

Location:

January 8, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 17 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. RBC to review draft chapters and provide feedback

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
- December Meeting Review
- Develop Implementation Plan
- Review of Draft Chapters
- Upcoming Meeting and Draft Chapter Review Schedule

Meeting Summary (January 8th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the January 8th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The seventeenth 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 33 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 December. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the December meeting highlights. A brief update of the WaterSC group was discussed with RBC members. Melissa Griffin, SCDNR SCO, provided an update on the next Drought Tabletop Exercise on March 5th.

John Boyer and the RBC finished the discussion and development of the implementation plan. The RBC worked through various objectives in the implementation plan. The objectives discussed were to improve drought management, promote engagement in the water planning process, and improve technical understanding of water resource management. John Boyer then facilitated discussion and selection of progress metrics with the RBC members.

John Boyer and Ashley Reid reviewed draft chapters 7, 8, and 9 with the RBC members and requested feedback on draft chapters.

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. Chapter 10 and the whole draft plan will be ready ahead of the next USRBC meeting for review. The next meeting will be held on February 12, 2025.

The meeting concluded at 1:48 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 2/12/25