



Georgia Water Coalition Legislative Team Agreement

I. Mission of the Legislative Team

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) has established a standing Legislative Team, which is charged with furthering the GWC's mission, principles, and policy recommendations by advocating before the Georgia General Assembly. The Legislative Team is specifically tasked with advancing the GWC's legislative priorities, defending against proposed rollbacks, and generally ensuring the protection of Georgia's waterways in the legislative arena.

II. Structure and Organization

Members of the Legislative Team: The Legislative Team consists of all members of the Leadership Team and other members of the GWC who agree to adhere to the terms set forth in this document and have signed this document. GWC members that are not members of the Legislative Team may occasionally participate in Legislative Team meetings without formally joining the Legislative Team, conditioned upon their agreement to adhere to the provisions of this document. Any GWC member wishing to join the Legislative Team should contact a member of the Leadership Team for more information. www.gawater.org/leadership-team.

Priority and Rollback Point Persons. A point person or organization from among the Legislative Team will be assigned to each legislative priority and rollback on which the Legislative Team works. The point person or organization is expected to coordinate the strategy for advancing or opposing legislation and is responsible for staying up-to-date on the legislation and for providing updates to the Legislative Team during weekly meetings and as needed.

Legislative Team Meetings. The Legislative Team meets weekly during the General Assembly session. Because of the fast-moving nature of legislation, decisions on strategies for carrying out legislative priorities and fighting rollbacks often must be made quickly, without lengthy discussion among members. Input from all Legislative Team members is valued, but it is often difficult to fully discuss strategies and concerns with all members, particularly when discussion is held via teleconference. As such, Legislative Team members will strive to attend the meetings in person.

III. Legislative Team Responsibilities and Expectations

Attendance. Legislative Team members are expected to attend, in person or via teleconference, at least half of all Legislative Team meetings during a General Assembly session. Team members may send a staff member or Board Member to attend as proxy. Legislative Team members are also expected to attend Capitol Conservation Day, the GWC's annual lobby day, either in person or by proxy.

Legislative Priorities. The Legislative Team has no independent authority to establish legislative priorities to be pursued before the Georgia General Assembly each year. Rather, the Legislative Team exists to advance the one to three priorities adopted each year by the Leadership Team, which are guided by the policy positions in the GWC 5-year Strategic Plan and the most recent biennial report, as ratified by the GWC member organizations, and after soliciting input from the GWC membership. The Leadership Team shall notify the Legislative Team of the chosen legislative priorities no later than the first GWC membership meeting following the close of the prior General Assembly Session.

Proposed legislative priorities shall be adopted by the Leadership Team pursuant to the decision-making process established and defined in Section III of the GWC Leadership Team Agreement. Prior to presenting proposed legislative priorities, the Leadership Team will strive to share the proposed priorities and solicit input from all GWC member organizations, with a particular emphasis on those members with a direct mission or geographically based stake in the priority.

Rollbacks. The Legislative Team is authorized to decide which rollbacks to fight during any General Assembly session. Rollbacks are defined as changes to existing state statutes, rules, or regulations that directly and negatively impact healthy stream flows and/or water quality in Georgia. The Legislative Team shall use the decision-making process in Section IV to decide which rollbacks to pursue.

Adopting Strategies. The Legislative Team is responsible for adopting and implementing specific strategies to advance the GWC's legislative priorities and to oppose chosen rollbacks. Strategies should be discussed during the weekly meetings of the Legislative Team. If disagreement arises regarding any specific strategy, the Legislative Team shall vote on the strategy using the process set forth in Section IV.

Supporting Strategies. Each Legislative Team member and any GWC member participating in Legislative Team meetings or activities is expected to support the strategies adopted by the Legislative Team. If any Legislative Team member or participating GWC member disagrees with any particular strategy or position of the Legislative Team and cannot actively support such strategy or position, that member must remain neutral and/or silent on the strategy or position. A Legislative Team or GWC member which elects to take action in knowing violation of this provision shall resign from the GWC, or may be removed from the Coalition according to the processes for removal as established in the GWC Leadership Team Agreement.

Confidentiality. All Legislative Team members and GWC members who participate in Legislative Team meetings or activities must maintain strict confidentiality with regard to

Legislative Team strategies and communications. No information provided by GWC members may be used for individual or organizational gain, nor shall such information be shared outside of the Legislative Team without express permission of the GWC member who provided it. Legislative Team members and GWC members who participate in Legislative Team meetings or activities may not use this information to negotiate a separate position which may be contrary to the GWC's legislative priorities.

Respect. Legislative Team members and GWC members who participate in Legislative Team meetings or activities will strive to respect each other, even when disagreements arise in our efforts to protect Georgia's water resources. Respect and professionalism keep the door open to consensus and unity. Unprofessional behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Legislative Team members will hold each other accountable for divisive behavior and actions that exclude people and member organizations, and Legislative Team members will challenge each other to adhere to these guidelines in all GWC-related legislative endeavors.

Anti-Discrimination Clause. The Georgia Water Coalition does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities. All Coalition members agree to treat each other with respect and professionalism.

IV. Decision-Making Process for the Legislative Team

All decisions of the Legislative Team should advance the GWC's mission, guiding principles, and policy recommendations contained in the most recent Biennial Report. The Legislative Team strives to make decisions on strategies and rollbacks by consensus. Consensus is defined as either being in favor of a decision or at least being willing to live with it. Given the time-sensitive nature of legislative activities, however, the Legislative Team is not required to ask whether consensus exists for all decisions. Accordingly, it is imperative that any Legislative Team member or GWC member participating in Legislative Team activities who disagrees with a proposed strategy or rollback informs the entire Legislative Team as soon as possible.

If disagreement arises over any proposed decision, then decisions shall be made utilizing voting. To adopt a decision by vote, two-thirds (2/3) of the Legislative Team members present at the weekly Legislative Team meeting at which the vote is called must vote in favor of the decision. While member organizations may dedicate multiple individuals to the Legislative Team, each organization receives one (1) vote for the purposes of making decisions on strategies and rollbacks.

V. Conflict Resolution, Misconduct, and Corrective Action

Conflict Resolution. Conflicts between Legislative Team members and/or other GWC members may occasionally arise as a result of differing opinions on strategy, unprofessional conduct, or taking action that may be contrary to the GWC's goals, among other things. Legislative Team members that are in conflict with each other or with other GWC members should make every effort to work out their differences informally among themselves first with the goal of reaching consensus. If those efforts do not resolve the conflict and the conflict involves a decision relating

to legislative strategy, the conflict may be brought to the entire Legislative Team's attention for a final decision, to be made using the decision-making process in Section IV. If the conflict involves alleged misconduct by a Legislative Team member or other GWC member, the conflict should be brought to the Leadership Team's attention.

Misconduct by Legislative Team Members. A Legislative Team member engages in misconduct by violating the terms of this document. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, taking any action that is contrary to or undermines the GWC's mission, guiding principles, policy recommendations, and/or specific priorities and strategies established by the Leadership Team or Legislative Team. Misconduct may also include engaging in unprofessional behavior, a lack of transparency, not following through on Legislative Team commitments, or directly opposing legislation or a legislative strategy supported by the GWC. Any GWC member may bring alleged misconduct by a Legislative Team member to the attention of the entire Leadership Team for resolution. The Leadership Team follows the process for handling alleged misconduct as set forth in the GWC Leadership Team Agreement.

Corrective Action. Should the Leadership Team decide that any Legislative Team member or other GWC member has engaged in misconduct, the Leadership Team may impose corrective action including, but not limited to, temporarily suspending such member from the Legislative Team, permanently removing such member from the Legislative team, and/or suspending or removing such member from the GWC, per the process set forth in the GWC Leadership Team Agreement.

VI. Legislative Activities that are Not Legislative Priorities

There may be water issues before the Georgia General Assembly that the GWC does not make a legislative priority. Legislative Team members and other GWC members are free to advocate for or against such measures. In doing so, the Legislative Team member or other GWC member must be explicit that it is advocating on behalf of the individual member organization, and is not representing or speaking on behalf of or at the behest of the GWC.

In general, Legislative Team members and other GWC members should make every effort to identify when they are speaking on behalf of or at the behest of the GWC, or when they are speaking for their own organization.

Endorsement. The GWC Legislative Team may decide at any weekly meeting during the General Assembly session to endorse non-priority legislation upon request of a GWC member organization, if such non-priority legislation has an impact on water quality or water quantity in Georgia. Endorsement authorizes the Legislative Team to take limited actions on non-priority legislation, such as testifying in support of the legislation on behalf of the GWC before Senate or House of Representative committees or subcommittees. An endorsement does not elevate the legislation to a GWC legislative priority.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO SIGNIFY YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES OUTLINED ABOVE.

Signature of Legislative Team member

Organization Representing

Date