

Location:

March 26, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Clemson Pee Dee REC and Zoom Virtual (hybrid)

Action Items:

1. RBC members to read River Basin Plan chapters distributed by Matt Lindburg, provide feedback, and come prepared to discuss chapter contents.

Major Decisions:

1. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the RBC bylaws as written in the Planning Framework. (July 2022)
2. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the proposed Process Metrics as presented. (August 2022)
3. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the Pee Dee RBC. (August 2022)
4. The Pee Dee RBC elected the Chair: Buddy Richardson and Vice Chair: Cara Schildtknecht (November 2022)
5. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to take a common sense approach to the groundwater modeling delays for the Pee Dee River Basin Plan. To continue to develop groundwater management strategies and clarify those/check them once the groundwater model is completed. If the model is not completed, move forward with the developed groundwater management strategies for the plan. (January 2024)
6. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to continue the monthly meeting schedule during the groundwater model delay and for the planning team to decide on what is appropriate for in-person versus virtual meeting format on a month-to-month basis. (January 2024)
7. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC approved Ch 1 of the River Basin Plan. (January 2024)
8. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC approved development of a 20 – 30 page Executive Summary and development of a 2 page policy brief style handout. (January 2024)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Update on Groundwater Modeling Status

- Groundwater Mitigation Strategies
- Breakout Sessions – Current and Historical Groundwater Information
- Consensus-Driven Decision Making
- Pee Dee Policy and Future Decisions Discussion
- Chapter Updates
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (March 26th)

JD Solomon, Pee Dee River Basin Council Facilitator, called the March 26th meeting of the Pee Dee RBC to order at 9:05 AM. The twenty-second meeting of the Pee Dee RBC was held in person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Pee Dee RBC members and planning team, there were 41 people present at this RBC meeting.

The meeting began with JD Solomon reviewing the agenda items for the meeting. The Pee Dee RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and approved the minutes and summary documents from the February meeting. A public comment period was held with no comments. An agency public comment period was held with no comments.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the groundwater modeling work underway. Andrea Hughes updated the Pee Dee RBC on the status of the model. The USGS team is on track to complete the model update and run scenarios for the Pee Dee RBC by July – Sept 2024. Currently, the USGS team has met with modelers, revised model layers, & test-run basic parent model with update model inputs for the parent model and run prior monte carlo simulations set to be completed by the end of March.

Leigh Anne Monroe, SCDHEC, presented *Water Management Strategies Across Pee Dee Basin* to the RBC members. Leigh Anne started the presentation with guiding principle #4 from the planning framework – *River Basin Plans should utilize effective supply and demand side strategies* and discussed the conservation and management emphasis of that guiding principle. The focus was on best management plans for groundwater users and water sectors covered included golf course irrigation BMP, water supply BMP, agricultural irrigation BMP, industrial BMP. Leigh Anne also provided information regarding example BMP strategies for groundwater and OCP strategies for surface water for each water use sector.

Brooke Czwartacki, SCDNR, followed Leigh Anne’s presentation with additional groundwater data and information. The information Brooke covered included: wells reporting use in the Pee Dee, monitoring network and potentiometric wells in the Pee Dee (Crouch Branch and McQueen Branch aquifers), and Capacity Use Area plan recommendations for the Pee Dee CUA and the Waccamaw CUA.

The Pee Dee RBC broke out into breakout groups to discuss current and historical groundwater information. The groups met for about 45 minutes and then reported out their discussion.

Jeff Lineberger, Duke Energy, discussed *Consensus-Driven Decision Making* with the RBC members. Jeff reminded the RBC about the draft plan and final plan decision making process and discussed a book he found helpful – *Getting to YES*. Jeff discussed interest-based negotiations applied to water resource decisions in several Duke Energy areas in the Carolinas (Catawba-Wateree hydro, NP&L hydro, and Keowee-Toxaway hydro projects). Jeff rounded out his presentation with observations from those and other decision-making processes.

Buddy Richardson, Pee Dee RBC Chair, led discussion on Pee Dee policy and future decisions. Buddy presented each potential recommendation to the Pee Dee RBC members to gauge interest and feedback for the potential recommendations.

Matt Lindburg, Brown & Caldwell, discussed the status of several chapters in the Pee Dee River Basin Plan. Chapter 2 – developed a small subsection and Matt asked the RBC members to provide feedback as necessary. Chapter 3 – received some comments. Chapter 5 – comments focused on surface water due by April 15. Chapter 8 – we got a few comments about drought conditions for other sectors and chapter 8 can include a subsection for water use sectors and managing drought. Chapter 4 – will start to work on. Chapter 9 – will also start working on and Chapter 6 also.

JD Solomon and Buddy Richardson concluded the meeting at 12:37 PM. The next meeting of the Pee Dee RBC will be April 23, 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/24/24