

Location:

December 13, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meeting No. 5 (Hybrid Format)

World of Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station and Field Trip

Action Items:

1. **Planning team to try and find a presenter to discuss navigation markers from SCDNR Law Enforcement or USACE (November)**

Decisions:

1. **The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)**
2. **Upper Savannah RBC Vision Statement: A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs. (September 2023)**
3. **US RBC Goals: 1. Within 24 months, develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Upper Savannah 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 balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.**
 - d. **Advocate for responsible land use practices.**
 - e. **Identify funding sources.**
2. **Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Upper Savannah River Basin.**
3. **Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin. (September 2023)**
4. **The USRBC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- November Meeting Review
- Current Water Use and Demand Methodology
- Duke Energy Operations in the Upper Savannah
- Friends of Lake Keowee Society Overview, Mission, and Accomplishments
- Highlights of Georgia's Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (December 13th)

Ashley Reid, USRBC Facilitator, called the December 13th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fifth meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Upper Savannah RBC members and planning team, there were 43 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Ashley discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from November. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley reviewed the November meeting highlights.

Priyanka More, SCDNR, presented: *Water Use in the Upper Savannah River Basin* which focused on water withdrawal, consumptive use, and interbasin transfers. The highlights included discussion of the planning focus on surface water resources in the US basin, the top three categories of surface water use in the basin, consumptive use of power, and no significant trends observed in historical annual average surface water withdrawals for most categories from 2011 – 2022.

Alex Pellett, SCDNR, presented *Upper Savannah Basin Water-Demand Projections* which focused on what projections are and are useful for and the historical development of the methods through stakeholder processes. Additionally, the equations, mass balance illustration, and sector specific projection content was discussed. Alex left the RBC with several questions for consideration which led to discussion amongst RBC members.

Ed Bruce, Duke Energy, presented *Keowee-Toxaway Energy Complex* which highlighted several key pieces of Duke operations in the Upper Savannah. Ed provided an overview of the Keowee-Toxaway Energy Complex, Keowee-Toxaway and Bad Creek operations, low flow protocol and USACE/SEPA operating agreement, and Oconee Nuclear Station water use.

John Hains, RBC member and FOLKS Board of Directors member, presented *Friends of Lake Keowee Society Overview, Mission, and Accomplishments*. FOLKS has been established for 30 years with a focus on Lake Keowee by homeowners around the lake. John discussed why FOLKS organized, FOLKS focus on advocacy, conservation, and education, and information regarding educational outreach projects, a new lake monitoring program, community outreach, collaboration with stakeholders in the watershed, and upcoming events.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid discussing the next meeting which will include the *Highlights of Georgia's Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Plan* which was postponed to the next meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned for lunch and the field trip. The next Upper Savannah RBC meeting will be held January 10, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 12:14 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 1/10/24