Location:
September 15, 2021
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Clemson Edisto REC, Blackville, SC &
Zoom Virtual Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **RBC members who are interested in serving on a surface water withdrawers subcommittee please contact Hank and Landrum and include your preference to meet in-person or virtually.**
2. **RBC members currently without an alternate are reminded to select an alternate from the same water use interest category.**
3. **RBC members are required to inform the Planning Team in advance of the RBC meeting if they will not be in attendance and if their alternate will be present.**
4. **Public Comments for call-ins at the RBC meeting are to be sent to Tom Walker tcwalke@clemson.edu**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda and August 18th Minutes and Summary Documents
- Public Comment Period
- Groundwater Availability Evaluation Methods and Considerations
- Groundwater Management Areas
- Groundwater Planning Scenario Results – Predevelopment and Current Use
- Review of River Basin Planning
- RBC Group Breakout Session to Receive Feedback
- Surface Water Discussion
- Upcoming RBC schedule

Meeting Summary (September 15th)

The Edisto RBC Chair, Hank Stallworth, called the September 15th meeting of the Edisto RBC to order at 9:00 AM. The fifteenth meeting of the Edisto RBC was held in-person at the Clemson Edisto Research and Education Center (REC) in Blackville, SC and via Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Edisto RBC members and planning team, there were 54 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Hank Stallworth reviewing the meeting objectives: to learn about methods to evaluate groundwater availability, to understand the groundwater management areas and how they factor into a river basin plan,

review groundwater modeling results for the predevelopment and current use scenarios, receive feedback from the RBC on progress and expectations, and discuss and select (as needed) surface water conditions, reaches of interest, and additional performance measures. The Edisto RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the August 18th minutes and summary. A public comment period was held with no comments received.

The first agenda item was a presentation titled *Groundwater Availability Evaluation Methods and Considerations*. Joe Gellici, SCDNR, reviewed a groundwater predevelopment scenario which represented the natural flow and a scenario representing the resource after decades of pumping groundwater. Joe also revisited the hydrogeologic framework and aquifer locations and depths and recharge areas in the state. Joe also discussed cones of depression and water level declines due to long-term pumping. Several groundwater management strategies were discussed: conjunctive use, aquifer storage and recovery, and reverse osmosis.

Leigh Ann Monroe, SCDHEC, presented information relating to Capacity Use Areas in South Carolina and associated groundwater management plans. SCDHEC finished the Western Capacity Use Area groundwater management plan and is moving forward with the newly designated Santee-Lynches Capacity Use Area and development of that groundwater management plan in the future. A review of all three groundwater management plans for Capacity Use Areas in the Edisto River Basin was requested and will be presented in a future Edisto RBC planning meeting (Western, Lowcountry, and Trident).

Matt Petkewich, USGS, presented *Groundwater Planning Scenario Results – Predevelopment and Current Use* to the Edisto RBC. Matt reviewed the data input into the model and also modifications to the model such as decreased model cell grid size. The primary outputs were groundwater levels and water budgets. The presentation reviewed and provided analysis for the Gordon layer, Couch Branch and McQueen Branch aquifers from predevelopment conditions to 2015 conditions and 2020 conditions. Scenario development for the future included current use, permitted, business as usual, and high water demand. Surficial aquifer modeling results will be presented at a future meeting as requested in the meeting.

John Boyer provided a review of river basin planning which included examples of what the Edisto RBC is tasked with doing and where they are going in the development of the basin plan. The phases of the Edisto river basin plan, development of strategies relating to demand and supply, and drought and low flow conditions being a focal point in the development of the plan were highlighted. The plan will also include technical, legislative, and process recommendations. The planning process in Georgia was also presented including strategies and recommendations.

The RBC divided itself into breakout groups to provide feedback on the planning process. Feedback was provided to several questions relating to the river basin planning process, technical information, requests for further topics for review, topics that require more information before moving to phase 3, water use interest group representation and balance, subcommittee needs and related topics, and recommendations for improvement of the planning process.

The last point of discussion focused on surface water and considerations for potentially establishing surface water conditions, reaches of interest, and additional performance metrics. John Boyer presented scenario results under the 2070 business as usual, 2070 high demand, full allocation and full allocation minus specific contentious registrations. Jason Thompson presented about a potential reach of interest at Givhans Ferry and potentially setting a surface water condition. Jason also proposed forming a surface water withdrawer subcommittee to discuss how to minimize impacts of drought through management strategies.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing items for the next meeting including additional groundwater scenario results and comparison of results, potential surface water follow-up, identifying possible water management strategies for evaluation. Hank Stallworth formally adjourned the meeting. The next Edisto RBC meeting will be held October 20, 2021.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: November 17, 2021