

Location:

March 13, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 8 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. **Planning team to schedule presentations from SCOR and about the SUO program**

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
- February Meeting Review
- Regional Economic Analysis of Changing Lake Levels – Lake Hartwell
- Preliminary 2070 Moderate and High Demand Scenario Results and Review of Updated UIF, Current Use, and P & R Scenarios
- Introduction to Water Management Strategies and Group Breakout Session to Discuss Strategies
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (March 13th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the March 13th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:08 AM. The eighth 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 42 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from February. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the February meeting highlights.

Jeff Allen, Clemson University, presented *An Economic Analysis of Low Water Levels in Lake Hartwell* to the RBC members. The research question focused on changing lake levels and if it had measurable economic impacts on the six counties that border Lake Hartwell. The six counties were: Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Franklin, Hart, and Stephens Counties and the grant was funded by the USACE with matching funds from the counties.

John Boyer presented the preliminary 2070 moderate and high demand scenario results and also reviewed updated UIF, current use, and permitted and registered scenarios with the RBC members. John reviewed model updates since January. John reviewed the scenario results for current use (no shortages), permitted and registered (four shortages), 2070 moderate demand (no shortages), 2070 high demand (three shortages), and reservoir plots for Lakes Keowee and Hartwell.

Finally, the RBC members received a short presentation from John Boyer and Ashley Reid to introduce water management strategies. After the introduction to water management

strategies the RBC members were divided into groups for a group breakout session to discuss strategies for the Upper Savannah river basin.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid and John Boyer discussing the next Upper Savannah RBC meeting which will be held at the Starr Iva water district office. The meeting will be held April 10, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/10/24