



November 30, 2015

The Honorable William L. Reilly  
Clerk of the House  
309 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Reilly:

This letter is to inform you that the House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers, created by HR 601, will not be issuing a report, but will rather be submitting meeting minutes. The study committee held two meetings in the Chatham County area where presentations from multiple stakeholders, scientific experts, and members of the public were heard. Attempts were made to schedule an additional meeting but due to schedule conflicts of the committee members no additional meeting was held. Upon a more in-depth review of the extensive information presented to the study committee while meeting in Chatham County, I believe we have sufficiently studied the issue of saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers to have a database that will be informative to all House members. The presentations will also be posted on the House website to make it easier for all House members to access the data.

The committee was impressed with all of the presentations and would like to thank the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for their assistance in organizing and the City of Tybee Island and the Skidaway Institute for hosting. The committee would also like to commend the Coastal Water Council for their continued efforts in reducing water usage and utilizing alternative water sources in the red and yellow zones.

Please accept the attached minutes recording the meetings of the 2015 House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Smith".

Representative Lynn Smith  
Chairman

# House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers

Chairman, Rep. Lynn Smith

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## MEMBERS

Rep. Bob Bryant  
Rep. Jesse Petrea

Rep. Chad Nimmer  
Rep. Ron Stephens

(attendees in bold)

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

9:15 am – Tybee Island City Hall

The House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers was called to order by Chairman Smith. The following items were on the agenda:

- Diane Schleicher, Tybee Island city manager, welcomed the committee to Tybee Island and provided insight into the islands unique water supply issues.
- Mary Walker, EPD, briefly explained the Tybee Island Cretaceous aquifer test well and introduced Andrew Morris.
- Andrew Morris, GEFA, described the site selection process and plan for the Cretaceous aquifer test well located on Tybee Island.
- Beach renourishment site visit where city council members explained the process of working with the Army Corp. of Engineers to replenish the beach sand lost to erosion. Renourishment of the beach helps with flood control and tourism.
- Site visit to the Tybee Island Cretaceous aquifer test well where Andrew Morris further described the plan for the test well.
- Site visit to the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Venetian Dr. where city council members explained how backflow preventers at the stormwater discharge point have significantly reduced the flooding concern for the southwest end of the island.
- Site visit to the Burton 4-H Center where Paul Coote, director of the center, provided an overview of the programs the center operates and specifically the living shoreline project.

The House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers was adjourned by Chairman Smith.

# House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers

Chairman, Rep. Lynn Smith

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## MEMBERS

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, September 10, 2015**

9:15 am – McGowan Library Conference Room at UGA Skidaway Institute

The House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers was called to order by Chairman Smith. The following items were on the agenda:

- Dr. Jim Sanders, Director of the Skidaway Institute, welcomed the committee.
- Dr. Clark Alexander, Professor at the Skidaway Institute, provided an overview of the topic and current situation of saltwater intrusion in the coastal region of Georgia.
- Jud Turner, Director of EPD, provided background and an update on the counties described as red and yellow zones in the Savannah area. Mr. Turner also discussed aquifer storage and recovery.
- Matt Hauer, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, discussed population projections for the coastal region of Georgia.
- Benjy Thompson, CEO of the Bulloch County Economic Development Authority, discussed the impact of limited water supply to the counties in the red and yellow zones.
- Kevin Clark, Director of GEFA, discussed the Tybee Island Cretaceous aquifer test well as well as other potential water supply options.
- The study committee observed the Coastal Water Council meeting.
- Jackie Jackson, Chatham County-Savannah Metro Planning Commission, discussed the water management plans currently being utilized in Chatham County.
- Sean Burgess, Environmental Manager of The Landings Association, Inc., discussed the water supply and conservation measures The Landings is using. The supply options include the use of surficial aquifers as a non-potable water source.
- Public Comment
  - April Lipscomb, Southern Environmental Law Center

- Written comment by Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper
- Phil Odom, Resident
- Ashby Nix, Sutilla Riverkeeper
- Emily Markestein, Ogeechee Riverkeeper
- Doug Meill, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- Jim McClain, Georgia Association of Groundwater Professionals

The House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers was adjourned by Chairman Smith.