

Location:

February 16, 2022
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Clemson Edisto REC
Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

- 1. RBC members currently without an alternate are reminded to select an alternate from the same water use interest category.**
- 2. RBC members are required to inform the Planning Team in advance of the RBC meeting if they will not be in attendance and if their alternate will be present.**
- 3. Public Comments for call-ins at the RBC meeting are to be sent to Tom Walker tcwalke@clermson.edu**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda and January 19th Minutes and Summary Documents
- Public Comment Period
- Old business/New business Discussion
- Update on Edisto River Basin Plan
- Land Use Implications to Evapotranspiration and Water Budgets
- Groundwater Modeling Results for Current Use and Fully Registered and Permitted Scenarios
- Evaluation of Modeled Agricultural Surface Water User Shortages and Storage as a Water Management Strategy
- Review and Discussion of Surface Water Conditions and Management Strategies
- Upcoming RBC agenda and schedule

Meeting Summary (February 16th)

The Edisto RBC Chair, Hank Stallworth, called the February 16th meeting of the Edisto RBC to order at 9:01 AM. The twentieth meeting of the Edisto RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Edisto RBC members and planning team, there were 46 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Hank Stallworth discussing the agenda items for the meeting. The Edisto RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the January 19th minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received.

John Boyer introduced the first major agenda item regarding the writing of the Edisto River Basin Plan. The first section of the plan has been drafted and is out for subcommittee review and comment. The entire Edisto RBC will review the first section once it is approved by the plan subcommittee.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Dr. Devendra Amatya of the U.S. Forest Service entitled: *Land Use Implications to Evapotranspiration and Water Budgets*. Devendra's presentation was solicited for this meeting to improve Edisto RBC understanding of water use in the basin by forests. Several meeting discussions on surface water supply side and demand side strategies have included some discussion regarding forest water use. One of the summary points in the presentation was that forest land use yielded higher evapotranspiration than agricultural crops.

The next presentation was from the USGS presented by Matthew Petkewich and Greg Cherry entitled: *Simulation of Groundwater Flow in the Edisto River Basin, South Carolina*. The results were presented by aquifer in Current Scenario and Permitted Scenario format and included groundwater flow, water levels and water budget information for each aquifer. Business-as-usual and High Demand scenario results will be presented at the March meeting of the Edisto RBC.

John Boyer lead a discussion on agricultural surface water user shortages that had been modeled and presented in previous Edisto RBC meetings. Previously, John had discussed investigating these modeled shortages in the Edisto river basin with possible evidence that these shortages might not be occurring due to the use of farm ponds or impoundments. Using high resolution remote sensing imagery, John was able to determine that most shortages would likely only take place during drought periods due to farm pond or impoundment use in the basin. John also reviewed a simulated reservoir modeling exercise on the Edisto river.

Finally, the RBC meeting moved to a discussion of surface water conditions and management strategies. A review of water management strategies was presented and then the RBC was asked whether they wanted to move forward with making any decisions regarding adding additional surface water strategies, setting surface water conditions, and voting on the proposed low flow management strategy. After some discussion, the RBC decided to wait to move forward on surface water decisions until after the RBC has had a chance to review groundwater modeling scenario results and discuss groundwater management strategies.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing items for the next meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Edisto RBC meeting will be held March 16, 2022.

The meeting concluded at 12:25 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 3/17/2022