

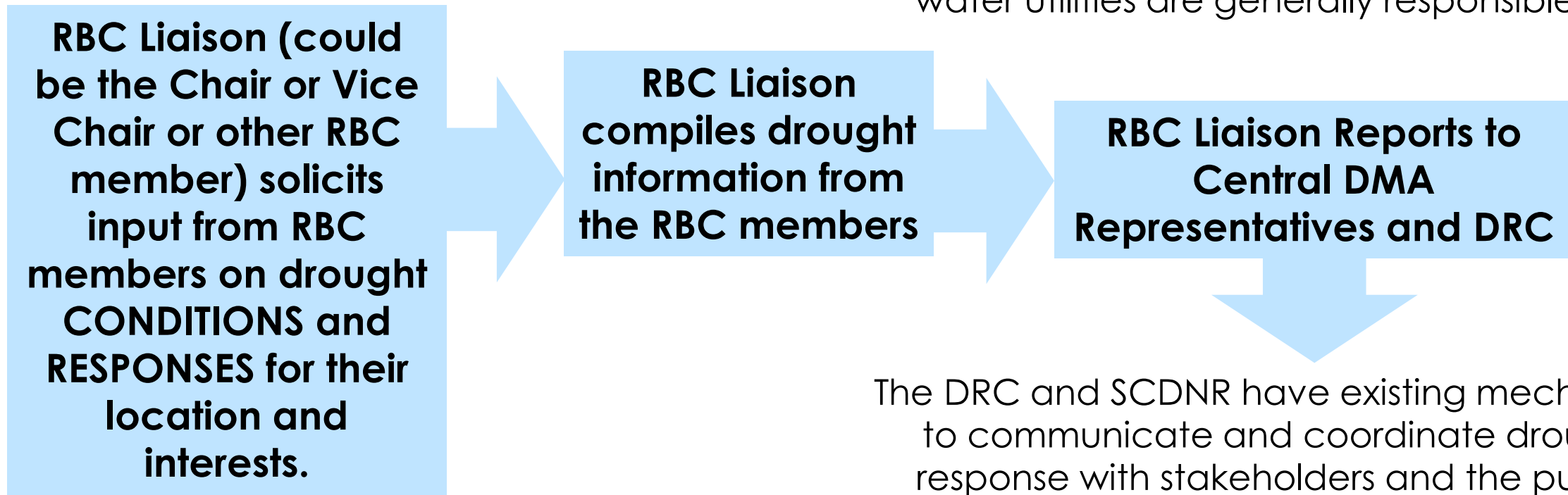
# Review of May Meeting Highlights

*Agenda Item 3*

# Drought Response – Communication Plan

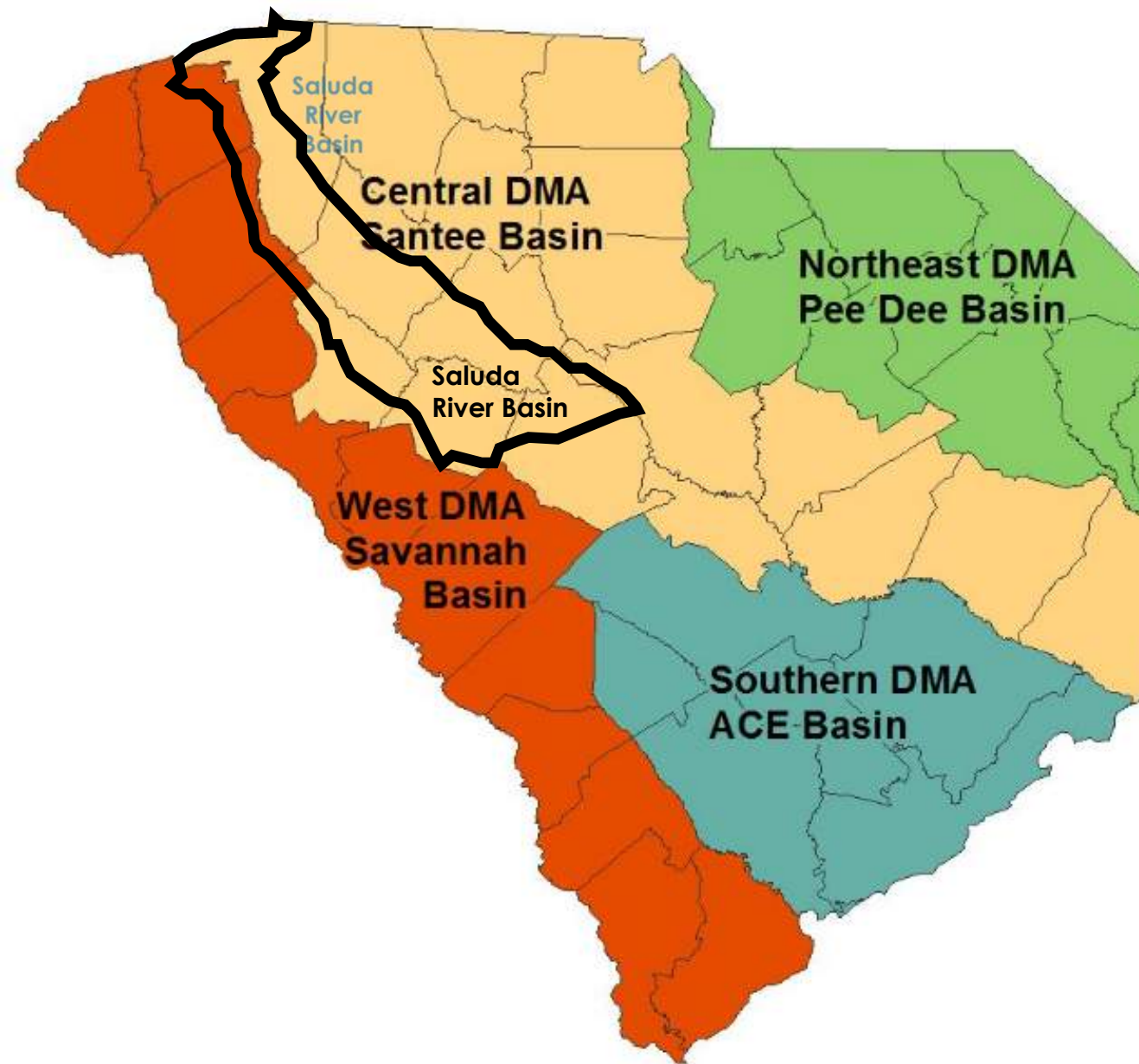
1. How does the RBC want to **Communicate** to the rest of the RBC, the public, and stakeholders?

The Saluda RBC does not envision direct messaging to the public. It's recognized that water utilities are generally responsible for that.



The DRC and SCDNR have existing mechanisms to communicate and coordinate drought response with stakeholders and the public.

# Drought Management Areas



Central Drought Management Area		
Group	Committee Member	County
Agriculture	<a href="#">John Irwin</a>	Laurens
Commission of Public Works	<a href="#">Ken Tuck</a>	Spartanburg
Counties	<a href="#">Peggy Swearingen</a>	Fairfield
Domestic User	<a href="#">Christy Jones</a>	Richland
Industry	<a href="#">Ed Holder</a>	Greenville
Municipalities	<a href="#">James G. Bagley</a>	York
Power Generation Facilities	<a href="#">Alan Stuart</a>	York
Private Water Supplier	<a href="#">Brad C. Powers</a>	Spartanburg
Public Service District	Vacant	
Regional Council of Gov.	<a href="#">Gregory Sprouse</a>	Richland
Soil and Water Conservation District	John T. Rivers	Sumter
Special Purpose District	<a href="#">Fred Castles</a>	Chester

# Drought Response Recommendations

1. The RBC recommends that water utilities review and if appropriate update their drought management plan and response ordinance every 5 years or more frequently if conditions change. Once updated, the plans should be submitted to the SCO for review. Changing conditions that could merit an update might include:

- Change in the source(s) of water
- Significant increase in water demand (such as the addition of a new, large wholesale customer)
- Significant change in the proportion of water used by one sector compared to another (e.g., residential versus commercial use)
- Addition (or loss) of another user relying on the same source of water
- New water supply agreement with a neighboring utility
- Incorporating lessons learned (if any) from a recent drought

# Drought Response Recommendations

## Suggested language, based on May meeting discussion:

2. The RBC recommends that water utilities coordinate, to the extent practical, their **drought response messaging**. Consistent and coordinated drought response messaging can be important, especially when there are drought conditions impacting the entire basin and possibly neighboring basins. Consistent and coordinated messaging can help to avoid confusion and provide efficiency. However, the RBC recognizes that coordinated and consistent messaging may not be possible when drought conditions are appreciably different across the basin, when utilities are in different stages of drought response, or when utilities' response strategies are different.



# Drought Response Recommendations

**3. The RBC encourages water utilities in the basin to consider drought surcharges on water use during severe and/or extreme drought phases.** Drought surcharges, when used, are typically only implemented if voluntary reductions are not successful in achieving the desired reduction in water use. In the Saluda River basin, several water utilities have already built into their response ordinance the ability to implement drought surcharges during the severe and/or extreme drought phases.

# Drought Response Recommendations

4. **When droughts occur, the RBC encourages water users and those with water interests to submit their drought observations through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR).** The CMOR system, maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), provides supporting evidence in the form of on-the-ground information to help the authors of the U.S. Drought Monitor better understand local conditions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) uses the Drought Monitor to trigger disaster declarations and determine eligibility for low-interest loans and some assistance programs. The SCO also reviews and uses the CMOR system in a variety of ways. CMORs can be submitted by clicking the “Submit a Report” button at the NDMC’s Drought Impacts Toolkit website.
5. The RBC encourages the State Climate Office to conduct outreach...
6. The RBC encourages NRCS promote the use of the tool...
7. Encourage use by the Adopt-a-Stream program...