

Pee Dee River Basin Council (RBC) Meeting Minutes
May 29th, 2024

RBC Members Present: Walt Beard, John Crutchfield, Buddy Richardson, Frances McClary, Snipe Allen, Megan Hyman, Lindsay Privette, Jeff Steinmetz, Cliff Chamblee, Bob Perry, Tim Brown, Eric Krueger, Hughes Page, Cynthia Walters, and Debra Buffkin

RBC Members Absent: Mike Bankert, Jason Gamble, Doug Newton, Michael Hemingway, & John Rivers

Planning Team Present: JD Solomon, Tom Walker, Scott Harder, Brooke Czwartacki, Joe Koon, Hannah Hartley, Leigh Anne Monroe, Alexis Modzelesky, Andy Wachob, Matt Lindburg, John Boyer, & Jeff Allen

Total Present: 32

1. Call the Meeting to Order (Buddy Richardson, J. D. Solomon - Facilitator)

a. Review of Meeting Objectives

J. D. Solomon (the Facilitator) called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed members to the 24th Pee Dee RBC meeting. The highlights of the meeting included receiving an update on the Coastal Plan Groundwater Model, discussing the potential for upcoming field trips, receiving updates on draft Chapters, and prioritizing strategies for surface and groundwater and policy, legislative, regulatory, technical, and process recommendations.

b. Approval of May Meeting Agenda and the April meeting Minutes and Summary
The members unanimously approved the May 2024 Pee Dee RBC meeting agenda. Minutes and Summary approval was unanimous.

1st – Jeff Steinmetz and 2nd – Walt Beard

2. Public/Agency Comment (JD Solomon)

The was no public/agency comment.

3. Status of Groundwater Modeling (Andrea Hughes, USGS)

Andrea Hughes provided an update on the groundwater modelling process. She explained a slight delay due to errors in data files which have been identified and corrected. However, the delay does not affect the overall completion schedule for September 2024.

JD noted that the planning team will have most of the chapters written by August. We'll see where the USGS is on the GW modeling effort at that time.

4. Potential for June or July field trip

J D. Solomon led the discussion on a potential field trip for members of the Pee Dee RBC. The options to choose from were a trip to Florence's river intake or to Sonoco Facility (the

company extended an invitation to members of the Pee Dee RBC). After due consideration, the members of the RBC choose to honor Sonoco's invitation in July 2024 and hold the month's meeting onsite during the trip. The RBC will see Sonoco's dam, Black Creek branch issues, Wastewater Treatment, Paper Mill water recycling, and then lunch and a brief meeting. The planning team noted that the trip to Florence's river intake can be scheduled at another convenient date.

Also, the members of the Pee Dee RBC decided to structure the June 2024 meeting for a one-hour virtual meeting that will focus on receiving status updates.

5. **Chapter Status Discussion (Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell)**

Matt reminded the member of the Pee Dee RBC that over the past weeks, they received Chapters 5 and 6. Chapter 5 focuses on evaluating water supplies, demands, and potential shortages, particularly concerning surface water at this stage. He expressed hope that although we are still awaiting the groundwater model results, we can get preliminary approval today for the surface water portion of this chapter. It has been reviewed by a subcommittee from the RBC and is now going out to the RBC as a whole for feedback.

The members of the Pee Dee RBC also received Chapter 6, which describes various water management strategies. The comments received were primarily from John Boyer and have been addressed. There were a few typos, which have been corrected. Matt also informed the members of the Pee Dee RBC that John Boyer had a question about whether Chapter 5 identifies opportunities, in addition to concerns and potential shortages. Chapter 5 is designed to focus on identifying shortages and challenges in the basin. Later chapters, like Chapter 6, will focus on strategies and opportunities to mitigate these shortages. He noted that his team has added a sentence to clarify that opportunities will be discussed in subsequent chapters.

Another comment was about the biological response metrics. Matt noted that it has been clarified whether these metrics apply to fish or macroinvertebrates by adding more specific language. Chapter 5 describes the methodology for assessing water availability and performance measures, such as hydrologic performance (mean flows, minimum flows) and biological response metrics (risks to fish, macroinvertebrates, and overall river health). He explained that he ran an analysis, comparing flow regimes against these metrics, and identified the main issues.

Matt explained that the short version of the findings is that his team didn't identify significant issues from a surface water perspective. There are some minor shortages, especially under high-demand scenarios in the future, but these can be mitigated by local storage facilities, such as those used by golf courses or agricultural operations. These facilities are not necessarily included in the SWAM model.

In summary, while there are minor shortages, he noted that there are means to mitigate them even under a high-demand scenario up to the year 2070.

Following his explanation, he proceeded to call for a vote to give Chapter 5 preliminary approval while reminding the members of the Pee Dee RBC that the chapter will be updated to reflect groundwater results in the coming months. But for now, the approval is for the surface water piece.

Q: Is there a website where the chapters are located?

A: Sharepoint site would be helpful. We don't have one currently.

Create a shared folder for Chapters/plan

John Crutchfield – 1st

Motion to preliminarily approve Chapter 5.

Cliff Chamblee – 2nd

All in favor, none opposed. Ch 5 is preliminarily approved (surface water component).

For Chapter 6, the members of the Pee Dee RBC set up a subcommittee to review the draft. The members are Jeff Steinmetz, Lindsay Privette, and John Crutchfield. The subcommittee was given three weeks to carry out the exercise.

Ch 5 – writing the GW piece

DNR is responsible for Ch 5-6

USGS provide data and figures

DNR White Paper

C: Put summary together as foundation

C: Need modeling results and not just the technical memo

C: April components would be good to have in there

C: Might be good to have a subcommittee work closely with us

CH 5 subcommittee help (ag, municipal also)

C: Ch 6 evaluate effectiveness of GW strategies using the model and scenario results

Ch 7 – depends a lot on what comes out of today. What the RBC wants to highlight, what are good strategies, extend life of resources

Ch 9 – Policy, Technical, etc also informed by today's meeting.

Ch 10 – Implementation once we get through 7 and 9

Ch 4 – Demand methods – Alex Pellett working on technical memo

Describing strategies

Ch 6 – 6.1 is provided

6.2 GW later

John Boyer provided an overview of Ch 6

Interesting point on conservation SW/GW

6. Strategy Prioritization - Surface Water and Groundwater; Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical, Process (JD Solomon)

J. D Solomon facilitated a session on prioritization with the objective of ranking various planning strategies for the Pee Dee Basin to establish a common basis for comparison. This allows for the evaluation of different strategies to determine the best approach for the Pee Dee Basin.

This exercise is designed to be a subjective polling exercise to gather input from the members of the Pee Dee RBC who had spent considerable time learning about the Pee Dee Basin. The results will be used to identify high-priority activities and potentially adjust the rankings based on group discussions and inclusion of members participating virtually.

Methodology

Three methods were used to analyze the ranking of activities:

- Plurality: Counting the number of first-place votes.
- Borda Count: Assigning points based on rankings (e.g., first place gets 15 points, second place gets 14 points, etc.).
- Pairwise Comparison: Comparing each option against every other option to determine preferences.

J D Solomon explained the steps in the exercise, including:

- **Distribution of Ballots:** Each member received a ballot with a list of strategies.
- **Initial Classification:** Members of the Pee Dee RBC categorized each strategy as high, medium, or low priority.
- **Ranking:** Members of the Pee Dee RBC ranked the strategies from highest to lowest priority.

Groundwater Strategies

Members of the Pee Dee RBC were given a list of groundwater strategies to rank. The strategies were presented with their respective benefits, costs, and feasibility.

- i. **Strategies Discussed:**
 - New wells into less stressed formations.
 - Desalination.
 - Water reclamation.
 - Stormwater capture.
- ii. **Ranking Results:**
 - Groundwater to augment surface water received the highest number of first-place votes.
 - Aquifer storage and recovery, non-potable water reuse systems, and dredging pond deepening were also highly ranked.

Surface Water Strategies

Members of the Pee Dee RBC evaluated and ranked surface water strategies similarly to the groundwater strategies.

- i. **Strategies Discussed:**
 - New or increased storage.
 - Water reclamation.
 - Conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water.
- ii. **Ranking Results:**
 - Using groundwater to augment surface water ranked highly.
 - Specific surface water strategies received varied rankings based on individual members' perspectives.

C: Curious about long-term maintenance issues. Short run cost for now but what burden are we leaving for the future.

Demand Side Strategies

Members of the Pee Dee RBC ranked strategies aimed at managing demand for water resources.

Q: How do we know what costs are? We go with your analysis?

A: Have to trust us on the cost rankings

- a. **Strategies Discussed:**
 - Leak detection and water loss control programs.
 - Update water management and drought plans.
 - Water efficiency standards for new construction.
 - Water reuse and recycling.
 - Landscape irrigation efficiency.
- b. **Ranking Results:**
 - Leak detection and water loss control programs were ranked the highest.
 - Other high-ranking strategies included water reuse and recycling and updating water management plans.

Policy and Technical Recommendations

Members of the Pee Dee RBC also provided input on policy and technical recommendations.

- I. **Policy Recommendations:**
 - Surface water withdrawal registration should be limited to actual need.
 - Funding for joint compacts between states.
 - Funding for implementation organization for future planning and studies.

Q: What's the difference between #4 and #8?

A: Implementation organization – continue funding RBC into future

Other – funding implementation studies – grant program

II. Technical Recommendations:

- Use water supply information to evaluate the viability of new industries and businesses.
- Development of a supplier education program.
- Regular updates to drought management plans.

Q: Overall ranking or ranking by sector?

A: Good question, want to do by sector, or should we work on leak detection without labeling? Also need to go sector-specific as well. Combination

C: *Wrote Ch 7 today*

The exercise successfully gathered the opinions of members of the Pee Dee RBC on the prioritization of various strategies for the Pee Dee Basin. The top recommendations from the exercise provide a clear direction for planning and implementation efforts as reflected in the RBC plan. The rankings reflect a combination of benefits, costs, and feasibility as perceived by the members of the Pee Dee RBC.

7. Closing Comments and Upcoming Topics (Buddy Richardson/JD Solomon)

WRAP UP

Charlotte IBT – supplement to first IBT, followed FERC, and patterned within the agreement

C: Could affect flooding in PD not drought. Could be opposite in the Catawba.

Q: For RBC, who would be involved in that process?

A: You wouldn't would need to get established as an organization.

C: Website up – Charlotte Water Public Notice, public meetings, hearing. Just use Charlotte Water IBT search

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

The next meeting will be held online on June 25, 2024

Minutes: Chikezie Isiguzo and Tom Walker

Approved: 6/25/24

RBC Chat:

09:13:54 From Samuel Quinney-SCDA to Everyone:

No preference.

09:15:52 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:

I'll roll with the group; no strong preferences.

09:16:28 From BobPerry to Everyone:
Agree with Eric.

09:18:05 From Tim to Everyone:
I'm good with Sonoco trip

09:18:24 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
thanks all

09:21:36 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
TNC can pay for lunch, if it gets to be a problem

09:22:44 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
thank you!

09:22:58 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
No problem...

09:32:01 From Hughes Page - Pee Dee Land Trust to Everyone:
I

09:32:03 From Winyah Rivers to Everyone:
I

09:48:00 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
break until 10

09:53:20 From Hughes Page - Pee Dee Land Trust to Everyone:
Tom, I have a Land Protection Committee quarterly meeting at 10 am. I am going to leave this Zoom open, if we get done in time I will come back. Thanks.

09:53:39 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
ok, thank you Hughes

10:21:29 From Megan Hyman to Everyone:
im good

10:23:00 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
I take we're just supposed to email our ballots back to JD?

10:23:15 From Winyah Rivers to Everyone:
That's my question, also.

10:25:44 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
please e-mail them back to JD thank you

10:32:37 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
Going fine here...

10:36:23 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
Is the idea the same -- distribute H, M, and L's evenly? So, 7-8 of each...

10:37:37 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
trying to ask, one second

10:38:10 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
roughly, yes

10:47:02 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:
Nope..

10:47:55 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
11:05 we will return

11:06:26 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:
JD is still crunching ballots. Will be back soon

11:10:53 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

these are just the in-person results

11:35:52 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

jd switching to his computer. one second

11:56:31 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

meeting adjourned