

Review and Discuss Proposed Additional Plan Recommendations



Suggested Recommendations for Discussion

“The Edisto River Basin Plan includes numerous recommendations that received consensus support and approval. The RBC has identified several other issues but has not succeeded in attaining consensus on them.

The first of these unresolved issues is that the status quo allows for over allocation of surface water resources through permits and registrations. This has been borne out by modeling of the “Full Allocation” scenario. The development of flow standards and revision of the criteria for regulatory approval of surface water withdrawals have been identified as potential pathways to more sustainable management of the resource. The State Water Plan should address these issues.”

(suggested revision was not approved by the RBC)

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“The second unresolved issue centers on the regulatory status of grandfathered permits and agricultural registrations for surface water withdrawals. SCDHEC has acknowledged that 100 percent of existing withdrawers in the Edisto basin (and approximately 94 percent statewide) fall into these categories and are therefore not subject to meaningful SCDHEC regulatory oversight. **The State Water Plan should address this situation, providing a path forward to development of more effective regulatory mechanisms.**”

(suggested revision was not approved by the RBC)

Suggested Recommendations for Discussion

“The third unresolved issue is the decision (by the PPAC) to focus the development of the state’s eight watershed plans on water quantity issues, with water quality left as a secondary consideration. **The SC State Water Plan should explicitly address both quality and quantity, since they are inextricably entwined, or it will be incomplete.**”

(suggested revision was not approved by the RBC; however, the RBC agreed to vote on the proposed recommendation that “Future Edisto RBC planning efforts should address water quality”, and that the voting results would be summarized in Chapter 9, as one of the issues where consensus was not reached.)