

Location:

November 15, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission Office

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **RBC member homework assignment to reach out to determine if fish and/or macroinvertebrate data exists for the Blue Ridge Mountain region of SC/NC (about 30 sites needed).**
2. **Riparian buffers discussion in the parking lot.**

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
- October RBC Meeting Review
- Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act Concepts
- Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations made by the Edisto and Broad RBCs

- Saluda River below Saluda Dam Hydrologic Impairment Designation
- Draft Broad River Basin Plan Highlights
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (November 15th)

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the November 15th meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The ninth 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 40 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. KC discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda as well as the previous RBC meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the October meeting highlights.

Joe Koon and Leigh Anne Monroe, SCDHEC, presented *Safe Yield and Surface Water Law and Regulation* to the Saluda RBC. The presentation topics were: a safe yield discussion, an overview of SC water resources law, an overview of water quantity programs, and surface water law concepts.

For the next agenda item, John Boyer presented *Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations Made by the Edisto and Broad RBCs*. The presentation was informational for the Saluda RBC members to understand what other RBCs had done in other plans and what the Saluda RBC will be doing in phase 4 of the Saluda RBC planning process.

Melanie Ruhlman, RBC member, presented *Saluda River below Saluda Lake Dam Hydrologic Impairment Designation* to the RBC. Melanie's highlights included: hydrologic alteration and the Clean Water Act, SCR4E guiding principles, SCR4E approach to addressing hydrological alteration and impairment, Saluda River below Saluda Dam impairment, evaluation of the impacts of hydrologic alteration on recreational use, and land use urban watershed hydrology.

Finally, John Boyer presented *Overview of the Broad River Basin Plan Findings and Recommendations* to the RBC. In this presentation, John reviewed water demands, key findings, water demand scenario results, streamflow-ecology relationships, demand and supply side strategies, planning process recommendations, technical and program recommendations, drought management recommendations, other policy, legislative, and regulatory recommendations, implementation plan and strategy, and information about the Broad public meeting to present the Broad draft plan.

John reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and topics. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held January 17, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 1:17 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 2/21/24