

Location:

December 5, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 11 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

1. **Come prepared to discuss planning process and technical recommendations**

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
- November Meeting Review
- Review of Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations Developed by other RBCs
- Discussion and Development of Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations
- Discussion, Selection, and Prioritization of Water Management Strategies
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (December 5th)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the December 5th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The eleventh 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 30 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 November meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. Newsworthy items included discussion of the Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape program. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the November meeting.

John Boyer reviewed policy, legislative and regulatory recommendations developed by other RBCs to provide context for LSSRBC members. The review focused on what is included in the various recommendation categories and a surface water law refresher for the RBC. John then discussed the most common/similar and other recommendations from other RBCs.

Next, John facilitated discussion and development of policy, regulatory and legislative recommendations with the RBC. Some of the recommendation topics considered were reasonable use, grandfathered versus new users, treat all users the same or distinguish by use, planning and implementation funding, alignment with RBPs, and other topics. The RBC moved through the topics using green, yellow, and red buckets to approve, further consider, or toss potential recommendations. The water management strategies discussion was moved to the next meeting.

Finally, John discussed the January 9th meeting and schedule moving forward. The January 9th meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM with meeting location to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 2:05 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 1/9/25