



REGIONAL PLANNING EXPERIENCES



Colorado and Georgia

Rick Brown

October 19, 2011

Colorado's Basin Roundtable Process



<http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning>

Colorado's Planning Efforts are Shaped by two Significant Milestones

- Colorado's Statewide Water Supply Initiative - 2003
- Colorado's Water for the 21st Century Act - 2005

Colorado's Statewide Water Supply Initiative

- Initiated by Colorado Water Conservation Board through routine Board procedures
- Designed to establish communication of water supply needs, challenges, and opportunities



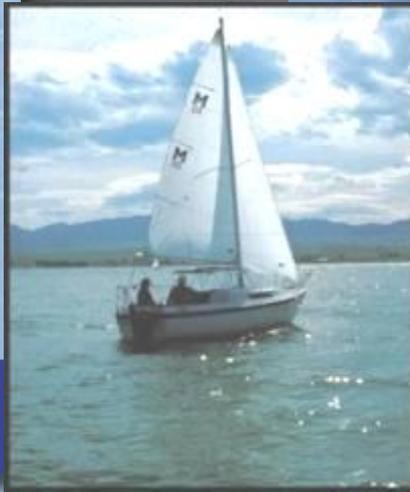
SWSI purpose as authorized by Legislature - 2003

- Examine all aspects of Colorado water use over the next 30 years
- Evaluate water supply and water management alternatives in each river basin
- Formulate strategies and build consensus on alternatives to meet future water needs



Developing a Common Goal

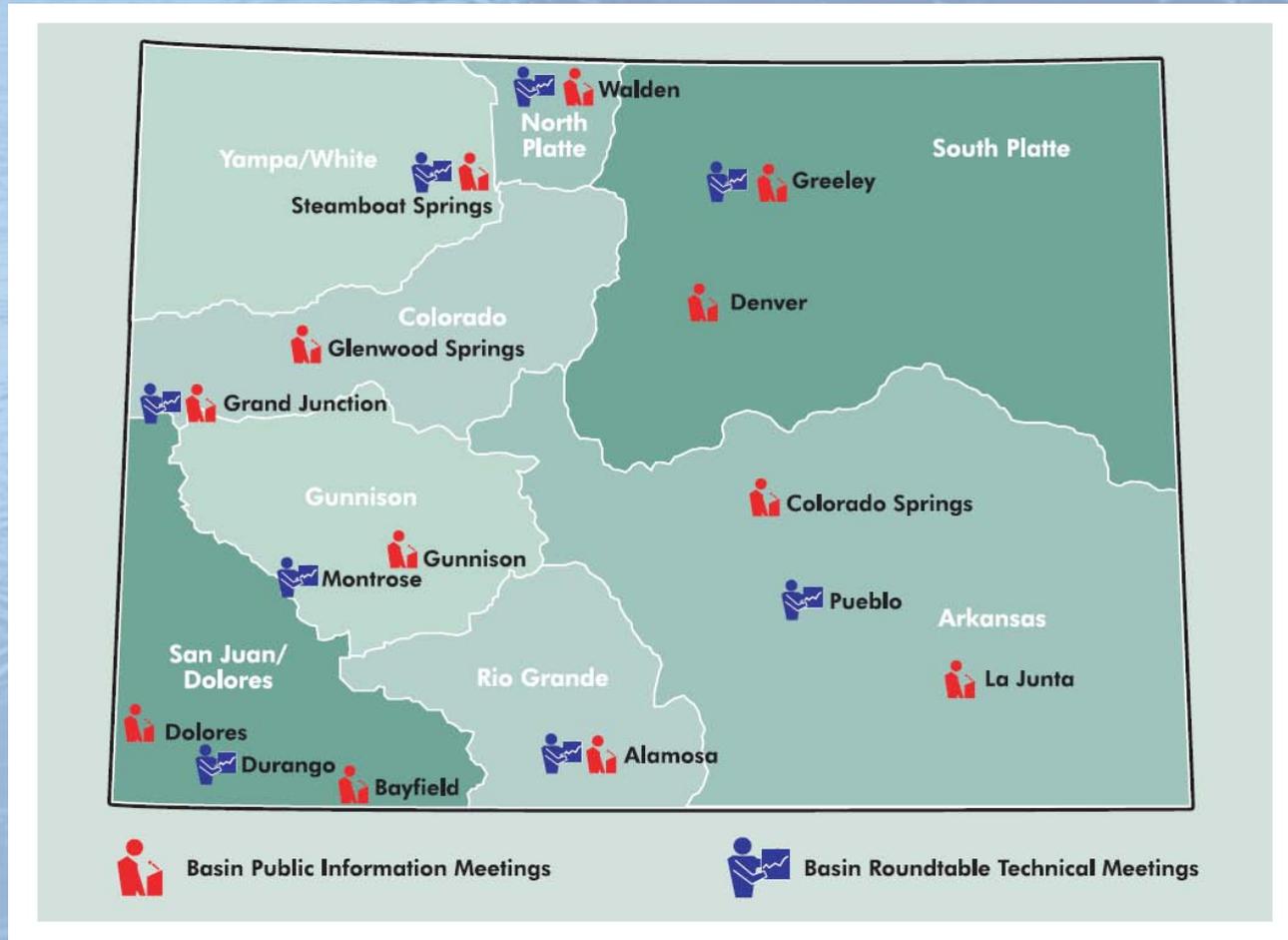
*Help Colorado
maintain an
adequate water
supply for its
citizens and the
environment.
Today and into
the Future*



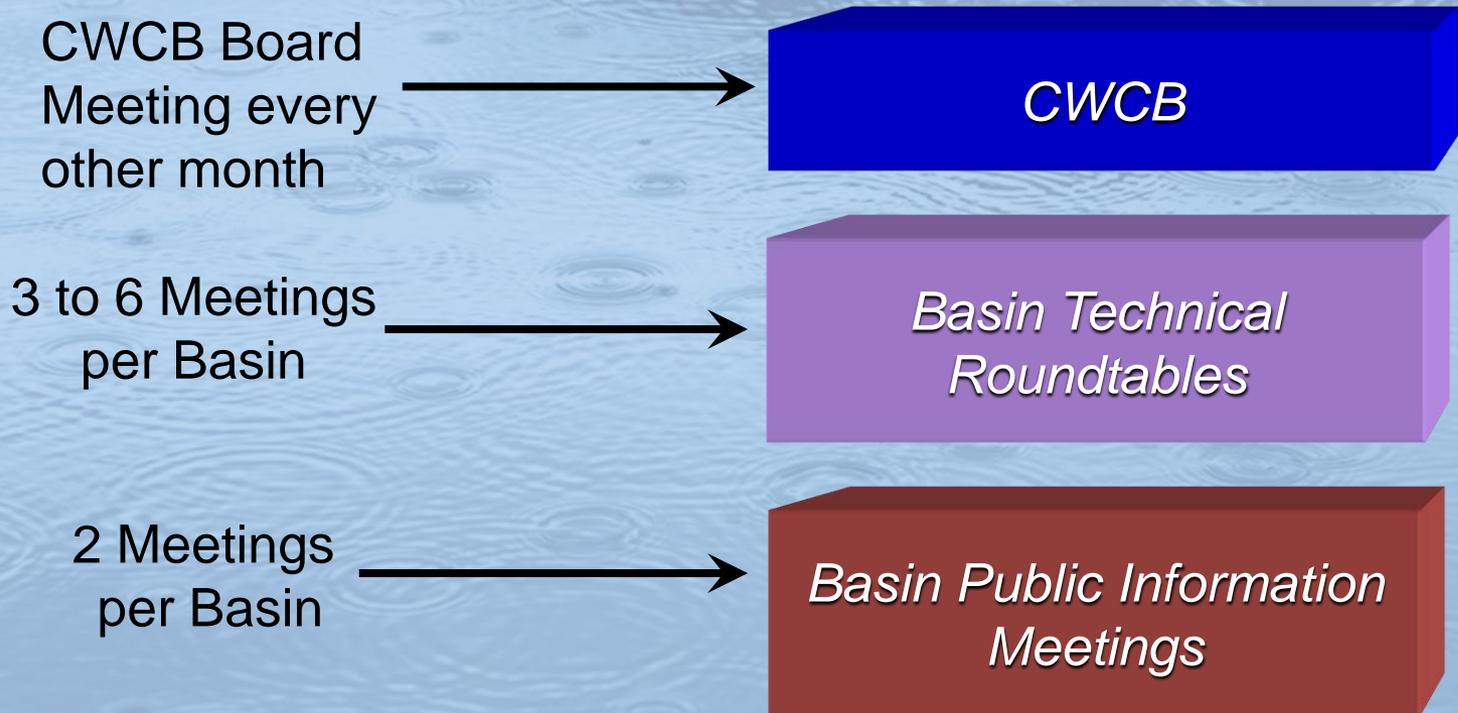
Establishing Clear and Concise Objectives

- Provide a forum to:
 - develop a common understanding of existing water supplies and future needs throughout Colorado
 - Identify possible means of meeting those needs
- Allow water providers, state policy makers, and the General Assembly to make informed decisions regarding the management and use of Colorado's surface and ground water resources
- Not intended to take the place of local water planning initiatives

Defining Watersheds and Communication Structure



Meetings Served Multiple Purposes



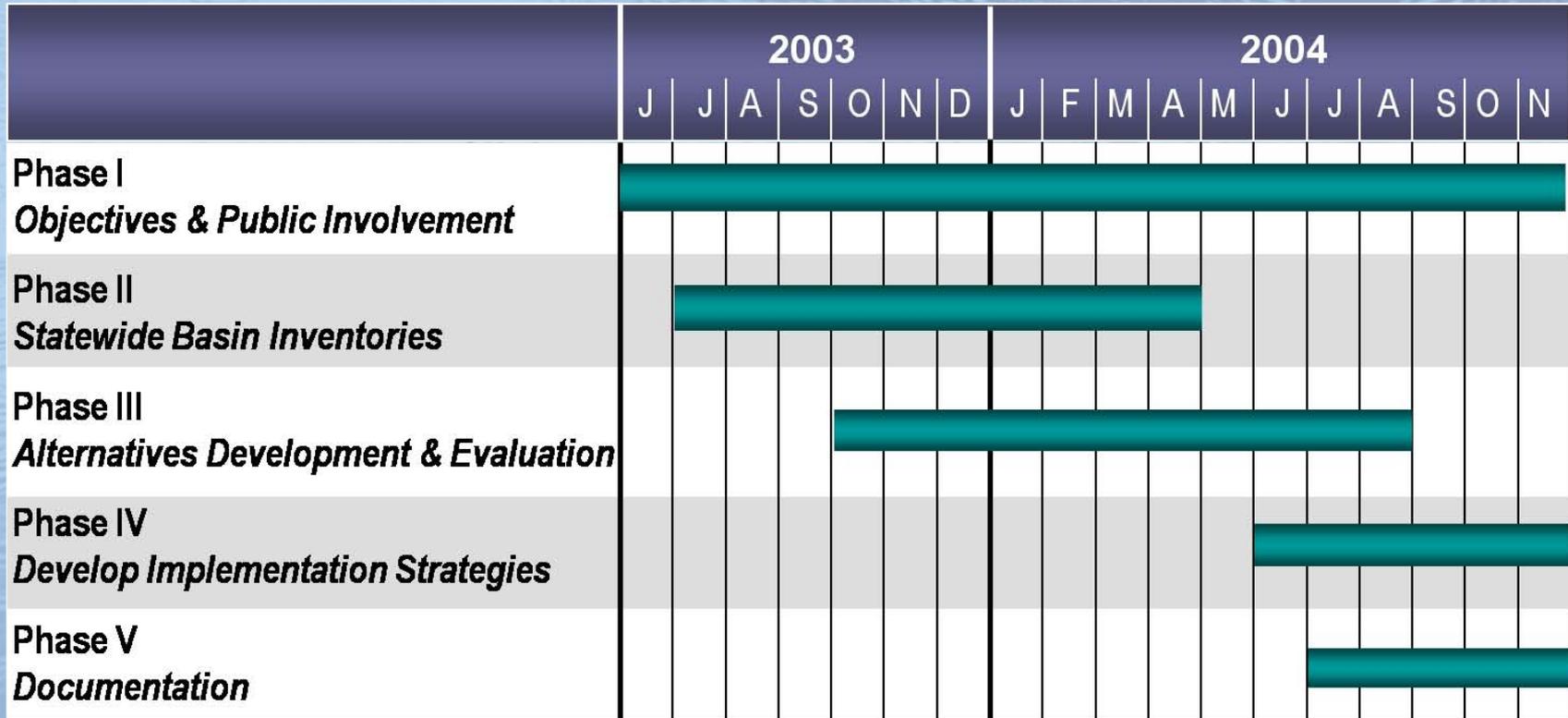
Roundtable Representation

- Agricultural & Ranching Community
- Business, Development and Civic Organizations
- Environmental interests
- Federal Agencies (i.e., Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation)
- Local Governments not directly providing water (municipal, county and regional)
- Municipal Water Providers
- Recreational interests
- Water Conservancy/Conservation Districts

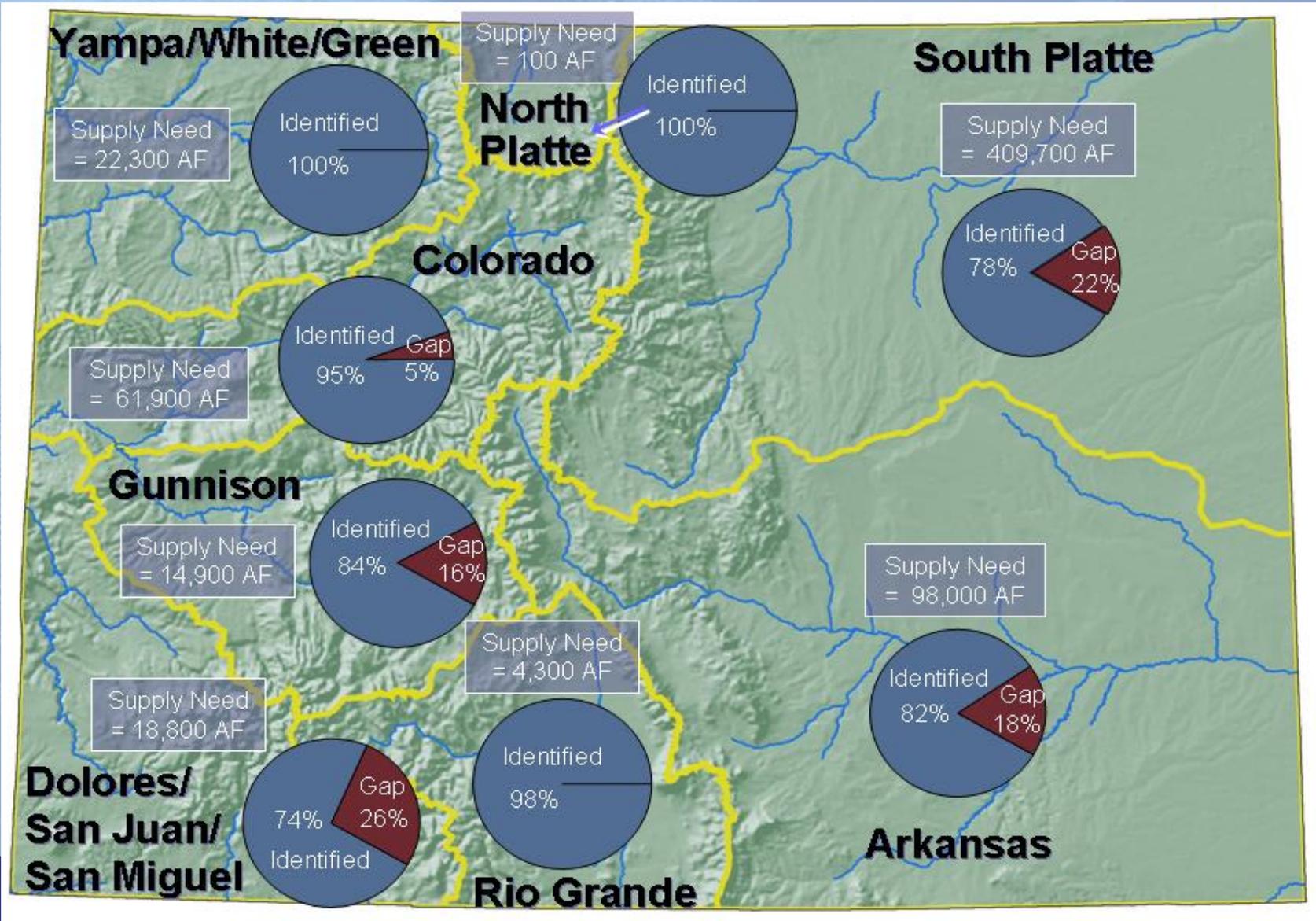
SWSI Effectively Utilized Technical Advisors

Eric Wilkinson <i>Colorado Water Conservation Board</i>	Carolyn McIntosh <i>Colorado Water Conservation Board</i>	Dick Stenzel <i>South Platte Basin Advisor</i>
Steve Puttmann <i>Division of Wildlife</i>	Paul Flack <i>Parks and Outdoor Recreation</i>	Jim Hall <i>Division Engineer</i>
Brian Person <i>Bureau of Reclamation</i>		

Importance of Defining Tasks and Schedule



Provided a Basin by Basin Analysis and Understanding of Future Needs



Colorado's Water for the 21st Century Act 2005

- **37-75-104. Basin roundtables.**

(1) (a) TO FACILITATE CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN BASINS ON WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND TO ENCOURAGE LOCALLY DRIVEN COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES, PERMANENT BASIN ROUNDTABLES ARE HEREBY CREATED IN COLORADO'S EIGHT WATER BASINS AND IN A DEMOGRAPHICALLY UNIQUE SUBREGION

Roundtable Membership was Formally Defined

Colorado's Water for the 21st Century Act 2005

USING DATA AND INFORMATION FROM SWSI

1. DEVELOP A BASIN-WIDE CONSUMPTIVE AND NONCONSUMPTIVE WATER SUPPLY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
2. CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE UNAPPROPRIATED WATERS WITHIN THE BASIN
3. PROPOSE PROJECTS OR METHODS, BOTH STRUCTURAL AND NONSTRUCTURAL, FOR MEETING THOSE NEEDS AND UTILIZING THOSE UNAPPROPRIATED WATERS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

BASIN ROUNDTABLES SHALL ACTIVELY SEEK THE INPUT AND ADVICE OF AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WATER PROVIDERS, AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS AND PERSONS IN ESTABLISHING ITS NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AND SHALL PROPOSE PROJECTS OR METHODS FOR MEETING THOSE NEEDS

Observations and Lessons Learned

- There is a steep learning curve
- Local expertise improves information
- Planning guidance is needed to ensure consistency in methodologies
- By-Laws or operating procedures are important to maintain a direction – state liaisons should be considered

Observations and Lessons Learned

- Local representation provides greater buy-in to technical work and support for conclusions and recommendations
- It takes more time and effort than centralized planning
- A framework for integrating regional plans should also be considered



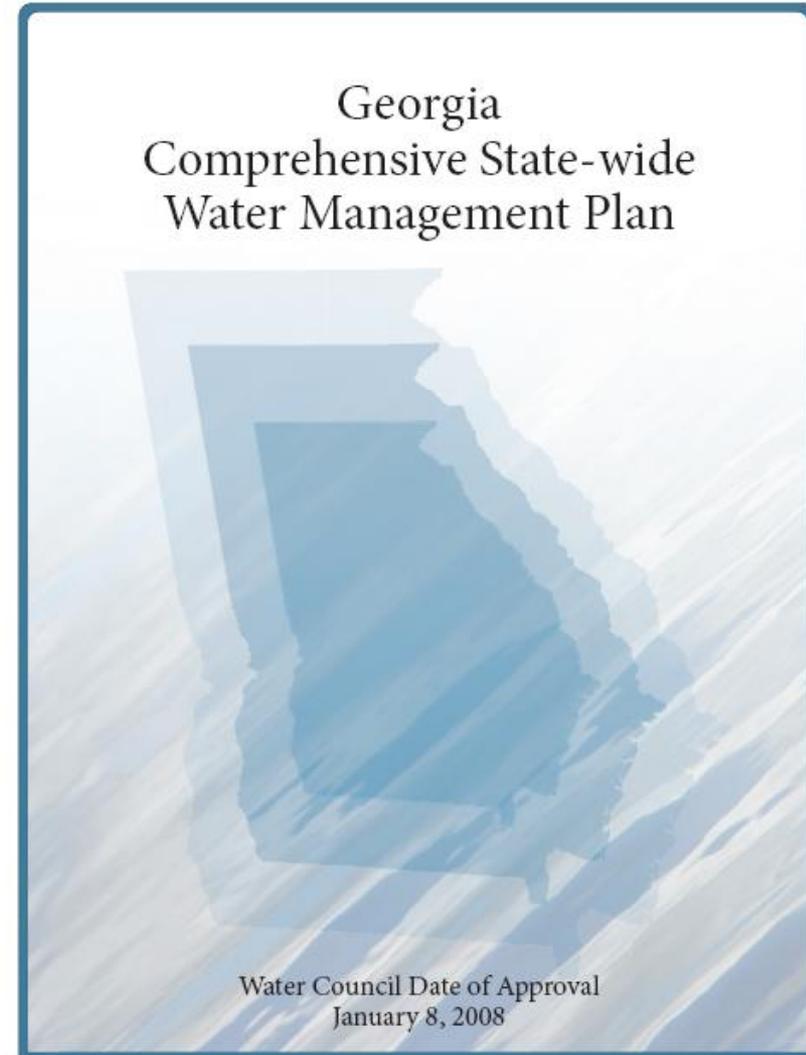
Georgia's
State Water Plan

Georgia's Regional Water Planning Councils

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

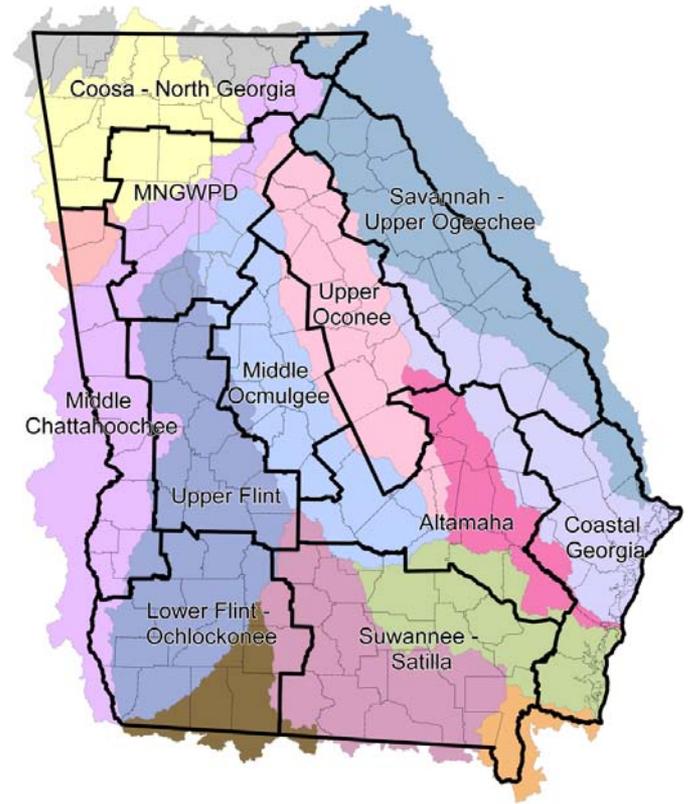
Georgia's Planning Process – The “Framework Plan”

- Georgia utilized a Water Council to develop the State planning process
- The planning process outlines both technical and procedural requirements for completing the **Regional Water Plan**
- Significant planning guidance and “tool” development completed concurrently



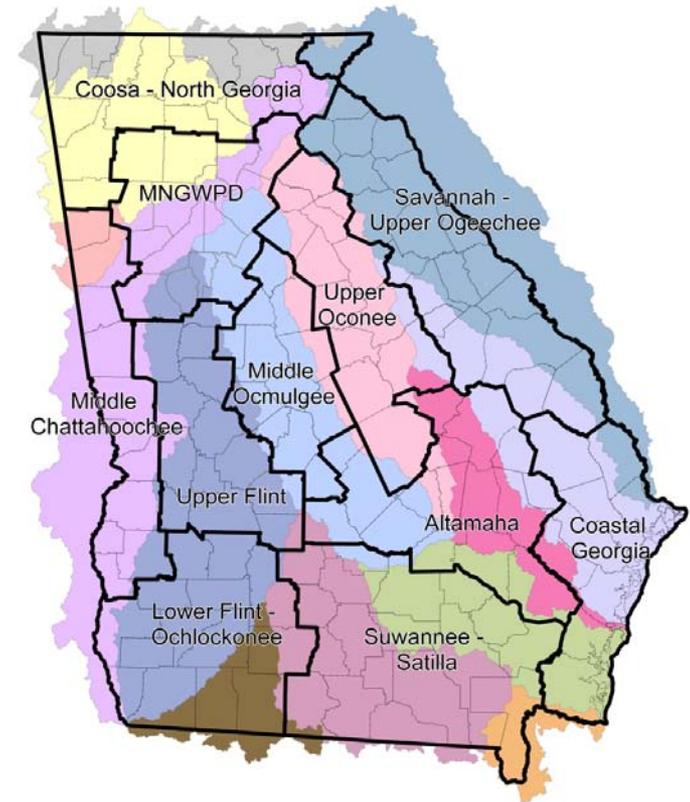
Planning Process Focused on Regional Planning

- Ten Regional Water Planning Regions established --plus Metro North Georgia
- Planning Councils formed based on nomination by Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker
- 30 members including 2 ex-officio legislative representatives from the region

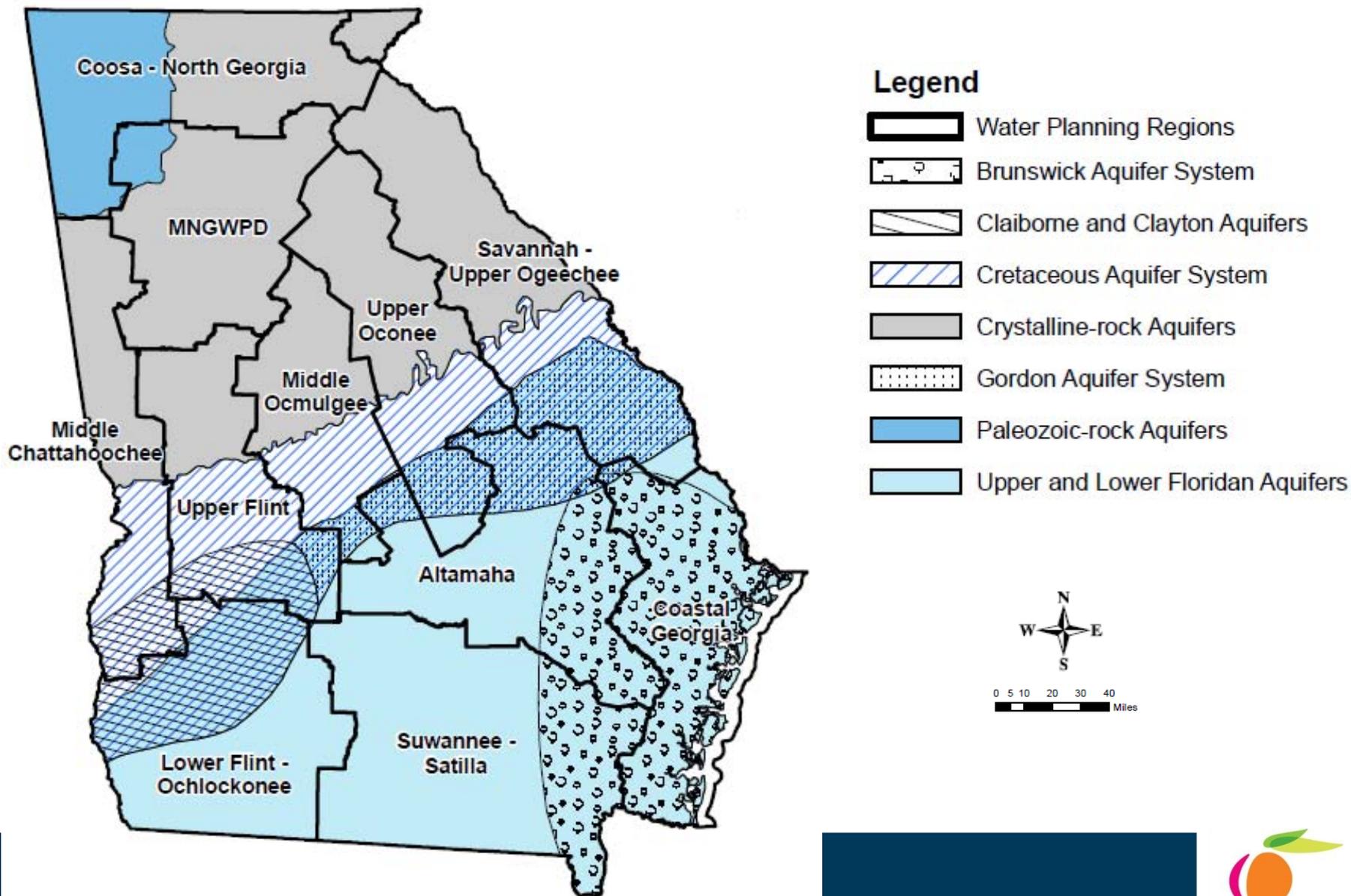


Planning Process Focused on Regional Planning

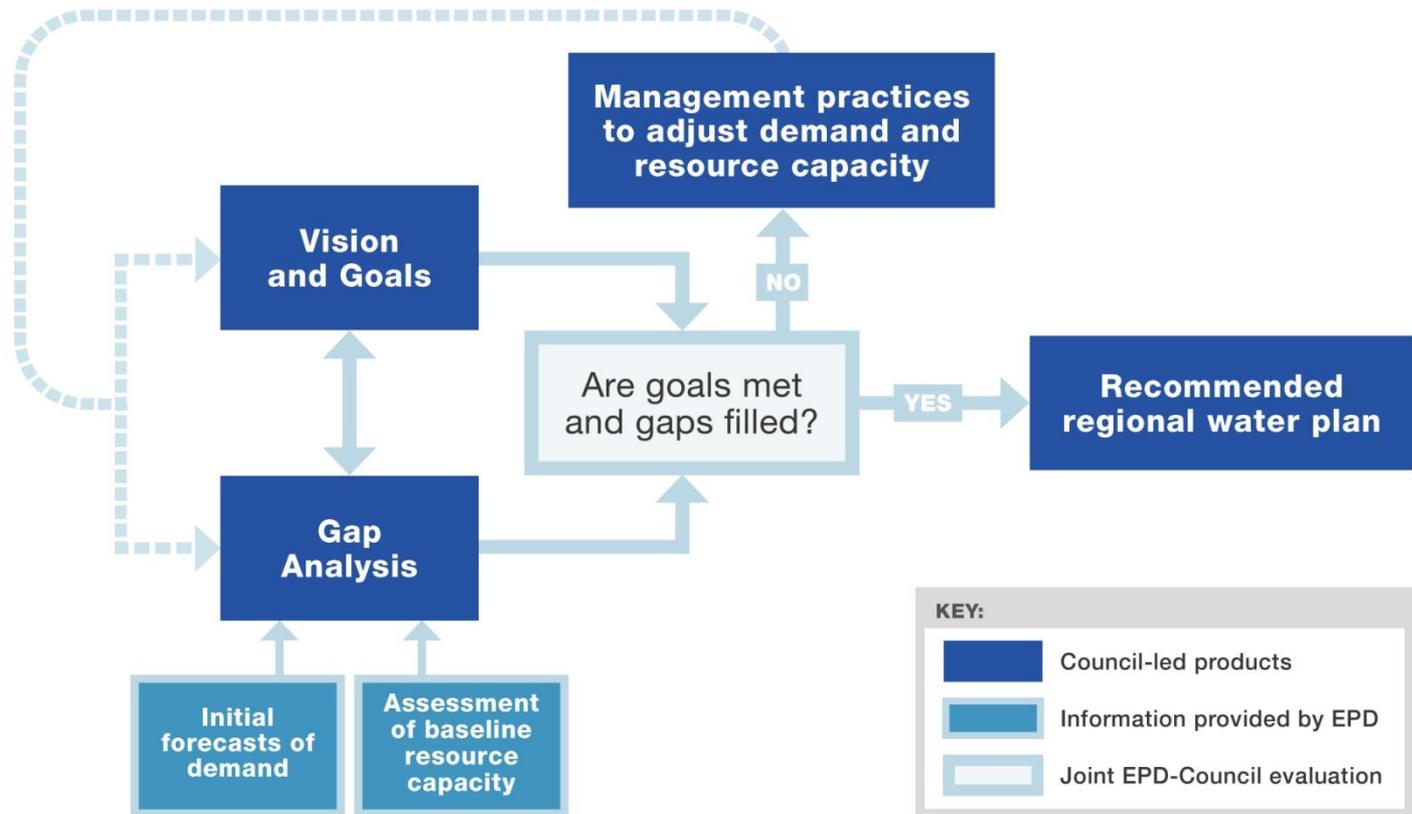
- Council boundaries were aligned to match Regional Commissions (land use focus)
- Watersheds do not align with land use planning boundaries
- Surface water resource assessment based on watersheds
- Share resource process used to engage councils with shared use of common resource



Water Planning Regions and Georgia's Aquifers

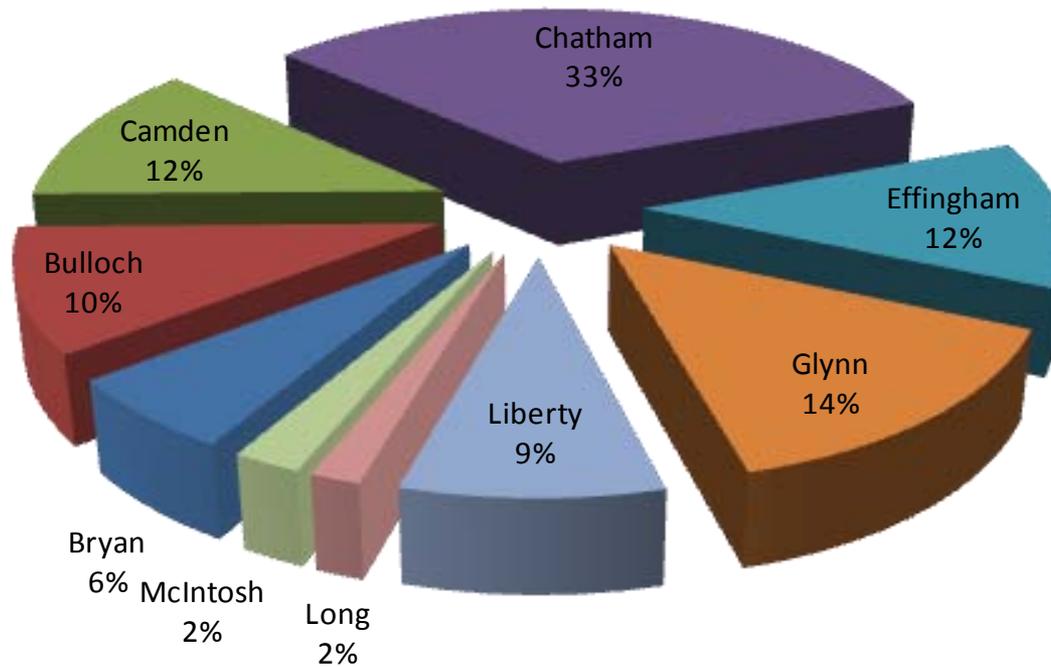


Defining Process and Roles - Important for Success



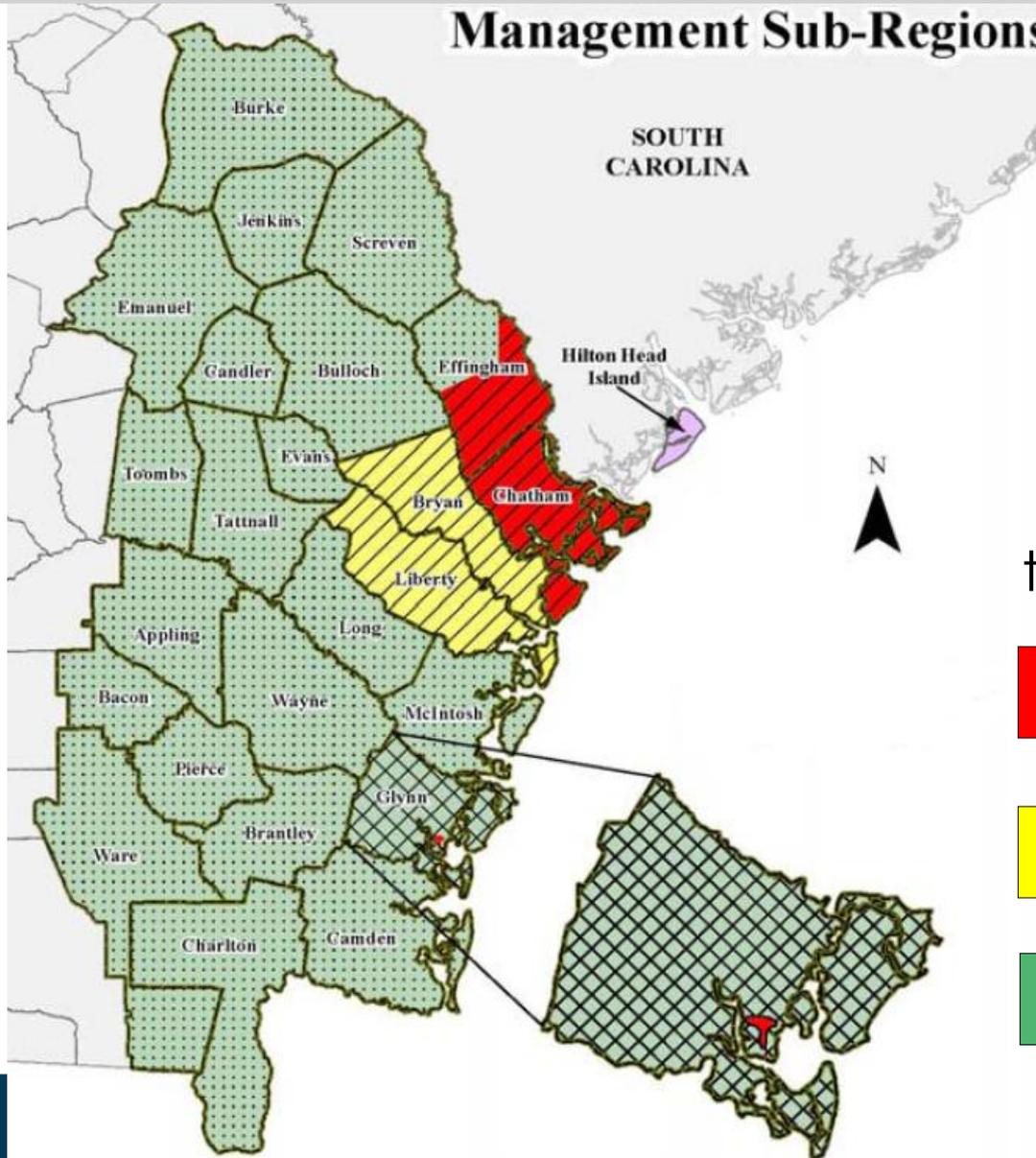
Regional Needs Varied Significantly

2050 Municipal Water Demand by County

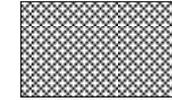


Upper Floridan Aquifer Coastal Permitting Strategy – June 2006

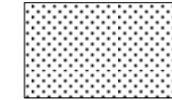
Management Sub-Regions



Sub-Region 1



Sub-Region 2



Sub-Region 3

Future Withdrawals from the Upper Floridan Aquifer



No additional withdrawals



Incremental increases in withdrawals



No restrictions on withdrawals

Value of Regional Planning

- **Regional Planning facilitates a comprehensive** state water planning process and **helps increase the implementation success**
- Regional planning groups are **closest to the resource and rely on it for economic prosperity**
- **Local expertise can provide valuable insights** and often these experts and community leaders (mayors, county commissions, city utilities, rural water authorities, agricultural leadership) are key to implementation



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Thank You!

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