

Location:

July 10, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 12 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. Ashley to check on North Georgia Planning District plan regarding alternate sources of water supply (in Savannah Basin)
2. Check on UIF during dry year in Lower Savannah
3. RBC members to come prepared to discuss technical recommendations

Decisions:

1. The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)
2. Upper Savannah RBC Vision Statement: A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs. (September 2023)
3. US RBC Goals: 1. Within 24 months, develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Upper Savannah River Basin in order to:
 - a. Ensure water resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.
 - b. Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.
 - c. Promote balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.
 - d. Advocate for responsible land use practices.
 - e. Identify funding sources.
2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Upper Savannah River Basin.
3. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin. (September 2023)

4. The USBRC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- June Meeting Review
- SWAM Model Evaluation of Drought Plans
- Additional and Updated Surface Water Analysis
- Development of Planning Process Recommendations
- Development of Technical, Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (July 10th)

Jill Miller, USBRC Chair, called the July 10th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The twelfth meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Upper Savannah RBC members and planning team, there were 33 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from June. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Announcements included discussion about a funding opportunity in the Savannah basin and current drought conditions and the impact in the basin and across the state. Ashley Reid reviewed the June meeting highlights.

John Boyer and Amy Shaw, CDM Smith, presented the SWAM model evaluation of drought plans to the RBC members in attendance. For this agenda item the current and 2070 high demand scenarios and synthetic drought scenarios 1 and 2 were presented. The 2070 current and high demand scenarios included information about updates to the Savannah model, example drought plan triggers, a typical drought ordinance, ARJWS drought plan, Lake Hartwell storage drought plan rules vs no drought plan rules, and a comparison of drought plan demand reductions to reservoir storage.

Next John Boyer, Amy Shaw, and Kirk Westphal, CDM Smith, presented additional and updated surface water analyses. This discussion focused on an update on synthetic/extended drought analysis of Thurmond releases, an update on safe yield of major reservoirs, and alternative 2 comparison.

After the break, Ashley Reid and John Boyer, CDM Smith, initiated the development of planning process recommendations with the RBC. John and Ashley reminded the RBC of what planning process recommendations could include and discussed the Saluda RBC's discussion on the same topic. The RBC broke up into four groups to brainstorm ideas. The full list included increased public engagement, increased audits of recruited RBC members to evaluate which groups are missing, and water quality issues.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid and John Boyer discussing the next Upper Savannah RBC meeting which will be held at the Starr Iva water district office. The RBC members were tasked with starting to think about technical recommendations. The next meeting will be held September 11, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:04 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 9/11/2024