

Water Quality

What	Why	Cost
Fund the USGS Okapilco Creek at GA 333 Gauge north of Quitman in Brooks County.	Its rainfall and water level and flow metrics would assist in determining what is getting into the Withlacoochee River and when, as well as help convince the sources to ameliorate the problem.	\$15,100 total However, USGS provides \$900 towards each of the Skipper Bridge (Withlacoochee River) and Folsom Bridge (LittlRWMD provides \$5,900 towards Skipper Bridge, so perhaps they or Brooks County could assist. https://wwals.net/?p=50447 http://www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/?p=21402
Timely publish the results of Lowndes County's Stream Monitoring program.	That program tests areas nobody else does, such as Franks Creek, location of the Hahira LAS.	Minimal, since the county presumably gets the data in electronic form from its contractor Lovell Engineering Assoc. http://www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/?p=21727
Timely publish Valdosta's chemical tracer and DNA marker water quality test results.	Would help localize sources by type (cattle, horse, pig, human, other).	Minimal, since Valdosta already has the data, which could be added to Valdosta's online publishing of their bacterial test results. https://preview.tinyurl.com/ya7ksaur
Fund more bacterial water quality testing .	To cover gaps such as Sugar Creek, One Mile Branch, Two Mile Branch, and Three Mile Branch See for context: https://wwals.net/?p=53260	~\$100/site* times 10 to 50 sites *based on SGRC costs, could be significantly reduced with volunteers; WWALS spends about \$10/site/test. The SGRC Regional Water Quality Assessment Project will gather preliminary numbers for areas that have old or no data, all to be uploaded to the AAS website, but there is more to do.
Fund and implement water quality testing for chemical tracers and DNA markers .	Need to test after each big rain to help narrow down the possible sources.	\$5,000 = \$125/test (Jonah Ventures) * 4 sites * at least 10/year. That's DNA tests. Chemical markers \$? See: https://wwals.net/?p=53340
Assist the SGRC 319 grant proposal to GA-EPD about agricultural river contamination of Okapilco Creek.	Affects the Withlacoochee River in south Lowndes County downstream from Okapilco Creek. Many people fish as Knights Ferry, Nankin, and State Line Boat Ramps.	SGRC would be seeking significant in-kind (volunteer) hours for this (WQ testing, landing and paddle clean-up events, etc.) Perhaps people who fish could help.
GIS water quality mapping of test stations, rainfall, NPDES and other wastewater permits, stormwater permits, and sewage spills.	Ongoing sporadic river contamination events have been revealed by the wealth of water quality data from WWALS, Valdosta, FDEP, Lowndes County, Quitman, and other sources.	Mostly staff time to automate and augment the WWALS composite spreadsheet with more data, plus analysis time, to find more sources and work on getting them fixed, as well as to alert the public when and where. SGRC is already working on GIS layers for septic tanks and animal agriculture production facilities.
Water well testing .	TMDLs, fecal bacteria, arsenic, PFOAs, etc.	Ranging from small to quite significant.
Fish contamination testing .	TMDLs, fecal bacteria, PFOAs....	Unknown.