

Location:

December 11, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 16 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. RBC to review draft chapters and provide feedback
2. RBC members to send in pictures of the basin for the river basin plan

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 USRBC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- November Meeting Review
- Overview of RBC Comments
- Finish Discussion and Development of Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations
- Develop Implementation Plan
- Upcoming Meeting and Draft Chapter Review Schedule

Meeting Summary (December 11th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the December 11th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:01 AM. The sixteenth 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 25 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from November. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the November meeting highlights. A brief update of the WaterSC group was discussed with RBC members. John Boyer provided an overview of RBC comments on draft chapters 5 and 6. John introduced draft chapters 7 and 8 of the plan.

John Boyer and the RBC finished the discussion and development of policy, legislative, and regulatory recommendations. Topics discussed included reasonable use, improving current laws, the continuation of water planning, establishment of a grant program, permitting process, SC legislative adoption of the State Water Plan, a compact between GA and SC councils for the Savannah River basin, and education programs.

The RBC started working on the implementation plan. A look ahead to the implementation plan included: objectives, strategies, and actions, schedule, and budget. The USRBC then worked through 5 of the 6 proposed objectives for the implementation plan: improve water use efficiency to conserve water resources, communicate, coordinate, and promote findings and recommendations from RBP, improve technical understanding of water resources management issues, protect water resources, & improve drought management. The sixth objective, to promote engagement in water planning process, will continue to be drafted and put into draft chapter 10.

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 USRBC is still in line to complete the plan by April or May. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2025.

The meeting concluded at 2:04 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 1/8/25