

Location:

August 16, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Ridge at Laurens and RBC Field Trip

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.
2. Planning team to schedule SCOR Resilience Plan speaker.
3. Planning team to schedule Decision-making Process Speaker (Jeff Lineberger).
4. RBC to consider future discussion on reaches of interest.
5. CDM Smith to distribute Phase 1 survey and SWAM training RSVP.

Decisions:

1. Saluda RBC Vision Statement: A resilient and sustainably managed Saluda River Basin that balances human and ecological needs. (May 2023)
2. Saluda RBC Goals: 1. To perform a review and update of the plan every 5 years at a minimum or sooner should a significant event occur requiring plan update, 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Saluda River Basin, and 3. Apply science-based resource management and conservation strategies that consider resource availability and allocation. (May 2023)
3. The Saluda RBC elected KC Price as Chair and Katherine Amidon as Vice Chair. (June 2023)
4. Formation of a Public Supply Water Demand projections subcommittee. (July 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period
- July RBC Meeting Review

- Hydrology 101
- Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
- Introduction to the SWAM Model
- Demand Projections Update
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (August 16th)

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the August 16th meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The sixth meeting of the Saluda RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Saluda RBC members and planning team, there were 48 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. KC discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda as well as the previous RBC meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. DHEC introduced a new team member to the RBC. John Boyer reviewed the July meeting highlights and introduced a new Saluda RBC member.

The first major agenda item was a presentation from Kirk Westphal which was an overview of hydrology. The purpose of the *Hydrology 101* presentation was to provide a basic understanding of hydrology due to an identified need in other RBC planning processes. Kirk reviewed the hydrologic cycle, measuring and displaying hydrologic data, daily versus monthly flow data, standard scale versus log scale visualization of data, flow exceedance curve and flow duration curve, frequency and magnitude of shortage, hydrologic statistics, water availability, and a new view of the hydrologic cycle.

Next, Scott Harder presented *Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability*. This approach is described in the SC State Water Planning Framework to provide consistency across the state for the river basin planning process. Scott reviewed definitions and provided examples for each listed definition. Additionally, Scott reviewed reservoir safe yield, performance measures, and strategic nodes. Scott then reviewed surface water-demand scenarios which included the current surface water use, permitted and registered water use, moderate water-demand projection, and high water-demand projection scenarios.

For the next agenda item, John Boyer introduced the Saluda river basin surface water quantity model. The presentation introduced modeling and what water allocation modeling is and what it is not. John introduced SWAM and the development of the model including recent updates in 2021 and additional updates. SWAM will be used to assess current supply availability and shortages, potential scenarios including a full allocation model, compare managed and natural flows, evaluate drought management plans, and test, evaluate, and prioritize water

management strategies. John reviewed model inputs and supporting information: USGS gages in the basin and timeline of data collection, filling gaps in flow data, modeled rivers and streams, permitted and registered surface water users, and modeled reservoirs. John reviewed various SWAM calculations and discussed model calibration. Finally, John discussed surface water model updates, model limitations, the model framework, scenarios, demands, performance measures, strategic nodes, and reaches of interest. John discussed SWAM training dates with the RBC.

Alex Pellett briefly updated the RBC on projection scenarios: moderate and high demand projections and individual water use sectors. The field trip to the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Water Treatment Plant directly followed the RBC meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held September 20, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 12:42 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 9/20/23