

Location:

December 7, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 2 (Hybrid Format)

Estill, SC

Action Items:

1. RBC members should select an alternate from the same water use interest category and inform the planning team.
2. RBC members should be thinking of potential Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC Chair and Vice-Chair nominees ahead of meeting 4.
3. RBC members to consider possible field trip locations.

Major Decisions:

1. The LSSRBC adopted 11 process metrics (December 2023)
2. Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the LSS basins now and into the future. (December 2023)
3. **DRAFT** LSSRBC Goals (as a starting point for meeting #3):
 1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the LSS River Basins to:
 - a. Ensure Water Resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.
 - b. Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.
 - c. Promote balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.
 - d. Advocate for responsible land use practices.
 - e. Identify funding sources.
 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins.
 3. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah River Basin. (December 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Development of Process Metrics
- Vision and Goals Development
- Review of the Planning Framework and Q & A
- Surface and Groundwater Resources
- USGS Streamflow Monitoring and Low Flow Characteristics
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (December 7th)

John Boyer, LSSRBC Facilitator, called the December 7th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The second meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 42 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the first meeting. John introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The RBC also approved the November meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with a brief personal introduction from Sam Quinney, SCDA.

John Boyer facilitated introductions of two Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC members who were not present at the first RBC meeting. John also reviewed highlights of the previous meeting.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, led the RBC through the process of selecting process metrics for the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC planning process. Process metrics are benchmarks used to track and assess the performance of the RBC and quality of actions taken by the RBC. The planning framework suggested four standard process metrics which were approved by the RBC. Other process metrics were developed in the meeting. In total, 11 process metrics were approved by the RBC.

John and Murray Dodd facilitated development of the RBC vision and goals. The Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC adopted the following vision statement: **Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the**

LSS basins now and into the future. The RBC then discussed the following draft RBC goals:
DRAFT LSSRBC Goals (as a starting point for meeting #3):

- 1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the LSS River Basins to:**
 - a. Ensure Water Resources are maintained to support current and future human and ecosystem needs.**
 - b. Improve the resiliency of the water resources and help minimize disruptions within the basin.**
 - c. Promote balance between development, industry, and economic growth in areas with adequate water resources.**
 - d. Advocate for responsible land use practices.**
 - e. Identify funding sources.**

- 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins.**

- 3. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah River Basin.**

Scott Harder, SCDNR, presented details of the SC State Water Planning Framework. The planning framework was developed by the PPAC for the river basin planning processes that are underway across the state. The planning framework has 8 sections including: the executive summary, introduction, river basin planning process, methodologies for evaluating water availability, river basin plan table of contents, river basin planning process implementation, river basin plan implementation, and the state water plan.

Priyanka More, SCDNR, presented *Surface Water Resources of the Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie Basin*. Highlights of Priyanka’s presentation included: an overview of both the Savannah and Salkehatchie river basins, rainfall, physiographic provinces, streamflow, the USACE drought management plan, the surface water monitoring network, flow data, and withdrawal information.

Brooke Czwartacki, SCDNR, presented *Groundwater Resources of the Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie Basin*. Highlights of Brooke’s presentation included: physiographic provinces, the SC Hydrogeologic Framework along dip, Coastal Plain aquifer extents, groundwater withdrawal data, the groundwater monitoring network, a figure to demonstrate water-level measurements of an aquifer, well data, a potentiometric aquifer figure, cones of depression, the USGS Coastal Plain groundwater model from which a regional model will be developed for the LSSRBC, and groundwater data and publications.

Finally, Toby Feaster, USGS, presented *USGS Streamflow Monitoring* to the RBC. Toby's introductory slides provided historical context, introduced the SAWSC USGS group and the USGS National Water Dashboard, discussed the USGS in SC, and provided detailed information on streamgages. Toby then presented information on Low-Flow statistics in SC. The focus for the remainder of the talk focused on 7Q10 and low-flows.

The LSSRBC meeting was adjourned. The next Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC meeting will be held January 4, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:25 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 1/4/24