

Location:

August 1, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 8 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

- 1. Come prepared to continue discussing and developing Drought Response Strategies and Recommendations**

Major Decisions:

- 1. The LSSRBC adopted 11 process metrics (December 2023)**
- 2. Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the LSS basins now and into the future. (December 2023)**
- 3. LSSRBC Goals (from meeting #3):**
 - 1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations so that the LSS River Basins are resilient and:**
 - a. Provide for an accurate accounting of current and future water availability**
 - b. Promote stability of water allocations to support long-term planning**
 - c. Maintain water availability to support public water supply, industrial, golf course, energy, food and fiber production and other legitimate needs**
 - d. Allow for growth**
 - e. Prevent saltwater intrusion and loss of freshwater resources**
 - f. Maintain adequate flows to support instream needs of aquatic organisms and recreation.**
 - 2. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah RBC.**
 - 3. Educate and inform local governments on how land use decisions impact water availability.**

4. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins. (January 2024)

4. The LSSRBC elected Kari Foy as Chair and Ken Caldwell as Vice Chair (March 2024)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- June Meeting Review
- Agricultural Operations and Irrigation in the Salkehatchie Basin
- Results of Flow Ecology Relationships
- Updated Surface Water Modeling Results and Discussion
- Development of Drought Strategies and Recommendations
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (August 1st)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the August 1st meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The eighth meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 40 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. Kari introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The RBC also approved the June meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received but the RBC welcomed the Deputy Administrator from Hampton County who was in attendance. An agency comment period was held and Joe Koon, SCDES, updated the RBC on the SCDES agency formation. John Boyer reviewed the June meeting and discussed the Phase 1 survey results.

Brad O’Neal, Coosaw Farms and RBC member, presented *Agricultural Operations and Irrigation in the Salkehatchie River Basin* to the RBC members. Brad discussed the family history of Coosaw farms which included triple bottom line of Coosaw farms: people, profit, and planet. Brad then discussed how their operation uses water which utilized a farm map to display water use systems on the farm.

Brandon Peoples, Clemson University, presented the results of flow-ecology relationships to the RBC. Brandon covered flow ecology relationships, how the process works, the biological data, characterizing aquatic diversity, how to use the relationships, and mean daily flow (MA1) response limits, MA1 predictions, the key to understanding surface water modeling scenarios, ecoregions, stream classes, and the Lower Savannah strategic nodes and selected metrics. Brandon summarized the results of the study which showed little to no change for fish richness and Shannon's diversity in the study area.

John Boyer presented updated surface water modeling results to the RBC members. John covered updates to the Savannah model, comparison to minimum instream flows, and updated extended drought analysis for the Savannah River Basin.

The last agenda item for the meeting was the development of drought response strategies and recommendations. John discussed the specific drought response related obligations of the RBC and the planning framework outline for Chapter 8 – Drought Response. John also reminded the RBC of the purpose of the SC Drought Response Committee. The RBC began working through the drought response communication plan. The RBC will continue working through drought response strategies and recommendations at the September meeting.

Finally, John discussed the September 5th meeting objectives. The September 5th meeting will be held at the Hampton Stanley Arts Center from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 1:59 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: