

**Location:**

April 3, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 15 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

**Action Items:**

1. Come prepared to review the implementation plan and prioritize objectives and strategies
2. Come prepared to develop progress metrics
3. Provide feedback on draft chapters

**Major Decisions:**

1. The LSSRBC adopted 11 process metrics (December 2023)
2. Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the LSS basins now and into the future. (December 2023)
3. LSSRBC Goals (from meeting #3):
  1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations so that the LSS River Basins are resilient and:
    - a. Provide for an accurate accounting of current and future water availability
    - b. Promote stability of water allocations to support long-term planning
    - c. Maintain water availability to support public water supply, industrial, golf course, energy, food and fiber production and other legitimate needs
    - d. Allow for growth
    - e. Prevent saltwater intrusion and loss of freshwater resources
    - f. Maintain adequate flows to support instream needs of aquatic organisms and recreation.
  2. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah RBC.
  3. Educate and inform local governments on how land use decisions impact water availability.

**4. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins. (January 2024)**

**4. The LSSRBC elected Kari Foy as Chair and Ken Caldwell as Vice Chair (March 2024)**

**Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- March Meeting Review
- Finish Discussion and Development of River Basin Plan Recommendations
- Discuss Draft Chapter Comments
- Review and Develop the Draft Implementation Plan
- Develop Progress Metrics
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

**Meeting Summary (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:01 AM. The fifteenth meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 31 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. Kari introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The RBC also approved the March meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Newsworthy items included discussion of WaterSC listening sessions, the Savannah River Site Tour, the Upper Savannah draft plan public meeting, and a lawsuit in Georgia regarding surface water. John reviewed the March meeting which included additional discussion about planning process recommendations, technical recommendations, and policy recommendations.

John Boyer facilitated final discussion and development of river basin plan recommendations. The discussion focused on the parking lot of policy recommendations which included sediment loading in impoundments, legislative approval and adoption of the State Water Plan, water law and registrations and permits, corporate versus family farming, protection of wetlands, trading of permitted groundwater withdrawal capacities, and stormwater design manuals.

John provided an update on comments on draft chapters. John reviewed RBC member comments on chapters 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. John then discussed the draft chapter review schedule moving forward.

Next, John reviewed and facilitated development of the draft implementation plan. The proposed plan objectives included: improve water use efficiency to conserve water resources, engage Georgia in water planning, communicate, coordinate, and promote findings and recommendations from the river basin plan, promote engagement in the water planning process, enhance understanding of groundwater resources, improve technical data and understanding of water resource management issues, and improve drought management.

Finally, due to time constraints, the RBC did not begin work on the progress metrics. John noted that the RBC will work on progress metrics at the next meeting and review the draft Executive Summary and have a final chapter discussion. The May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in Hampton.

The meeting concluded at 1:59 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 5/1/25