



## Meeting Summary

### Santee River Basin Council Meeting No. 1 (Hybrid Format)

Date:	December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Time:	11:00 AM
Location:	Old Santee Canal Park's Learning Center (900 Stoney Landing Road, Moncks Corner, Sc 29461)
Prepared by:	CDM Smith
RBC Members Present:	Todd Biegger, W.E. Mickey Johnson, Jr., Sarah Wiggins, Mike Wooten, Michael Melchers, Brandon Stutts*, Riley Egger*, John Grego, David Wielicki, Hixon Copp, Jeff Ruble, Alicia Wilson, Allan Clum, Jason Thompson, Baker Stevens (Alternate)
RBC Members Absent:	Jeff Ruble
Planning Team Present:	John Boyer, Kirk Westphal*, Amy Shaw*, Scott Harder, Brooke Czwartacki, Alexis Modzelesky, Andy Wachob, Joe Koon*, Leigh Anne Monroe, Hannah Hartley <i>*Attended virtually</i>

### Action Items

1. RBC members to consider whether they would like to serve as the Chair or Vice Chair and/or consider nominating another member prior to or at the February 28<sup>th</sup> RBC meeting
2. RBC members should review the Water Planning Framework.
3. RBC members should consider identifying an alternate who can fill in for them in they need to miss a meeting and should provide the alternates name and contact information to John Boyer.
4. RBC members should consider the RBC's identified priorities for managing the Santee River basin and come prepared to the February 28<sup>th</sup> RBC Meeting read to develop a vision and goals that will help meet those priorities.
5. John will distribute example vision statements and goals from the other RBCs ahead of the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Decisions

1. The RBC decided to meet next on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and on the second Tuesday of each month thereafter, from 9 am until 1 pm.
2. The RBC decided to continue meeting at the Old Santee Canal Park Learning Center for the time being.
3. RBC members decided to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the February 28<sup>th</sup> RBC meeting.
4. John decided to postpone the random selection of RBC term limits (2, 3, or 4 years) until the February 28<sup>th</sup> RBC meeting.

## Meeting Agenda

The following items were on the agenda, which was approved by RBC motion:

- Welcome
- Review of meeting objectives and approval of the agenda
- RBC and Planning Team Introductions
- Public Comments
- Overview of River Basin Planning, the Planning Framework, and Examples
- Review of RBC Bylaws
- Group Discussion on Basin Priorities
- Future RBC Meeting Discussion

## Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 11 am, with Scott Harder welcoming the RBC members. Scott shared background information on the RBC process noting that the Santee Basin River Plan will need to be developed in about 10 months. Scott introduced John Boyer of CDM Smith as the lead facilitator.

John Boyer reviewed the meeting objectives, introduced members of the Planning Team, and allowed each of the RBC members to introduce themselves and discuss their interest in serving on the RBC.

John provided the opportunity for public and agency comment. No comments were offered.

Scott Harder provided an overview of the history of water planning in the state and the progression to the current water planning framework and the recent formation of the WaterSC Working Group. He described the eight river basins in the state and why the state adopted a bottom-up approach that encourages stakeholder engagement and participation. Scott described the five-step process of water planning in the planning framework and noted that the groundwater assessment models would not be available during the first iteration of planning. He drew attention to the 50-year planning horizon and the emphasis on identifying the potential for water shortages under drought conditions. Scott noted the status of the other river basin plans, as well as the overall state water plan.

John Boyer discussed the questions that the river basin plans are intended to address, which focus on identifying (1) currently available water supply and demands, (2) the total amount of permitted and registered withdrawals, (3) the ability to meet all water demands over the 50-year planning horizon, and (4) management strategies needed to meet demands. John gave examples of strategies recommended in other basins – such as water reuse. He reminded the members of the guiding principles, which include acknowledging that water is a finite essential resource that needs to be made available to users and shared equitably while ensuring sustainability.

John gave an overview of the RBC roles/responsibilities and how to elect a chair/vice-chair. He recommended electing a chair/vice-chair by the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Brooke Czwartacki discussed the major water features of the Santee River basin. She presented data from historical figures of water supply and demand in the basin. She introduced the Simplified Water Allocation Model (SWAM) will be used to evaluate multiple demand scenarios and noted that although no groundwater modeling will be performed in this phase, groundwater withdrawal data and groundwater demand projections will be

used to inform groundwater recommendations. John followed up Brooke by discussing the four phases of the planning process.

John Boyer reviewed the RBC Bylaws and discussed how the RBC will operate. He emphasized the importance of identifying an alternate and noted that alternates are welcome to attend all meetings. In the interest of time, the discussion on specific term member lengths was tabled until the next meeting.

A breakout session was held to discuss basin priorities. The RBC members divided into three groups and after some time for discussion, reported back to the full RBC. Numerous priorities were identified, including but not limited to knowing how limited the basin is in terms of supply, protecting groundwater resources, ensuring equitable use of water, and promoting a water conservation ethic.

To close the meeting, it was decided that future meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for January, beginning at 9 am and ending by 1 pm. For January, the meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the same facility - Old Santee Canal Park's Learning Center.