



ALABAMA WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

Robert Bentley
Governor

December 10, 2012

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Alabama Office of Water
Resources

Mr. Bennett Bearden

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Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG)

P.O. Box 20276

Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-0276

Dear Mr. Bearden:

Having had the opportunity to review the policy options listed in the August 2012 Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG) report entitled, "Water Management Issues in Alabama", the Alabama Water Resources Commission (AWRC) would like to suggest a logical order on how to proceed with the water management issues listed in the report:

- ***Funding***
- ***Key Stakeholder Education and Outreach and Public Education and Outreach***
- ***Water Resources Management***
 - *Watershed Based Approach*
 - *Governance*
 - *Drought Planning*
- ***Surface Water and Groundwater Availability***
 - *Water Resources Data*
- ***Enhanced Certificates of Use/Permitting***
 - *Water Conservation*
 - *Instream flow*
 - *Interbasin Transfers*
- ***Economic Development***
- ***Interstate Coordination***

Please note that Commission added a Funding issue and placed it to show a high priority. The Commission believes sufficient funding to at least begin state-wide public education on water policy is vital to move the overall water management agenda forward. In addition the AWRC felt that some of the policy options discussed were actually subsets of broader issue areas and has adjusted the overall organization of the issues.

Bill Bailey
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James B. Witt

The AWRC looks forward to participating with the AWAAG as an advocate for enhancing our state's management of water resources. We believe education and science should be cornerstones in that effort. This February, the Commission expects to complete its thoughts on a statement of vision and goals that would be applicable to the overall effort. Once a consensus is developed, we will forward the AWRC 's final result to the AWAAG.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Steeves, Chairman
Alabama Water Resources Commission