



# Review and Finalize Planning Process, Technical and Program, and Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations

*Agenda Item 4*

# River Basin Planning Process Recommendations

- RBC's and their Planning Teams should consider regularly polling the RBC members to identify if adjustments to meeting times, locations, and dates would allow for easier and/or more member attendance and/or increased in-person attendance.
- **SCDNR, the RBC Planning Teams, and the RBCs should conduct regular (e.g. annual) reviews of the RBC membership to make sure all interest categories are adequately represented.**
- **Where appropriate and allowed, experts who present technical information to the RBCs should offer proposed recommendations for RBC consideration.**

# River Basin Planning Process Recommendations

- RBCs should consider developing and executing a communication plan early in the initial 2-year planning process, and conducting education and outreach prior to completion of the River Basin Plan.
- SCDNR should take lead in organizing an annual state-wide meeting of the RBCs with the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the State Senate and the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee of the State House to communicate the value of water planning, highlight progress and recommendations, and **share ideas among RBCs.** ~~advocate for continued funding~~.
- The South Carolina Legislature should continue to fund state water planning activities, including river basin planning

*Notes for making subsequent edits, based on discussion during the meeting are in red*

# Technical and Program Recommendations

- Consider incorporating future climate projections into modeling analyses (e.g., projected temperature, evapotranspiration, and precipitation) to better address potential supply-side changes in hydrology. **Consider incorporating historical climate information such as dendroclimatology (tree ring data) to inform drought risk and/or drought scenarios.**
- **Recognizing that comprehensive, reliable, and long-term hydrologic data is critical to water planning, funding mechanisms to support continued USGS efforts to maintain and expand streamflow gages should be identified.**

# Technical and Program Recommendations

- **The Broad RBC should identify the financial impacts of increased sedimentation on reservoirs and water resources and communicate the results to local governments to demonstrate the value of riparian buffers, sedimentation and erosion control measures, and other policies and controls that reduce sediment generation and transport.**
- **The Broad RBC, with support from technical experts, should evaluate the impact of future land use changes on water resources quantity and quality.**

# Technical and Program Recommendations

- **The Broad RBC should continue to consider ecological flow standards, including new and/or improved data, as it becomes available.**
- **The Broad RBC should identify potential pinch points where current and projected low flows may lower the assimilative capacity of the streams. Strategies may need to be identified to mitigate low flows at these potential pinch points.**

# Technical and Program Recommendations

- While the RBC should maintain its focus on the assessment of water quantity, future planning efforts in the Broad River basin should include evaluation of surface water quality, including nutrient loading and sedimentation, which is important to maintaining affordable public water supplies and the ecological health of the streams, rivers, and lakes. *[see notes]*
- The Facilitator should create an on-line library of, or a catalog of links to, technical information that will enhance the RBC's technical understanding of water resources concepts and issues.

# Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory Recommendations

- The **Surface Water Act** ... should be revised to allow for reasonable use criteria to be applied to surface water withdrawals, like those that currently exist for groundwater withdrawals.
- **Laws that allow for regulation of water use need to be enforceable to be effective. ~~The current water law, which grandfathers most water users, should be improved to support effective management of the state's water resources.~~**
  - *As existing permits expire?*
  - *Regulators should work with permittees on [permit terms] [an acceptable approach] [fair and effective approach] to bring grandfathered users under regulation of the Surface Water Act...*



# Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory Recommendations

- Water law and implementing regulations should not distinguish between registrations and permits. All water users, that withdrawal above the identified threshold, should be required to apply for a water withdrawal permit.
- The Broad RBC should develop a model riparian buffer ordinance for local jurisdictions to consider.

# New

- **The water withdrawal permitting process should specifically assess the permit application's alignment with the current RBP, particularly regarding proposed withdrawals, returns, resources conservation, and drought response.**
- **For river basins with state or federal specially designated streams (i.e. National Wild and Scenic, State Scenic River), the RBCs should assess alignment between the RBP and the management plan associated with the special designation.**
- **State agency should adopt a narrative flow standard to protect designated uses. *Bill to send more information to circulate***