

Planning Framework Overview

Scott Harder

Hydrology Section Chief

S.C. Department of Natural Resources
Land, Water and Conservation Division



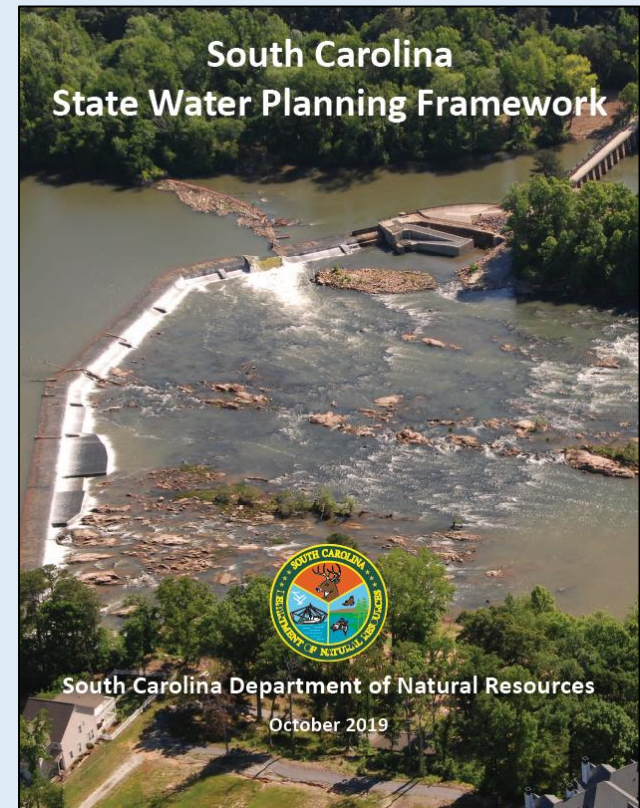
Edisto River Basin Council – Meeting #2 (Virtual)
July 15th, 2020

Contents of Planning Framework



Sections:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. River Basin Planning Process
 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws



Planning Framework is available for review and download at:

<http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/state-and-river-basin-planning.html>

Section 2. Introduction



Describes:

- Need for and purpose of state and river basin planning.
- Role of State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC).
- Guiding principles.
- Regulatory framework.

Much of this information was presented at the first Council meeting.

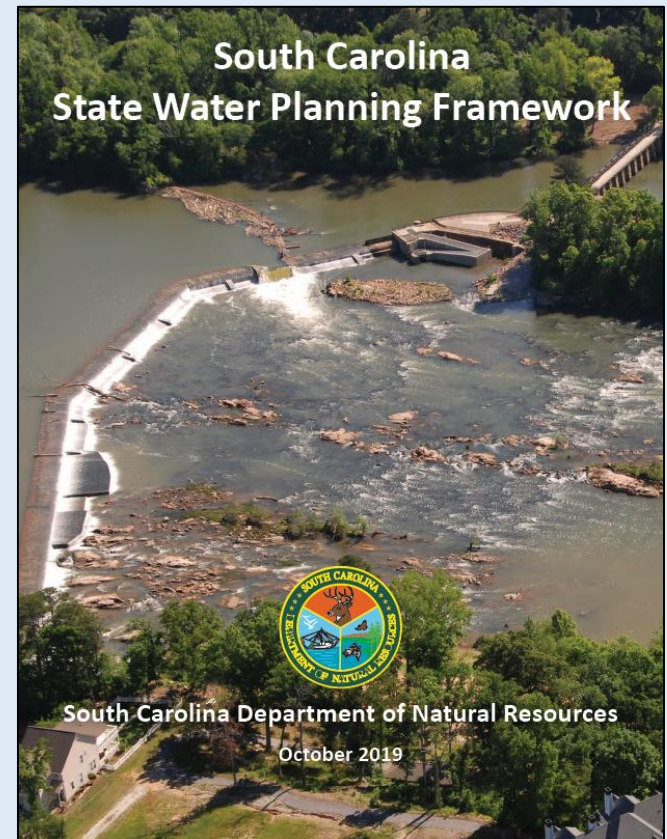
Planning framework:

1. Executive Summary
 - 2. *Introduction***
 3. River Basin Planning Process
 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

Other Features of a River Basin Plan



- Covers a **50-year** Planning Horizon.
- Considers both surface water and groundwater resources.
- Current focus is on water *quantity* not water *quality*.
- Not a regulatory document but may include recommendations regarding State water policy, laws and regulations.
- Updated every 5 years – *water planning will be an ongoing process*.
- Supported by hydrologic data and models along with water demand projections.



Section 3. River Basin Planning Process



Describes:

- *How* the River Basin Plan will be developed.
- The roles and responsibilities of:
 - River Basin Councils
 - State and Federal Agencies
 - Contractors
 - PPAC
- Stakeholder/public participation.
- Coordination with other planning bodies and committees.

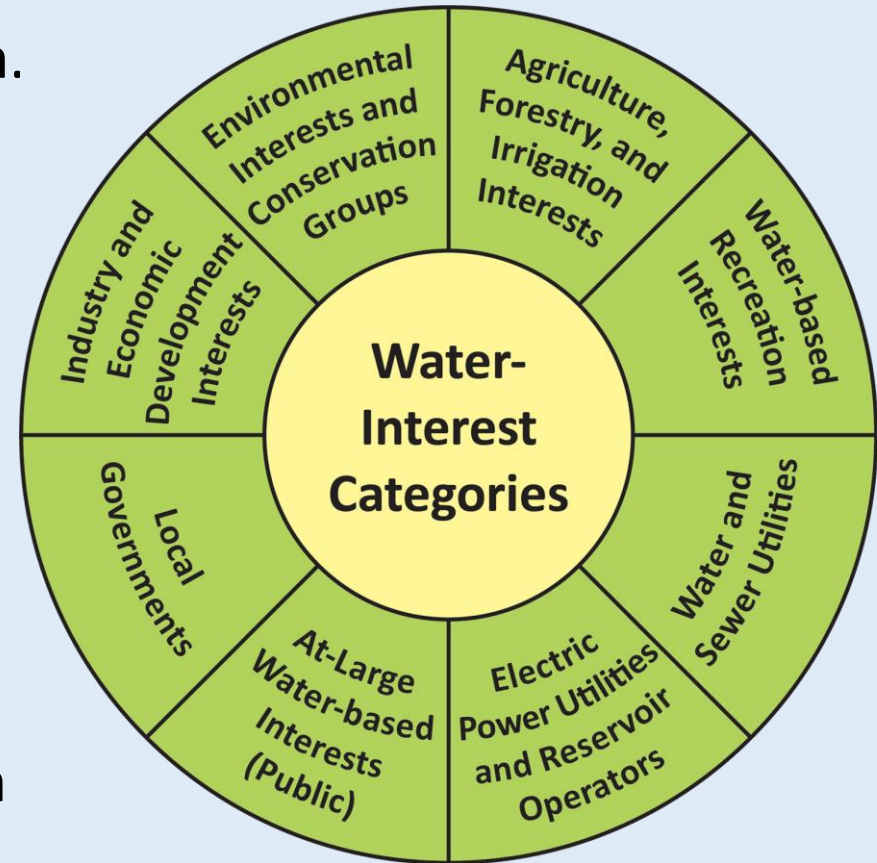
Planning framework:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 - 3. *River Basin Planning Process***
 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

River Basin Council (RBC)



- **Stakeholder-led team** responsible for developing the River Basin Plan.
- Governed by a set of Bylaws.
- Consensus based decision-making process.
- Chair and Vice Chair elected by RBC.
- Initial terms are either **2, 3, or 4 years**.
- Subsequent terms of **3 years** (each additional term subject to SCDNR approval).
- RBC members can serve up to **3** consecutive terms.



Up to 25 members representing 8 interest categories

RBC Roles and Responsibilities



- Identify water shortages or potential water resource issues using hydrologic models.
- Recommend strategies to mitigate or eliminate water use conflicts or water shortages.
- Form subcommittees to address specific issues or topics.
- Coordinate with other formal planning bodies.
- Communicate with stakeholders and the public on planning activities.
- Make policy, legislative/regulatory, technical or planning process recommendations.
- Help draft River Basin Plans.
- Support/promote final River Basin Plans.
- Fulfill Implementation Plan objectives.
- Update River Basin Plans every 5 years and amend River Basin Plans as needed.

RBC Support



- **Contractors** (solicited and hired by SCDNR):
 - Meeting Facilitation (CDM Smith, Inc.)
 - Meeting Coordination (Clemson University) – administrative and logistical support
 - Public Outreach (Clemson University)
 - Technical Support – surface (CDM Smith, Inc.) and groundwater modeling (TBD)
 - River Basin Plan report writing (CDM Smith, Inc., SCDNR)
- **Other State and Federal Agencies:**
 - RBCs can request agencies to serve as Advisors.
 - Advisors can participate in meetings as requested.
- **RBCs can request input from other outside Advisors.**

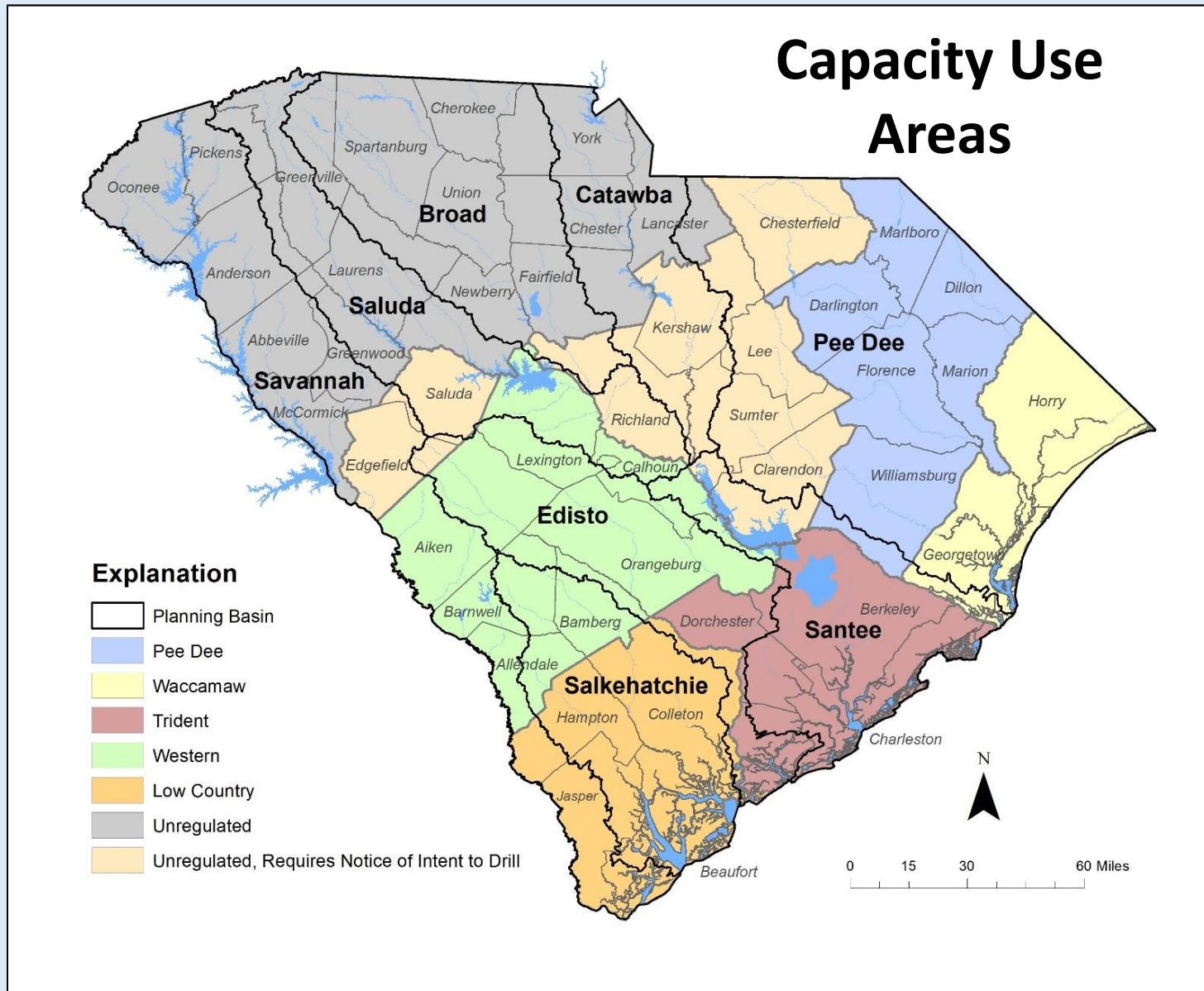
PPAC and SCDNR will continue to provide oversight of the river basin planning process.

Coordination with Other Planning Bodies



- Planning Framework recognizes the existence of other formal water planning groups and drought management groups:
 - State Drought Committee
 - Groundwater Management Groups (Capacity Use Program)
- Planning Framework emphasizes coordination with such groups and provides general guidelines.
- Interbasin River Councils (IRCs).
 - Made up of RBC members from two or more basins.
 - A forum for adjoining basins to communicate and coordinate on mutual interests and to resolve conflicts.

Coordination with Groundwater Management Groups



Stakeholder and Public Participation Opportunities



- Guidelines for stakeholder and public participation described in the Planning Framework.
- Public meetings (3 to 4 per basin):
 - Prior to first RBC meeting – “kickoff” meeting(s).
 - After draft River Basin Plan is released.
 - After final River Basin Plan is released.
- Draft River Basin Plan Public Review Period (30 days).
- RBC Meetings:
 - Open to the public.
 - Each meeting will include public comment period.
 - Meeting schedule/announcements posted on SCDNR website.
 - Approved meeting minutes/summaries posted on SCDNR website.

SCDNR Hydrology Section Website



Water Planning

The SCDNR Hydrology Section is responsible for formulating and establishing a comprehensive water resources policy for the State of South Carolina.

Overview

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is legislatively mandated through the [South Carolina Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act](#) (§ 49-3-10, et. seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976) to formulate and establish a comprehensive water resources policy or water plan for the State. The [first edition of the South Carolina Water Plan](#) was published in 1998, and was subsequently [updated in 2004](#) to incorporate experiences and knowledge gained from the severe, statewide drought of 1998-2002. The 2004 Water Plan highlighted the need for water planning on a regional level, and in 2014, SCDNR began the process of developing regional water plans that will ultimately support the development of a new State Water Plan. Regional water plans, or River Basin Plans, will be developed for the eight major river basins in the State – Broad, Catawba, Edisto, Pee Dee, Salkehatchie, Saluda, Santee, and Savannah. To support the development of the River Basin Plans, hydrologic models have been developed for both the State's surface water and groundwater resources and will be used along with water demand projections to assess current and future water availability in the State.

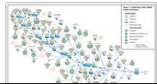
New State and River Basin Planning Framework



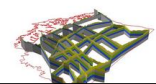
Edisto Basin Planning



Surface Water Models



Groundwater Models



Water Demand Projections



<http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning.html>

Contact Information:

Scott Harder, harders@dnr.sc.gov

- Site hosts:
 - Calendar of Events
 - Access to water planning documents (Planning Framework/technical reports)
 - RBC meeting materials/agendas

Edisto Basin Planning

Activities and reports on water planning in the Edisto River basin.

Overview

The new South Carolina State Water Planning Framework (available [here](#)) will be first applied to the Edisto Basin. Two public meetings, scheduled for November 18th and November 21st, 2019, will be held in the basin to introduce the new Planning Framework to stakeholders and to solicit River Basin Council Membership applications. Meeting locations and times for the public meetings can be found below. River Basin Council activities are tentatively scheduled to begin in 2020. Please visit this website for periodic updates and new information regarding Edisto river basin planning activities.

Edisto Public Meeting Locations & Times:

Blackville, S.C., November 18, 2019; 6 pm – 8 pm
Clemson University's Edisto Research and Education Center
64 Research Rd
Blackville, SC 29817
[Map](#)

St. George, S.C., November 21, 2019; 6 pm – 8 pm
Lovely Hill Convention Center
5905 W Jim Bilton Blvd
St. George, SC 29477
[Map](#)



Photo Credit: Ted Borg, SC Wildlife Magazine

[Edisto Planning News](#)

[Hydrology Calendar](#)

<http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/edisto-basin-planning.html>

Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability



- Describes:
 - Hydrologic models used to evaluate water availability.
 - 4 scenarios for RBC evaluation
 - Approach to evaluating water management strategies.
- Defines:
 - *Surface and Groundwater Availability*
 - *Surface and Groundwater Shortage, etc.*
- A future RBC meeting will cover this section in more detail.

Planning Framework:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. River Basin Planning Process
 - 4. *Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability***
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents



- Provides a detailed description of the “*minimum requirements*” for each Chapter.
- RBCs should generally adhere to this organization structure.
- Some discretion to include additional information not explicitly stated in the Planning Framework.

Planning Framework:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. River Basin Planning Process
4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability

5. *River Basin Plan Table of Contents*

6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents



1. Introduction
2. Description of the Basin
3. Water Resources of the Basin
4. Current and Projected Water Demand
5. Comparison of Water Resource Availability and Water Demand
6. Water Management Strategies
7. Water Management Strategy Recommendations
8. Drought Response
9. Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical and Planning Process Recommendations
10. River Basin Plan Implementation

Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation



- 2-year process
 - Time extension(s) can be requested.
- Monthly meeting schedule
 - May be modified while using virtual meeting formats.
- SCDNR responsible for hiring contractors.
- RBC, assisted by the Facilitator, will develop metrics, or benchmarks, that gage the performance of the RBC.

Planning Framework:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. River Basin Planning Process
 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 - 6. *River Basin Planning Process Implementation***
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation



- Four Phases of Plan Development:
 - Phase 1 – orientation, administrative aspects, background information.
 - Phase 2 – technical analyses used to assess water availability.
 - Phase 3 – analysis of water management strategies.
 - Phase 4 – preparation of draft and final River Basin Plans incorporating final water management strategies and other recommendations.
- RBC responsible for submitting progress reports after each major phase.

Planning Framework:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. River Basin Planning Process
4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents

6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation

7. River Basin Plan Implementation
8. State Water Plan

Appendix: River Basin Council
Bylaws



Section 7. River Basin Plan Implementation

- River Basin Plans are not intended to be static documents.
- The River Basin Plan is required to have a 5-year ***Implementation Plan*** (Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan):
 - Objectives – based on recommended water management strategies and other recommendations.
 - Schedule.
 - Budget.
- RBCs required to meet annually but frequency dependent on objectives and available funding.
- Implementation challenges/considerations:
 - Funding.
 - Broader stakeholder buy-in.
 - No regulatory authority.

Section 8. State Water Plan



- Contingent upon completion of 8 River Basin Plans.
- Major content includes:
 - A summary of legislative, policy, process, and program recommendations regarding the State's water resources documented in the River Basin Plans.
 - A summary of each River Basin Plan's water availability analyses and conclusions.
 - An evaluation of statewide trends in water use and availability.

Planning Framework:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. River Basin Planning Process
4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
7. River Basin Plan Implementation

8. *State Water Plan*

Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

Contents of Planning Framework



Sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. River Basin Planning Process
4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
7. River Basin Plan Implementation
8. State Water Plan

Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

