

Location:

October 9, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 14 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. RBC members to come prepared to discuss policy recommendations
2. RBC to review draft chapters 2, 3, & 4
3. RBC members to send in pictures of the basin for the river basin plan

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 USRBC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- August Meeting Review
- Georgia Regional Water Plan Seed Grant Program
- Discussion and Development of Technical, Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations
- Update on Draft River Basin Plan Chapter Status and RBC Review Schedule
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (October 9th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the October 9th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The fourteenth 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 35 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from September. A public comment and agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the September meeting highlights.

Clete Barton, GAEPD, presented information regarding the Georgia regional water plan seed grant program to the RBC members. Highlights of Clete's presentation included: a brief history of Georgia water planning, planning regions, seed grants, award and match, number of applicants and funded projects, and the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee RWP Council. The USRBC will consider making a recommendation for a similar program for SC in their river basin plan.

Next, the RBC broke out into groups and discussed technical recommendations for the plan. The four breakout groups discussed: 1. Land use and sedimentation, 2. Water quality and data gaps, 3. Growth and development, and 4. Everything else. The four breakout groups convened, discussed, and shared their discussions with the larger RBC. The development of policy, legislative, or regulatory recommendations will be the focus of the next RBC meeting.

John Boyer discussed the timeline for draft chapter distribution to the RBC. By the end of the year, the RBC will have chapters 1-9 and chapter 10 in January 2025. The full draft plan including an executive summary will be ready by February. RBC members were asked to send in

photos of the basin for inclusion in the basin plan. RBC members were also asked to provide feedback on chapters 2-4 of the river basin plan.

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 policy recommendations. The next meeting will be held on November 13, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:01 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 11/13/2024