



Broad River Basin Council Phase 3/4 Progress Report

August 2023

1.0 Introduction

The South Carolina State Water Planning Framework requires River Basin Councils (RBCs) to prepare and submit progress reports after each phase of the river basin plan development. This progress report covers Phase 3 and the early portion of Phase 4 of the Broad River basin planning process spanning from April 2023 to August 2023.

The Phase 3/4 Progress Report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of these two phases, including key milestones reached, and identifies existing and potential issues regarding schedule and funding. Anticipated challenges as the RBC completes Phase 4 of the planning process are also identified.

2.0 Activities and Accomplishments

2.1 RBC Meetings

Four monthly RBC meetings were held during the Phase 3/4 planning period. No meeting was held during July 2023. All meetings were conducted as hybrid meetings. Most RBC members attended in person, while some members attended meetings virtually using the Zoom platform. Meeting durations were typically 3-4 hours. Meeting summaries and minutes were distributed to meeting attendees.

2.2 Phase 3 and 4 Objectives

The objectives of Phase 3 were to:

- Identify and evaluate the effectiveness of water management strategies to reduce or eliminate shortages and enhance water availability.
- Evaluate the feasibility of water management strategies, including assessing costs and benefits.
- Select and prioritize the water management strategies.
- Finalize Reaches of Interests and Groundwater Areas of Concern.
- Review process metrics and make adjustments where needed.

The objectives of Phase 4 are to:

- Prepare and issue a Draft River Basin Plan for public comment.
- Conduct a public meeting to present the Draft River Basin Plan.
- Accept and address public comments on the Draft River Basin Plan.
- Prepare a Final River Basin Plan and present the final plan at a public meeting.

2.3 Accomplishments

Information Sharing

Several technical/informational presentations were made to the RBC during the Phase 3 meetings. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) staff provided an overview of conceptual changes to surface water laws and regulations. CDM Smith continued to provide summaries of supply-side strategy model evaluations.

Evaluation of Surface Water Management Strategies

Supply-side strategies evaluated included: (1) the effectiveness of a proposed reservoir to provide additional storage and supply for the Proposed Lee Nuclear Facility and (2) additional supply side strategies for Gaffney. The results of these water management strategy evaluations were presented to the RBC. The assessment of the feasibility of the demand- and supply-side strategies was completed.

Development of Recommendations

During this reporting period, the RBC moved into Phase 4 and discussed and developed planning process, technical, policy, legislative, and regulatory recommendations. The recommendations, most of which were consensus-based, were documented in Chapter 9 of the Plan. Recommendations related to drought response were documented in Chapter 8 of the Plan.

Development of an Implementation Plan

The RBC also began developing an Implementation Plan to establish a path for implementing the water management strategies selected and documented in Chapter 7 of the plan, and the recommendations documented in Chapters 8 and 9. The Implementation Plan identified five overarching objectives which encompassed the suite of water management strategies and recommendations identified by the RBC. For each objective, strategies were identified to achieve the objective, and 5-year actions to implement the strategies were developed. For each action, a responsible party or parties was/were identified and the cost of implementing the action was estimated. Where possible, the RBC prioritized strategies and actions.

Development of the Draft Broad River Basin Plan

During this period, work continued on the Draft Broad River Basin Plan. Draft chapters were circulated to the RBC, SCDHEC, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for review and comment. CDM Smith also began working on a draft of the plan's executive summary.

2.4 Activities Not Completed

All activities outlined in the Planning Framework for Phase 3 were completed. Work under Phase 4 continues.

3.0 Issues Impacting Schedule and Funding

No issues have been identified that are expected to impact the schedule or funding of the planning process through completion of Phase 4. The process is currently on track to potentially finish several months ahead of schedule.

4.0 Challenges

The only identified potential challenge is maintaining adequate representation and participation from all water interest categories. No additional resignations occurred during this reporting period. The RBC currently stands at 20 members, with interest group representation as shown in **Figure 1**. Participation has generally been strong, with most members attending most meetings in-person, and occasionally virtually; however, four members missed 3 of the 4 meetings during this reporting period and one member missed 2 of the 4 meetings.

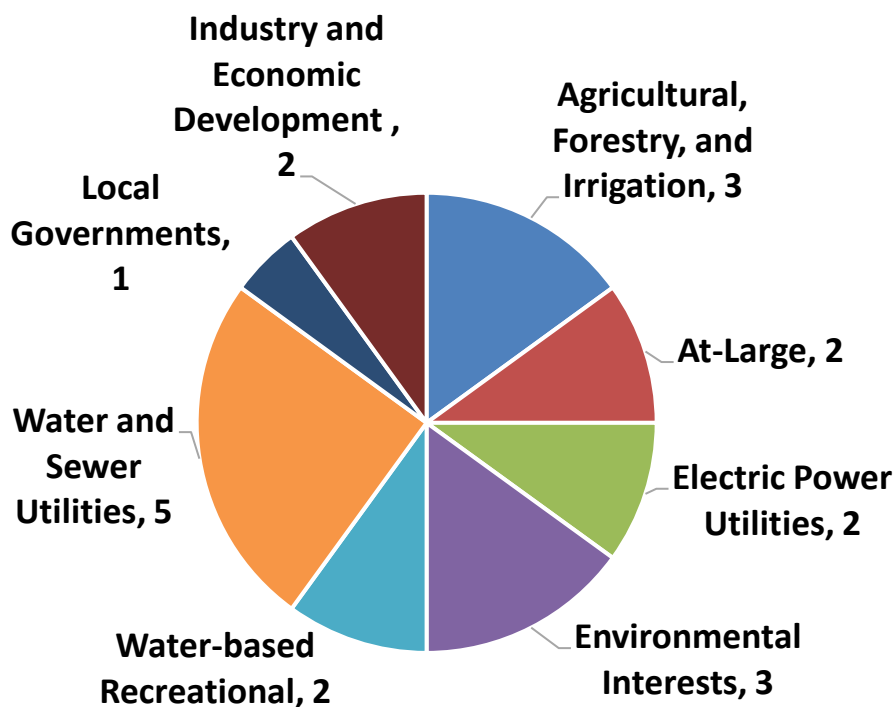


Figure 1. Broad RBC Interest Category Representation (as of 8/18/23)