# Broad River Basin Council
# Annual Report on Progress and Process Metrics

**March 2024**

## 1.0 Introduction

The South Carolina State Water Planning Framework (the Planning Framework) requires River Basin Councils (RBCs) develop process and progress metrics. The process and progress metrics are used throughout the planning process to monitor the success or failure of (1) processes that lead to RBC actions, and (2) the actions themselves. This annual report evaluates success in meeting the process metrics during the second year of Broad River basin planning, and the development of progress metrics, which are focused mostly on the Broad River Basin Plan implementation activities.

## 2.0 Process Metrics

### 2.1 Development of Process Metrics

As defined in the Planning Framework, process metrics are *benchmarks used to monitor the success or failure of the processes which led to RBC actions*. Suggested process metrics were introduced to the RBC during the second RBC meeting held on April 14, 2022. The first four process metrics listed below were suggested in the Planning Framework. The next five process metrics were suggested by the RBC Facilitator. The RBC reviewed each metric and voted unanimously to accept the nine process metrics. The success (or failure) in meeting each of the adopted process metrics during the second year of the planning process is discussed below.

### 2.2 Progress in Meeting the Adopted Process Metrics

The success (or failure) in meeting each of the adopted process metrics during the first year of the planning process is discussed below.

1. **The process to select RBC members is well documented, transparent, and reflects broad-based outreach.**

   **Result:** The process of soliciting applicants and selecting RBC members is the responsibility of SCDNR. At the outset of the process, SCDNR solicited applicants through their Water Planning website and through outreach to organizations and interest groups that have interest in water resources of the basin. Applications were reviewed by SCDNR and discussed with the Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC). After the initial selection of the RBC members, SCDNR has continued to advertise and accept applications for openings in the Local Government interest category to increase the number of RBC members representing that category, which currently stands at one. The Industry and Economic Development interest category is also only represented by one member, following a member resignation in 2023.

2. **RBCs develop a River Basin Plan within two years of RBC formation.**

   **Result:** The initial planning process in the Broad River basin finished slightly under the originally planned two years.

3. **RBC meetings adhere to timelines.**

   **Result:** RBC meetings have typically adhered to the timelines established in each meeting agenda. Meetings have been scheduled for 3 to 4 hours and have been completed in 3 to 4 hours.

4. **River Basin Plans are actionable, logical, and address or prevent challenges with a level of detail to be cost-accountable.**

   **Result:** The Broad River Basin Plan includes a well-documented Implementation Plan that identifies overall objectives, develops strategies to achieve those objectives, identifies specific actions that support the strategies, names responsible parties, estimates the cost of implementation, and identifies potential funding opportunities.

5. **Information used and generated during the planning process is shared openly, publicly, and is easily accessible.**

   **Result:** All RBC meeting materials, including handouts, slides, meeting summaries, and meeting minutes were posted to the Broad Basin Planning - SCDNR website within 1-2 weeks of the meeting. All meetings have been recorded via Zoom and the recordings are also posted to the website.

6. **RBC meeting agendas are focused and promote efficient and productive meetings.**

   **Result:** All RBC meeting agendas have clearly stated the meeting objectives and have typically included no more than 5-7 agenda items to keep them focused. The Planning Team meets prior to each meeting to set the agenda for the meeting and discuss potential agenda topics for the following meeting.

7. **RBC members are able to effectively consider, digest, and understand technical information through presentations, discussion, group learning, and self-study.**

   **Result:** Feedback from the RBC suggests that members have been able to effectively consider, digest, and understand the technical information presented.

8. **Decisions are guided by best available science.**

   **Result:** A wide variety of speakers presented information to the RBC during all four planning phases to better educate the RBC members on a range of technical, scientific, and legal issues pertinent to the Broad River basin. RBC decisions made during the final two phases of the planning process have been primarily related to selection of water management strategies, the identification of additional areas of study, and the development of recommendations. When the

process metrics were reviewed with the RBC during a 2023 RBC meeting, the RBC members agreed that they have been provided the best available scientific information and basis to support their decisions.

9. **The use and outcomes of models and other tools to assess water availability and evaluate strategies are appropriately documented.**

   **Result:** The Broad River basin surface water quantity model has been used to assess water availability for each planning scenario. Documentation has been provided to the RBC summarizing the results of the preliminary surface water modeling. The results of all surface water modeling were documented in Chapters 5 and 6 of the River Basin Plan, which was reviewed by the RBC.

   Additional tools and models have been used to develop flow-ecological health relationships. An overview of these tools and models was presented to the RBC and documentation was included in Chapters 5 and 6 and as an appendix to the Plan.

## 3.0 Progress Metrics

Progress metrics are *benchmarks used to monitor the success or failure of selected actions taken by an RBC*. Noting that the ultimate value and impact of the river basin planning process is the dissemination of its findings and implementation of its recommendations, the Broad RBC developed progress metrics around each of the five implementation objectives defined at the beginning of Chapter 10 of the Final Broad River Basin Plan. The progress metrics are:

1. **Improve water use efficiency to conserve water resources**

   - Metric 1a: Municipal and agricultural water conservation and efficiency strategies are considered, evaluated, and implemented. On the municipal side, a 5-year reduction in residential per capita demand is realized and water utility financial strength is maintained.
   - Metric 1b: Funding opportunities are identified and used to implement strategies.

2. **Optimize and Augment sources of supply**

   - Metric 2a: Strategies to optimize and augment sources of supply are implemented before they are needed.
   - Metric 2b: Funding opportunities are identified and successfully used to implement supply augmentation strategies

3. **Improve Drought Management**

   - Metric 3: One hundred percent of public water supplier's drought management plans are updated within the last 5 years and submitted to the SCO for review.

4. **Effectively communicate RBC findings and recommendations**

   - Metric 4a: Within 2 years, the RBC has presented the Plan to all County Councils that are within the Broad River basin and requested their feedback and ideas for future study.
   - Metric 4b: Outreach is effective, prompting legislative actions, decisions, and funding that support implementation strategies and actions.

5. **Improve technical understanding of water resource management issues**

   - Metric 5a: USGS streamflow gages in the basin are maintained.
   - Metric 5b: The RBC has become familiar with the study in the Catawba River basin that assessed the relative impacts of climate and land use change on water supply resiliency and considered the value of a similar study in the Broad River basin.
   - Metric 5c: Research into financial impacts of sedimentation on reservoirs and water resources is completed. Results are communicated to local governments.
   - Metric 5d: New data on ecological flow relationships is presented to the RBC and considered in subsequent RBC recommendations.
   - Metric 5e: Potential pinch-points where low flows may lower the assimilative capacity of streams have been identified, considered, and incorporated in RBC recommendations.
   - Metric 5f: Water quality issues and concerns in the basin are identified and a strategy to study approaches to address them is developed.
   - Metric 5g: Information on the how tree-ring data may be used to assess the severity, frequency, and duration of historical droughts and how that and/or climate projections may be used to better address potential hydrologic variability is presented to the RBC, and the value of performing such studies as part of the next 5-year Plan update is considered by the RBC.
   - Metric 5h: An online library of technical resources is available to and used by RBC members.

Future updates of the Broad River Basin Plan will evaluate the Broad RBC's performance relative to the progress metrics.