuary.
- F. Create and support relationships with local governmental institutions and other public bodies within the ACF Basin to promote sustainability of the water resources and also to enhance the historical and cultural resources of the basin related to the management of its water resources.

In addition, ACFS asks USACE to address the following questions:

1. How will both consumptive use (withdrawals less returns) and instream or non-consumptive uses be addressed and the system managed in both wet and dry periods?
2. How will USACE define how returns are calculated, noting that not all users have accurate information about returns?
3. Given the significance of drought to stakeholders in the basin, how can USACE make better use of drought predication information and tools, factoring those into its water control manual, rather than relying only on current lake levels as triggers?
4. What time step(s) does USACE plan to use in modeling the system, when the system must be operated on a daily and hourly basis? Would recommendations to USACE based on models using monthly or weekly time steps be considered compatible or reliable enough for consideration?
5. Will USACE consider other operating rules besides the current RIOP based on keeping more water in the reservoirs and still meeting the minimum required flow including raising–changing the guide curve(s) and action zones in any or all of the reservoirs (e.g. raising top of conservation pool elevations on Lake Lanier or West Point Lake)?

6. Will USACE re-investigate the unimpaired flow data set (UIF) [to resolve questions raised in the recent document provided by ACFS](#) and update it?
7. What portions of the Water Control Manual can be changed without legislative action, and which committees have jurisdiction for portions that can't be changed without legislative action? [\(e.g. Are impacts to the ecological health of the Apalachicola River and Bay considered as part of your scope for this project? An Instream Flow Analysis has been provided to USACE by ACFS for your consideration and review.\)](#)
8. What are the current triggers and procedures used by USACE for operational decisions in drought conditions?

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide these [questions and](#) comments.

Sincerely,

Charles Stripling
Chair, ACF Stakeholders

ATTACHMENT B

Motion to Authorize Phase E of the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) and Instream Flow Assessment (IFA)

Move that the ACF Stakeholders Governing Board (GB) adopt as Phase E of the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) and Instream Flow Assessment (IFA) and to authorize the Executive Committee (EC) to proceed, within the context of existing funds and upon recommendation of the Technical Oversight and Coordination Work Group (TOCWG), in executing contractual arrangements to contractors for completion of the Tasks in this Phase. The cost of these cumulative arrangements shall not exceed \$140,000.

The following conditions apply:

1. Approval of this and other Phases for the SWMP and IFA are assumed to require only a one-step consensus approval by the Governing Board.
2. Significant changes in timeline, budget or deliverables, as determined by the TOCWG, to a Task within this Phase after approval by the Governing Board shall require an additional consensus approval of modifications by the GB. Any new work not referenced in the description of Tasks in this Phase shall require a separate consensus approval by the Governing Board.
3. The EC shall have the authority to negotiate and execute Task Orders and contract modifications for the Tasks (and sub-tasks) within this Phase and other Phases (previously approved by the GB) upon the recommendation of the TOCWG. The EC shall have the authority to authorize payment for completed Task Orders and execute subsequent Task Orders within GB approved Phases without additional GB approval. The TOCWG will provide recommendations to the EC for approval of completed Task Orders and payments.

PHASE E of the SWMP/IFA

Tasks	Cost	Estimated Completion
Meeting support by Black and Veatch and Atkins in first 6 months of 2013	\$40,000 (not to exceed)	June 2013
Initiation of Bay Evaluation	\$50,000	Dec 2013
Initiation of Task 6.2: Iterative Modeling	\$50,000	Dec 2013
TOTAL Amount Desired to be approved at December 2012 GB Meeting	\$140,000	

December 14, 2012

Tetra Tech, Inc.
61 St. Joseph Street
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Working together to share a common resource.

To Whom It May Concern:

The ACF Stakeholders (ACFS) is a non-profit corporation created to provide a forum for diverse interests throughout the basin to work together to understand the water resources of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin and find collaborative solutions to their water management conflicts. The ACFS mission is to change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve equitable and viable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values and ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations. Additional information about the ACFS's organizational history and operating procedures is attached.

ACFS formed after the previous scoping process in 2008-2009 and welcomes the opportunity to make comments now during this update to the original scoping document. These comments have been approved by consensus of the 56 member ACFS Governing Board.

The ACFS has appreciated hearing updates at its meetings from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and looks forward to future similar opportunities to learn about progress on the Water Control Manual update and to serve as a truly basin-wide, multi-stakeholder sounding board. In addition, ACFS can serve as a source of in-depth and collaboratively developed information and analysis during the course of the Water Control Manual update. ACFS has already shared information with USACE on water demands and consumptive use and a report concerning the unimpaired flow data set, generated as part of the ACFS Sustainable Water Management Plan initiative. Over the next 12 to 18 months, ACFS, with assistance from its consultants (Black and Veatch, Georgia Tech, and Atkins) anticipates producing a series of additional documents including: performance criteria based on stakeholder interests and concerns, existing conditions model runs, an instream flow assessment, and a range of water management alternatives. The chair of the ACFS Technical Oversight and Coordination Work Group will share this information with USACE as it is developed. Further, ACFS would be pleased to designate a liaison with USACE to coordinate the exchange of information.

Specifically, ACFS urges that the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the update to the USACE Water Control Manual for the ACF Basin address the concerns of all stakeholders. The ACFS Charter and By-Laws identified 14 general areas of stakeholder interest to be considered in its mission to provide sustainable water resources management in the ACF Basin.

These functional areas have been aggregated in ACFS planning documents into six major objectives as follows:

- A. Ensure and/or maintain adequate water supplies for public supply/municipal uses including wastewater assimilation needs of current and projected future populations.
- B. Maintain existing and promote future water availability and access for water dependent industries, power generation and recreational interests.
- C. Promote the optimization of the use of water for agricultural irrigation including: types of irrigation technology, selection of crops, sustainable and resource-based permitting and water withdrawal monitoring.
- D. Determine the nature and extent of commercial navigation that the ACF Basin can effectively support.
- E. Protect the natural systems and ecology of the ACF Basin by defining and implementing desired flow regimes and lake levels, water quality enhancements, including wastewater and stormwater management and best management practices to maintain a healthy natural system and support a productive aquatic ecosystem in the Basin and estuary.
- F. Create and support relationships with local governmental institutions and other public bodies within the ACF Basin to promote sustainability of the water resources and also to enhance the historical and cultural resources of the basin related to the management of its water resources.

ACFS will consider many available water management practices and technologies as we work toward completion of our Sustainable Water Management Plan which will accomplish the above objectives. We look forward to providing additional formal input to USACE at that time.

In addition, ACFS asks USACE to address the following questions:

1. How will both consumptive use (withdrawals less returns) and instream or non-consumptive uses be addressed and the system managed in both wet and dry periods?
2. How will USACE define how returns are calculated, noting that not all users have accurate information about returns?
3. Given the significance of drought to stakeholders in the basin, how can USACE make better use of drought predication information and tools, factoring those into its water control manual, rather than relying only on current lake levels as triggers?
4. What time step(s) does USACE plan to use in modeling the system, when the system must be operated on a daily and hourly basis? Would recommendations to USACE based on models using monthly or weekly time steps be considered compatible or reliable enough for consideration?

5. Will USACE consider other operating rules besides the current RIOP based on:
 - a. keeping more water in the reservoirs and still meeting the minimum required flow including changing the action zones and guide curves in all the reservoirs; and
 - b. meeting all downstream flow needs?
6. Will USACE re-investigate the unimpaired flow data set (UIF) to resolve questions raised in the recent document provided by ACFS and update it? The referenced UIF report is also enclosed for your convenience.
7. What portions of the Water Control Manual can be changed without legislative action, and which committees have jurisdiction for portions that can't be changed without legislative action?
8. What are the current triggers and procedures used by USACE for operational decisions in drought conditions?

ACFS also requests that a meeting with USACE be scheduled in the near future so that we may follow-up on our Scoping comments as well as update USACE on our progress. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide these questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Billy Turner
Chair, ACF Stakeholders