

Location:

October 24, 2023

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clemson Pee Dee REC

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **Subcommittee formed: Drought subcommittee – Lindsay Privette (Chair), John Rivers, and Michael Hemingway**
2. **Subcommittee formed: Groundwater Modeling Technical subcommittee – Cynthia Walters (Chair), Walt Beard, and Jeff Steinmetz**
3. **Subcommittee formed: Surface water and groundwater subcommittee (Ch 5) – Cara Schildtknecht, Tim Brown, and Buddy Richardson**

Major Decisions:

1. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the RBC bylaws as written in the Planning Framework. (July 2022)**
2. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the proposed Process Metrics as presented. (August 2022)**
3. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the Pee Dee RBC. (August 2022)**
4. **The Pee Dee RBC elected the Chair: Buddy Richardson and Vice Chair: Cara Schildtknecht (November 2022)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Update on Groundwater Modeling Status
- Review Agricultural Water Use
- Drought Management Strategies Used by other RBCs
- Summarize Drought Management Plans, Development of Chapter 8
- Results of Surface Water Conservation Strategies analyzed for the Pee Dee
- Chapter Summary (Ch 5 and others)
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (October 24th)

JD Solomon, Pee Dee River Basin Council Facilitator, called the October 24th meeting of the Pee Dee RBC to order at 9:05 AM. The seventeenth meeting of the Pee Dee RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Pee Dee RBC members and planning team, there were 44 people present at this RBC meeting.

The meeting began with JD Solomon reviewing the agenda items for the meeting. The Pee Dee RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and approved the minutes and summary documents from the September meeting. A public comment period was held with no comments. An agency public comment period was held with no comments.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the groundwater modeling work underway. The USGS team is scheduled to complete the model for the November meeting and present calibration of the model and some scenarios. A groundwater modeling subcommittee was formed.

Alex Pellett, SCDNR, presented information on agricultural water use. Alex presented historical water use data, publications and databases of relevant information, discussed consumptive use for agriculture, irrigation depth, discontinuation, underreporting, irrigation below the reporting threshold, irrigated agricultural land in SC from various data bases on one figure, irrigated agricultural land by county in the Pee Dee basin, and discussed if irrigation can continue to expand in SC.

Elliot Wickham, SCO-DNR, presented information on drought management strategies used by other RBCs in their basin plans. Elliot covered Chapter 6: Water Management Strategies which included demand-side strategies vs supply-side strategies and agricultural and municipal strategies. Elliot discussed Chapter 7: Water Management Strategies Recommendations from the Edisto and Broad basins. Elliot then discussed Chapter 8: Drought Management Strategies regarding communication and Edisto and Broad specifics. Elliot finished by discussing drought plans for public water systems around the state and encouraged local level drought plan updates. A drought subcommittee was formed to help write drought chapters.

Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell, then discussed drought management plans and the development of Chapter 8. Matt reviewed the contents of chapter 8, the SC Drought Response Program, drought severity levels, what are and what is the content of drought management plans, drought management plans reviewed in June 2023, additional water providers with drought management plans, RBC's role in drought response, and some draft recommendations for RBC consideration.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, presented results of Surface Water conservation strategies. The summary of the material presented yielded the following results: the demand-side conservation strategies resulted in minimal impact to low flow conditions when compared to the 2070 HD scenario, impacts to flows were generally the largest under Scenario 5, and at several locations, minimum flows decreased due to a reduction in groundwater withdrawals and decrease in treated wastewater being returned to surface water. Benefits of the water conservation and efficiency included: reduced costs of water for irrigation and possibly improved crop yields, lower costs of water for homeowners and reduce or delay the development of additional water supplies for utilities, potential to sustain groundwater supplies, and potential to extend supplies for users on small tributaries. John then presented on the Chapter 5 outline for surface water only. A subcommittee was formed to help with Chapter 5.

JD Solomon concluded the meeting at 11:47 AM with a plus delta discussion from RBC members. The next meeting of the Pee Dee RBC will be November 28, 2023 at the Clemson Pee Dee REC.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 11/28/23