



# Discuss and Develop Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations

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# Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory Recommendations

Policy, legislative, or regulatory recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- Modifications to existing state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances
- New state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances
- Ideas for recurring funding for water planning work
- Restructuring existing groups or agencies

# River Basin Policy Recommendations

Proposed Recommendations based on the July RBC discussion about **funding**:




**The South Carolina Legislature authorize recurring funding for state water planning activities, including river basin planning.** Currently, nearly all the funding for the river basin planning process has come from the legislature.




**Establish a grant program to help support the implementation of the actions and strategies identified each RBC's River Basin Plan.** One example is Georgia's Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Program which supports and incentivizes local governments and other water users as they undertake their Regional Water Plan implementation responsibilities.

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 The South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act should allow for reasonable use criteria to be applied to all new surface water withdrawals, like those that currently exist for groundwater withdrawals [B and PD].




 **Improve the current laws that allow for regulation of water use so that they are enforceable and effective.** The current water law, which grandfathered most water users, needs to be improved to support effective management of the state's water resources [B].

- Improve water use efficiency
- Find a way to reallocate resources to where they are needed.



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-  Water law and implementing regulations should not distinguish between registrations and permits. All water users that withdraw above the identified threshold should be required to apply for a water withdrawal permit [B].
-  The Broad RBC or the PPAC should develop a model riparian buffer ordinance for local jurisdictions to consider [B].
-  The water withdrawal permitting process should consider the permit application's alignment with the current River Basin Plan, particularly regarding proposed withdrawals, returns, resource conservation, and drought response [B].

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## Recommendations In the Pee Dee RBC's Draft River Basin Plan

- A joint compact or water management group should be established and funded that would focus on segments of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin that span North Carolina and South Carolina. [PD]
  - Is there value in some type of collaborative planning process between SC and GA?
- The State should support and fund RBC-led and statewide water education programs that include all sectors of water use and promote the types of water management strategies recommended in River Basin Plans. [PD]
- SCDES should provide guidance on how RBCs should interface with other organizations. [PD]



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Additional recommendations still being considered by the Saluda RBC

- Remove “safe yield” (SY) entirely as a metric in the SC water withdrawal law and implementing regulations.
- Revise minimum instream flow (MIF) standards based on best available science to adequately protect designated uses and recognize regional differences.