

Santee River Basin Council Membership Application

Background

In 2018, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) initiated a process to develop water-resource management plans for each of the state's eight major river basins (planning areas). The goal of these water plans is to develop management strategies that will ensure the surface water and groundwater resources of a river basin will be available for all uses for years to come.

SCDNR began the process by convening the State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC) to promote stakeholder participation and to obtain diverse perspectives from various water-related interests in order to develop an effective water planning process. Working closely with the PPAC, SCDNR produced the *South Carolina State Water Planning Framework*, a guidance document that describes the process by which basin-wide water plans will be developed. (The *Planning Framework* is available at <https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/hydrology/water-planning>.)

The *Planning Framework* calls for the formation of a River Basin Council (RBC) for each planning basin. Each RBC will consist of a group of stakeholders with diverse water-related interests, assembled specifically to develop a River Basin Plan consistent with the guidelines of the *Planning Framework*.

In July 2024, the Hydrology Section of SCDNR was transferred to a new state agency, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), and the water-planning program that was previously a part of SCDNR became a program within SCDES. SCDES is beginning the water-planning process for the Santee River basin, and one of the first steps in that process is the formation of the Santee RBC.

Santee River Basin Council Membership

The Santee RBC will be composed of up to 25 members appointed by SCDES and selected to represent the following eight water-interest categories:

1. Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation Interests
2. Local Governments
3. Water and Sewer Utilities
4. Electric-Power Utilities and Non-Federal Reservoir Operators
5. Industry and Economic Development Interests
6. Water-Based Recreation Interests
7. Environmental Interests
8. At-Large Water-Based Interests

Each RBC member must represent one designated interest category, and RBC members must be knowledgeable and experienced in the interest category they represent. RBC members are required to reside, work, or officially represent an entity having a significant interest in the water resources of the Santee River basin. If an umbrella association exists for a stakeholder interest group, the respective association may recommend a council member by submitting an endorsement letter to SCDES. Membership on the State Drought Response Committee or a recognized SCDES Groundwater Management Group may be used as additional qualifiers for selecting members to RBC slots. Efforts will be made by SCDES to appoint members with significant water-related interests in different geographic areas of the basin so different regions of the planning basin are represented on the RBC.

The initial duration of RBC terms will be for two, three, or four years, determined randomly. Each subsequent term will have a duration of three years. After serving an initial term, RBC members may request to serve an additional three-year term, with reappointment subject to SCDES approval.

IMPORTANT: The development of a River Basin Plan by the RBC will be a long, continuous process, and participation in the RBC will require a significant investment of time and resources by each member. Applicants should clearly understand the time commitment required of RBC members. To that end, applicants should carefully review the entire contents of the *Planning Framework* to become familiar with the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of RBC members.

It is anticipated that the RBC will convene 8 to 10 monthly meetings during the year-long development of the initial River Basin Plan, and these meetings will typically last 4 to 6 hours. RBC members also should expect to participate in subcommittees, which may meet periodically between full Council meetings. RBC members will be required to review basin planning documentation and reports developed and presented during the process.

The work of the RBC does not end with the publication of the River Basin Plan. The River Basin Plan will include an Implementation Plan, which describes specific goals and actions to be taken over a five-year period by the RBC regarding implementation of the River Basin Plan's water management recommendations and strategies. In addition, the *Planning Framework* calls for River Basin Plans to be amended as needed and updated at least every five years.

**SANTEE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone 1: _____
_____ Phone 2: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Organization/Company: _____
Position: _____ E-mail: _____

Indicate which one Interest Category you are requesting to represent (required):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation Interests | <input type="radio"/> Industry and Economic Development Interests |
| <input type="radio"/> Local Governments | <input type="radio"/> Water-based Recreation Interests |
| <input type="radio"/> Water and Sewer Utilities | <input type="radio"/> Environmental Interests |
| <input type="radio"/> Electric-Power Utilities and Non-Federal Reservoir Operators | <input type="radio"/> At-Large Water-based Interests |

1. How are you affiliated with this Interest Category?

2. Explain what makes you an appropriate representative of your selected Interest Category:

3. Describe your relevant qualifications and background or experience with water resources:

4. Explain how you would apply your skills and experience to assure successful water planning for the Santee River Basin:

The completed application and any supporting documentation (such as a resume) should be submitted to Scott Harder of the SCDES Bureau of Water. Applications may be e-mailed to Scott.Harder@des.sc.gov or mailed to SCDES at the following address:

Scott Harder
Bureau of Water - Hydrology Program
SCDES
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625