

**Location:**

June 21, 2023

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The Ridge at Laurens

Hybrid Meeting

**Action Items:**

1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.
2. Planning Team to look into potential presentations about other aquatic species that might be relevant to the Saluda river basin.

**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.**

**Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period
- May RBC Meeting Review
- Select a Chair and Vice Chair
- Learn about aquatic resources and fisheries management of the Saluda basin
- Learn about the relationships between aquatic health and streamflow

- Learn about agribusiness in the Saluda basin
- Visit the new Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission water treatment plant

### **Meeting Summary (June 21<sup>st</sup>)**

The Saluda RBC Guest Facilitator, Kirk Westphal, called the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:03 AM. The fourth 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 47 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Kirk discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda as well as the previous RBC meeting minutes as revised and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Kirk reviewed the May meeting highlights.

The first major agenda item was the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the Saluda RBC. Kirk reviewed the RBC election process. Two RBC members were nominated for the Chair position, KC Price (Water and Sewer Utilities) and Katherine Amidon (At-Large). Katherine Amidon declined the Chair nomination but did accept a Vice-Chair nomination. KC Price ran unopposed and was elected by the Saluda RBC by a clear majority of the RBC members. Katherine Amidon ran unopposed as Vice-Chair and was elected by the Saluda RBC by a clear majority of the RBC members.

The next agenda item included two presentations that focused on the aquatic resources of the Saluda river basin and SCDNR fisheries management. Amy Chastain discussed fisheries management which included material on trout stocking, invasive fish species, and surveys conducted by SCDNR fisheries staff. Kevin Kuback's presentation focused on aquatic biodiversity of the Saluda river basin. Kevin started the talk with a broad view of fish diversity in the United States and then focused in on South Carolina and the Saluda river basin. Highlights included discussion of specific fish species in the basin and habitat requirements and the value of bio-assessment studies conducted and data collected and analyzed by SCDNR staff.

The next presentation was from Dr. Luke Bower which followed up on the previous presentations and focused on flow-ecology relationships in the Saluda river basin. Luke discussed the flow-ecology study approach and how that process can be integrated into SWAM and the water demand scenarios. This will provide information for the Saluda RBC to understand potential impacts to fish species under various planning scenarios.

Dr. Nathan Smith presented on agribusiness in the Saluda river basin. Nathan discussed the overall agricultural footprint in South Carolina economically which focused on specific crops, livestock, and forestry products. Nathan then presented Saluda specific agriculture data for

corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, wheat, peaches, cattle, hogs, poultry, and forested land and harvested timber value.

The field trip to the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Water Treatment Plant was postponed due to weather conditions. The field trip will be rescheduled. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held July 19, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 1:07 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 7/19/23