

Minutes of the Edisto RBC Meeting

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Meeting was held at Edisto REC and virtually via the Zoom application

Members Present: John Bass, Jerry Waters, Alta Mae Marvin, Hugo Krispyn, Jason Thompson, David Bishop, Hank Stallworth, Eric Odom, Brandon Stutts, Kirk Bell, Laura Bagwell, Amanda Sievers, Jeremy Walther, Alex Tolbert, Mark Aakhus, Landrum Weathers, Joel Duke & JJ Jowers

Members Absent: Danny Burbage, Alan Mehrzad, Johnney Haralson & Will Williams

Planning Team Present: John Boyer, Tom Walker, Jeff Allen, Kaleigh Sims, Scott Harder, Leigh Anne Monroe, Matt Petkewich, Andrea Hughes, Greg Cherry, Andy Wachob & Joe Koon

Total Attendance: 44

- Call the Meeting to Order (Hank Stallworth, RBC Chair) 9:00–9:10
 - a. Review of Meeting Objectives
- Hank reviewed the objectives, covered the discussion of the use of median for flow
 - a. Approval of Agenda
- Motion - Jason Second – Laura - All in favor
 - a. Approval of April 20th, 2022, Minutes and Summary
- Motion - Laura Second – Jason - All in favor

- Public and Agency Comment (John Boyer) 9:10–9:15
 - Public Comment Period
 - No comments
 - Agency Comment Period
 - Joe DHEC representative attending
 - No comments

- Old Business / New Business – RBC Open Discussion Opportunity 9:15–9:20
(Hank Stallworth and John Boyer, CDM Smith)
 - No comments

- Update on Edisto River Basin Plan Chapters (John Boyer) 9:20–9:30
 - John sent out 1st chapter for review and hope to send out 2nd chapter over the next week or so
 - Lots of review over the next 2-3 months
 - Hank- a few typo things to address on the first chapter, should I email back to you?
 - Send any suggestions comments to John B

- Review Additional Groundwater Model Management Strategy 9:30–9:50
Modeling Results (Greg Cherry, Matthew Petkewich, & Andrea Hughes, USGS)
 - Matt providing overview of groundwater flow scenarios in Edisto basin

- High growth and moderate growth scenario overview, overview of simulation results
 - Q: if different soils compact differently, depending on aquifer does it compact different and do you consider that in the models?
 - A: No, we have not, not sure there is much information in the literature either to come up with estimate based on how much pressure put on aquifer
 - Q: you can pick whatever argument you are trying to make but 2 miles away from there you are seeing steady decline from AK 847, but a few miles away we have seen gains, so I think 2 miles away you can present a totally different story
 - Keep in mind too these are model results not actual observed levels
 - Would be a good suggestion to have monitoring wells
 - If there was ever a problem DHEC would weigh in on the decision on where to draw down or reduce use
 - RBC could recommend a step wise approach, first look in the area to see where water can be used efficiently then maybe suggest new wells to go in other branches
 - Q: do we want to consider the shift from agriculture to developed land? Does development solve problem or make it worse ? Just a thought
 - Q: are we the group that determine how we get to a 15% irrigation reduction?
 - A: we can identify options and make recommendations
 - Important thing is that we get the additional monitoring in there, but what does USGS need from us to justify areas of concern for monitoring wells?
 - USGS will certainly take recommendations seriously so the input is valuable
 - Suggestion of water audits for all withdrawals
- Discuss Low Flow Surface Water Management Strategy and Surface (John Boyer) 9:50–11:30

Overview of low flow surface water management strategy – Jason

- Q: in any one month if someone uses 60 MGM or more, they are subject to the surface condition is that what we are saying?
- A: correct
- Q: if any one month you hit that peak then you are subject to surface condition year round?
- Comment- suggestion is that all stakeholders need to implement a contingency plan
- Comment- Trigger at 332 cfs, might be a 7 day average or something like that so you are not constantly having to go in and out of this plan, we can continue to hash out the details to go in the plan
- Comment: we want to think about how communication will be handled, assume DNR or DHEC will handle but something we will want to discuss
- John: motion with added statement contingency
- Agriculture would stand behind that
- John: added statement, low flow management strategy implemented over time contingent upon identified available funding
- Motion: The Edisto RBC adopt the proposed low flow management strategy which would trigger whenever the total basin discharge (measured at Givhans) drops below a surface condition of 20% median (currently about 332 cfs) with the goal of reducing withdrawals equal to the exceedance of the surface condition in the following increments. The low flow strategy excludes withdrawers whose peak monthly

withdrawals are less than 60 MGM (20x the regulated threshold of 3 MGM). The low flow management strategy is to be implemented over time contingent upon identified available funding.

20% Increments Percent Below MIF	River Flow Range (cfs)		Basin-wide % Reduction in SW Withdrawals
	Lower	Upper	
0 - 20%	266	332	20%
20 - 40%	199	266	40%
40 - 60%	133	199	60%
60 - 80%	66	133	80%
80 - 100%	0	66	100%

- All in favor raise hand: 16 for and 1 opposed (Voting: For: Laura, Joel, Jason, Jerry, Kirk, Hugo, Alta Mae, Brandon, Jeremy, Mark, Hank, David, Eric, JJ, Amanda & Alex. Against: John)
- John online: opposed, not staying on target.

Break

11:30–11:45

- Discussion and Identification of River Basin Plan Recommendations (and Working Lunch) (John Boyer)

11:45-1:50

John providing overview of recommendations process

- Planning Process Recommendations
 - Changes to membership, bylaws, procedures etc
 - Ideas to improve communication
 - Funding needs and source
 - Improvement to public outreach process
 - Implementing the plan

Suggestions?

- Meet more frequently – opposition on this one
 - Might be less feasible for private sector members
- Might be helpful to have a brief summary of what happened at the previous meeting before or at the beginning of the next meeting
- How do you feel about hybrid format ?
 - Each RBC develop attendance requirements
- Have more of an orientation and get to know you at the beginning
- Rotate the location if possible

John B: do you want to vote on these recommendations?

Vote on recommendations now? No

- Ideas to improve communication
 - John’s recommendation
 - Groundwater management group in capacity use areas coordination , communication can be sent through DHEC so they can push to others
 - Drought response committee
- Funding and sources
 - Current funding is from legislature, USACE funding for planning activities
 - Would like to see fully funded process to continue the life cycle as well as funding for implementation
- Improve public outreach process

- Establish professional social media account for RBC activities
 - Clemson water center does share general info
 - RBC members could post on individual accounts
- Municipal RBC members may include inserts with summaries of activities
 - Ex. Charleston has citizen education program where they discuss the planning process
- Presentations and conferences
- Implementing plan and continued RBC activities and actions
 - How do you maintain the continuity after our terms are up for future updates?
 - It will be a DNR responsibility to manage the membership
 - Learning curve is significant – new member orientation of basin strategies and implementation plan
 - More frequent meetings to facilitate implementation and seeking funding
 - Once all basins plans are complete should statewide river basin planning meeting occur?
Close to PPAC
- Any other thoughts to improve planning process
 - Make sure our message is consistent across the board when communicating with legislation, develop talking points

b. Technical and Program Recommendations

- SCDNR work with DHEC and USGS to carve out regional groundwater model covering areas of concerns
- Further calibrate model to local land conditions including seasonal drawdowns
- Evaluate season drawdowns through planning horizon using planning scenarios
- Need for more data, enhance monitoring capabilities in areas where model simulated indicate potential for water levels to drop below the top of the aquifer
- Streamflow gage at Four Hole Swamp – might not be feasible but might be in the future with advances in technology
- Promote consistency with methodology from basin to basin
- Consider impacts of land use projections on changes to recharge
- Demonstrations of groundwater model in similar manner to surface water model
- Groundwater and surface water 101
- Have a handout
- Hands on trips to understand water users
- RBC needs to identify desired future condition
- Desired condition to not drop water level below top of aquifer
- Would like for DHEC to limit new users over current users

c. Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations (time permitting)

- Land grant press article can help provide an overview
- State must take proper action to protect all uses under the new triannual review – DHEC gave update on what's going on with EPA responses
- Please try to send additional thoughts before the next meeting
- Important to read EPA letter

Upcoming RBC Agenda and Schedule (John Boyer)

- July 1:50–1:55
- Continue to develop recommendations
 - Develop implementation plan
- August
- Finalize recommendations and implementation plan
- September
- Release draft of river basin plan
 - Public meeting
- October
- Incorporate public comments and prepare responses
- November
- Public meeting and release final plan
- Anything else? None

Meeting Conclusion (Hank Stallworth, RBC Chair) 1:55–2:00

Meeting concluded: 1:48 PM

Minutes by: Kaleigh Sims and Tom Walker

Approved: 7/20/22

RBC Chat:

08:58:39 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

Good Morning

08:59:50 From Thomas Walker to John(Direct Message):

good morning Dr Bass!

09:01:46 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

getting started here in a second

09:02:01 From A Sievers to Everyone:



09:02:01 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

ok thanks

09:04:48 From Andrea Hughes, USGS to Everyone:

Good morning, Thomas! I'm afraid the audio through Zoom is quite garbled this morning. At least for me. If no one else is having problems, then I'll manage.

09:05:07 From Callie Oldfield (Phinizy Center) to Everyone:

Yes, I am having trouble understanding what is being said as well

09:05:49 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

if you have headphones it should help. the room is big and the sound is not always great with some speakers.

09:07:12 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

public comment period

09:07:16 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

if there are any

09:07:33 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

agency comment period

09:11:46 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

has the sound been better with john speaking?

09:12:01 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

yes it has for me

09:13:09 From Callie Oldfield (Phinizy Center) to Everyone:

I can hear it a little better now, thank you

11:13:34 From jowersj to Everyone:

I could support the basis of this motion if it used 20% MIF as the trigger. In my opinion, there may be a better chance of this being included in future legislation without having to get into the median flow rationale. MIF would be consistent with the existing statute.

11:14:11 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

would you mind sharing this thought out loud JJ?

11:16:09 From jowersj to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

I am not where I can use a microphone but you can surely read it for me if you think its appropriate.

11:16:17 From Thomas Walker to jowersj(Direct Message):

ok I will

11:30:06 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

troubleshooting a PPT tech issue

11:30:20 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

thanks

11:32:44 From Thomas Walker to John(Direct Message):

Dr bass would you mind discussing your opposition

11:36:08 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

15 min break

12:05:04 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

other rbc members ok with these without voting on it? voting on the plan later which will list these

12:07:41 From A Sievers to Everyone:

that's fine with me

12:08:28 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

ok and more appropriate for some of these suggestions

12:09:01 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

any ideas here with improving communication?

12:09:46 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

no suggestions are fine

12:14:23 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

we are getting lunch here be back momentarily

12:15:44 From John to Thomas Walker(Direct Message):

thanks

12:17:37 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

apologies in advance for wrappers and other lunch sounds

13:48:39 From Callie Oldfield (Phinizy Center) to Everyone:

Thank you!

13:48:49 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

meeting conclusion. thanks for sticking around