

Location:

January 9, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 12 (Hybrid Format)

Blackville, SC

Action Items:

1. **Come prepared to discuss water management strategies and River Basin Plan 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
- December Meeting Review
- Groundwater Demand Projections
- Potential Impact of Groundwater Demand Projections on Groundwater Resources and Availability
- Discussion, Selection, & Prioritization of Water Management Strategies
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (January 9th)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the January 9th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The twelfth 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 34 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 December meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. Newsworthy items included discussion of the WaterSC, Drought Tabletop Exercise, and SRS tour dates. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the December meeting.

Scott Harder presented *Groundwater Demand Projections* to the RBC members present. Scott introduced the presentation by reviewing projections vs forecasts, the projection methods, and driver variables. Scott then highlighted the various sector demands and the Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie combined demands.

Brooke Czwartacki presented *Potential Impact of Groundwater Demand Projections on Groundwater Resources and Availability* to the RBC members present. Brooke began with reported water withdrawals, a groundwater evaluation, and then reported withdrawals in the

LSS. The presentation highlighted the largest groundwater users, reported use by sectors by aquifer in the LSS, and groundwater observations.

John Boyer facilitated discussion of water management strategies with the RBC. John and the RBC discussed groundwater, the planning framework, definitions, brainstorming notes, and water management strategies. The water management strategies discussion highlighted important considerations, adaptive management, uncertainties, and then asked the RBC to come prepared to discuss water management strategy ideas at the next meeting and send them to John in advance if possible.

Finally, John discussed the February 6th meeting and schedule moving forward. The February 6th meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM with meeting location to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 1:55 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 2/6/25