



# Water Management Strategies for the Broad River Basin – Breakout Groups

# Discussion Guide

1. What existing water management strategies are already used in the Saluda basin? Consider and group these strategies by water use sector and whether they are:
  - a. Supply-side strategies
  - b. Demand-side strategies
  - c. Low flow management strategies
2. How effective are the existing strategies? Think in terms of their ability to reduce demands, increase supply availability, and prevent shortages.
3. Do you think strategies that are already in-place can be expanded or improved?
4. What types of strategies are likely to be relevant in the Saluda Basin to reduce or eliminate projected shortages, increase available supply, minimize low flows, and help improve the flow regime for aquatic organisms and recreation? Which strategies should we evaluate using the surface water model?

# Group Reports – Q1: Existing Strategies in the Basin

- Water loss and control measures, including leak management via smart meters (including both AMI and AMR)
- Small impoundments (for golf and ag supply, generally) and larger reservoirs (for energy, public supply, and industry, generally)
- Tiered rate structures
- Public education (e.g. water bill inserts)
- Drought management plans

# Group Reports – Q2: Effectiveness of Existing Strategies

- Drought plans have limited effectiveness because only the governor has authority, in many cases, to enact mandatory water use restrictions.
- Public education (e.g. bill inserts) could be more effective.
- Small impoundments are recognized as being effective to maintain access to needed supply during low flow conditions, as evidenced by the fact that numerous agricultural water users build them to retain water.
- The major reservoirs in the Saluda basin are effective water supply strategies and meet other needs – such as recreation.

# Group Reports – Q3: Can Existing Strategies be Expanded

- Existing water infrastructure (conveyance, reservoirs, storage facilities) needs to be maintained. Aging infrastructure may result in increased water loss.
- It has become more difficult to permit and build even small impoundments. Impoundments serve as critical storage opportunities for water users located far away from major sources. Relying on small streams, especially near headwaters is difficult, unless impoundments area used to store water during dry periods, when lower order stream flows are reduced or zero.
- Watershed protections such as riparian buffers can be expanded to both improve water quality and reduce sediment loading to streams.

# Group Reports – Q4: What Strategies are Relevant in the Saluda basin and Should be Further Evaluated?

- The advantages and disadvantages of reclaimed water (water reuse) were briefly discussed.
- In the Saluda basin, much of the water that is withdrawn is returned to the system and used further down the basin. This is a form of indirect potable reuse.