



# Planning Framework Overview

Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council – Meeting #2, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Bull Durham Center, Estill, SC

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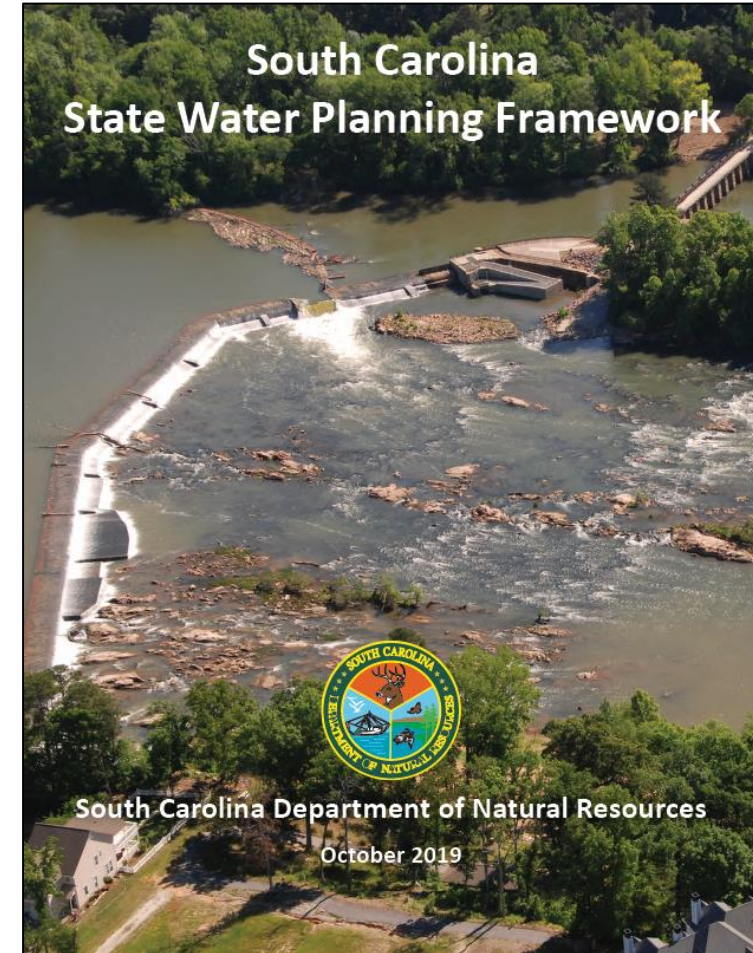




# Contents of Planning Framework

## Sections:

1. Executive Summary
  2. Introduction
  3. River Basin Planning Process
  4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
  5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
  6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
  7. River Basin Plan Implementation
  8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws



Planning Framework is available for review and download at:

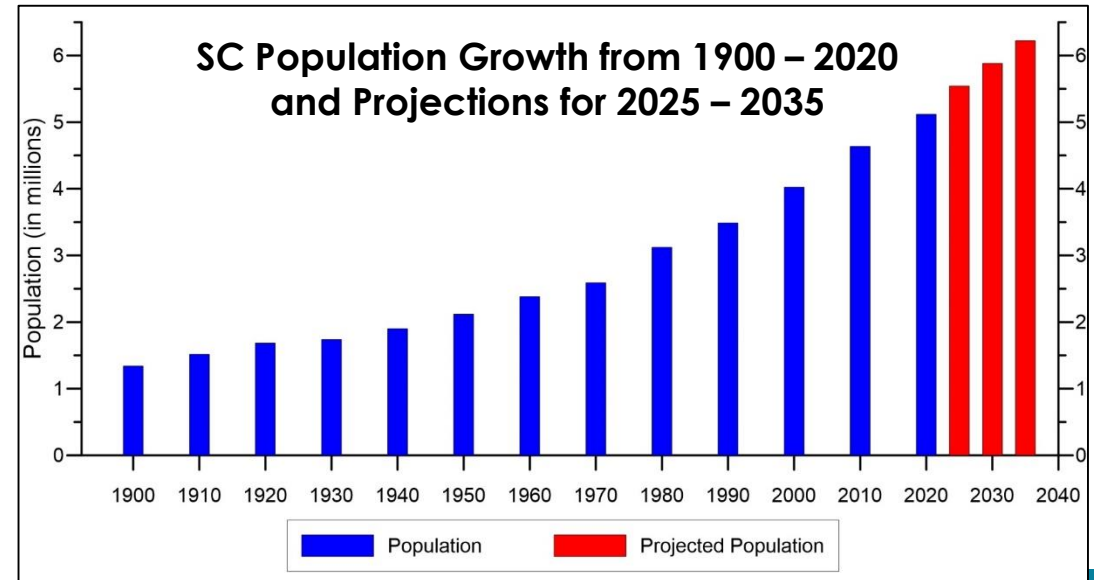
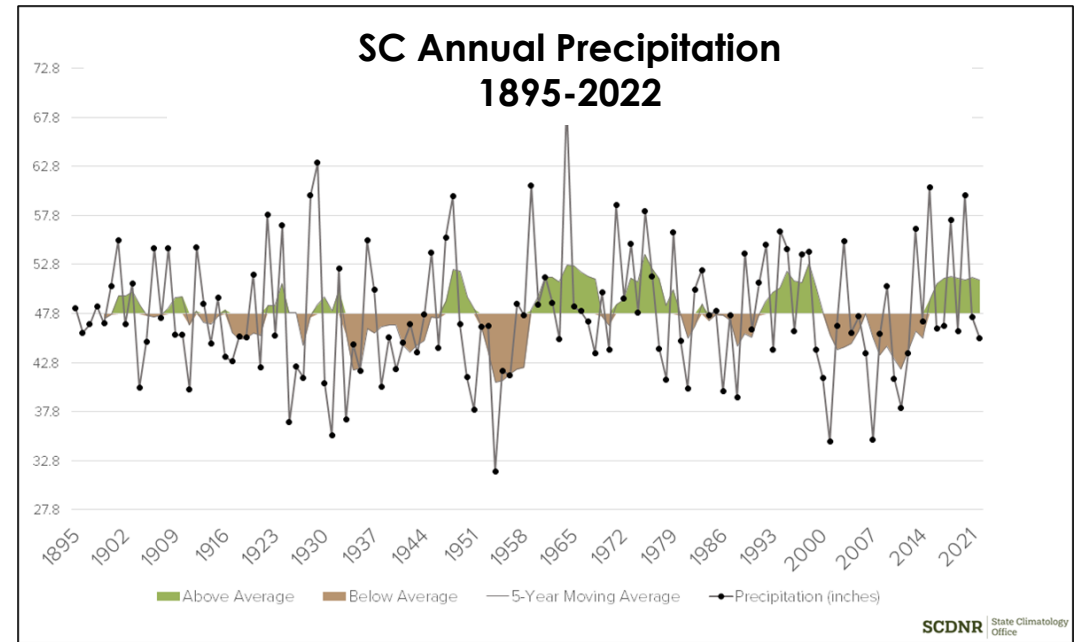
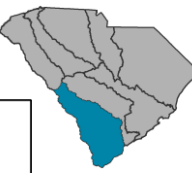
<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning-framework.html>

# Section 2. Introduction

Describes:

- Purpose and importance of state and river basin planning.
- Role of State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC).
- Guiding principles.
- Regulatory framework.

*Much of this information was presented at the first Council meeting.*

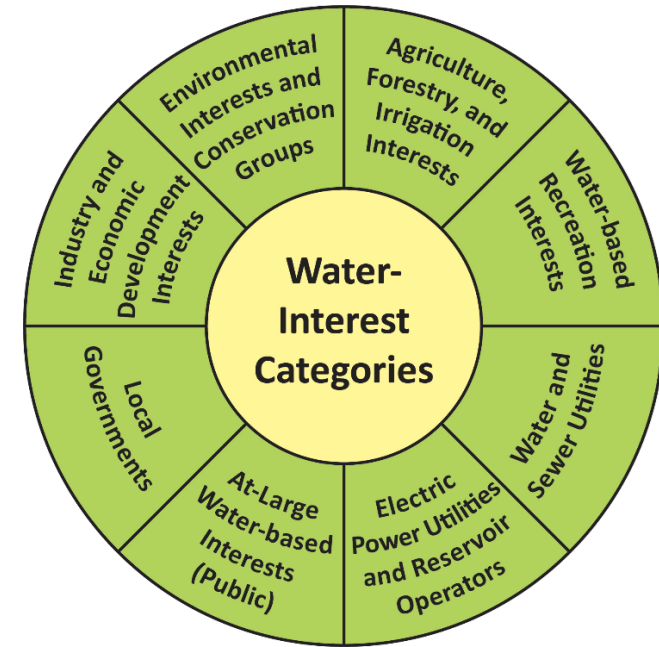


# Section 3. River Basin Planning Process



Describes:

- How the River Basin Plan will be developed.
- The roles and responsibilities of:
  - River Basin Councils
  - State and Federal Agencies
  - Contractors
  - PPAC
  - Stakeholder/public participation.
  - Coordination with other planning bodies and committees.



# Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability



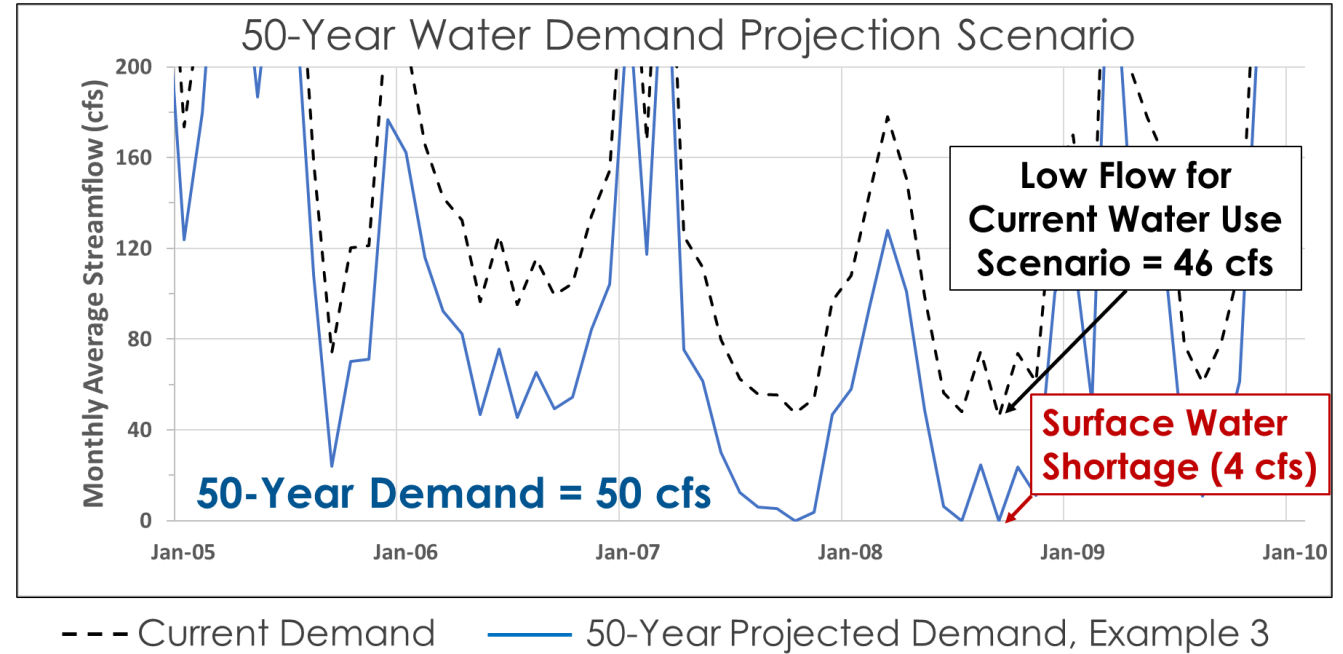
- Based, in part, on methodologies used in Texas for evaluating water availability.
- Provides consistency – designates a common set of definitions and processes to use across the State.

***Big Picture – this is a gap analysis; the RBC will be determining where and when demand exceeds supply under varying demand scenarios and deciding how to manage water to close the gaps.***

# Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability



- Describes:
  - Hydrologic models used to evaluate water availability.
  - Four scenarios for evaluation.
  - Approach to evaluating water management strategies.
- Defines:
  - Surface and Groundwater Availability.
  - Surface and Groundwater Shortage, etc.

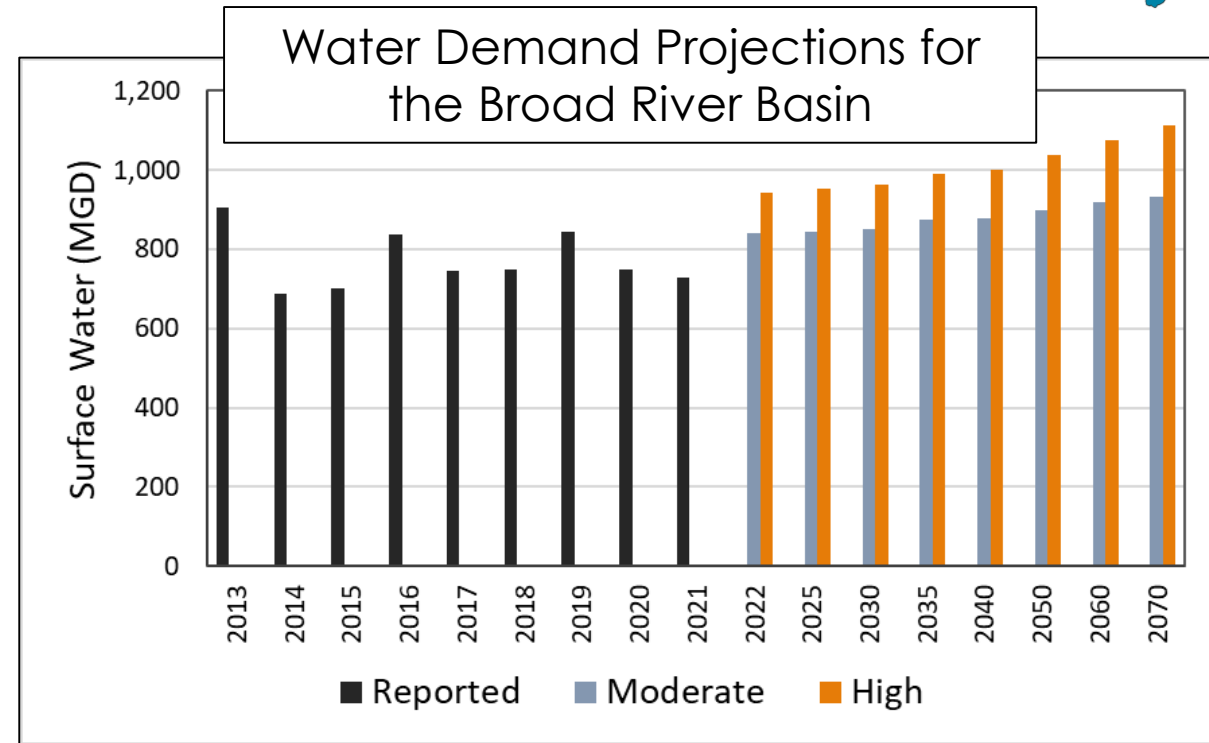


***A future RBC meeting will cover this section in more detail.***



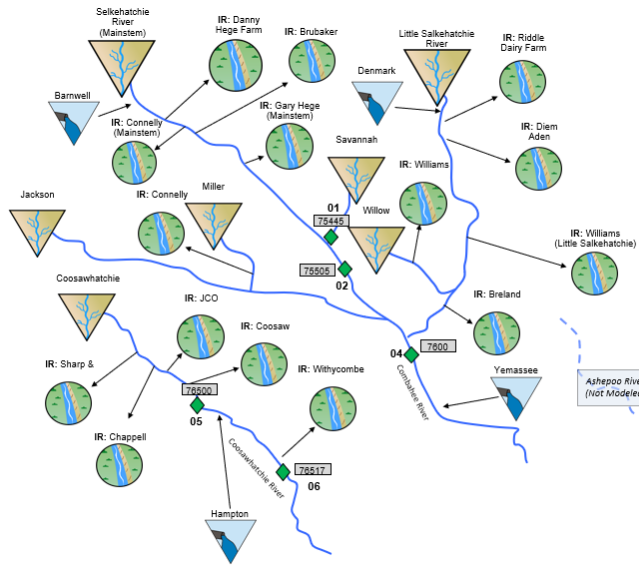
# Surface Water Demand Scenarios

- Four scenarios to be reviewed by each River Basin Council:
  1. Current Surface Water Use
  2. Permitted and Registered Water Use
  3. Moderate Water-Demand Projection
  4. High Water-Demand Projection
- Scenarios focus on “water demand” side as opposed to “water supply” side.
- Additional water demand scenarios can be recommended by the RBC:
  - Based on different assumptions used in existing projections (more aggressive growth rates, for example).

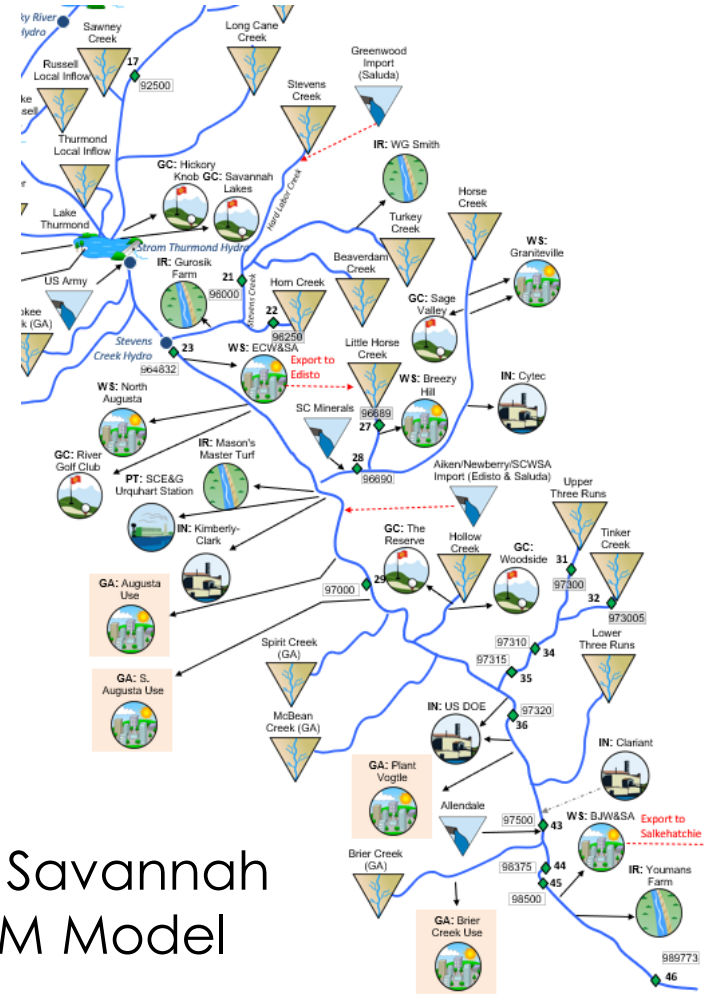




# Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Surface Water Models



Salkehatchie SWAM Model



Lower Savannah SWAM Model

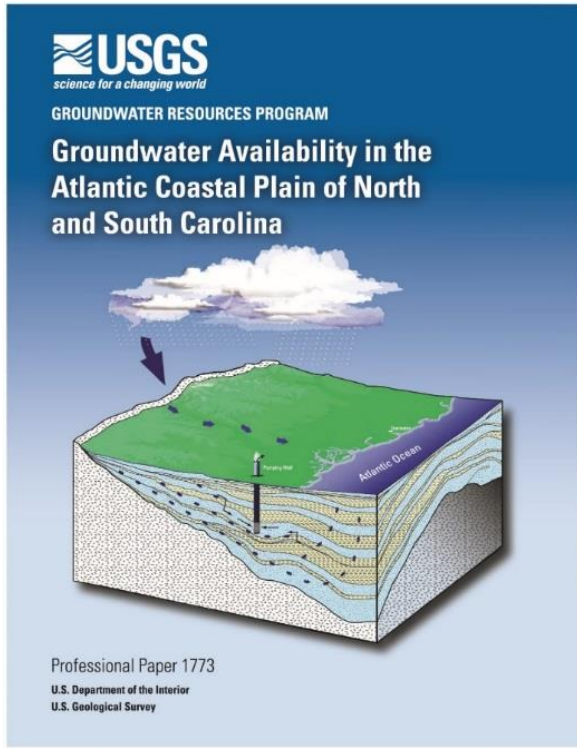
*Model is a decision-making tool used to assess water availability and management strategies, and will support the development of River Basin Plans*



<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/surface-water-models.html>



# Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Groundwater Model



- USGS Coastal Plain Groundwater model completed in 2021.
  - Regional model will be developed in coming year.
- ***Model is a decision-making tool used to assess groundwater availability and management strategies and will support the development of River Basin Plans.***
- More information can be found at <https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/groundwater-models.html>.

# Technical Advisory Committees

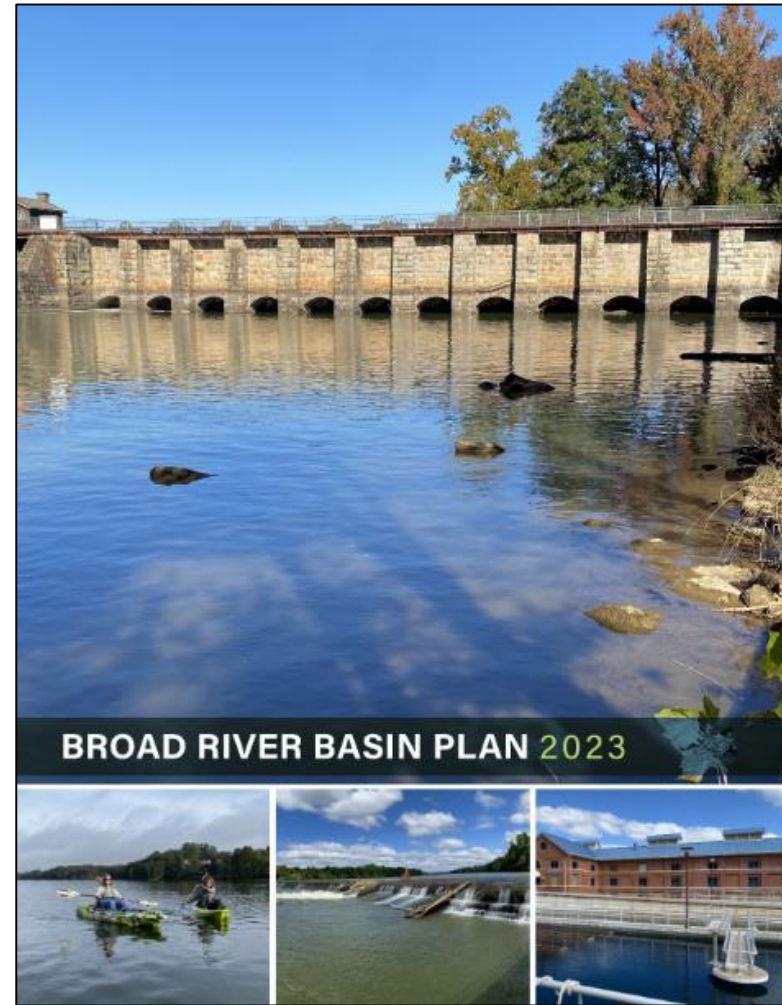


- Planning Framework calls for permanent Groundwater and Surface Water Technical Advisory Committees (TACs).
- Purpose: to provide the State agencies and River Basin Councils with technical assistance and support during the development of River Basin Plans and the new State Water Plan.
  - Advise state agencies on any new data, model revisions or extensions, and alternative modeling platforms that could be used for planning purposes.
  - Advise RBCs on model scenarios and assist in the interpretation of modeling results.
- Primarily serves as a “reactive” body as opposed to “proactive”.
  - TACs respond to technical questions/issues that arise in the planning process as needed.



# Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents

- Provides a detailed description of the “*minimum requirements*” for each Chapter.
- RBCs should generally adhere to this organization structure.
- Some discretion to include additional information not explicitly stated in the Planning Framework.



[https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/pdfs/basin-planning/broad/Draft Broad River Basin Plan 2023.pdf](https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/pdfs/basin-planning/broad/Draft%20Broad%20River%20Basin%20Plan%202023.pdf)

# Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents



1. Introduction
2. Description of the Basin
3. Water Resources of the Basin
4. Current and Projected Water Demand
5. Comparison of Water Resource Availability and Water Demand
6. Water Management Strategies
7. Water Management Strategy Recommendations
8. Drought Response
9. Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical and Planning Process Recommendations
10. River Basin Plan Implementation



# Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation

## Phase 1

Understand  
Baseline

- Develop a vision statement and goals
- Learn about the basin's water resources and modeling tools
- Evaluate water demand projections

## Phase 2

Assess Future  
Availability

- Evaluate current and future water availability issues
- Identify and quantify potential water shortages through year 2070 for several water demand scenarios

## Phase 3

Develop  
Strategies

- Develop and evaluate water management strategies
- Recommend and prioritize strategies

## Phase 4

Develop the Plan

- Develop legislative, policy, technical and planning process recommendations
- Prepare the River Basin Plan that includes an implementation plan, Identifies drought response initiatives, and considers public input

# Section 7. River Basin Plan Implementation

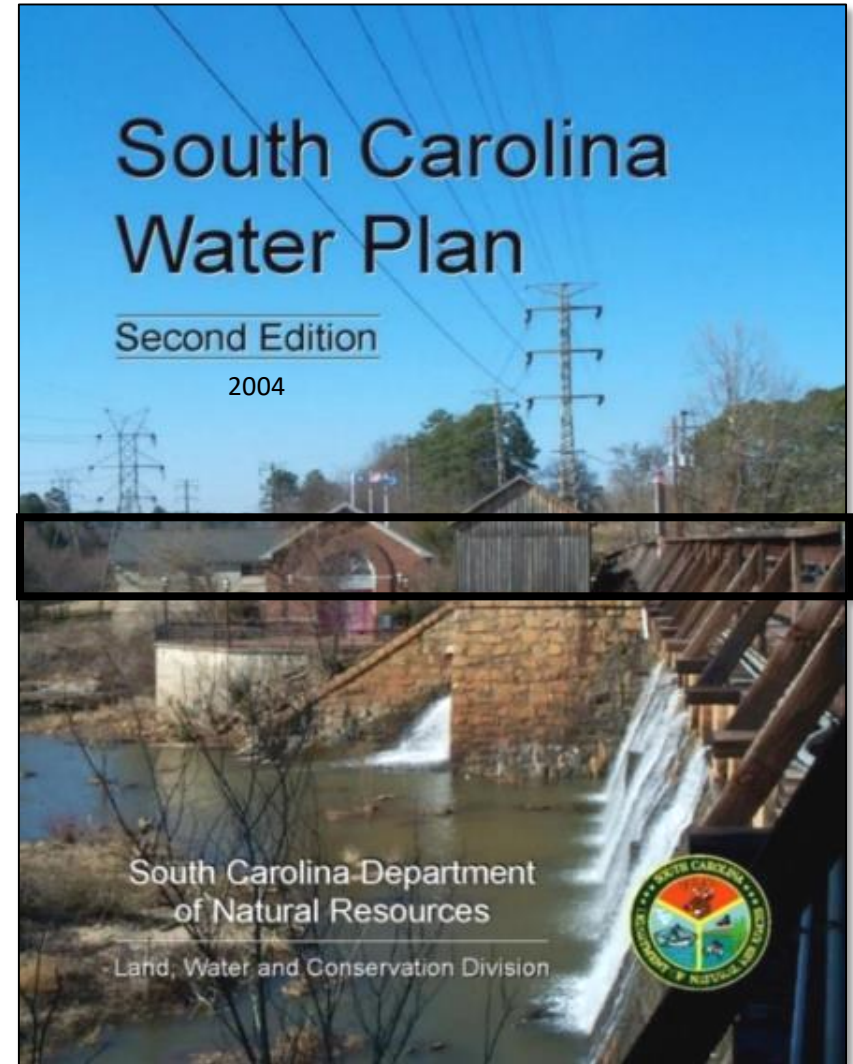


- River Basin Plans are not intended to be static documents.
- The River Basin Plan is required to have a 5-year **Implementation Plan** (Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan):
  - Objectives – based on recommended water management strategies and other recommendations.
  - Schedule.
  - Budget.
- RBCs are required to meet annually (between successive iterations of river basin planning) but frequency is dependent on objectives and available funding.
- Implementation challenges/considerations:
  - Funding.
  - Broader stakeholder buy-in.
  - No regulatory authority.



# Section 8. State Water Plan

- Contingent upon completion of 8 River Basin Plans.
- Major content includes:
  - A summary of legislative, policy, process, and program recommendations regarding the State's water resources documented in the River Basin Plans.
  - A summary of each River Basin Plan's water availability analyses and conclusions.
  - An evaluation of statewide trends in water use and availability.



# SCDNR Hydrology Website



## Water Planning

The SCDNR Hydrology Section is responsible for formulating and establishing a comprehensive water resources policy for the State of South Carolina.

**Public Notice: SCDNR will host two public meetings on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Walterboro, SC and on August 29<sup>th</sup> in North Augusta, SC to kick-off planning activities in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin.**


Please visit the [Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin planning page](#) for meeting agendas, locations, and times.

**SCDNR is now accepting applications for the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council.**


The application deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Submission instructions are included in the application. To apply, please click below.

[Apply to the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council](#)


[Water Planning Overview](#)



[South Carolina State Water Planning Framework](#)



[River Basin Planning](#)



<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning.html>

Site will host:

- Announcements/Calendar of Events
- Access to water planning documents – Planning Framework, technical reports
- RBC meeting materials – agendas, presentations, recordings

## Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Basin Planning

Activities and reports on water planning in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River basin.

### Overview

River basin planning activities in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie river basin have been initiated under the guidance of the [South Carolina State Water Planning Framework](#). Two public meetings were hosted by the SCDNR on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Walterboro Wildlife Center in Walterboro, SC and on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC to kick-off planning activities (presentations given at each meeting can be accessed on the [meetings page](#)). An overview of the South Carolina State Water Planning Framework was provided to stakeholders in the basin, and applications to serve on the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council were solicited. Formal Council meetings will begin in the Fall of 2023. Meeting agendas, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be accessed [here](#). Please visit this website for periodic updates and new information regarding Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie river basin planning activities.

**The next Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council meeting has been scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Draft agenda available soon.**

The Council will meet in-person with location to be determined. The meeting may be attended virtually as well. Please see draft agenda for virtual meeting access information when available.

**SCDNR is currently accepting applications for the Local Governments and Water-based Recreation Interest Categories.**

Submission instructions are included in the application. To apply, please click below.

[Download Application](#)

<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/lowsav-basin-planning.html>