

Location:

November 13, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 15 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. RBC members to come prepared to finalize policy recommendations and discuss implementation plan
2. RBC to review draft chapters 5 & 6 and provide feedback
3. RBC members to send in pictures of the basin for the river basin plan
4. CDM Smith to review recommendations to be more meaningful

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
- October Meeting Review
- Overview of RBC Comments
- Sedimentation Projections for USACE Reservoirs and Modeling Update
- Finish Discussion and Development of Technical Recommendations
- Discuss and Development of Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations
- Update on Draft River Basin Plan Chapter Status and RBC Review Schedule
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (November 13th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the November 13th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fifteenth 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 28 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 October. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the October meeting highlights. Joe Koon, SCDES, provided a summary of WaterSC and the announced the approval of the stakeholder engagement plan at the initial meeting. John Boyer provided an overview of RBC comments on draft chapters 2, 3, and 4.

Amy Shaw, CDM Smith, presented *Sedimentation Projections for USACE Reservoirs* and a modeling update. Amy started by presenting information about storage loss in the three USACE reservoirs on the Savannah River. Amy discussed that there were some uncertainties in the accuracy of the initial construction surveys. According to the USACE, they will be conducting bathymetric surveys in the next 10 years. The assumed storage loss information was shared with the RBC members for Lake Hartwell, Lake Russell, and Lake Thurmond. The results indicated that the projected storage loss will have a minor impact on water availability.

Next, John Boyer and the RBC finished the discussion and development of technical recommendations. The RBC worked through yellow bucket recommendations and decided whether to keep or toss them for the draft plan. After finalizing technical recommendations, the RBC moved into discussion of policy, legislative and regulatory recommendations for the remainder of the meeting. At the next meeting, the RBC will finish the policy, legislative and regulatory recommendations and discuss the implementation plan.

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 reviewing and providing feedback on draft chapters 5 and 6 and to be prepared to finalize policy recommendations and work on the implementation plan. The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:03 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 12/11/24