

Location:

November 8, 2023

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting No. 3 (Hybrid Format)

Starr and Iva Water and Sewer District Office

Action Items:

1. **Planning team to try and find a presenter to discuss navigation markers from SCDNR Law Enforcement or USACE**

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
- Select RBC Chair and Vice Chair
- USGS Streamflow Monitoring in the Upper Savannah River Basin
- Aquatic Resources and SCDNR Fisheries Management
- Ecological Flow Relationships
- Overview of the Draft Broad River Basin Plan
- Groundwater Resources of the Upper Savannah River Basin
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (November 8th)

John Boyer, USBRC backup Facilitator, called the November 8th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fourth 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 48 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. John discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from October. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held and Alex Pellett from SCDNR asked for feedback on his Water Use survey. John reviewed the October meeting highlights.

Toby Feaster, USGS, presented *USGS Streamflow Monitoring* to the RBC. Toby's introductory slides provided historical context, introduced the SAWSC USGS group and the USGS National Water Dashboard, discussed the USGS in SC, and provided detailed information on streamgages. Toby then presented information on Low-Flow statistics in SC. The focus for the remainder of the talk focused on 7Q10 and low-flows.

Amy Chastain, SCDNR, presented *SCDNR Region 1 Fisheries Management in the Upper Savannah River Basin*. Amy's slides focused on trout management and stocking, black bass and black crappie population management, fish habitat enhancement projects, hatchery assistance and striped bass stocking, creel surveys, and other activities.

Luke Bower, Clemson University, presented *Flow-Ecology Relationships* to the RBC. The purpose of the analysis is to provide insight on the potential response of organisms to the alternate water withdrawal scenarios produced by SWAM. Luke highlighted freshwater diversity in SC and the bio-assessment approach and the associated steps in the process. The study uses the

ELOHA framework to build a hydrologic foundation of streamflow and biological data, classify natural river types, and model and select flow ecology relationships.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, provided an overview of the Broad River Basin Plan findings and recommendations to the RBC. Highlights included key findings such as: 52% of the permitted and registered surface water is currently being used in the basin, projected high demand shortage for Gaffney by 2025, and low risk to aquatic ecology under the current use and moderate demand 2070 scenarios and potential reduced fish species richness under the permitted and registered and high demand 2070 scenarios. John also reviewed demand and supply side strategies, planning process, technical and program, drought management, policy, legislative, and regulatory recommendations, the implementation plan, and information about the first public meeting to present the draft plan.

Joe Gellici, SCDNR, presented *Groundwater Resources of the Upper Savannah River Basin*. Joe started by discussing the hydrogeologic section through the state. Joe then highlighted reported groundwater withdrawals, the Piedmont hydrogeologic framework, types of wells, well depths and yields, the groundwater monitoring network, and the summary of groundwater availability in the US basin.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing the next meeting which will be a mixed RBC meeting and RBC field trip. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Upper Savannah RBC meeting will be held December 13, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 1:21 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 12/13/2023