

Location:

June 6, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 7 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

1. SCDES to bring Edisto and Broad river basin plan hardcopies to August meeting
2. Send draft Chapter 8 of Pee Dee river basin plan

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
- May Field Trip Review
- Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie Basin Freshwater Aquatic Resources and SCDNR Fisheries Management
- Surface Water Modeling Results and Discussion
- Drought Management and Response Discussion
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (June 6th)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the June 6th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The seventh 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 38 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 April 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. John Boyer reviewed the May LSSRBC field trip.

Chris Thomason, SCDNR, presented *Freshwater Fishes of the Savannah/Salkehatchie River Basins* to the RBC members. There were 85 native species and 14 introduced species in the basins. Chris highlighted sportfish and discussed sampling data and trends. Chris then discussed non-game fish and diadromous fishes of the basins which included an updated sturgeon telemetry study. The presentation then concluded with non-native/invasive fish of the basins.

John Boyer then discussed the results of the surface water modeling performed on the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie river basins. The analysis included results for the unimpaired flow, current use, permitted and registered, and moderate and high demand 2070 scenario results.

While some potential shortages were identified, there were impoundments noted with those users which were not included in the SWAM model which might eliminate those modeled shortages. John then discussed the extended drought analysis for the Savannah river basin.

Next, John Boyer and Elliot Wickham concluded the meeting with presentations and discussion focused on drought management and response. John provided an overview of the RBC's obligations for drought response. Elliot discussed the differences between the Drought Response Committee and US Drought Monitor processes and outcomes. After lunch, discussion focused on drought in urban water systems and drought response strategies and recommendations.

Finally, John discussed the August 1st meeting objectives. The LSSRBC elected to not hold a July meeting. The August 1st meeting will be held at the Hampton Stanley Arts Center from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 2:02 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 8/1/24