

Broad River Basin Council

February 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes

RBC Members Present: Jeff Walker, James Kilgo, Frank Eskridge, Bryant Fleming, Ken Tuck, Brison Taylor, Amy Bresnahan, Bill Stangler, Paul Pruitt, Daniel Hanks, John Alexander, Jason Wright, Karen Swank Kustafik, Angus Lafaye, Kristen Austin, Erika Hollis, Mark Boland, Jeff Lineberger, & Justin McGrady

RBC Members Absent: Steve Hilbert, Chip Few, Mike Daniel, & Jim Cook

Planning Team Present: John Boyer, Scott Harder, Tom Walker, Leigh Anne Monroe, Kirk Westphal, Joe Gellici, Andy Wachob, Jeff Allen, & Hannah Hartley

Total Present: 38

1. Call the Meeting to Order (Ken Tuck, RBC Chair) 9:00–9:10
 - a. Review of Meeting Objectives
 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve the agenda 1st – Bill Stangler and 2nd Bryant Fleming - unanimous
 - c. Approval of January 12th Minutes and Summary
 - Motion to approve the minutes and summary 1st – Angus Lafaye and 2nd Bill Stangler- unanimous
 - d. Housekeeping Items
 - Restrooms, wifi, etc.
 - Introduced Hannah with SCDHEC

2. Public Comment (John Boyer) 9:10–9:15
 - a. Public Comment Period
 - None
 - b. Agency Comment Period
 - None

3. January RBC Meeting Review (John Boyer) 9:15–9:30
 - Review of four flow ecology relationships and 9 nodes locations
 - Review of how to use these relationships
 - Address Scott H question: Why do you see a shortage if safe yield is higher than what is being pulled out?
 - In model when we do safe yield we wanted to make max utilization of all three reservoirs
 - Current use safe yield reflects average annual amount
 - Overview of modeled drought triggers

4. Flow-ecology Risk Results Review and Interpretation 9:30–9:50
(Daniel Hanks, RBC Vice Chair)
 - Overview of what the flow ecology results are and what they are not
 - Overview of richness vs diversity
 - Overview of scenarios and richness results
 - Overview of fish diversity comparison
 - Question: If we are not considering land use change then what are we doing?

- Limited in tools we have to do that
- Need to add it as a consideration
- Comment: Would say that land use change is going to have a bigger impact than water use
- Think of what results suggest in terms of management strategies
- Good related topic is adaptive management approach - talk about later

5. Broad Basin Agricultural and Socioeconomic Characteristics 9:50–10:05
(John Boyer)

- Chapter 2 overview
- Overview of land cover changes over time
- Review of farms with irrigation data
- Q: This chart seems to indicate that farms are not decreasing is that true as to what is being seen?
 - Word of mouth might be more accurate
 - Also, irrigation might not be used at all farms
- Slide with types of farms might paint a better picture
- Provided summary of agricultural data and type of crop farmed, animals, and value
- Overview of population data

6. Potential Effectiveness of Demand-Side Strategies 10:20–11:00
(John Boyer)

- Overview of conservation and efficiency strategies
- Overview of discussion of what strategies could be expanded
- Questions: what are the types of demands in the 2070 high demand scenario?
 - Ran 2070 high demand using the monthly time step and looked at how often there are shortages, max day is part of this – not a daily run
- Anything not identified in this 2070 high demand scenario chart?
 - What about conservation bank map? identifies lands that are important for conservation
 - This isn't comparing strategies but rather look at % reduction
 - Should we consider adaptive strategies now or later? Maybe ours is more of a supply issue
 - Is there a concern financially if you drop demand? Yes always a concern – another reason folks are being frugal is wastewater treatment cost
 - What percentage numbers are accounting for management strategies like reservoir management? These just show what they currently do now
 - Utilities usually have the information for % residential vs industrial etc. but we could compile that information if you think it is useful
 - Could have regional impacts but different local response – need consistent messaging
 - Something to consider is building different pricing structures during droughts into ordinances
 - Advanced planning is necessary

7. Supply-Side Water Management Strategy Discussion 11:00-12:00
(John Boyer)

- Overview of supply side strategies
 - Interconnections overview – red dots are for future interconnections that are being discussed
 - Do we want to emphasize interconnections in the plan - any other recommendations for this? Yeah it's a good recommendation
- Reservoir optimization overview with use scenarios
 - Consider release rule
 - One thing to add is nothing really magical about % numbers they are just experimental to see what we get, we are not suggesting data is hard and fast
 - Q: How does model compare to past operations?
 - Have not really looked at that but spoke with Greer to ask if they had to release more water since 2008 and they could not recall if they had to
 - We did look at historic reservoir levels for the model
 - Q: Any restrictions to keep Greer from adding an operating rule?
 - Not that we know of
 - Comment about groundwater levels changing and something to consider
- What supply side strategy should we evaluate?
 - We will continue to look at Gaffney and SJWD reservoirs and identify additional surface water storage and sources
 - Look at building new reservoirs? Yeah but it is not low hanging fruit as it is very expensive and takes a lot of permitting
 - Intake level adjustments , most utilities do this
 - What kind of storage can you have that's not damming creek?
 - Historically quarries have been used or expanding height of existing reservoirs
 - Right now Gaffney is the only 1 that might need other storage evaluation
 - Any other recommendations? Sedimentation evaluation is a good idea
 - Look at evaporation as well

8. Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics 12:00–12:10
(Ken Tuck and John Boyer)

- Overview of next 3 months schedule slide has details of meetings and locations
- Anything else? None

9. Lunch and Draft Edisto River Basin Plan Review and Q&A 12:10-1:00

Meeting concluded at 12:25 PM.

Minutes: Kaleigh Sims and Tom Walker

Approved: 3/9/2023

RBC Chat:

09:00:31 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

waiting on a few more folks. should get started soon

09:01:28 From Karen Swank Kustafik to Everyone:

Thanks, Thomas. I am on my work PC, no camera no mic but monitoring. This morning went sideways.

09:02:09 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

sorry to hear that

09:03:00 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thank you for being here

09:03:35 From Paul Pruitt to Everyone:

Good Morning

09:03:45 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

good morning paul

10:04:15 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

short break coming up until 10:15

10:15:05 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

hopefully the roof work isn't messing up the sound too much. it is pretty loud for us here at the meeting.

10:15:20 From Paul Pruitt to Everyone:

it has not been a problem on this end

10:15:28 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

ok good to hear

10:15:32 From Erika Hollis to Everyone:

It isn't too bad but I was hearing a weird sound.

10:15:55 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

pounding on the roof over or near or meeting room

10:16:01 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

*our

10:27:34 From Jeff Lineberger to Everyone:

I wonder if irrigated acres isn't more a function of when the big droughts occur. Look at the times when it's increased. It was always right after a major regional drought. Irrigation is a huge expense. Big droughts = big farming losses = motivation to invest in insurance (i.e., irrigation).

10:47:05 From Karen Swank Kustafik to Everyone:

Agree that combination is good strategy- suppliers need to address leaky infrastructure; incentivize household low flow and limit irrigation, and have regional messaging in drought that is cohesive.

10:50:51 From Amy Bresnahan to Everyone:

Reacted to "Agree that combina..." with 👍

11:04:33 From Brison Taylor to Everyone:

We are working with the local conservation groups to inform customers of alternative lawns and biodiverse landscaping that doesn't require as much irrigation. There is a stigma to break though. The majority of our irrigation is residential

11:06:11 From Karen Swank Kustafik to Everyone:

Reacted to "We are working with ..." with 👍

11:29:05 From Jeff Lineberger to Everyone:

How does the model compare to reality of past drought operation? Sorry if I missed that earlier.

11:37:39 From Jeff Lineberger to Everyone:

If we do sensitivities around evaporation, we should include lake water feeding groundwater in severe, extended droughts. Normally groundwater feeds the lakes but not in bad droughts. That is a significant and real factor that can't be ignored in the worst droughts.

11:44:18 From Jeff Lineberger to Everyone:

Does the first item include lowering water intakes to increase usable lake storage?

11:51:03 From Jeff Lineberger to Everyone:

And more flashy rainfall = more sedimentation

11:57:29 From Paul Pruitt to Everyone:

thank you

11:58:13 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thank you. i'm keeping the meeting open in case anyone has questions about the Edisto plan but we are stopping the recording

11:58:37 From Kristen Austin to Everyone:

Thank you! Great meeting.

12:12:00 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

only comment here was related to GW in the Edisto plan and all of those strategies which really won't be the case in the Broad

12:25:27 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

if anyone still on the call has any comments or questions please speak up. we are just eating and chatting generally not about the Edisto

12:25:50 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

the meeting is adjourned unless anyone has a question or comment