

Pee Dee River Basin Council (RBC) Meeting #18 Minutes
November 28th, 2023

RBC Members Present: Michael Hemingway, Buddy Richardson, Tim Brown, Lindsay Privette, John Crutchfield, Jason Gamble, Hughes Page, Megan Hyman, Cara Schildtknecht, Jeff Steinmetz, Cliff Chamblee, Snipe Allen, Doug Newton, John Rivers, Bob Perry, Eric Krueger, & Cynthia Walters

Absent: Cricket Adams, Frances McClary, Jeff Parkey, Mike Bankert, & Walt Beard

Planning Team Present: JD Solomon, Matt Lindburg, Scott Harder, Brooke Czwartacki, Andy Wachob, Alexis Modzelesky, Leigh Anne Monroe, Joe Koon, Hannah Hartley, Jeff Allen, Thomas Walker, and Chikezie Isiguzo.

Total Attendance: 48

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 18th Pee Dee RBC meeting. The main objectives of the meeting included learning about Aquifer Storage and Recovery, reviewing and approving Chapters 1 & 2 of the Pee Dee River Basin Plan, and discussing the Pee Dee River Basin Plan Executive Summary.

b. Approval of Agenda, October 24th Minutes and Summary

The members unanimously approved the November 2023 Pee Dee RBC meeting agenda. John Crutchfield made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 24, 2023, Pee Dee RBC meeting, seconded by Buddy Richardson which were unanimously approved. JD Solomon explained that the meeting was virtual in recognition of the ongoing Groundwater Modeling calibration.

2. Public/Agency Comment (JD Solomon)

There were no public/Agency comments.

3. Groundwater Modeling Calibration Update (Brad Harken and Andrea Hughes)

Andrea Hughes explained that the model failed to converge, which means that at certain points during the model run, it isn't achieving an accurate solution, so much so that it's completely invalid. She explained that her team suspects that the data from North Carolina is inaccurate or something happened in processing the data. The team has validated the South Carolina data, which was obtained from SCDNR.

Andrea noted that her team will keep working on the model and provide feedback to the Groundwater Subcommittee and the Planning Committee on their progress before the December 2023 meeting.

Comment:

Is there a Plan B should the model not work as planned?

JD Solomon noted that while it is possible to work on a Plan B it is best to allow the USGS team some more time to continue with their efforts to resolve the issues with the North Carolina data for the Groundwater model. Also, Scott Harder noted that the Groundwater model is important for other projects and would serve other needs beyond the RBC planning process. Therefore, the team should be allowed time to develop a working model.

Andrea explained that her team is supported by subject matter experts and believes their efforts would yield positive results as soon as possible. The team will provide a progress report in the December 2023 meeting.

4. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (Tim Brown, Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority)

Tim Brown explained how the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program emerged as a water management program in the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority (GSWSA). ASR is the process of injecting water into an aquifer, where stored for use at a later time. GSWSA stores treated (drinking water) surface water from Bull Creek in the aquifer system when usage is low and recovers it when usage is high. The ASR has provided the GSWSA with three main benefits, including improved system capacity, good water quality, and efficient contingency planning.

Tim invited the members of the Pee Dee RBC to consider the benefits of the ASR program for the entire Pee Dee Basin. JD Solomon noted that the ideas presented can be considered as part of mitigation strategies.

Scott Harder appreciated Tim Brown for the quality of his presentation and requested and obtained permission to post the slide on the SCDNR Hydrology site.

5. RBC Review of Chapters One and Two (JD Solomon and Matt Lindburg)

Matt Lindburg noted that the members of the RBC will receive draft Chapter Five following the subcommittee's review. However, the groundwater sections of the Chapter will be updated as soon as there is relevant information. He also noted that draft Chapter Eight will be circulated as soon as the subcommittee completes its review.

Matt presented the reviewed Chapters One and Two for comments. He explained some comments received in the process of the review. There is a sentence here that says the RBC is responsible for developing and implementing the river basin plan, communicating with stakeholders, and identifying recommendations for policy. And it goes on a comment that was received that said, how can the RBC implement this plan? If it is not a regulatory agency and does not have a budget?

And that's, I think, a good question and something that we will get into when we talk about implementation down the road. I will mention that this is, you know, part of the RBC's bylaws. It's part of the planning framework guidance. One of the statements in that planning guidance framework is that the RBC, essentially will serve as a champion of the plan by promoting its implementation to stakeholders. And throughout the basin. So, I didn't make any changes to that statement just because it's, you know, something that is in the bylaws, in the planning framework. But it's something we will be discussing down the line.

6. **Executive Summary (Matt Lindburg)**

Matt Lindburg discussed the format of the Executive Summary and other State Planning Executive summary documents, including Edisto and Broad RBC plan that could be used as references for the draft.

He explained the use of Executive Summary to inform critical stakeholders about the Pee Dee RBC Plan. He described it as a digest that gives a high-level information to all readers of the plan

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

J. D. Solomon appreciated the members of the Pee Dee RBC for their participation. He expressed the hope that the December 2023 meeting will be hybrid because physical meetings have been beneficial to the Pee Dee RBC planning process.

The next meeting will hold on December 19, 2023

The meeting concluded at 10:59 AM

Minutes: Chikezie Isiguzo and Tom Walker

Approved: 12/19/23

RBC Chat:

09:08:13 From Clint A. Elliott to Everyone:

IS her audio out or is my computer?

09:08:30 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

i'm hearing it clint

09:08:40 From Clint A. Elliott to Everyone:

MUst be my connection

09:08:41 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:

Coming thru fine here...

09:31:17 From Alicia Wilson (she/her) to Everyone:

Sorry to have to leave -- this has been interesting.

09:35:39 From porter.rivers to Everyone:

any issues with iron during recovery?

10:26:58 From Jeff Steinmetz to Everyone:

I like the idea of a summary sheet in addition to the executive summary.

10:27:58 From LindsayPrivette to Everyone:

Definitely; agree with Jeff's comment about different levels of info for different audiences.

10:28:48 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:

+1 on the 2-pager, and on the concept of two summaries of different length, complexity

10:32:14 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:

+1 on Doug's comment. Would also add.. I don't know that intake stations resonate with regular folks. Pictures of people washing cars, watering lawns, maybe an industrial water use would relate better

10:39:09 From BobPerry to Everyone:

Really nice to see the CO plan include the need for land use planning, watershed conservation, and building capacity for ecosystem resilience.

10:41:20 From mhemingway to Everyone:

I like the roadmap idea. I think our imagery can be multiple sites along the Pee Dee River, since that is the core basis of our work group.

10:56:38 From BobPerry to Everyone:

Today's meeting was well done and productive. Great overviews.

10:57:49 From mhemingway to Everyone:

Agree with Bob. Today's meeting was a success and thank Tim for very insightful information.

10:57:50 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:

I thought this was a good fit between the virtual mode and the nature of the content -- +1, plus giving us all space to catch up after holidays.

10:58:38 From Douglas's iPad to Everyone:

I usually don't like this high tech stuff, but I enjoyed today. Since there was no lunch provided JD can just mail me a check.

Thanks to all

10:58:56 From mhemingway to Everyone:

Good one Doug!

10:59:03 From LindsayPrivette to Everyone:

Reacted to "I usually don't like..." with 😂

10:59:03 From Waccamaw Riverkeeper to Everyone:

Good meeting! Thanks, y'all!

10:59:07 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

Reacted to "I usually don't like..." with 😂

10:59:13 From Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell to Everyone:

Reacted to "I usually don't like..." with 😂