

Minutes of the Edisto RBC Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting was held virtually via the Zoom Meetings application

RBC Members Present: Mark Aakhus, Laura Bagwell, Kirk Bell, David Bishop, John Bass, Joel Duke, Richard Hall, Johnney Haralson, J.J. Jowers, Jr, Hugo Krispyn, Alta Mae Marvin, Trey McMillan, Mike Mosley, Eric Odom, Charles Shugart, Natalie Tarpein, Jason Thompson, Alex Tolbert, Jeremy Walther, and Landrum Weathers

RBC Members Excused: Hank Stallworth, Jerry Waters, and Larry Yonce

Planning Team Present: Ken Rentiers, Scott Harder, Jeff Allen, John Boyer, Rob Devlin, Alex Butler, Joe Gellici, Andy Wachob, Tom Walker, Murray Dodd, Lori Dickes, Vincent Leon Guerrero, Chikezie Isiguzo, and Andrew Waters

Total Present: 104

1. Agenda Item: Meeting called to order (John Boyer, Edisto RBC Facilitator)

3:02 PM

John Boyer introduced himself as the Edisto RBC facilitator. John announced that we had a quorum of RBC members for the meeting. He welcomed the Edisto RBC members and public and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director, SCDNR Land, Water and Conservation Division, welcomed the participants and reviewed the selection process for members. He recognized the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor McMaster, DNR Staff, DNR Board, DHEC staff, Clemson University, CDM Smith, Army Corps of Engineers, and USGS for their roles in funding, planning and preparing for the RBC process. He acknowledged the significant effort of the PPAC in designing the Planning Framework document and read the names of its members. He thanked members of the RBC and others for their commitment to the Edisto River Basin Planning Process.

He requested that any public comments be submitted to Tom Walker by June 24. Spoken public comments are not possible for this meeting but will be integrated in subsequent meetings with additional time added for public comment.

2. Agenda Item: Virtual Meeting Basics (Tom Walker)

John Boyer introduced Dr. Tom Walker and described the administrative support role of Clemson University. Tom provided an overview of the virtual meeting process. He asked that those not speaking turn off their cameras. Tom will be unmuting speakers and presenters when

it is their turn to speak. To speak you will have to “raise your hand in Zoom.” He described other functions of Zoom that may be used as the process continues. He explained that we cannot address user experience based on internet connectivity. He asked that members and the public reach out to him for administrative questions or issues.

3. Agenda Item: Introductions and Roles (John Boyer) **Edisto River Basin Planning Team**

John Boyer asked the Edisto River Basin Planning Team to introduce themselves:

Scott Harder, SCDNR - Hydrology Section Chief. Scott also introduced from the Groundwater Division: Andy Wachob and Joe Gellici and from the Surface Water Division: Pryanka More and Alex Pellett.

Rob Devlin, SCDHEC - Director of Water Monitoring, Assessment and Protection Division. Their role will be to integrate water permitting rules and regulations into the planning process. Rob introduced key staff: Alex Butler, Leigh Anne Monroe and Bradley Craig.

John Boyer, CDM Smith – Senior Project Manager. He will serve as facilitator for the RBC process. He introduced his colleagues, Murray Dodd and Camren Shea. CDM Smith’s role is to lead the RBC in the development of the Edisto River Basin Plan.

Jeff Allen, S.C. Water Resources Center at Clemson University – Executive Director. SCWRC’s role is to assist with meeting coordination and the stakeholder engagement process. He introduced the team of Dr. Tom Walker; Graduate Students: Andrew Waters, Vincent Leon Guerrero, and Chikezie Isiguzo. Dr. Lori Dickes is assisting with graduate research. He also acknowledged Heather Nix and Charly McConnell from Clemson Water Extension Service in addition to other Clemson personnel at the meeting.

Edisto RBC members

John asked the attending RBC members to introduce themselves:

- Mark Aakhus, Asst. Town Administrator for Edisto Beach
- Laura Bagwell, Elected Commissioner with Aiken Soil & Water Conservation District. She is a geologist by profession, retired from Savannah River Site.
- Kirk Bell, Consulting Forester in Aiken. Lived in Edisto his entire life.
- David Bishop, The Nature Conservancy, also a part-time farmer.
- Dr. John Bass, landowner representative on the Edisto River
- Joel Duke, Asst. County Administrator and Planning Director for Aiken County
- Richard Hall, Community Development Director in Orangeburg County
- Jhoney Haralson, Bamberg Soil & Water District, (did not speak due to a technical issue)
- J.J. Jowers, Bamberg County citizen representative appointed by Bamberg County Council. Civil engineer and surveyor in Orangeburg.

- Hugo Krispyn, Edisto Riverkeeper, resides on Edisto River.
- Larry Yonce (not attending)
- Alta Mae Marvin, part of Colleton County's Edisto River Canoeing and Kayaking Commission, also resides on Edisto River.
- Trey McMillan, Founder and President of Lowcountry Oyster Company, 100% sustainable oyster farm operating on the Edisto River.
- Mike Mosley, Dominion Energy South Carolina Environmental Service Department, supervisor of water permitting.
- Eric Odom, Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities, Water Division Director.
- Charles Shugart, Public Works Director of Denmark, South Carolina.
- Hank Stallworth, retired DNR (not attending).
- Natalie Tarpein, Dorchester County Rivers and Waterways Commission, also an environmental educator.
- Jason Thompson, Source Water Manager, Charleston Water System.
- Alex Tolbert, Orangeburg Country Club, golf course superintendent.
- Jeremy Walther, Walther Farms, agricultural representative.
- Jerry Waters, Palmetto Realty and Land Company (not attending).
- Landrum Weathers, Landrum Farms/Circle W Farms in Bowman, Orangeburg County, agricultural representative.

John thanks RBC members for participating.

4. Agenda Item: River Basin Planning Purpose and Guiding Principles Presentation (Scott Harder)

Scott provided an overview of needs for and process for River Basin Planning via slide presentation.

Edisto River supports varied uses: agricultural, water supply, recreation, etc.

- Issues affecting use of Edisto River:
 - Population Growth/Increased Water Demand
 - Drought
 - Issues highlight need for water resource planning.
- Why Basin Approach?
 - Unique challenges and considerations
 - Incorporates both surface and groundwater
 - Stakeholders have expertise and knowledge in their own basin
- What is a River Basin Plan?
 - Answers four questions:
 - What is current available water supply and demand?
 - What are the current and permitted registered water uses?
 - (Did not record)
 - What water management strategies and policies can inform water use for the next 50 years?
 - Water Management Strategies

- River Basin Plan Includes:
 - Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory
 - Technical Needs and Reports
 - Process: How can RBC facilitate sound management?
 - Guiding Principles
 - Should strive for equitable use
 - Should protect public's health and well-being
 - Must recognize existing laws and regulations but should recommend necessary changes.
- Water planning is a continuous process that requires cooperation and transparency. Important for the public to be engaged. Require multiple perspectives and stakeholder participation.

Following the presentation, Scott thanked RBC for their participation and reported this will be a 2-year process.

5. Agenda Item: July Meeting Preview (John Boyer)

John Boyer reported the July meeting will also be a virtual meeting. Decisions for future meetings have not yet been made. The July meeting will be held July 15, the third Wednesday of the Month.

RBC members were polled about the time of the meeting. The vote was for a morning meeting from 9-10:30 on July 15. For the next meeting we will review the Water Planning Framework. He asked members to review that document before the next meeting. Please bring comments or suggestions from the framework. He also asked members to review the RBC Bylaws, which are listed at the end of the Planning Framework Document.

John announced that we will select a chair and vice chair at a future meeting, hopefully when we begin meeting in person. He asked the RBC to identify an alternate who can fill in for members if they can't make a meeting. This is important because there are attendance requirements in the bylaws.

John announced he would continue to stay on after the meeting concludes to answer questions.

He thanked attending members of the public and reminded them to submit written comments to Tom Walker by June 24. We will review and try to address as many comments as practical at the next meeting.

John adjourned the meeting at 3:53 PM.

Post meeting comments and questions

- John Bass thanked John Boyer for his administration of the meeting.

- Hugo Krispyn commented he remains concerned that water quality issues are not addressed in the planning process.
- Peter Delorme. He was listed as an RBC alternate during the selection process. He asked if the member's alternates can be chosen from committee alternates? Scott Harder replied that alternates are designated by the members themselves. The council member may choose an RBC alternate. Peter could be selected as a member alternate if an RBC member chose him as such.

There were no other questions or comments from RBC members.

John adjourned the extra session at 3:59 PM.

Minutes: Vincent Leon Guerrero, Chikezie Isiguzo, Andrew Waters and Tom Walker

Approved: July 15, 2020