


Final Discussion and Development of Plan Recommendations



The RBC encourages state and local governments to develop/review/update/adopt and enforce laws, regulations, policies, and/or ordinances that improve the management of stormwater runoff, encourage infiltration, minimize streambank erosion, reduce sedimentation, and protect water resources. The following are RBC-recommended best management practices:

- Riparian buffer protection
- Open space protection
- Strengthening stormwater regulations to minimize stormwater runoff volume from construction sites
- Incentivizing green infrastructure in development designs
- Allocating local funding sources for land conservation

Approved by RBC consensus



- Regulation for open space protection **(8 of 9)**

- **Definition: Open space includes all unbuilt areas, whether publicly or privately owned, protected or unprotected. Open space lands include forests and grasslands, farms and ranches, streams and rivers, and parks.**

We will add the definition of open space (per USFS) in the narrative to the recommendation, for RBC consideration as they review the draft chapter.*

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/loss-of-open-space#:~:text=Open%20space%20includes%20all%20unbuilt,and%20offer%20opportunities%20for%20recreation>



Majority approved Recommendations Pertaining to Surface Water Law and Regulation

- **The South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act should allow for reasonable use criteria to be applied to all new surface water withdrawals, like those that currently exist for groundwater withdrawals.**
- **Improve the current laws that allow for regulation of water use so that they are enforceable and effective. The current water law, which grandfathers most water users, needs to be improved to support effective management of the state's water resources.**

Save Our Saluda Proposed Recommendations

- **Require permits statewide for all existing and new water withdrawals over 3 MGM, including those before 2011 and all registered users. All users must be evaluated for reasonableness and must meet minimum instream flow (MIF) requirements.** [9 for, 9 against, 2 abstain. We will add these results to the last paragraph of the Chapter which presented results of previous vote on permits vs. registrations rec]
- **SCDNR/SCDES to review the science behind minimum instream flow (MIF) standards to ensure they are based on best available science to adequately protect designated uses and recognize regional differences.** [approved by consensus]
- **Review the implementing regulations [ID it] to ensure consistency with the law [ID it], including a review of the existing definition of “safe yield” (SY) in the implementing regulations. Redefine how SY is determined to be consistent with the law and protective of minimum instream flow requirements that safeguard the integrity and designated uses of state waters.** [approved by consensus]

Permits and Registrations (from Dec Meeting)

- **Water law and implementing regulations should not distinguish between registrations and permits.** All water users that withdraw above the identified threshold should be required to apply for a water withdrawal permit. Current law allows for agricultural surface water users and all groundwater users withdrawing water outside of CUAs to register their water use rather than apply for permits.

8 For

8 Against

3 abstain

Alignment with Existing Water Plans

- The water withdrawal permitting process should specifically assess the permit application's alignment with the current River Basin Plan, particularly regarding proposed withdrawals, returns, resource conservation, and drought response.

Adopted by the B RBC.



Neither of these recs
adopted by Saluda RBC

- The water withdrawal permitting process should specifically assess the permit application's alignment with the legislatively-approved State Water Plan.

Adopted by the US and LSS RBC