

Location:

March 19, 2025
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
LCWSC Office
Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

- 1. All comments should be received by March 28**
- 2. Regionalization to be changed to partnerships and collaboration in Ch 9 for all three documents**
- 3. Draft plan to be distributed to the RBC by April 7**

Decisions:

- 1. Saluda RBC Vision Statement: A resilient and sustainably managed Saluda River Basin that balances human and ecological needs. (May 2023)**
- 2. Saluda RBC Goals: 1. To perform a review and update of the plan every 5 years at a minimum or sooner should a significant event occur requiring plan update, 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Saluda River Basin, and 3. Apply science-based resource management and conservation strategies that consider resource availability and allocation. (May 2023)**
- 3. The Saluda RBC elected KC Price as Chair and Katherine Amidon as Vice Chair. (June 2023)**
- 4. Formation of a Public Supply Water Demand projections subcommittee. (July 2023)**
- 5. Saluda RBC recommended to SCDES the removal of two inactive members. (December 2024)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period

- Review of RBC Comments and Edits to the Draft River Basin Plan
- Review of the Draft Executive Summary
- Draft 2-page Summary Sheet Review and Discussion
- Public Meeting Discussion
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (March 19th)

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the March 19th meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:03 AM. The twenty-third meeting of the Saluda RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Saluda RBC members and planning team, there were 32 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. KC discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The February minutes and summary documents were approved. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no formal comments received.

First, the RBC was debriefed about the Drought Tabletop Exercise held in West Columbia which was the third iteration of the exercise. A brief update was given about WaterSC. Melanie Ruhlman, RBC member, was recognized by Upstate Forever as the 2025 Clean Water Champion. Katherine Amidon, RBC Vice-Chair, briefly discussed a presentation she gave at SCEC regarding the Saluda RBC.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, reviewed the draft plan with the RBC members present. Comments on draft chapters are due by March 28th. John discussed the final review schedule.

Next, John reviewed the draft Executive Summary (ES) and opportunity for final comments. Katherine and KC had provided the most comments on the ES to date. Comments are due on the ES by March 28th. John also reviewed the draft two-page summary sheet. Finally, John Boyer and the RBC reviewed and discussed the Public Meeting presentation and solicited RBC members for speaking roles at the meeting.

The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Saluda RBC will be held on April 16th virtually via Zoom. Topics for the next meeting: perform the test of consensus on the draft plan, review RBC membership and term limits, and public meeting discussion and presentation review.

The meeting concluded at 12:51 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/16/25