

Location:

May 1, 2025

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting No. 16 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

1. Review draft River Basin Plan and provide comments
2. Come prepared to vote on the draft 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
- April Meeting Review
- Finalize Implementation Plan and Prioritize Objectives and/or Strategies
- Develop Progress Metrics
- Review the Draft Executive Summary and Discuss Draft Chapter Comments
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (May 1st)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the May 1st meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:01 AM. The sixteenth 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 28 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. A new groundwater team member from SCDES was introduced to the RBC. Newsworthy items included discussion of the Savannah River Site Tour and WaterSC. John reviewed the April meeting which included discussion about policy, legislative, and regulatory process recommendations and Chapter 9 of the draft plan.

John and the RBC finalized the implementation plan and prioritized objectives and strategies. The draft implementation 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 understanding of water resource management issues, and improve drought management.

Objectives were prioritized using high, medium, and low. The RBC developed progress metrics which are used to monitor the success or failure of an action taken by an RBC.

Finally, John and the RBC reviewed the draft Executive Summary and discussed draft chapter contents. The June 5th meeting will be virtual only and the RBC will vote on the draft plan.

The meeting concluded at 1:04 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 6/5/25