

**Pee Dee River Basin Council (RBC) Meeting #27 Minutes**  
**August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**RBC Members Present:** Megan Hyman, Buddy Richardson, Cliff Chamblee, Cynthia Walters, Jeff Steinmetz, Michael Hemingway, Mike Bankert, John Crutchfield, Doug Newton, Eric Kreuger, John Rivers, Lindsay Privette, Everett Allen, Jason Gamble, & Debra Buffkin

**RBC Members Absent:** Walt Beard, Tim Brown, Frances McClary, Hughes Page, & Bob Perry

**Planning Team Present:** JD Solomon, Jane McDonough, Matt Lindburg, Scott Harder, Brooke Czwartacki, Andy Wachob, Alexis Modzelesky, Hannah Hartley, Thomas Walker, & Chikezie Isiguzo

**Total Attendance:** 38

**1. Call the Meeting to Order (J. D. Solomon - Facilitator)**

a. Review of Meeting Objectives

J. D. Solomon (the Facilitator) called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and welcomed the members to the 27th Pee Dee RBC meeting. He highlighted the meeting's objectives, including a review of the progress of the River Basin Plan (RBP) drafting process and the status of the Groundwater model process.

b. Approval of August 27th Meeting Agenda and the July 23rd, 2024, meeting Minutes and Summary

The members unanimously approved the agenda for the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Pee Dee RBC meeting.

Jeff Steinmetz moved a motion to adopt the minutes and summary of the July 23rd, 2024, Pee Dee RBC meeting, seconded by John Crutchfield. Minutes and summary documents were approved.

**2. Public/Agency Comment (JD Solomon)**

There was no public/agency comment.

**3. Chapter Status Discussion (Jane McDonough, Brown and Caldwell team)**

Jane reminded the Pee Dee RBC members that a folder "Pee Dee RBP Draft Chapter" contained the files of all the reviewed RBP chapter drafts, including Chapters One, Two, Three, Five, and Eight. She encouraged the members to visit the folder to review each chapter.

She noted that her team is working to finish the drafts of Chapters Four and Six, having received feedback and all the necessary information.

Jane explained that the draft of Chapter Seven, which focuses on water management strategies, was sent to the subcommittee for review on 8/26/2024. While some feedback had been received, she confirmed that the draft would be presented to the members of the Pee Dee RBC when the feedback was complete. The drafting of Chapters Nine and Ten is in

progress and will be distributed to members when complete.

Finally, Jane informed the member of the Pee Dee RBC that work on the draft Executive Summary for the RBP had started. She invited the members to provide input on the outline and structure of the Executive Summary.

Matt Lindburg explained the Executive Summary is modeled after the Edisto and Broad RBPs and appreciated John Crutchfield for providing feedback. He also encouraged other members to give feedback on the Executive Summary and other sections of the Pee Dee RBP.

#### **4. Status of Groundwater Modeling (Andrea Hughes, USGS)**

J D. Solomon led the discussion on the status of the groundwater modeling process. He informed the members that the modeling process was still in progress but would be completed sometime in the future, outside the acceptable timeline for completing the Pee Dee RBP. The delay is due to various reasons, including administrative constraints.

He reminded the members of previous discussions that in the event of groundwater modeling delays, the Pee Dee RBC will activate an alternative plan based on historical data. He explained that by adopting this alternative approach, the members can complete all the chapters of the RBP.

Scott Harder confirmed that SC Hydrology would continue working with USGS to complete the model. Brooke Czwartacki reassured the members of the Pee Dee RBC that her team was well prepared to use historical data to guide the planning process and put forward good recommendations. She was confident that the alternative plan would yield good results. The SCDES Capacity Area Use Plan recommendations will also be summarized and included in the river basin plan.

The members wanted to know if the Pee Dee River Basin was the only basin affected by the groundwater modeling delays. Scott Harder and J. D. Solomon confirmed that the Pee Dee River Basin planning process was the first to use the new model, and other basins, such as the Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie and Santee, would also face a similar challenge if they needed the results before the modeling was complete.

The members of the Pee Dee RBC requested that the alternative process adopted be well documented and that an addendum be included in the RBP stating that the alternative groundwater approach was adopted. They agreed to use the alternative plan, which relies on historical data. However, the RBP should clearly state that the RBP implementation will incorporate the results from the groundwater model when the results become available, possibly as an addendum issued after the river basin plan is adopted and published.

#### **5. Closing Comments and Upcoming Topics (Buddy Richardson/JD Solomon)**

J. D. Solomon informed the members that the next meetings would focus on report reviews, with a plan for a presentation on drought management strategies. He noted his preference for an onsite meeting, to which the members of the RBC agreed. Buddy Richardson appreciated all members who joined virtually and encouraged them to continue providing feedback on the RBP Chapters drafts. He also appreciated Matt Lindburg for providing access to the drafts and following up with emails. He informed the members that due to official exigencies that require him to be out of state, he will not attend the meeting in September 2024 and consequently encouraged all members to make plans to be in attendance. Finally, he appreciated the Planning team for their support in making the meeting a success.

The next meeting will be held in-person and online (hybrid) on September 24th, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 9:33 AM.

Minutes: Chikezie Isiguzo and Tom Walker  
Approved: 9/24/24

09:14:42 From Winyah Rivers to Everyone:  
No. Thank you

09:23:05 From Douglas's iPad to Everyone:  
I made it

09:23:16 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I made it" with 👍

09:27:35 From mhemingway to Everyone:  
I agree that we continue to move forward with the documentation, we have in hand and recommend updated data when its received in the future.

09:28:26 From LindsayPrivette to Everyone:  
I agree as well that we keep moving forward as long as we have a plan for including it once available.

09:28:43 From Eric Krueger to Everyone:  
I'm good to move forward as well.

09:28:57 From Douglas's iPad to Everyone:  
Move on forward

09:29:04 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I agree that we cont..." with 👍

09:29:06 From mike b to Everyone:  
I am good to move forward

09:29:13 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I agree as well that..." with 👍

09:29:14 From Jeff Steinmetz to Everyone:  
I agree with moving forward and I like John' recommendation.

09:29:37 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I agree with moving ..." with 👍

09:29:44 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:

Reacted to "I am good to move fo..." with 👍  
09:29:50 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Move on forward" with 👍  
09:29:54 From Lloyd Richardson to Everyone:  
Reacted to "I'm good to move for..." with 👍  
09:31:16 From mhemingway to Everyone:  
Have a great day everyone!  
09:32:32 From Winyah Rivers to Everyone:  
Thank you. Have a good day.