



Development of Technical Recommendations

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Agenda Item 6




Technical and Program Recommendations

Technical and program recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- Need for more data (such as stream gages or monitoring wells)
- Model improvement (accuracy or functionality)
- Need for additional models to address specific issues
- Improved water use data, population data or estimates, water demand estimates, land use data, etc.
- Recommendations for technical studies to improve knowledge of specific issues
- Need for additional technical training for the RBC members
- Improved instream flow requirement information

Technical and Program Recommendations




Topics discussed at previous US RBC meetings that could become technical recommendations:

- Sedimentation 
 - Minimizing streambank erosion, scour, and sources of sedimentation to reservoirs
 - Studies to better identify sources of sediment load to reservoirs
 - Encourage establishment of riparian buffers, streambank restoration, and other practices that reduce sediment load to streams and reservoirs
 - Encourage green infrastructure/stormwater ordinances
 - Encourage developers to adhere to the stormwater ordinances
- Study impacts of changing land use on streamflow characteristics (magnitude of flows, timing of flows, flashiness, etc). 
- Study impacts of drought on fishkills due to low dissolved oxygen 



Technical and Program Recommendations


Topics discussed at previous US RBC meetings that could become technical recommendations:

- Discuss and identify potential pollutants of concern to explore in the next phase of planning  
 - Bacteria, nutrients, sediment...
- Incorporate recommendations from recent stream audit/study to expand number of streamflow gages where it make sense. 



Technical and Program Recommendations

Technical recommendations discussed by the Saluda RBC:

- Add more sample sites in the Blue Ridge (or simply use less data, since less is available) for evaluating streamflow-ecology relationships.
- Encourage expansion of the ambient water quality monitoring network.
- Use of the River Basin Plan to highlight areas where water is more abundant and amenable to growth. 
- Encourage that developers work with water utilities to ensure adequate water availability and infrastructure.
- Consider use of the River Basin Plan as a tool for local comprehensive plans and economic development.



Technical and Program Recommendations

Technical recommendations discussed by the Saluda RBC:


- Encourage leveraging of USDA EQUIP programs for regenerative farming practices that minimize soil disturbance and soil loss and improve soil health.
- Study impact of land use changes on streamflow and identify and prioritize land for conservation.
- Provide more incentives to landowners to not sell their land to development and place them in permanent conservation easements.



Technical and Program Recommendations



Technical recommendations identified by the Broad RBC:

- Consider incorporating future climate projections and/or historical long-term climate information such as dendroclimatology (tree ring data) to inform drought risk and or drought scenarios into modeling analyses to better address potential supply-side changes in hydrology.
- Identify funding mechanisms to support continued USGS efforts to maintain and expand streamflow gages.
- Fund and establish of a mesoscale network of weather and climate monitoring stations in South Carolina. 
- Identify the financial impacts of increased sedimentation on reservoirs and water resources and communicate the results to local governments to demonstrate the value of riparian buffers, sedimentation and erosion control measures, and other policies and controls that reduce sediment generation and transport
- Continue to consider ecological flow standards, including new and/or improved data, as it becomes available

Technical and Program Recommendations

Technical recommendations identified by the Broad RBC:

- While the RBC should maintain its focus on the assessment of water quantity, future planning efforts should include evaluation of surface water quality, including nutrient loading and sedimentation, which is important to maintaining affordable public water supplies and the ecological health of the streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Further investigation and potential piloting of low-tech, process-based approaches to stream restoration.
- The Facilitator should create an online library of, or a catalog of links to, technical information that will enhance the RBC's technical understanding of water resources concepts and issues

