

**Location:**

October 11, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meeting No. 3 (Hybrid Format)

1428 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC

**Action Items:**

1. **Planning Team to have Duke Energy and USACE present to the USRBC at upcoming meetings.**
2. **RBC members should nominate Upper Savannah RBC Chair and Vice-Chair nominees by sending their nominations to the planning team.**

**Decisions:**

1. **The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)**
2. **Saluda 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)**

**Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Land Use, Socioeconomic, and Other Characteristics of the Upper Savannah River Basin
- Water Resources of the Upper Savannah River Basin
- Saluda River Basin Climatology
- South Carolina Drought Response Act
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

**Meeting Summary (October 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Ashley Reid, USRBC Facilitator, called the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 12:40 PM after the morning field trip. The third 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 42 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. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley reviewed the September meeting highlights.

Evan Patrohay, CDM Smith, discussed *Land Use, Socioeconomic, and Other Characteristics of the Upper Savannah River Basin*. This presentation covered material which will be included in Chapter 2 of the river basin plan: physical environment, climate, natural resources, agricultural resources, and socioeconomic environment. The highlights of the presentation included: land cover, prime farmland, counties, lakes, irrigation data, census of agriculture data, silviculture data, population change, and population density of the Upper Savannah.

Priyanka More, SCDNR, presented *Surface Water Resources of the Upper Savannah River Basin*. The summary of Priyanka's presentation highlighted that there is variable rainfall throughout the basin from the Blue Ridge Province (75 inches) to the Coastal Plain (45 inches). Additionally, there are variable flows in the basin with higher baseflow contribution in the upper basin. The presentation also noted that the Upper Savannah is heavily regulated with major reservoirs which support power generation, water supply, and recreation. Finally, due to a lack of significant groundwater use and resources in the basin, the planning will focus primarily on surface water resources.

Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, presented *Climatology of South Carolina*. Hope introduced the SC State Climatology Office team and their mission and responsibilities. The presentation

primarily focused on temperatures, precipitation, extreme rainfall, tornadoes, and tropical cyclones as they related to SC and the Upper Savannah basin.

Elliot Wickham, State Climatology Office, presented *SC Drought Monitoring & Management*. First, Elliot asked the RBC to define drought. Drought is difficult to define and part of the planning process is to better understand how different stakeholder sectors think about drought. The presentation highlighted: past droughts, SC climate divisions, drought monitoring and response, the SC Drought Response Act and regulations, the State Emergency Operations Plan, local level drought plans, and past drought tabletop exercises.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid discussing the next meeting which will have presentations related to flow monitoring, aquatic resources, flow ecological health relationships, an overview of the Savannah-Ogeechee water plan, and groundwater resources of the basin. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Upper Savannah RBC meeting will be held November 8, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 3:33 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 11/8/2023