

Location:

May 17, 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 should be thinking of potential Saluda RBC Chair and Vice-Chair nominees.**

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)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period
- April Meeting Review
- Saluda River Basin Land Use and Socioeconomic Characteristics
- Saluda River Basin Low Flow Characteristics and Streamflow and Monitoring
- Saluda River Basin Climatology
- South Carolina Drought Response Act
- Vision and Goals Development

- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (May 17th)

The Saluda RBC Facilitator, John Boyer, called the May 17th meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The third 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. John Boyer 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 comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John reviewed the April meeting highlights and had a quiz for the RBC members.

The first major agenda item was a presentation by Evan Patrohay, CDM Smith, entitled: *Saluda River Basin Land Use and Socioeconomic Characteristics*. Chapter 2 of the Saluda River Basin Plan covers various information such as the physical environment, climate, natural resources, agricultural resources, and socioeconomic environment. Highlights of the presentation included: Saluda River Basin land cover, prime farmland, number of farms with irrigation, 2017 census of agriculture data for Saluda river basin counties, population change, and population density.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Toby Feaster, USGS, entitled: *USGS streamflow monitoring*. Toby provided a brief history of the USGS and USGS streamgages. Toby introduced SAWSC, the USGS national water dashboard, the USGS in SC, and streamgage basics. Toby then discussed low-flow characterization of South Carolina Streams. The highlights of the low-flow discussion included: South Carolina low-flow updates, various USGS SC low-flow river basin publications, current projects to update low-flow and mean annual flow statistics in SC and develop regression equations to estimate low-flow and mean annual flow at ungaged locations, 7Q10, climate year, water year, low-flow figures, and 7Q10 statistics examples.

Following Toby's presentation, Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist at SCDNR, presented: *Climatology of South Carolina*. Hope introduced the State Climatology Office team, what the Office does and respective responsibilities, and covered various climate-related topics for SC which included: temperatures, precipitation, extreme rainfall, tornadoes, and tropical cyclones. Elliot Wickham, from the SC State Climatology Office at SCDNR presented: *SC Drought Monitoring and Management*. Elliot asked the Saluda RBC to define drought with several answers submitted by RBC members. Elliot's presentation covered: past droughts in SC, SC climate divisions, drought monitoring and response in SC, the SC Drought Response Act, local level drought plans, past drought tabletop exercise information, identified breaking points of the Drought Response Act, differences in the US drought monitor and the SC drought response

committee including drought indicators, the SC drought website, and the Central Drought Management Area and committee members. Elliott also plugged the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports with opportunities for RBC members to contribute to drought / condition reporting.

Following the SC State Climatology Office presentations, John Boyer facilitated vision and goal development. The Saluda adopted both a vision statement and goals for the Saluda RBC. John concluded the meeting and discussed the future meetings schedule which included a field trip to the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Water Treatment Plant for the June meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held June 21, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 1:40 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 6/21/23