

**Location:**

September 11, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 13 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

**Action Items:**

1. RBC members to come prepared to discuss water law and regulation. Think about Broad recommendations and Upper Savannah potential recommendations.
2. CDM Smith to analyze amount of sedimentation it would take to disrupt water supply in USACE lakes (October or November meeting)

**Decisions:**

1. The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)
2. Upper Savannah RBC Vision Statement: A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs. (September 2023)
3. US RBC Goals: 1. Within 24 months, develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Upper Savannah River Basin in order to:
  - a. Ensure water resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.
  - b. Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.
  - c. Promote balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.
  - d. Advocate for responsible land use practices.
  - e. Identify funding sources.
2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Upper Savannah River Basin.
3. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin. (September 2023)

#### **4. The USBRC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)**

##### **Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- July Meeting Review
- Introduction to Draft River Basin Plan Chapters 2 and 3
- Review and Refinement of Planning Process Recommendations
- Development of Technical Recommendations
- Review of Water Withdrawal Law and Regulations and Overview of SCDES Role in Water Planning
- Discussion and Development of Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

##### **Meeting Summary (September 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Jill Miller, USBRC Chair, called the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The thirteenth meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Upper Savannah RBC members and planning team, there were 32 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from July. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the July meeting highlights. John Boyer provided a brief introduction to draft Chapters 2 and 3 of the Upper Savannah River Basin Plan.

Ashley Reid and John Boyer, CDM Smith, facilitated additional discussion with the USBRC members on planning process recommendations. The RBC members went through draft recommendations and chose green, yellow, or red buckets that indicated approval, the need for more discussion and refinement, or getting rid of certain recommendations. The items discussed included: engagement planning, elected officials serving on the council, membership, future scope of the RBC, collaboration with other RBCs, process of updating the State Water Plan, continued funding, grant program, and discussion of AgWRAP in NC.

Next, the RBC discussed technical recommendations for the plan. The discussion focused on modeling, sedimentation, stream gages, and a mesoscale network.

Joe Koon and Hannah Hartley, SCDES, discussed the role of SCDES in water planning and a refresher of water withdrawal law and regulations in SC. Joe discussed the water resources division, changes to be aware of, and the plan to keep moving forward on the River Basin Plans and State Water Plan. Hannah discussed the SC Surface Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act which included relevant regulation, permitted and registered volumes (safe yield and minimum instream flows), existing withdrawer criteria, new withdrawer criteria, and agricultural registration criteria.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid and John Boyer discussing the next Upper Savannah RBC meeting which will be held at the Starr Iva water district office. The RBC members were tasked with starting to think about Broad RBC recommendations and then think through possible Upper Savannah water law and regulation recommendations. The next meeting will be held October 9, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 1:56 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 10/9/24