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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **2023 Legislative Priorities**    On May 4th, at our annual spring GWC membership meeting, our members discussed multiple current and relevant water policy issues and voted for the following two priority water policy issues to work on during the 2023-2024 Legislative Session:  ***Save the Okefenokee Swamp* and *Ground Application of Waste.*** | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Okefenokee Committee members have been meeting monthly to develop a plan to promote the swamp's value to our state and the need to protect it. This month, the GWC released poll results revealing that a clear majority of Georgians are in favor of permanent protections for the Okefenokee Swamp. These results have been shared with all candidates running for the Governor and Lt. Governor in the State of Georgia.    **We need your help. Encourage your members to reach out to candidates for Governor/Lt Governor. Click the button below and share the action page link with your networks.**    We anticipate continued and increased media activity between now and the November election. Committee members are scheduling meetings with legislators for October – December 31. Finally, we anticipate that the EPD will release the long-anticipated draft permit for the Twin Pines mine. With this release, they will open up a 60-day comment period. At that time, it will be important for our members to share information with their networks so we can generate a large number of comments.    As we get closer to the session, we will need you to be plugged into activities that will help ensure the Okefenokee Swamp receives the protection it deserves. We are updating a full suite of communications materials for you to share with your members and supporters.    **If you would like to receive a link to the materials as soon as they are available, please click the button below.**    To learn more or join the committee, please contact [Megan Desrosiers](mailto:megan@onehundredmiles.org) at One Hundred Miles. | | |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A sign with trees in the background  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | |  | | --- | | **What you need to know:**  **Your survey answers are your VOTE.**    In each survey question, you will read the proposed revision or addition and an explanation for why it was suggested.    You will choose one of the following:   * Yes, I can live with this change * No, I cannot live with this change * This recommendation needs further discussion (then you will be prompted to enter a specific question for the nominator or suggest alternate language)   We adopt changes to the Biennial Report by consensus, which we define as being able to "live with" a change even if we believe it is not perfect. If you have general questions, comments, or concerns about this process, there will be a final survey question where you can give additional input. | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The GWC Leadership Team will use your questions and comments to help guide the discussion during the November 9th Fall Membership Meeting. Nominators will be provided with anonymized feedback prior to this meeting so they can prepare alternate language to propose to the membership. | | |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A Little Help From Our Friends    The Georgia Water Coalition is engaging our members in the development of our next strategic plan. | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing dog, mammal  Description automatically generated | | |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Between October 3 and 14, you will have the opportunity to participate in a survey about your engagement**  **with the coalition and ideas for our work.**    The survey should take **less than 10 minutes to complete**. All responses are being collected by Advantage Consulting, LLC — our strategic-planning facilitators — and will be confidential.    In appreciation of your time and input, you will have the option to **enter yourself in a raffle drawing for several possible prizes**, like gift cards, branded merch, and trips.    Advantage Consulting will summarize the feedback provided and share it with the GWC Leadership Team at its meeting in late October and with Members during the fall Membership meeting on November 9.    Please let me know if you have questions ahead of the survey period. We look forward to hearing your valuable input on the future of GWC. Thank you in advance for your involvement!    **Look out for the survey announcement on October 3.** |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | GWC member group, Greenlaw, disbanded in early 2022 and donated their office property to the GWC to share with our members. Georgia Wildlife Federation graciously allowed the furniture and supplies to be stored in their basement in Covington while we give away these materials. We have desks, computers, rolling chairs, lots of REALLY nice law office file cabinets, storage cabinets, shelving, printers, artwork, office supplies, a phone system, and more.    Please email [Gina Rogers](mailto:gina@gwf.org) if you’d like to see the inventory list and photos. This office equipment can be picked up during the November 9th GWC membership meeting in Covington at the Alcovy Conservation Center or you can arrange a time to meet Gina to “shop” and pick up what you need. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | Alternate text |  |  | | --- | | **Save the Date: November 9th** for ourannual fall membership meeting at  Alcovy Conservation Center and on Zoom |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | Georgia Water Coalition Georgia River Network  126 South Milledge Avenue, Suite E3 Athens, GA 30605    ph: 706-549-4508  web: [www.GeorgiaWater.org](http://www.GeorgiaWater.org) | | |