

**Location:**

May 15, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission Office

Hybrid Meeting

**Action Items:**

1. RBC to wait for Northbrook to get back in touch with KC Price. (holdover from April)
2. Additional gages in the Saluda River Basin discussion in the parking lot. RBC members to send them in if they have ideas. (holdover from April)
3. RBC members to consider items tabled until the June meeting relating to drought management recommendations and come prepared to continue discussion.

**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

- Review of April Meeting Highlights
- Learn About the RBC's Obligations for Drought Planning and Response
- Review existing utility drought plans and learn about the new Drought Planning Guidebook developed by the State Climatology Office
- Review and discuss drought response strategies and recommendations developed by other River Basin Councils
- Discuss and develop drought response strategies and recommendations for the Saluda River Basin
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

### **Meeting Summary (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fourteenth 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 42 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. Approval of the April minutes and summary documents were tabled until the June meeting. 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 April meeting highlights.

John Boyer and Elliot Wickham, CDM Smith and SCDNR SCO, presented information related to drought management and response. Drought management and response was broken out into 3 parts for the meeting. In part 1, John reviewed the RBC's drought obligations and outline of Chapter 8 of the river basin plan. Elliot Wickham presented on the differences between the Drought Response Committee and US Drought Monitor processes and outcomes.

After a break, John and Elliot continued discussion of drought management and response - part 2. John reviewed utility drought plans and Elliot provided an overview of the Drought Planning Guidebook. The guidebook is a tool to assist water utilities in updating their drought plans.

Finally, John Boyer led discussion on part 3 of drought management and response. The RBC went through communication strategies and considered the development of drought management or response strategies. The RBC members discussed particular drought recommendations and decided to keep two, toss one, and tabled two others for future discussion.

The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Saluda RBC will be June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Greenville Water Community Room in Greenville, SC.

The meeting concluded at 2:02 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 6/19/24