

Location:

September 13, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 2 (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.

Decisions:

1. The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)
2. Saluda 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)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Review of the Planning Framework and Q & A
- SC Surface Water Law and Regulation
- Identification of Process Metrics
- Field Trip Ideas
- Vision and Goals Development
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (September 13th)

Ashley Reid, USBRC Facilitator, called the September 13th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The second 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 43 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Ashley 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. Ashley reviewed the July meeting highlights.

Alex Pellett, SCDNR hydrologist, presented details of the SC State Water Planning Framework. The planning framework was developed by the PPAC for the river basin planning processes that are underway across the state. The planning framework has 8 sections including: the executive summary, introduction, river basin planning process, methodologies for evaluating water availability, river basin plan table of contents, river basin planning process implementation, river basin plan implementation, and the state water plan. Additionally, there is an appendix with the river basin council bylaws.

Joe Koon, SCDHEC, presented *SC Surface Water Law and Regulation* to the RBC members. The major components of the presentation were the SC Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act, the SC Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting Use, and Reporting Act, and the SC Groundwater Use and Reporting Act. Joe reviewed DHEC's water quantity programs in greater detail, presented surface water withdrawal data for the basin and statewide, discussed the SC surface water regulation, and conceptual statutory changes.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, led the RBC through the process of selecting process metrics for the Upper Savannah RBC planning process. Process metrics are benchmarks used to track and assess the performance of the RBC and quality of actions taken by the RBC. The planning framework suggested four standard process metrics which were approved by the RBC. Other process metrics were developed in the meeting. In total, 11 process metrics were approved by the RBC. Progress metrics will be selected later in the planning process.

Ashley Reid discussed field trip ideas with the RBC. Some examples of other field trips in other basins were presented for reference. The RBC reviewed and discussed field trip locations and the timeline for several field trips in phase 1 of the planning process.

Finally, Ashley and John facilitated development of the RBC vision and goals. The Upper Savannah RBC adopted the following vision statement: **A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs.** The RBC then discussed and adopted the following 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.**

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid discussing the next meeting which will likely be a shorter meeting and a Field Trip. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Upper Savannah RBC meeting will be held October 11, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 2:02 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 10/11/23