

Location:

November 16, 2022

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clemson Edisto REC

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **John Boyer and CDM Smith to incorporate comments and feedback into draft Edisto River Basin Plan.**

Decisions:

1. **Majority decision: Edisto RBC recommends establishing groundwater areas of concern in regions where groundwater data and/or groundwater modeling predict water levels drop below the top of the aquifers. Majority Vote: 17 – Yes and 3 – No. (March)**
2. **The RBC does not want to identify specific groundwater conditions but instead focus on a “desired future condition” approach in the final Plan recommendations. (April)**
3. **RBC recommends Agricultural Portfolio of Water Efficiency Strategies in priority order of: Water Audits and Nozzle Retrofits, Irrigation Equipment Changes, Soil Management and Cover Cropping, Irrigation Scheduling, Crop Variety, Crop Type & Crop Conversions, and Future Technologies. (May)**
4. **RBC recommends Portfolio of Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategies in no order of priority. (May)**
5. **The RBC recommends that responsible agencies and stakeholders consider encouraging new pumping in areas of concern come from aquifers that can support the additional withdrawals. One example indicted by modeling was the area of concern in the Crouch Branch of Calhoun County. Here the RBC recommends that future pumping be transitioned to the McQueen Branch, if monitoring suggest continued, increasing drawdowns in the Crouch Branch aquifer. Majority vote: 16 – Yes, 3 – No & 1 - Abstain (May)**
6. **The RBC recommends the use of small impoundments limited to 2nd order or lower tributaries to enhance availability during dry/low flow periods to build resilience. Majority vote: 17 – Yes and 1 – Abstain (May)**
7. **The RBC recommends conjunctive use as a supplement to surface water use during low-flow periods. (May)**
8. **The Edisto RBC adopt the proposed low flow management strategy which would trigger whenever the total basin discharge (measured at Givhans) drops below a surface condition of 20% median (currently about 332 cfs) with the goal of reducing**

withdrawals equal to the exceedance of the surface condition in the following increments. The low flow strategy excludes withdrawers whose peak monthly withdrawals are less than 60 MGM (20x the regulated threshold of 3 MGM). The low flow management strategy is to be implemented over time contingent upon identified available funding. Majority Vote: 16 – Yes and 1 – No (June)

| 20% Increments Percent Below MIF | River Flow Range (cfs) | | Basin-wide % Reduction in SW Withdrawals |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|---|
| | Lower | Upper | |
| 0 - 20% | 266 | 332 | 20% |
| 20 - 40% | 199 | 266 | 40% |
| 40 - 60% | 133 | 199 | 60% |
| 60 - 80% | 66 | 133 | 80% |
| 80 - 100% | 0 | 66 | 100% |

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda and August 17th Minutes and Summary Documents
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Old business/New business Discussion
- Review and Discuss Draft River Basin Plan
- Test Consensus on the Draft River Basin Plan
- Prepare for first and second public meetings presenting the Draft and Final River Basin Plan
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (November 16th)

The Edisto RBC Chair, Hank Stallworth, called the November 16th meeting of the Edisto RBC to order at 9:05 AM. The twenty-seventh meeting of the Edisto RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Edisto RBC members and planning team, there were 35 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Hank Stallworth discussing the agenda items for the meeting. The Edisto RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the August 17th minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency public comment period was held with no comments received. Old and new business discussion focused on RBC membership for those members with 2 and 3-year term limits and a forthcoming e-mail regarding intentions to reapply or step down after the plan is finalized.

The first major agenda item was to review and discuss the draft Edisto River Basin plan. Discussion began with wanting to make sure everyone’s voice was captured in the plan. John Boyer reviewed how the Planning Framework outlines the decision-making process. The first major question for the Edisto RBC was whether anyone had any major reservations or points of

contention. There were no members that had significant reservations or wanted to withdraw as an RBC member. All members were in the minor or major points of contention range and discussion focused on what should be included in the plan that was not already included or parts that might make members move up with less points of contention when voting for the plan. Overall, the three major issues are overallocation, grandfathered and registered user issues, and the focus on quantity in the first iteration of the plan.

After discussion on ways to enhance certain sections and include edits into the final draft, John Boyer tested consensus on the draft River Basin Plan. Testing consensus resulted in all members that voted in the meeting in the 2-3 range with endorsement, but minor and major points of contention respectively. After completion of plan edits, Edisto RBC members will be given the opportunity to revise their level of endorsement for the plan.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing the first and second public meetings to present the draft and final River Basin Plan. The Edisto RBC provided feedback on draft slides for the first public meeting. The RBC meeting was adjourned.

The meeting concluded at 11:43 AM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 12/14/2022