

Location:

September 5, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 9 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

- 1. Come prepared to finish discussing and developing Drought Response Strategies and 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
- August Meeting Review
- Development of Drought Strategies and Recommendations
- Groundwater Resources
- Low Country and Western Groundwater Management Plans and Capacity Use Areas
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (September 5th)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the September 5th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:02 AM. The ninth 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 37 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 August 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 August meeting.

The first agenda item for the meeting was the development of drought response strategies and recommendations. John discussed the specific drought response related obligations of the RBC and the planning framework outline for Chapter 8 – Drought Response. John also reminded the RBC of the purpose of the SC Drought Response Committee. The RBC worked through the drought response communication plan and drought management or response strategies and recommendations for existing strategies. The RBC will finish working through drought response strategies and recommendations at the November meeting.

Brooke Czwartacki discussed groundwater resources with the RBC. The first point of discussion was the inset model that was going to be developed for the planning process. The model will

not be completed in time to be considered for the river basin plan. Instead, groundwater components of the plan will be to use existing groundwater information and Capacity Use program recommendations. Brooke presented information using potentiometric maps, the capacity use areas in the LSS basin, reported groundwater withdrawals, the groundwater monitoring network, cones of depression, information specific to aquifers in the basin, saltwater intrusion, and the coastal Georgia regional water plan.

Joe Koon presented information on the Low Country and Western Groundwater Management Plans and Capacity Use Areas to the RBC. Highlights of the presentation included: water quantity programs, defining what capacity use areas are, groundwater management planning, assessment and evaluation reports, and capacity use area assessments, evaluations, and renewals.

Finally, John discussed the October 3rd field trip and November meeting objectives. The November 7th meeting will be held at the Hampton Stanley Arts Center from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 2:05 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 11/7/24