

Location:

January 4, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 3 (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.
2. RBC members should be thinking of potential Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC Chair and Vice-Chair nominees ahead of meeting 5.
3. RBC members to consider possible field trip locations.
4. SCO to distribute 2-3 pager to the LSSRBC.
5. Tom to distribute water use paper.

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)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Review RBC Vision and Finalize Goals
- State and Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie River Basin Climatology
- South Carolina Drought Response Act
- Review of Existing Drought Management Plans
- SCDHEC’s Role in Surface Water Quantity Permitting
- Land Use, Population Growth, and Other Characteristics of the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie River Basins
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (January 4th)

John Boyer, LSSRBC Facilitator, called the January 4th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The third 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 52 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. John 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 December meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with a brief personal introduction from Evan Patrohay, SCDNR. John reviewed highlights of the previous meeting.

John facilitated review and finalization of the RBC goals. The Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC finalized the following goals:

LSSRBC Goals:

- 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.**

Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, presented *Climatology of South Carolina* to the RBC members. Hope introduced the SCO team and elaborated on the SCO mission and responsibilities. Hope presented information on temperatures, precipitation, extreme rainfall, tornados, & tropical cyclones.

Elliot Wickham, SCO, presented *SC Drought Monitoring & Management* to the RBC members. Elliot asked RBC members to try and define drought to start eh presentation. Elliot also discussed past droughts in SC, SC climate divisions, drought monitoring and response in SC, the SC drought response program, local level drought plans, the process to update drought plans, a review of past drought tabletop exercises, comparing USDM and SC DRC drought indicators, and scdrought.com which included discussion of the Western and Southern drought management areas and current membership.

John Boyer reviewed existing drought management plans. He discussed typical drought ordinances, common drought plan triggers, a summary of drought plans in the LSS basins, and the USACE Savannah River drought management plan.

Next, Leigh Anne Monroe, SCDHEC, along with Kristy Ellenberg, SCDHEC, presented and led discussion with RBC members about *SCDHEC's Role in Surface Water Quantity Permitting*. Leigh

Anne discussed the water quantity programs, surface water withdrawals, surface water regulation, existing permits, agricultural registration, new or expanding surface water withdrawer information, water conservation measures, and exemptions.

Finally, John Boyer discussed *Land Use, Population Growth, and Other Characteristics of the LSS River Basins*. This presentation contains a lot of the information which will be written in Chapter 2 of the LSS river basin plan. The topics of Chapter 2 covered in the presentation included: physical environment, climate, natural resources, agricultural resources, and socioeconomic environment.

The LSSRBC meeting was adjourned. The nominations and election of Chair and Vice Chair will be during the March RBC meeting. John Boyer also discussed SWAM training dates. The next Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC meeting will be held February 14, 2024 as a joint meeting with the Upper Savannah River Basin Council in North Augusta.

The meeting concluded at 1:55 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 2/14/24