

Pee Dee River Basin Council (RBC) Meeting #26 Minutes
July 23rd, 2024

RBC Members Present: Buddy Richardson, Michael Hemingway, Frances McClary, Cynthia Walters, Snipe Allen, Eric Krueger, Doug Newton, John Crutchfield, Cliff Chamblee, Megan Hyman, Lindsay Privette, Hughes Page, Tim Brown, & Debra Buffkin

RBC Members Absent: Mike Bankert, Jason Gamble, Bob Perry, John Rivers, Walt Beard, & Jeff Steinmetz

Planning Team Present: JD Solomon, Brooke Czwartacki, Tom Walker, Joe Koon, Hannah Hartley, Scott Harder, Andy Wachob, Matt Lindburg, John Boyer, & Leigh Anne Monroe

Total Present: 37

1. Call the Meeting to Order (J. D. Solomon - Facilitator)

a. Review of Meeting Objectives

J. D. Solomon (the Facilitator) called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM and the team welcomed members to the 26th Pee Dee RBC meeting. He highlighted the objectives of the meeting, including the Sonoco field trip and discussed Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan, which focuses on future implementation activities. Also, the members will consider other chapters that are ready for review.

b. Approval of July 23rd Meeting Agenda and the June 25th, 2024, Meeting Minutes and Summary

The members unanimously approved the July 23rd, 2024, Pee Dee RBC meeting agenda. John Crutchfield made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 25th, 2024, Pee Dee RBC meeting, seconded by Buddy Richardson.

Meeting agenda approved

Approval of meeting minutes and summary from June:

John Crutchfield – 1st

Buddy Richardson – 2nd

2. Public/Agency Comment (JD Solomon)

The was no public/agency comment.

3. Status of Groundwater Modeling (Andrea Hughes, USGS)

Andrea wished the members of the Pee Dee RBC a good field trip and presented an update of the status of the groundwater modeling. She explained that her team is in the process they call the Pre Monte-Carlo part of the calibration of the parent model. This is the part where the team starts eliminating all of the major outliers in the results, to derive a tighter set, for which the team then does the full inversion model calibration. So, the team is pretty happy about the status of the model.

Furthermore, Andrea explained that she is gathering all of the information that she needs so that as soon as the team gets this parent model calibrated it can start working on the

inset model. Although she noted that she has almost all the information she needs for the calibration, she explained that the team will calibrate the inset date through 2022. This is because North Carolina has yet to finalize its portion of Pee Dee inset data up to 2023. Therefore, the team will not have to wait until the year's end to calibrate the inset.

Discussion:

Q: Backend when can we expect inset model results?

A: Inset model results - September (2 scenarios) and October (2 scenarios)

Q: What to test, some mitigation strategies if we find declines in GW levels. Can we do that?

A: Yes, once the first 4 scenarios are developed, we have money for 2 mitigation strategies.

We did that for the Edisto. Once we see the results we can decide.

C: 2 in September and 2 in October and possible others.

C: We had done 4 basin scenarios and had 2 extra runs and that was built into the contract

A: Yes, should be in the contract and we'll wait and see what the results are.

C: Part in report about GW model and info. Trying to get text by September? So, we can get the drafts out or do we want to push it out?

C: My opinion would be to wait.

4. Overview of Implementation Options (JD. Solomon)

J D. Solomon led the discussion on the implementation overview. He noted that Chapter 10 focuses on implementation measures.

Matt Lindburg explained that clear implementation objectives, an action plan, and defined timelines and budget are needed to write Chapter 10. He also explained that there is a need to understand the long-term objectives which must align with short-term objectives. He explained what implementation means from the RBC's lens, such as using communication, education, and collaboration to drive action through institutions with the authority to implement.

For example, what actions can the RBC take to help implement those demand-side strategies? Many of those demand-side strategies, whether for agriculture, municipalities, or industries, are actually conducted by the stakeholders in those industries. The RBC doesn't necessarily have the authority to implement. However, it can educate and collaborate on implementing some of those strategies.

Matt encouraged the members to think of the role of the RBC in making the recommendations made throughout the planning process, which will be described in Chapters 7, 8 and 9, a reality as the main output of Chapter 10. His team will prepare a draft of Chapter 10 to reflect the implementation objective outlined by the members of Pee Dee RBC.

5. Chapter Status Discussion (Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell team)

Matt Lindburg discussed the status of writing the River Basin Plan. Chapter 6 has been sent to members for their comment with responses expected by Friday August 9, 2024. He noted that currently the content of Chapter 6 focuses on surface water and will be updated as soon

as groundwater modeling is concluded. He appreciated the quality of review provided by the sub-committee on the draft Chapter 6.

Chapter 6 priorities described in Chapter 7. Describes water management strategies also describes supply side. Aren't SW shortage risks going forward. Doesn't mean strategies aren't worthwhile. Build resilience, in case projections are off. Technical evaluation strategies and also feasibility and cost benefit for those strategies. Been reviewed by the subcommittee and got good comments.

- Understand storage in place would help determine additional storage

- Added section subheadings

- Education about native vegetation

- Call out box added

- Some cost benefit analysis comments to demonstrate economic benefits

C: Page 38 – farmers encouraged cost savings – seed and harvest will be a cost savings – it will cost about the same in short season versus long season. Harvest, no cost savings.

C: page ? – cover crops. Using cereal grasses, legumes, mix. The push now is to use a mix of cover crops (three groups encouraged in cover crops)

Ch 7 prioritization

C: I have a couple others to send in bullets but haven't gotten there yet.

Elliot Wickham came out to Jason's farm to see what the drought did to chickens, crops, cattle, etc. Elliot or Jason could talk about impacts.

C: Our irrigation is meant to supplement and not replace rain.

6. Closing Comments and Upcoming Topics (Buddy Richardson/JD Solomon)

J. D. Solomon appreciated Cliff Chamblee for arranging the field trip to Sonoco. He encouraged all members to provide feedback on the draft Chapter 6 as the entire team continues working on completing the River Basin Plan on schedule. He also appreciated The Nature Conservancy for providing lunch. Buddy Richardson appreciated all members that joined physically at Sonoco and virtually for the meeting. He also appreciated all those who made the field trip a success.

The next meeting will be held online on August 27th, 2024

The meeting concluded at 11:45 AM.

Minutes: Chikezie Isiguzo and Tom Walker

Approved: 8/27/24