



Planning Framework Overview

Upper Savannah River Basin Council – Meeting #2, September 13th, 2023

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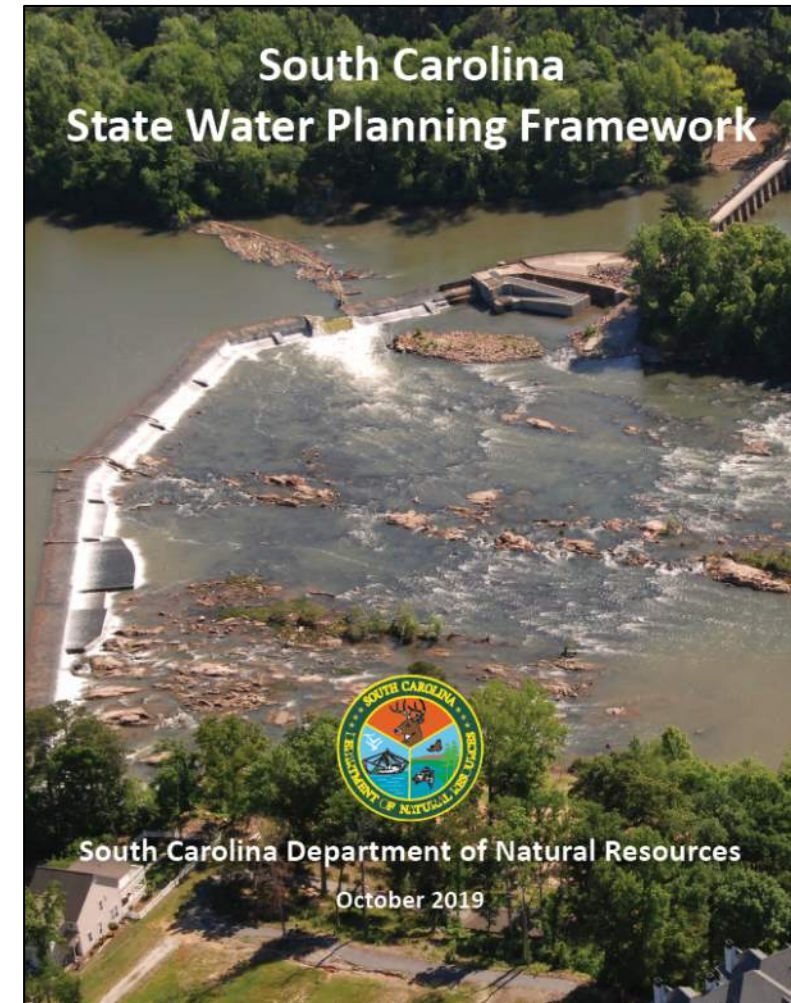




Contents of Planning Framework

Sections:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Introduction
 3. River Basin Planning Process
 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
 8. State Water Plan
- Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws



Planning Framework is available for review and download at:

<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning-framework.html>

Section 2. Introduction



Describes:

- Purpose and importance of state and river basin planning.
- Role of State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC).
- Guiding principles.
- Regulatory framework.

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Much of this information was presented at the first Council meeting.

Section 3. River Basin Planning Process



Describes:

- How the River Basin Plan will be developed.
- The roles and responsibilities of:
 - River Basin Councils
 - State and Federal Agencies
 - Contractors
 - PPAC
- Stakeholder/public participation.
- Coordination with other planning bodies and committees.

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Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability

- Describes:
 - Hydrologic models used to evaluate water availability.
 - Four scenarios for RBC evaluation.
 - Approach to evaluating water management strategies.
- Defines:
 - Surface and Groundwater Availability.
 - Surface and Groundwater Shortage, etc.

A future RBC meeting will cover this section in more detail.

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Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability

- Based, in part, on methodologies used in Texas for evaluating water availability.
- Provides consistency – designates a common set of definitions and processes to use across the State.

Big Picture – this is a gap analysis; the RBC will be determining where and when demand exceeds supply under varying demand scenarios and deciding how to manage water to close the gaps.

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Surface Water Demand Scenarios

- Four scenarios to be reviewed by each River Basin Council:
 1. Current Surface Water Use
 2. Permitted and Registered Water Use Scenario
 3. Moderate Water-Demand Projection
 4. High Water-Demand Projection
- Scenarios focus on “water demand” side as opposed to “water supply” side.
- Additional water demand scenarios can be recommended by the RBC:
 - Based on different assumptions used in existing projections (more aggressive growth rates, for example).
 - New water-demand projection scenarios must be submitted to SCDNR in writing by the RBC for consideration.



Technical Advisory Committees

- Planning Framework calls for permanent Groundwater and Surface Water Technical Advisory Committees (TACs).
- Purpose: to provide the State agencies and River Basin Councils with technical assistance and support during the development of River Basin Plans and the new State Water Plan.
 - Advise state agencies on any new data, model revisions or extensions, and alternative modeling platforms that could be used for planning purposes.
 - Approve the use of supplemental modeling platforms in the planning process.
 - Advise RBCs on model scenarios and assist in the interpretation of modeling results.
- Primarily serves as a “reactive” body as opposed to “proactive”.
 - TACs respond to technical questions/issues that arise in the planning process as needed.



Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents

- Provides a detailed description of the “*minimum requirements*” for each Chapter.
- RBCs should generally adhere to this organization structure.
- Some discretion to include additional information not explicitly stated in the Planning Framework.

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Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Description of the Basin
3. Water Resources of the Basin
4. Current and Projected Water Demand
5. Comparison of Water Resource Availability and Water Demand
6. Water Management Strategies
7. Water Management Strategy Recommendations
8. Drought Response
9. Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical and Planning Process Recommendations
10. River Basin Plan Implementation



Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation

- Four Phases of Plan Development:
 - Phase 1 – orientation, administrative aspects, background information.
 - Phase 2 – technical analyses used to assess water availability.
 - Phase 3 – analysis of water management strategies.
 - Phase 4 – preparation of draft and final River Basin Plans incorporating final water management strategies and other recommendations.
- RBC responsible for submitting progress reports after each major phase.

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Section 7. River Basin Plan Implementation

- River Basin Plans are not intended to be static documents.
- The River Basin Plan is required to have a 5-year **Implementation Plan** (Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan):
 - Objectives – based on recommended water management strategies and other recommendations.
 - Schedule.
 - Budget.
- RBCs are required to meet annually (between successive iterations of river basin planning) but frequency is dependent on objectives and available funding.
- Implementation challenges/considerations:
 - Funding.
 - Broader stakeholder buy-in.
 - No regulatory authority.



Section 8. State Water Plan

- Contingent upon completion of 8 River Basin Plans.
- Major content includes:
 - A summary of legislative, policy, process, and program recommendations regarding the State's water resources documented in the River Basin Plans.
 - A summary of each River Basin Plan's water availability analyses and conclusions.
 - An evaluation of statewide trends in water use and availability.

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SCDNR Hydrology Website



Water Planning

The SCDNR Hydrology Section is responsible for formulating and establishing a comprehensive water resources policy for the State of South Carolina.

Public Notice: SCDNR will host two public meetings on August 24th in Walterboro, SC and on August 29th in North Augusta, SC to kick-off planning activities in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin.

Please visit the [Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin planning page](#) for meeting agendas, locations, and times.

SCDNR is now accepting applications for the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council.

The application deadline is September 15th, 2023. Submission instructions are included in the application. To apply, please click below.

[Apply to the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council](#)

Water Planning Overview

South Carolina State Water Planning Framework

River Basin Planning

<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning.html>

SCDNR Hydrology About Us Water Planning Programs Data Publications Calendar

Upper Savannah Basin Planning

Activities and reports on water planning in the Upper Savannah River basin.

Overview

River basin planning activities in the Upper Savannah river basin have been initiated under the guidance of the [South Carolina State Water Planning Framework](#). Two public meetings were hosted by the SCDNR on April 10th at Tri-County Technical College in Anderson, SC and on April 11th at Hickory Knob State Park and Resort near McCormick, SC to kick-off planning activities (presentations given at each meeting can be accessed on the [meetings page](#)). An overview of the South Carolina State Water Planning Framework was provided, and applications to serve on the Upper Savannah River Basin Council were solicited. River Basin Council members were appointed by SCDNR in June 2023 (see the [council page](#) for a list of members). Formal Council meetings will begin in July 2023, and meeting agendas, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be accessed [here](#). Please visit this website for periodic updates and new information regarding Upper Savannah river basin planning activities.

Public Notice: The first Upper Savannah River Basin Council meeting has been scheduled for July 26th, 2023 (from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (draft agenda)).

The Council will meet in-person at the Starr-Iva Water and Sewer District Office in Starr, SC (104 Roy Arnold Rd. Starr, SC 29684). The meeting may be attended virtually as well. Please see [draft agenda](#) for virtual meeting access information.

SCDNR is currently accepting applications for the Local Governments and Water-based Recreational Interest Categories.

[Download Application](#)

<https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/UppSav-basin-planning.html>

Site will host:

- Announcements/Calendar of Events
- Access to water planning documents – Planning Framework, technical reports
- RBC meeting materials – agendas, presentations, recordings