

Guide and Examples for Developing a Vision Statement and Goals

During Phase 1, the RBC should develop a **Vision Statement** and **Goals**. The Vision Statement and Goals should summarize the RBC's priorities for use and management of water resources in the Upper Savannah River basin. During the July meeting, the RBC identified the following priorities:

Supporting and Balancing Human and Ecosystem Needs

- Facilitate a balance between all types of water uses: recreational, industrial, agricultural, drinking water, power, and ecosystem.
- Balance use of water resources by adapting priorities based on condition of the resource.
- Explain viewpoints of all stakeholders to achieve a fair and balanced solution.
- Create a comprehensive plan to accounting for the needs of the many interest groups.
- Ensure adequate water supply and quality for all interests

Source Water Protection and Land Management

- Protect undeveloped land and prevent overdevelopment
- Identify management strategies that are intertwined – they protect quantity and quality.

Protect Natural Resources

- Preserve current water quality
- Preserve lake levels
- Preserve headwaters
- Promote infiltration
- Protect and preserve recreational fishing opportunities

Low Flows / Drought

- Have a plan in place to equitably use water and meet needs during drought

Collaboration

- Enhance relationship between all stakeholders and water interest groups

Upper Savannah River Basin Council

September 2023

- Encourage collaboration between SC and GA on water management issues.
- Engage with other planning bodies in the Savannah basin.

Use Sound Science and Data

- Use best available science and data to base management decisions
- Conduct and promote science-backed planning
- Enhance publicly available hydrologic and water quality data
- Make the models used to support planning publicly available
- Get more information on climate projections and trends from the SC State Climate Office to understand where we should focus planning efforts (i.e., flooding, droughts, or both?)

Public Education and Outreach

- Allow for all stakeholders to be heard
- Educate residents of the basin on water recreation outlets and give the local community more input on use of water resources, and allow them to take ownership of those decisions.

Legislation / Policy / Local Ordinances

- Enhance and enforce rules for runoff from construction sites, including performing more inspections.
- Help write example ordinances and provide examples to communities to help them make recommended water management strategies

Economic Growth

- Protect natural resources while allowing for economic growth
- Achieve a balance between development, industry and economic growth

Plan Implementation

- Provide good tools for Plan implementation, accompanying and supporting the recommended water management strategies.
- Identify federal funding that can be used to support implementation

Upper Savannah River Basin Council

September 2023

The RBC is asked to develop a Vision Statement and Goals which reflect these, and any other identified priorities. **The Vision Statement should be concise and inspirational. It should clearly state and summarize what the RBC wants to achieve.**

The Goals established by the RBC should align with the Vision Statement. In Phases 3 and 4, water management strategies and management recommendations will be developed to support the identified Goals.

To help with this effort, example Vision Statements and Goals from other river basin planning efforts in South Carolina are provided below.

Example 1: Edisto River Basin Council Vision and Goals

Vision Statement

“A resilient and sustainably managed Edisto River Basin where stakeholder and ecosystem needs are recognized, balanced and protected.”

Goals

1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Edisto River Basin in order to:
 - a. Ensure water resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.
 - b. Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.
 - c. Promote future development in areas with adequate water resources.
 - d. Encourage responsible land use practices.
2. Develop and implement a communication plan to promote the strategies, policies and recommendations developed for the Edisto River Basin.

Example 2: Broad River Basin Council

Vision Statement

“Empowered stakeholders taking coordinated actions to conserve and enhance the resilience of the Broad River Basin to provide water resources for quality of life, while accounting for the ecological integrity of our shared water resources.”

Goals

1. Enhance the understanding of regional water issues and the need for support of policies and behaviors to protect resources through promotion and education.

Upper Savannah River Basin Council

September 2023

2. Use sound science and data driven practice to support collaboration for all entities to effectively and efficiently manage the basin.
 3. Provide policy and legislative recommendations.
-

Example 3: Pee Dee River Basin Council

Vision Statement

“To make sure water is available for all in the Pee Dee River Basin.”

Goals

1. Develop and approve the River Basin Plan by June 1, 2024.
 2. Review and update the River Basin Plan at least once every five years or amend it as needed.
 3. Regularly communicate with stakeholders throughout the river basin.
 4. Recommend policy, legislative, regulatory, or process changes.
-

Example 4: Saluda River Basin Council

Vision Statement

“A resilient and sustainably managed Saluda River Basin that balances human and ecological needs.”

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.
3. Apply science-based resource management and conservation strategies that consider resource availability and allocation.