

Broad River Basin Council

**August 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**RBC Members Present:** Steve Hilbert, Ken Tuck, Paul Pruitt, Erika Hollis, Angus Lafaye, Mark Boland, Jeff Lineberger, Bryant Fleming, Bill Stangler, Kristen Austin, Karen Kustafik, Chip Few, Frank Eskridge, Jim Cook, Brison Taylor, Justin McGrady, Jason Wright and John Alexander

**RBC Members Absent:** Raymond Sligh, Daniel Hanks, Jeff Walker (October Ivester, alternate, present), Amy Bresnahan (Ray Ammarell, alternate, present) and James Kilgo (Devin Orr, alternate, present)

**Planning Team Present:** John Boyer, Scott Harder, Jeff Allen, Tom Walker, Leigh Anne Monroe, Joe Koon, Joe Gellici, Andy Wachob and Kaleigh Sims

**Total Present: 48**

1. Call the Meeting to Order (Ken Tuck, RBC Chair) 9:00–9:05
    - a. Review of Meeting Objectives  
Ken kicking off meeting, overview of meeting objectives
    - b. Approval of Agenda  
Steve Hilbert made a motion to approve, Paul Pruitt second – none opposed, unanimous approval
    - c. Approval of July 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes and Summary  
Steve Hilbert made a motion to approve, Jeff Lineberger second - none opposed, unanimous
    - d. Housekeeping Items  
October Ivester filling in as an alternate for Jeff Walker, Megan Chase present with Erika Hollis from Upstate Forever, Ray Ammarell filling in as an alternate for Amy Bresnahan for Dominion, and Devin Orr filling in as an alternate for James Kilgo.
  
  2. Public Comment (John Boyer) 9:05–9:10
    - a. Public Comment Period<sup>1</sup>
      - None received
  
    - b. Agency Comment Period
      - None received
  
  3. July RBC Meeting Review and Highlights (John Boyer) 9:10-9:15
    - John- Review of surface water law and regulations from previous meeting, provided summary table to the group
    - Circulated letter from EPA about DHEC Surface Water Withdrawal Act and had a short discussion at the last meeting. DHEC put together response letter that we will send out later for everyone to see
    - Review of framework and John did a quiz. Went back over items to make sure group understands the framework
  
  4. Broad Scenic River Project (Bill Marshall, SCDNR) 9:15–9:35
    - Bill presenting on Scenic River project and history of Scenic River Act
    - 30,000 miles of streams in SC
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- Project areas: designated state scenic rivers and river corridor and watershed planning areas
- Trying to get old advisory councils reinstated and would like to get more rivers designated
- Goal is to continue to manage the Broad scenic river and keep it publicly accessible
- Provided overview of scenic river projects and outcomes
- Would like to have more state scenic rivers

#### Questions?

- Q: Can you describe what's involved in scenic river easements?
  - Only have one, had one donated and had some land donated. You have to deal with the state and lots of hoops to jump through for SC to accept an easement. If you have a good chunk of land and terms are simple that would protect river corridor that's what we want
- Comment: A recommendation we could make as an RBC is to provide resources to scenic river program, something to keep in mind
- Comment: SC land trust network has periodic meetings and would be happy for you to present to them to highlight areas that the scenic river group could potentially partner in
- Comment: The advisory council that is supposed to be in place for Broad, is that a function that this committee could take?
  - We would have to look at that but it is possible, needs to be 10 voting members and represent riparian land owners
- Q: Can you send a hard copy of the framework for scenic rivers?

#### 5. Flow-Ecological Health Relationships

9:35–11:05

(Luke Bower and Brandon Peoples, Clemson)

- Dr. Peoples presenting on river health and aquatic organisms. Using stream fish and invertebrates as an indicator of stream health
- As flow regime decreases we expect species richness would go down
- RBC could use results from statistical relationships for management decisions
- Q: you take into account the native fish right?
  - Yes we do account for this in the study – one metric is looking at native vs non native
- Dr. Bower presenting more on the science behind the relationships and statistics
- Quantifying relationships to inform flow standards
- Flow changes can have an impact on health of the fish, reduced water quality and reduced connectivity
- Q: Is water quality an alias factor in the model not exactly accounted for but could be having an effect on response?
  - A lot of that variation is accounted for so we could look at them but it might not change the relationship we understand about flow and fish
  - If you want to see some of the variable(s) relationships parsed out we could do that
- Q: Flow variation and difference in gradient you do get a difference in what you find in invertebrates and fish which is why I was curious about time frame on some of this

- We try to account for this by looking at stream flow classifications and ecoregions

6. Application of Flow-Ecological Health Relationships in the Edisto Basin 11:05–11:30  
(Eric Krueger, TNC and John Boyer)

- Eric providing presentation on flow ecological health in Edisto river basin
- Incorporated 4 flow ecology metrics as performance measures of Edisto water use scenarios (mean daily flow, base flow, duration of low flow, timing of low flow)
- Focused on strategic nodes that the RBC was most interested in to evaluate
- Using the results from this assessment to potentially inform decision-making
- Any opinions or concerns on using this type of data? A few want to use it, no concerns

7. Discussion and Feedback on Draft Broad Basin Demand Projections 11:30–11:55  
(Alex Pellett, SCDNR)

- Alex providing recap for methodology for demand projections
- Q: For public water consumption, do you assume 100% consumption assuming water user sends water to septic tank?
  - Yes
- Q: Does RBC want us to consider updating water demand projects for Greenville, Newberry, and city of Chester or just use present day conservative values in our projections?
  - Suggest using Catawba Wateree updated model on Chester area, for Greenville I would not use today's numbers I would update those based on their explosive growth
  - Need to account for growth, especially in the upstate
- Comment: We sent our water use summary report for Broad, if anyone has any feedback on how to improve this please let us know
- Q: Do you think more farm ponds will level out small river flows
  - Hard to say, evaporative loss from farm ponds but not sure about leveling them out
  - Vast majority of farm ponds do not really have flow management structures and regimes so what comes in tends to go out

8. Upcoming Meeting Schedule, Topics, and October Field Trip 11:55–12:00  
(John Boyer and Ken Tuck)

- John, review of what we have coming up
  - September- intro to surface water model, overview of modeling, feedback, and groundwater use discussion
  - October- field trip (Spartanburg Water - thought it might be good to go kayaking or canoe to go down to the dam and outlet structures, then going up to municipal reservoirs to take a tour) and maybe SWAM training
  - Majority interested in field trip and SWAM training session

Minutes by: Kaleigh Sims and Tom Walker

Approved: 9/8/22

**RBC Chat:**

09:04:07 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

any public comments?

09:04:25 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

agency comments?

09:04:35 From David Thachik, SCEMD to Everyone:

No comments from SCEMD

09:04:46 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

Thanks David

10:12:27 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

break - 10 min

10:14:52 From Chip Few to Everyone:

How do they actually count the fish? Do they catch them?

10:20:33 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

Hi Chip, Brandon is going to respond to this after the break. thanks for the question

10:27:26 From Chip Few to Everyone:

thanks!

10:57:26 From Chip Few to Everyone:

I think he's asking about alias variables

11:29:13 From Chip Few to Everyone:

is it possible that all the dams in the state give us more ability to control river flow than if they were not there, and that bio response might be greater in the lakes than in the rivers?

11:29:57 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

I'll hold that until after Alex's presentation

11:55:52 From Chip Few to Everyone:

Thanks. I didn't realize you were only looking at streams and small rivers

11:56:45 From Chip Few to Everyone:

Do you think more farm ponds would level out small river flows?

11:56:47 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

great clarification question for all

12:03:00 From Chip Few to Everyone:

I think this is a great idea for a field trip

12:07:42 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thanks everyone

12:07:48 From Chip Few to Everyone:

thank you!