

Location:

January 10, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 6 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. **Planning team to schedule USACE joint meeting with the Upper and Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBCs.**

Decisions:

1. **The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)**
2. **Upper Savannah RBC Vision Statement: A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs. (September 2023)**
3. **US RBC Goals: 1. Within 24 months, develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Upper Savannah River Basin in order to:**
 - a. **Ensure water resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.**
 - b. **Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.**
 - c. **Promote balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.**
 - d. **Advocate for responsible land use practices.**
 - e. **Identify funding sources.**
2. **Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Upper Savannah River Basin.**
3. **Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin. (September 2023)**
4. **The USRBC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- December Meeting Review
- Highlights of Georgia's Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan
- Hydrology 101
- Overview of Surface Water Modeling Approach and Scenarios
- Introduction to the Savannah River Basin Surface Water Model
- Current Use, Unimpaired Flow, and Permitted and Registered Surface Water Scenario Results
- Update on Water Demand Projections
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (January 10th)

Jeff Phillips, USRBC Vice Chair, called the January 10th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The sixth meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Upper Savannah RBC members and planning team, there were 34 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jeff discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from December. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the December meeting highlights.

Ashley Reid presented information about the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee regional water plan from Georgia. Highlights of the introduction of the presentation included: the planning council's water policy statement, regional water planning councils in Georgia, a Georgia planning timeline, and the 5-year review process and water planning process in Georgia. Ashley also presented the SUO vision, water plan goals, resource assessments, forecasts, and potential challenges.

Kirk Westphal presented *Hydrology 101* for the Upper Savannah RBC members. The presentation is intended to educate members of the RBC on basic hydrology. Highlights included: the hydrologic cycle, measuring and displaying data, daily vs monthly flow, frequency and magnitude of shortage, hydrology related statistics, and water availability.

John Boyer presented *Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability* for Scott Harder. The methods are described in the Planning Framework. The presentation reviewed key terms and

definitions associated with surface water availability analyses. As part of the analysis RBCs will need to determine surface water conditions, performance measures, locations of strategic nodes, and identify shortages, quantify surface water supply, and designate reaches of interest. Finally, four future water use scenarios will be evaluated by the RBC.

John Boyer also presented: *Introduction to the Savannah River Basin Surface Water Quantity Model* followed by *Surface Water Availability Modeling UIF, Current Use, and P & R Scenario Results*. For the first presentation John presented an overview of the model which included: what water allocation modeling is and is not, SWAM and how SWAM will be used to inform decisions, model inputs, gage timeline, the various pieces of SWAM, model calibration, updates, limitations, performance measures, strategic nodes, SWAM training, and SWAM access. The second presentation covered current surface water use and permitted and registered surface water use and asked if the RBC would like to see UIF results.

Alex Pellett provided a brief update on water demand projections for the Upper Savannah RBC. The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid and John Boyer discussing the next Upper Savannah RBC meeting which will be a joint meeting with the Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC and the USACE in North Augusta. The meeting will be held February 14, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 1:42 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 2/14/24