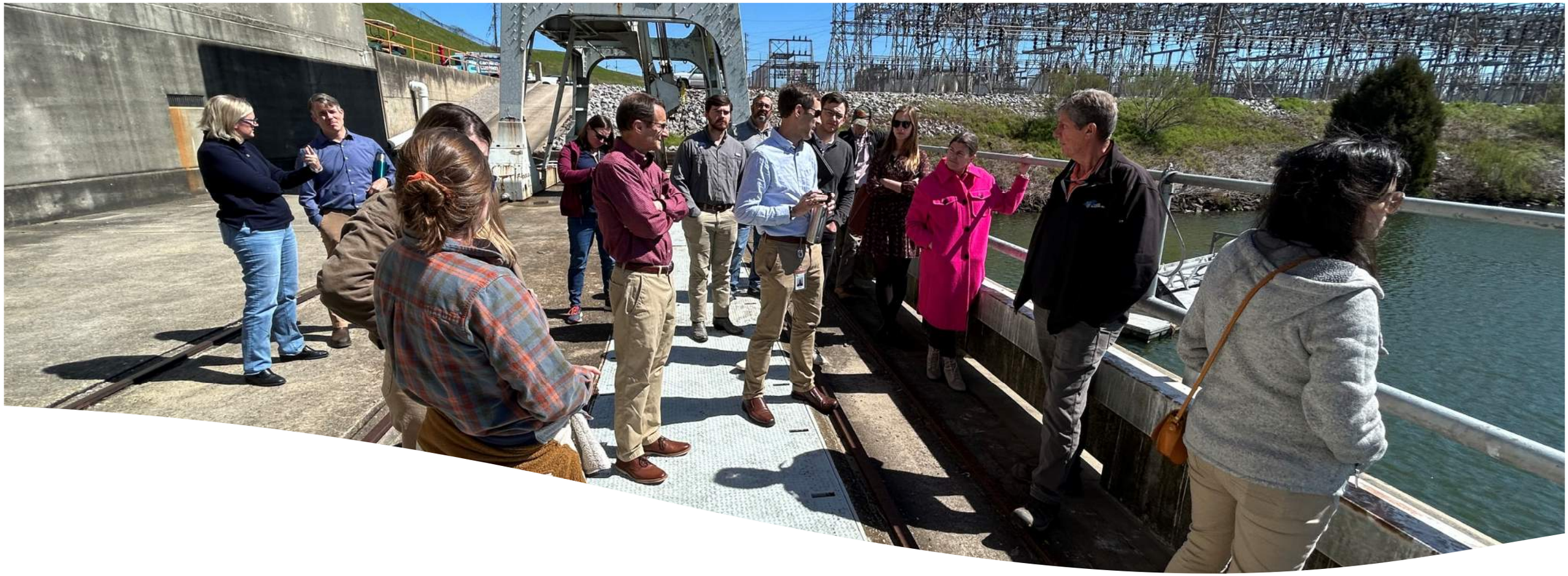

July RBC Meeting Review

John Boyer, CDM Smith

Agenda Item 3

RBC Consensus on Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations

- The safe yield definition should be updated using median statistics (80% median rather than 80% mean or average) in recognition that median statistics more accurately characterize typical water availability in stream flows that are non-normally distributed.
- All permits and registrations requesting volumes above safe yield (80% median) should be required to develop and submit to SCDES, realistic contingency and/or conservation capabilities and plans commensurate with their requested volume which will trigger at minimum instream flow.

RBC Consensus on Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations

- When considering MIF and MWL criteria for new permits, SCDES should be allowed to use alternative hydrologic assessments and take into account water quality considerations due to complex hydrology, as is the case in coastal areas impacted by tides. SCDNR/SCDES should review the science behind MIF standards to ensure they are based on best available science to adequately protect designated uses and recognize regional differences.

- Require high use industrial water users (3 mgm) purchasing from a municipal supply to report monthly water usage to SCDES, aligning with existing SCDES water use reporting requirements.

Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations to be Further Discussed

- The Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act (SC Code Sections 49-4-10 and the R. 61-119) should be amended to require all surface water withdrawals (existing, new, and registrants) over 3,000,000 gallons a month to be subject to permit requirements and review.

- Review periods for groundwater and surface water permit renewal should be re-evaluated, to facilitate long-term planning efforts, support bond issuance, protect withdrawers' investment in infrastructure, and protect the biological, physical and chemical integrity. Existing regulations should be amended to align users' renewal periods and permit requirements for surface water and groundwater withdrawals as much as reasonably possible.

Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations to be Further Discussed

- Minimum instream flows (MIF) and minimum water levels (MWL) should be based on median statistics in recognition that median statistics more accurately characterize typical water availability, since most stream flows are non-normally distributed.