

Location:

March 6, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 14 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

1. **Come prepared to finish River Basin Plan recommendations, Implementation Plan, and develop Progress Metrics**
2. **Ch 5 Surface Water assessment to be distributed to the RBC**
3. **Send in pictures of the basin for the River Basin Plan**

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
- February Meeting Review
- Update on Draft Chapters
- Finish Discussion and Development of River Basin Plan Recommendations
- Development of Implementation Plan
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (March 6th)

Ken Caldwell, LSSRBC Vice Chair, called the March 6th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fourteenth 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 27 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Grace Houghton welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. Ken 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 February meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment was held with no comments received. Newsworthy items included discussion of the SCDNR Drought Tabletop Exercise held in West Columbia, an Upper and Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie IRBC meeting that was held, and Pee Dee River Basin Plan completion. Grace reviewed the February meeting.

Grace provided an update on draft chapters to the RBC members. The chapters that had been distributed prior to this meeting included chapters 2, 3, and 8. Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 will all be released to the RBC for review between the day of the meeting and mid-April.

Next, Grace Houghton facilitated discussion of river basin plan recommendations. Grace reviewed planning process recommendations from the last meeting and recent IRBC recommendations. The RBC then worked through technical and program recommendations and

policy, legislative, or regulatory recommendations and related IRBC recommendations. Grace then facilitated discussion of technical and program recommendations and policy, legislative, or regulatory recommendations in the parking lot.

Finally, due to time constraints, the RBC did not begin work on the implementation plan. Grace provided a preview of the implementation plan format for discussion at the next meeting. The April 3rd meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Hampton.

The meeting concluded at 1:58 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/3/25