

THE COSTS OF POOR WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Bryan Hager

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REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 1997 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held March 20-22, 1997, at The University of Georgia, Kathryn J. Hatcher, Editor, Institute of Ecology, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Synopsis: The existing program of water quality management often fails to make responsible parties clean up their sewage and run-off. This failure can cost downstream parties millions of dollars, degrade the environment and may disrupt growth and development in Georgia.

PANELISTS:

Ed Mayhew, Professor of Biology, Gainesville College, Gainesville, Georgia. Tel: 770-718-3810.

Poor water quality can negatively impact adjacent property owners. The negative impacts can reduce property values and local tax collections.

Jim Baxley, Director of the Carroll County Water Authority, Carroll County Water Authority, P. O. Box 739, Carrollton, GA 30117. Tel: 770-834-6667, Fax: 830-8853.

Pollution of the Chattahoochee River has prevented Carroll County from using the river for drinking water and economic development.

Luke Wood, Superintendent of the Cecil Wood Water Treatment Plant for the City of Roswell. Cecil Wood Water Purification Plant, 100 Dobbs Drive, Roswell, GA 30075-4567. Tel: 770-641-3816.

Sedimentation from upstream development has damaged equipment and increased costs for rate payers in Roswell.

Doug Haines, Director of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest, 264 North Jackson, Athens, GA 30601. 706-546-9008. Tel: 706-546-9008.

Georgia's failure to implement a water resource management program which protects water quality has brought about court imposed deadline to develop a plan and implement a program to clean up polluted waters. Implementing the clean up program may cause significant changes for local governments and industrial water system managers.