



# May RBC Meeting Review

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Agenda Item 4



# Approved Drought Response Recommendations

- The RBC encourages water utilities in the basin to consider drought surcharges on water use during severe and/or extreme drought phases.
- When droughts occur, the RBC encourages water users and those with water interests to submit their drought impact observations through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR).
- The RBC recommends the funding and establishment of a mesoscale network of weather and climate monitoring stations in South Carolina



# Approved Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations

- The South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act should allow for reasonable use criteria to be applied to all surface water withdrawals, like those that currently exist for groundwater withdrawals. **All withdrawals should be revisited if they don't occur within 3 years, or within a 3-year period.** [The highlighted part was added during this meeting, after additional RBC discussion]
- Improve the current laws that allow for regulation of water use so that they are enforceable and effective.
- The South Carolina Legislature authorize recurring funding as requested by SCDES for annual, ongoing water planning activities, including river basin planning.
- The South Carolina Legislature should establish a grant program to help support the implementation of the actions and strategies identified each RBC's River Basin Plan.

# Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations Put in the **Yellow Bucket**

- **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 Capacity Use Areas to register their water use rather than apply for permits.
- **The water withdrawal permitting process should specifically assess the permit application's alignment with the current River Basin Plan [or alternatively, the legislatively approved State Water Plan].**

# Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations – Parking Lot

- Duration of Permit – Is every 5 years for groundwater permit review and renewal too restrictive? Concern expressed that it hinders long-term planning and impacts investment in infrastructure.
- Alignment of GW and SW permitting systems
- Reporting of water use (bought from a water utility) above a certain volume.

