

Location:

September 24, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clemson Pee Dee REC (Hybrid)

Action Items:

1. **Send comments on draft Chapters to Matt Lindburg**

Major Decisions:

1. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the RBC bylaws as written in the Planning Framework. (July 2022)**
2. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the proposed Process Metrics as presented. (August 2022)**
3. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the Pee Dee RBC. (August 2022)**
4. **The Pee Dee RBC elected the Chair: Buddy Richardson and Vice Chair: Cara Schildtknecht (November 2022)**
5. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to take a common sense approach to the groundwater modeling delays for the Pee Dee River Basin Plan. To continue to develop groundwater management strategies and clarify those/check them once the groundwater model is completed. If the model is not completed, move forward with the developed groundwater management strategies for the plan. (January 2024)**
6. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to continue the monthly meeting schedule during the groundwater model delay and for the planning team to decide on what is appropriate for in-person versus virtual meeting format on a month-to-month basis. (January 2024)**
7. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC preliminarily approved Ch 1 of the River Basin Plan. (January 2024)**
8. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC approved development of a 20 – 30 page Executive Summary and development of a 2 page policy brief style handout. (January 2024)**
9. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC preliminarily approved Chapters 2, 3, and 8 of the River Basin Plan. (April 2024)**
10. **Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC preliminarily approved Ch 5 (surface water portion) of the River Basin Plan. (May 2024)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Drought Monitoring/Outcome in South Carolina
- Chapter Status Discussion
- River Basin Plan Chapter Modifications for Groundwater
- Summary of Capacity Use Area Recommendations
- Discuss Additional Groundwater Areas of Interest
- Implementation
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (September 24th)

JD Solomon, Pee Dee River Basin Council Facilitator, called the September 24th meeting of the Pee Dee RBC to order at 9:02 AM. The twenty-eighth meeting of the Pee Dee RBC was held at the Clemson Pee Dee REC and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform (hybrid).

Including the Pee Dee RBC members and planning team, there were 32 people present at this RBC meeting. The minutes and summary documents were unanimously approved from the August meeting.

Elliot Wickham, SCO, discussed drought monitoring and outcomes in South Carolina. Elliot discussed the drought monitoring process in South Carolina in comparison to national drought monitoring. Elliot covered the drought response committee membership, indicators used in drought monitoring, and drought designations and responses. Elliot then discussed challenges faced in drought monitoring which included alignment of drought indicators. The process relies heavily on data but also on local reports from DRC members. Elliot discussed gaps in data and for the RBC to consider recommending a mesonet for all SC counties.

Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell, discussed the status of chapters for the Pee Dee river basin plan. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 require revisions to include groundwater information and those are in the process of being revised and impact Chapters 6 and 7. Chapters 9 and 10 will be reviewed next. Matt continued as he discussed the river basin plan chapter modifications. Some groundwater content will be shifted to Chapter 5 which will be a technical analysis of existing groundwater data. Chapter 6 is impacted as well and will be updated to include groundwater management. Chapter 7 will include any additional findings from the groundwater updates to previous chapters.

Joe Koon and Ashley Carothers, SCDES, discussed the SCDHEC reorganization to the new SCDES and a summary of Capacity Use Areas. Joe Koon reviewed the reorganization of SCDHEC and the

formation of SCDES which included the Hydrology section and Aquatic Nuisance Species Program from SCDNR. Ashley focused on the Pee Dee Capacity Use Area and the Waccamaw Capacity Use Area in her presentation using potentiometric maps and other data. The Pee Dee CUA has seen declines in GW levels and there is a cone of depression near Florence. The Waccamaw CUA has seen similar declines in GW levels and there is a cone of depression near Georgetown.

Matt Lindburg discussed the contents of Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan which is focused on implementation of the Plan. It is the last chapter of the plan and will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting. The goal is to have all chapters fully drafted by October. The RBC will then review and finalize the draft with the intent of reaching consensus at the following meeting and finalizing the draft plan.

JD Solomon encouraged everyone to attend the October meeting in-person to provide feedback ahead of finalizing the Plan at the following meeting. The next meeting of the Pee Dee River Basin Council will be held on October 22nd at the Pee Dee REC in Darlington.

The meeting concluded at 11:52 AM

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 10/22/24