

**Location:**

July 19, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Ridge at Laurens

Hybrid Meeting

**Action Items:**

1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.
2. RBC members interested in working on the Public Supply Water Demand projections subcommittee reach out to KC Price.
3. Jason Davis to talk to Thompson Smith regarding the need to form an agricultural subcommittee.
4. Planning team to schedule SCOR Resilience Plan speaker.
5. Planning team to schedule Decision-making Process Speaker (Jeff Lineberger).

**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
- June RBC Meeting Review
- Overview of Water Use, Water Demand Methodology and Saluda River Basin Demand Projections
- FERC Licensing in the Saluda River Basin
- State Scenic Rivers Program
- Lake Management (North Saluda, Table Rock, Lake Greenwood, Lake Murray)
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

### **Meeting Summary (July 19<sup>th</sup>)**

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fifth 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 50 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 as revised and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the June meeting highlights and discussed the resignation of two Saluda RBC members.

The first major agenda item was a presentation from Alex Pellet regarding water use and water demand projections for the Saluda river basin. Water use in the basin is dominated by surface water use and there are thermoelectric, water supply, industry, mining, agricultural irrigation, and golf courses which comprise the major water use sectors. The majority of withdrawals are by thermoelectric, water supply, and industry water users. Alex covered data limitations for historical water use and presented bar charts for surface water withdrawals. Alex moved on and discussed water demand projections for the Saluda river basin. He discussed the process of developing the water demand methodology for water use sectors and presented equations to define the terms, a mass balance illustration, and a more detailed model. Alex discussed the projections and the drivers of demand for each sector and then presented draft water demand projections for various water uses.

The next agenda item was a presentation from Elizabeth Miller regarding FERC licensing in the Saluda river basin. Highlights of the presentation included: active SC FERC licenses, Non-FERC licensed dams in the Saluda river basin, FERC licensed projects in the Saluda river basin, information about hydropower licensing which included applicable Federal Laws specifically the Federal Power Act, FERC licensing process, & DNR responsibilities, interests, and objectives in hydro project licensing. Elizabeth also discussed specific hydroelectric projects which included:

Piedmont, Upper Pelzer, Lower Pelzer, Ware Shoals, Buzzards Roost, and the Saluda hydro projects.

Bill Marshall was next on the agenda with a presentation on the Middle and Lower Saluda SC Scenic Rivers. Bill discussed the SC Scenic Rivers Act and the State Scenic Rivers Program. Bill discussed the Middle Saluda and Lower Saluda scenic rivers and the associated river values. Bill then discussed the Lower Saluda river corridor plan and updates. He concluded his presentation with discussion of the project-level actions and outcomes of the State Scenic River Projects.

The final major agenda item focused on Lake management in the Saluda river basin. Three presenters spoke to the Saluda RBC: Jeff Boss of Greenville Water (RBC Member) regarding the Table Rock reservoir and North Saluda reservoir, Julie Davis -Greenwood County Lake Manager (RBC Alternate) regarding Lake Greenwood, and Brandon McCartha – Dominion Energy Senior Lake Management Representative regarding Lake Murray. The priorities for Greenville Water in managing their reservoirs and releases are to maintain an adequate drinking water supply for their customers and balance that need with protecting downstream environmental habitats and stakeholders. Julie Davis discussed lake management responsibilities, aquatic invasives in the lake, mosquito control program, hazardous log removal, and the shoreline management program. Brandon McCartha discussed lake management responsibilities and the Dominion Energy Shoreline Management Plan, permitting, challenges, and project lands.

The field trip to the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Water Treatment Plant will be held at the August Saluda RBC meeting with a possible side trip to Buzzard's Roost hydro project. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held August 16, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 1:52 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 8/16/23