



# Discussion and Development of Additional Plan Recommendations

# RBC Questions

1. What's the latest with the PPAC reformation? Any news?
2. Can we review how next steps will go for implementation? - Is the idea that the recommendations can serve as the basis for the next two years for the RBC?
3. It would be useful to review who is committed (folks that drew a 3 or 4 out of the envelope, if they are still committed, and determine the process for recruiting (application process?) new RBC members to replace those that are done after 2 years. – will that be in January, or will our onboarding be in March? How will that work across the state in general?
4. What funding is currently dedicated for ongoing work for our basin?

# RBC Term Lengths

First Name	Last Name	Term Length
Katherine	Amidon	4
David	Coggins	4
Brandon	Grooms	4
Rick	Huffman	4
Kevin	Miller	4
K.C.	Price	4
Kaleigh	Sims	4
Rebecca	Wade	4
Jeff	Boss	3
Paul	Lewis	3
Justin	McGrady	3
Larry	Nates	3
Josie	Newton	3
Jay	Nicholson	3
Eddie	Owen	3
Thompson	Smith	3
Charlie	Timmons	3
Michael	Waddell	3
Phil	Fragapane	2
Jason	Davis	2
Robert	Hanley	2
Patrick	Jackson	2
David	Lawrence	2
Tate	Davis	2
Devin	Orr	2
Melanie	Ruhlman	2
Rett	Templeton	2

# Suggestions

1. All recommendations need to be clear (not ambiguous) and measurable to benchmark our successful completion/implementation.
2. We should also note key or priority recommendations so it's clear what we as an RBC deem most important.

- **Recommendation needing only minor revision(s)**
- **Clear RBC consensus**



- **Not full RBC support**
- **May revisit to see if consensus can be achieved with revisions**



- **Minimal RBC support**
- **No clear path to consensus**
- **Drop**





# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

1. To continue positive progress at the state level for watershed planning and general environmental protection, the RBC calls for a state led assessment of the current funding to SCDES. A memorandum should be prepared explaining the funding needed to support our growing population and critical activities including the funds needed to implement the basin recommendations provided in the plans.

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- Communication between RBCs and DES about funding
- Request that the Legislature continue funding the planning process.
- Seed grant example (GA EPD)
- This rec was placed in the green bucket



# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

2. Safe yield is a concept originally developed for reservoirs and groundwater and was later applied to streams and rivers. It is defined as the “amount of water available for withdrawal from a particular surface water source in excess of the minimum instream flow or minimum water level for that surface source” and is the basis for the South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting Use, and Reporting Act. This terminology has led to lawsuits and is not grounded in science, nor does it account for the flashiness of the river system. Keeping ‘safe yield’ as a basis for our surface water allocations could result in additional lawsuits, dewatering, and/or over allocation. ~~This concept should be eliminated from state law and~~ **SCDES should study peer states/basins for a better determinant for allocating surface water resources.**

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- This rec was placed in the yellow bucket to be discussed later when the RBC considers recommendations about surface water law and regulation.



# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

3. The RBC requests that the legislative approved Surface Water Study Committee (as created by the 2024-2025 Appropriation Act, § 117.184) collaborate with the eight basin councils prior to proposing policy and rule changes to the South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting Use, and Reporting Act or any other water quality or quantity policy.

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- This rec was placed in the red bucket.
- Instead, the RBC Vice Chair will draft a letter to provide to the legislature encouraging collaboration with the RBCs.



# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

4. The RBC recommends that SCDES perform a benchmark analysis of our statewide water law, regulations, policies and manuals including but not limited to, riparian buffer protection, aquatic resource alterations, mass grading construction activity review, and the Storm Water Management BMP Field Manual. Documents should then be updated to incorporate recommendations from each of the basin councils and industry standards, providing examples to assist recommendations that are directed at municipalities.

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- This rec was placed in the yellow bucket to be discussed later when the RBC considers recommendations about surface water law and regulation.





# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

5. The RBC requests a call to action to each local jurisdiction within the basin to review their ordinances and design guidelines and consider inclusion of the following stormwater mitigation and groundwater recharge strategies:
  - a. Riparian Buffers - A vegetated area of land that is adjacent to a body of water. Riparian buffer help filter pollutants from runoff, reduces erosion, stabilizes streambanks, reduces flooding, and provides valuable riverside habitat for native plant and animal species.
  - b. Green Infrastructure - The Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2019 by the 115th Congress defines green infrastructure as "the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters."
  - c. Tree ordinances that evaluate tree canopy coverage as a stormwater mitigation tool. Consideration to the Green Infrastructure Center and the US Forest Service's Southern Region Trees 2 Offset H2O studies as a starting point is recommended.

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- This rec was placed in the yellow bucket to be discussed later.



# Potential Recommendations for Discussion

6. The RBC recommends that as part of the comprehensive planning process that each local jurisdiction across the state consult both the Resilience Plan developed by the South Carolina Office of Resilience and the associated river basin plan(s) developed by the RBCs for inclusion within the resilience element as required by the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act as amended in 2020. Ensure that zoning, land use, stormwater ordinances, etc. are adjusted to support the resilience element.

Consider adding hazard mitigation plans. Green/yellow

## RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- There was a suggestion to also reference the local Hazard Mitigation Plans in the recommendation
- There was support for this recommendation, however, the RBC elected to revisit it later
- This rec was placed in the green and yellow buckets, recognizing that it may need additional discussion and wordsmithing



# Questions and Ideas for Discussion (that May Lead to Recs)

## Water Utility Policies

What recent policy changes/performance changes has each water utility already implemented within the basin that could be considered as a basin wide recommendation?

- **The RBC encourages utilities to build resilience to ensure adequate quantity of water through identification of alternative sources including interconnections.**
- **The RBC encourages consideration of regionalization opportunities among water utilities.** Regionalization is one tool to better manage the availability of water resources and build resilience.

### RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- During discussion, the RBC identified and expressed support for establishing interconnections and for regionalization. CDM Smith will draft these into more formal recommendations for further RBC consideration.



# Questions and Ideas for Discussion (that May Lead to Recs)

## Water Utility Policies

~~Can we more specifically ask that water utilities statewide develop triggers for mandating water conservation strategies (such as curtaining car-washing and residential irrigation) based on drought level for a statewide approach?~~

~~Are there annexation requirements that could be considered regarding water/wastewater connections to assist with water quantity allocation? (eliminating donut holes could be good)~~

### RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- These questions and ideas did not result in the identification of recommendations



# Questions and Ideas for Discussion (that May Lead to Recs)

## Data

Is there value in a periodic review of basin flow characteristics (over a more condensed recent past ~30ish years)?

Does 7Q10 really make sense as we plan for the future, especially as we consider the distant (75+ year) past data?

Stream and river systems change over time, if we are incorporating stream data within the 7Q10 analysis that experienced significant change (installation of a dam, channel straightening, significant land use change) are we really getting an understanding of what could be the future flow?

Use of median flow rather than mean for water allocation...

### RBC DISCUSSION NOTES

- There was discussion regarding a recommendation about focusing the analysis using hydrologic data from only the past 30-years, recognizing that land use changes and climate trends over the last 30 or so years may be more useful for modeling purposes, than using hydrologic data from 30-90 years ago.
- The September RBC meeting will resume with this discussion.

