

Edisto River Basin Council Membership Application

Background

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has initiated a process to develop water-resource management plans for each of the state's eight major river basins (planning areas). The intent of these water plans is to develop management strategies to ensure the surface water and groundwater resources of a river basin will be available for all uses for years to come.

In March 2018, SCDNR convened the State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC) to promote stakeholder participation and to obtain diverse perspectives from various water-related interests in order to develop an effective water planning process. Working closely with the PPAC, SCDNR produced the *South Carolina State Water Planning Framework*, a guidance document that describes the process by which regional (basin-wide) water plans will be developed. (The *Planning Framework* is available at <http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/state-and-river-basin-planning.html>.)

The *Planning Framework* calls for the formation of a River Basin Council (RBC) for each planning basin. Each RBC will consist of a group of stakeholders with diverse water-related interests, assembled specifically to develop a River Basin Plan consistent with the guidelines of the Planning Framework. The work of each RBC will be supported by SCDNR and outside contractors hired by the State.

Edisto River Basin Council Membership

The Edisto RBC will be composed of up to 25 members appointed by SCDNR and selected to evenly represent the following eight water-interest categories:

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation Interests
2. Local Governments
3. Water and Sewer Utilities
4. Electric-Power Utilities and Non-Federal Reservoir Operators
5. Industry and Economic Development Interests
6. Water-Based Recreation Interests
7. Environmental Interests
8. At-Large Water-Based Interests

Each RBC member must represent one designated interest category, and RBC members must be knowledgeable and experienced in the interest category they represent. RBC members are required to reside, work, or officially represent an entity having a significant interest in the water resources of the Edisto River basin. If an umbrella association exists for a stakeholder interest group, the respective association may recommend a council member by submitting an endorsement letter to SCDNR. Membership on the State Drought Response Committee or a recognized SCDHEC Groundwater Management Group may be used as additional qualifiers for selecting members to RBC slots. Efforts will be made by SCDNR to appoint members with significant water-related interests in different geographic areas of the basin so different regions of the planning basin are represented on the RBC.

The initial duration of RBC terms will be for two, three, or four years, determined randomly. Each subsequent term will have a duration of three years. After serving an initial term, RBC members may request to serve an additional three-year term, with reappointment subject to SCDNR approval.

IMPORTANT: The development of a River Basin Plan by the RBC will be a long, continuous process, and participation in the RBC will require a significant investment of time and resources by each member. Applicants should clearly understand the time commitment required of RBC members. To that end, applicants should carefully review the entire contents of the *Planning Framework* to become familiar with the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of RBC members.

It is anticipated that the RBC will meet monthly during the two- to three-year development of the initial River Basin Plan, and these meetings will typically last 3 to 4 hours. RBC members also should expect to participate in subcommittees, which may meet periodically between full Council meetings. RBC members will be required to review basin planning documentation and reports developed and presented during the process.

The work of the RBC does not end with the publication of the River Basin Plan. The River Basin Plan will include an Implementation Plan, which describes specific goals and actions to be taken over a five-year period by the RBC regarding implementation of the River Basin Plan's water management recommendations and strategies. In addition, the Planning Framework calls for River Basin Plans to be amended as needed and updated at least every five years.

**EDISTO RIVER BASIN COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone 1: _____
_____ Phone 2: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Organization/Company: _____
Position: _____ E-mail: _____

Indicate which one Interest Category you are requesting to represent (required):

- | | |
|--|---|
| Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation Interests | Industry and Economic Development Interests |
| Local Governments | Water-based Recreation Interests |
| Water and Sewer Utilities | Environmental Interests |
| Electric-Power Utilities and Non-Federal Reservoir Operators | At-Large Water-based Interests |

1. How are you affiliated with this Interest Category?

2. Explain what makes you an appropriate representative of your selected Interest Category:

3. Describe your relevant qualifications and background or experience with water resources:

4. Explain how you would apply your skills and experience to assure successful water planning for the Edisto River Basin:

The completed application and any supporting documentation (such as a resume) should be submitted to Ken Rentiers, SCDNR Deputy Director. Applications may be e-mailed to Mr. Rentiers at RentiersK@dnr.sc.gov or mailed to SCDNR at the following address:

**Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director
Land, Water & Conservation Division
SC Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202**