

Location:

July 26, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 1 (Hybrid Format)

Starr and Iva Water Sewer District Office

Action Items:

- 1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.**
- 2. RBC members should be thinking of potential Upper Savannah RBC Chair and Vice-Chair nominees.**
- 3. RBC members to consider possible field trip locations.**
- 4. Planning team to email planning framework link to RBC members.**
- 5. RBC members to review the planning framework and bylaws.**
- 6. RBC members are required to inform the Planning Team in advance of the RBC meeting if they will not be in attendance and if their alternate will be present.**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- RBC and Planning Team Introductions
- Public Comment Period
- Overview of River Basin Planning, the Planning Framework, and Examples
- Review of RBC Bylaws
- Basin Priorities
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (July 26th)

Ashley Reid, USRBC Facilitator, called the July 26th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The first 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 47 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Ashley Reid welcoming the Upper Savannah RBC members to the first meeting. Ashley introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received.

Ashely Reid facilitated introductions of the planning team and Upper Savannah RBC members. The planning team consists of DNR, DHEC, CDM Smith, and Clemson personnel and each planning team member introduced themselves and their role on the team. The RBC members then introduced themselves, their current professional role, water sector they represent in this planning process, why they decided to serve on the RBC, their familiarity with the planning process, and an interesting fact about themselves.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Alex Pellett, SCDNR Hydrologist, about river basin planning, the planning framework, and examples. Alex discussed river basin planning activities including background, history, and context in South Carolina. Alex provided an overview of the Upper Savannah which included water uses and then presented information about specific pieces and processes involved in developing a river basin plan and current status of SC river basin planning. John Boyer then presented the planning phases to the RBC and discussed examples of river basin plans to inform the RBC of where they are headed in this process.

John Boyer reviewed the RBC bylaws from the planning framework. The review included: purpose of the bylaws, modifications to the bylaws, membership and attendance, removal, resignation, and reinstatement, RBC term lengths, code of conduct, RBC Chair and Vice-Chair responsibilities, meeting types, decision-making, subcommittees and interbasin river councils. Ashley Reid then proceeded to have RBC members draw their term length. Those not in attendance had their term length drawn for them.

Finally, the RBC meeting moved to a discussion of basin priorities. The Upper Savannah RBC members broke up into 4 total breakout groups including one for the RBC members in attendance online. The priority areas for the RBC members included: what they want to preserve, protect, or enhance, outcomes to encourage, actions to promote, and how they want the basin managed. The identified basin priorities from the exercise will help set the vision statement and goals for the Upper Savannah RBC.

The RBC then discussed and selected the next meeting date and time. A survey will be distributed to collect feedback on RBC availability and meeting preferences to schedule a regular meeting day and time at the next RBC meeting. The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid discussing potential items for the next meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Upper Savannah RBC meeting will be held September 13, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 2:03 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: September 13, 2023