



Pee Dee River Basin Council
Phase 1 Progress Report
February 2023

1.0 Introduction

The South Carolina State Water Planning Framework requires River Basin Councils (RBCs) to prepare and submit progress reports after each phase of the river basin plan development. This progress report covers Phase 1 of the Pee Dee River Basin planning process spanning June 2022 through December 2022.

The Phase 1 Progress Report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of Phase 1, including key milestones reached, and identifies existing and potential issues regarding schedule and funding. Anticipated challenges as the RBC moves into Phase 2 of the planning process are also identified.

2.0 Activities and Accomplishments

2.1 RBC Meetings

Seven RBC meetings were held during the Phase 1 planning period. Meetings were held monthly from June through December. Meeting durations were typically approximately 3 hours with one approximately 2.5 hours and two that included working lunches that extended to 4 hours. Between 17 and 25 RBC members attended each meeting. At the conclusion of Phase 1, there were 24 members on the RBC.

There was a total of 14 unexcused absences. Unexcused absences occur when neither an RBC member nor their alternate are in attendance.

2.2 Phase 1 Objectives

The objectives of Phase 1 were to:

- Orient the RBC to the river basin planning process
- Provide technical presentations that inform the RBC members on a range of topics critical to the planning process such as hydrology, legislation, water demands, and use of models in the planning process
- Take field trips to key locations in the river basin
- Establish planning and progress metrics
- Develop a vision statement and planning goals
- Select an RBC Chair and Vice Chair

2.3 Key Milestones

Information Sharing

Approximately 25 technical presentations were delivered during 7 in-person meetings. Presenters included staff representing several divisions within the South Carolina Department of Natural



Resources (SCDNR), the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Duke Energy, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Union County, NC (representing the Yadkin Pee Dee Water Management Group), CDM Smith, and Brown and Caldwell.

Presentation topics included:

- River Basin Planning and Guiding Principles
- Planning Framework
- RBC Bylaws
- Aquatic Freshwater Resources of the Pee Dee Basin
- Aquatic Saltwater Resources of the Pee Dee Basin
- Current Water Use
- Draft Water Demand Projections in the Pee Dee Basin
- Duke Reservoir Operation
- Flow-Ecology Relationships
- Groundwater Resources of the Pee Dee Basin
- Low Flow Characteristics of Pee Dee Basin
- North Carolina Water Supply Planning
- Overview of SC Office of Resilience
- Pee Dee Basin Climatology
- Pee Dee Basin Hydrology
- Pee Dee Basin Surface Water Model
- SC Drought Response Act
- SC-NC Planning Coordination
- USGS Monitoring Network
- Water Availability Evaluation Methods
- Water Demand Projection Methodology
- Water Law and Permitting
- Water Use in the Pee Dee Basin
- Yadkin Pee Dee Water Management

Field Trip

The RBC made one field trip during Phase 1. Small group facility tours were conducted at the City of Sumter's Water Treatment Plant as part of the October 2022 RBC meeting.

Bylaws Adopted

The RBC unanimously approved the bylaws as presented.

Process and Progress Metrics

The RBC selected 10 process metrics as they were presented by the Facilitator, JD Solomon. The selected metrics are:



1. Majority of members in attendance
2. All stakeholder groups in attendance
3. Members actively participate
4. Objectives accomplished for each meeting
5. Decisions (consensus) reached as planned
6. Major milestones met (effort is on schedule)
7. Quality of presentations
8. Meeting materials distributed to RBC in advance
9. Regular communication by members in the basin
10. Quarterly contact with North Carolina and adjacent South Carolina basins

Mission/Vision Statements and Goal Setting

The Pee Dee RBC members unanimously adopted the following mission, vision, and goals.

Mission: To develop, implement, monitor, and periodically revise a river basin plan for the surface and groundwater resources in the Pee Dee River Basin.

Vision: To make sure water is available for all in the Pee Dee River Basin.

Amended Statement of Goals:

1. Develop and approve the River Basin Plan by June 1, 2024.
2. Review and update the River Basin Plan at least once every five years or amend it as needed.
3. Regularly communicate with stakeholders throughout the river basin.
4. Recommend policy, legislative, regulatory, or process changes.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The RBC elected Buddy Richardson as Chair and Cara Schildtknecht as Vice Chair, both by majority, in November 2022. Buddy Richardson's interest category is At-Large and he is affiliated with the USDA Farm Service Agency. Cara Schildtknecht's interest category is Environmental, and she is affiliated with the Winyah Rivers Alliance.

2.4 Activities Not Completed

All activities outlined in the Planning Framework for Phase 1 were completed.

2.5 Feedback from the RBC

Members of the RBC provided meeting feedback through the meetings via meeting minutes and video. A summary of the feedback is summarized below:

- Members commended the break-out sessions and the opportunities to get to know each other.



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- Members enjoyed the straight-forward process, plain language used throughout the meetings, and the friendly and collaborative nature.
 - Members commended the meetings for staying on task and on schedule and for disseminating presentation information in advance of meetings.
 - Facilitation through the mission, vision, and objectives process was painless.
 - Members indicated they are eager to get into the details.

3.0 Issues Impacting Schedule and Funding

No issues internal to the RBC were identified; however, two key potential external issues were identified:

1. Delivery of water demand data from North Carolina is on track, but this could impact the schedule.
2. Delivery of groundwater model data from USGS could also impact the schedule.

No significant issues have been identified that impact funding of the planning process through completion of Phase 4.

4.0 Challenges

No significant challenges were identified.