

October 24, 2013

Mr. Bennett Bearden, Chair

Alabama Water Agencies Working Group

P.O. Box 86999

Tuscaloosa, AL 35489-6999

Via email to bbearden@gsa.state.al.us

Dear Mr. Bearden:

Montevallo Presbyterian Church appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the development of the proposed Alabama water management plan. Listed below are some important points for AWAAG's consideration.

1. Alabama is known worldwide for the diversity of its fishes, mussels, and aquatic snails. Any water management plan must address the importance of preserving and maintaining these species by protecting their habitats and ensuring the stream flow rates and water quality necessary for them to thrive. Wherever possible, species already extirpated from Alabama's streams should be re-introduced.
2. Specific attention should be paid to the importance of healthy streams with adequate flows to promote economic development, sustainable growth, and job creation while contributing to outdoor recreation and tourism.
3. Water conservation measures and efficient use will reduce the energy required to distribute and treat water as well as reduce discharges of pollutants into receiving streams. Of great importance is the efficient operation and maintenance of water collection and distribution infrastructure and the repair of leaky pipes responsible for the loss of water and revenue.
4. Alabama's water management plan must be based on sound, peer-reviewed science and must give careful consideration to the often competing needs of conservation, agriculture, recreation, industry, and domestic use.

Alabama may be one of the last states in the region to have a water management plan, but this will enable us to learn from the mistakes and omissions of others and make ours the best. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important issue.

Montevallo Presbyterian Church

Bill Peters, MPC Green Team