

Group Breakout Session to Discuss Water Management Strategies

John Boyer

Group Breakout Exercise

- 1. What existing water management strategies are already used in the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie River basins? Consider and group these strategies by water use sector and whether they are:
 - a. Supply-side strategies
 - b. Demand-side strategies
 - c. Drought or low flow management strategies
- 2. How effective are the existing strategies? Think in terms of their ability to reduce demands, increase supply availability, and prevent shortages. Are they effective at a local scale, but not necessarily at the basin scale? Do the strategies have other benefits, like reducing costs of operations?
- 3. Do you think strategies that are already in-place can be expanded or improved?
- 4. What types of strategies are likely to be relevant in the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie River basins to reduce or eliminate projected shortages, increase available supply, minimize low flows, and help improve the flow regime for aquatic organisms and recreation?

Group Reports – Q1: Existing Strategies in the Basins

Supply side:

Reuse, reclaimed effluent for irrigation
Stormwater collection in ponds, then used for golf course irrigation
Conjunctive use (golf)
Public supply:
interconnections (not too common, but growing trend
regionalization

Interbasin transfer (LS to Salk)

ASR

Ag retention (impoundments)
USACE flow strategy and minimum releases
Satellite leak detection
Land management (to improve water quality)

Demand Side:

Golf courses – wetting agents, moisture sensors, irrigation system upgrades (to be more efficient) PWS – AMI/AMR, SCADA, public education, tiered rate structure during drought Building code requirements (utilities that get water from BJWSA) Pricing structures (Increasing block rates) Education – outreach and communication General conservation strategies

Group Reports – Q2: Effectiveness of Existing Strategies

Reclaimed water is effective

Regionalization is effective in terms of technical and financial capacity

Effectiveness is often location specific and depends on financial capability

Outreach is not effective (relative to other issues, e.g. electric/energy)

Need more incentive for conservation.

Group Reports – Q3: Can Existing Strategies be Expanded

Where there is new construction, new golf courses, reclaimed water would be useful Support and promote industrial growth – reclaimed water can help with that

All can be expanded. Prioritizing

Hold to and enforce existing standards

State funding is needed to expand strategies (e.g., replace aging infrastructure)

GW barrier wall to prevent further saltwater migration/intrusion

Group Reports – Q4: What Strategies are Relevant in the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie River basins and Should be Further Evaluated?

Ag is out in front.

Municipal side – encourage reuse; fix existing systems

Conservation (reduce consumption)

Text messaging to more quickly stop leaks or make consumer aware of drought, for example

More state funding for water projects

Lobbying for federal dollars