

**Location:**

April 4, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 5 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

**Action Items:**

1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.

**Major Decisions:**

1. The LSSRBC adopted 11 process metrics (December 2023)
2. Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the LSS basins now and into the future. (December 2023)
3. LSSRBC Goals (from meeting #3):
  1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations so that the LSS River Basins are resilient and:
    - a. Provide for an accurate accounting of current and future water availability
    - b. Promote stability of water allocations to support long-term planning
    - c. Maintain water availability to support public water supply, industrial, golf course, energy, food and fiber production and other legitimate needs
    - d. Allow for growth
    - e. Prevent saltwater intrusion and loss of freshwater resources
    - f. Maintain adequate flows to support instream needs of aquatic organisms and recreation.
  2. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah RBC.
  3. Educate and inform local governments on how land use decisions impact water availability.

**4. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins. (January 2024)**

**4. The LSSRBC elected Kari Foy as Chair and Ken Caldwell as Vice Chair (March 2024)**

**Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Hydrology 101
- Overview of Surface Water Modeling Approach and Scenarios
- Introduction to the Savannah and Salkehatchie River Basin Surface Water Models
- Current Use, Unimpaired Flow, and Permitted and Registered Surface Water Scenario Results
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

**Meeting Summary (April 4<sup>th</sup>)**

Ken Caldwell, LSSRBC Vice-Chair, called the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The sixth meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 46 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. Ken introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The RBC also approved the March meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the March LSSRBC meeting.

Kirk Westphal, CDM Smith, presented *Hydrology 101* to the RBC members. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an introduction to hydrologic information since the RBC must review a lot of hydrologic data during the planning process. Highlights included: the hydrologic cycle, measuring hydrologic data, displaying hydrologic data, daily vs monthly simulated flow in SWAM, visualizing small differences (log scale), displaying hydrologic data (flow exceedance curve/flow duration curve), frequency and magnitude of shortage, hydrologic statistics, water availability, and a new view of hydrologic cycle.

Scott Harder, SCDNR, presented *Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability* to the RBC members. Scott discussed the methods for evaluating water availability as described in the Planning Framework (section 4) and provided definitions. Scott reviewed examples: Salkehatchie River near Miley, physically available surface water supply, surface water conditions, surface water supply, increased demand and surface water availability, surface water shortage information, reaches of interest, performance measures, and strategic nodes. Scott then reviewed the surface water demand scenarios used for the planning process and the process for evaluating surface water availability.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, introduced the Savannah and Salkehatchie surface water quantity models using SWAM. John introduced modeling and the overview of surface water modeling and the SWAM tool. John discussed how SWAM will be used to inform the planning process, what is included in the analysis, and displayed the inputs and users in the model. John went on to discuss model time steps, model calibration, 2021 model updates, model limitations, areas of greater uncertainty, evaluating projected demands, and performance measures.

John Boyer then discussed the modeling results for the UIF, current use, and permitted and registered scenarios with the RBC. Current and permitted and registered are two of the base scenarios and UIF is an additional scenario. John reviewed the summary of average annual surface water demands by scenario for the Upper Savannah and then did the same for the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie river basins and then proceeded to discuss results from the scenario runs.

Finally, John discussed the May field trip and possible other field trips for the LSSRBC. The June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Hampton Stanley Arts Center from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 1:38 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 6/6/24