

Location:

February 21, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission Office

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **Read drought articles and provide feedback.**
2. **Last call for requested scenarios.**
3. **John to share general planning PPT.**
4. **CDM Smith to check Lake Murray for repeat drought analysis.**

Decisions:

1. **Saluda RBC Vision Statement: A resilient and sustainably managed Saluda River Basin that balances human and ecological needs. (May 2023)**
2. **Saluda RBC Goals: 1. To perform a review and update of the plan every 5 years at a minimum or sooner should a significant event occur requiring plan update, 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Saluda River Basin, and 3. Apply science-based resource management and conservation strategies that consider resource availability and allocation. (May 2023)**
3. **The Saluda RBC elected KC Price as Chair and Katherine Amidon as Vice Chair. (June 2023)**
4. **Formation of a Public Supply Water Demand projections subcommittee. (July 2023)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period
- Review of January Meeting Highlights
- Making Decisions by Consensus

- Additional Surface Water Analyses
- Additional Reservoir Safe Yield Results
- Drought Response Examples
- Discussion of Water Management Strategies
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (February 21st)

The Saluda RBC Vice-Chair, Katherine Amidon, called the February 21st meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The eleventh meeting of the Saluda RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Saluda RBC members and planning team, there were 46 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Katherine discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The November and January minutes and summaries were approved as edited. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. A photography book of the Saluda and Reedy Rivers was made available for RBC members. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the January meeting highlights.

Jeff Lineberger, Duke Energy, presented *Making Decisions by Consensus* to the Saluda RBC. Jeff discussed the process of decision-making, interest-based negotiations applied to water resource decisions, combined residential water use through August 2009, and general observations.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, presented information about additional surface water analyses. John Boyer presented information about daily timestep scenario results, comparison to minimum instream flows, and extended drought analysis. Next steps included: evaluate flow-ecology metrics using SWAM, consider Reaches of Interest or setting a Surface Water Condition. Decide on the need for additional scenarios.

Kirk Westphal, CDM Smith, facilitated discussion of *Additional Reservoir Safe Yield Results*. Kirk reviewed reservoir safe yield definitions, purpose, and method. Kirk then reviewed reservoir safe yield output for Table Rock, North Saluda, Lake Rabon, and Lake Greenwood.

John Boyer reviewed *Drought Response Examples* with the Saluda RBC. A question from the January meeting was the inspiration for this discussion – what can we learn from other areas that have been through drought and what have they implemented in their basin and what has worked for them and what has not worked? John reviewed two scholarly articles, the 2022 Missouri Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, the Edisto RBC's low flow management plan, CWWMG's low inflow protocol, and segued into discussion of Chapter 8 of the plan on drought response.

John briefly discussed water management strategies which will be continued in March's meeting. The Saluda RBC brainstormed uncertainties: climate, population, land use, loss of power, type of industry/industrial growth, modeling and data gaps, politics/legislation, & regulatory uncertainty.

John reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and topics. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held March 20, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:06 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 3/20/24