

Location:

January 23, 2024

9:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Pee Dee REC

Darlington, SC and Zoom (Hybrid)

Action Items:

1. RBC members to read River Basin Plan chapters distributed by Matt Lindburg and come prepared to discuss chapter contents.

Major Decisions:

1. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the RBC bylaws as written in the Planning Framework. (July 2022)
2. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the proposed Process Metrics as presented. (August 2022)
3. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC voted to adopt the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the Pee Dee RBC. (August 2022)
4. The Pee Dee RBC elected the Chair: Buddy Richardson and Vice Chair: Cara Schildtknecht (November 2022)
5. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to take a common sense approach to the groundwater modeling delays for the Pee Dee River Basin Plan. To continue to develop groundwater management strategies and clarify those/check them once the groundwater model is completed. If the model is not completed, move forward with the developed groundwater management strategies for the plan. (January 2024)
6. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC decided to continue the monthly meeting schedule during the groundwater model delay and for the planning team to decide on what is appropriate for in-person versus virtual meeting format on a month-to-month basis. (January 2024)
7. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC approved Ch 1 of the River Basin Plan. (January 2024)
8. Unanimous – The Pee Dee RBC approved development of a 20 – 30 page Executive Summary and development of a 2 page policy brief style handout. (January 2024)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Periods

- Update on Groundwater Modeling Status
- RBC Decision on Groundwater Path Forward
- Frequency of Meetings
- Lessons Learned from 2001 Drought
- Chapter Updates
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (January 23rd)

JD Solomon, Pee Dee River Basin Council Facilitator, called the January 23rd meeting of the Pee Dee RBC to order at 9:00 AM. The twentieth meeting of the Pee Dee RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Pee Dee RBC members and planning team, there were 41 people present at this RBC meeting.

The meeting began with JD Solomon reviewing the agenda items for the meeting. The Pee Dee RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and approved the minutes and summary documents from the December meeting. A public comment period was held with no comments. An agency public comment period was held with no comments.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the groundwater modeling work underway. Andrea Hughes reminded the RBC that there was significant pumping data from North Carolina that was missing from the parent Coastal Plain groundwater model which affected the regional Pee Dee groundwater model that is being developed. The data has been collected and the USGS team is beginning to work on updating the parent Coastal Plain model and then once it is updated and calibrated will work on the inset model for the Pee Dee. Progress has been made per discussion at the December meeting regarding groundwater model timeline.

Leigh Anne Monroe, DHEC, and Brooke Czwartacki, DNR, reviewed groundwater information from the regulatory and management perspective respectively. This served as a reminder of data that exists that the RBC can use to inform groundwater management strategies for the River Basin Plan. JD then facilitated the discussion about the next steps that the Pee Dee RBC wanted to take regarding groundwater management with the groundwater model delayed. After some discussion, the RBC decided to move forward with groundwater management strategy development using empirical data which would keep the planning process moving forward and which can be clarified later once the groundwater model is completed. If the groundwater model is not completed in time, then the RBC will have groundwater management strategies in place to finish the plan. The RBC also decided to continue the monthly meeting schedule with the planning team making decisions regarding in-person or virtual meetings for the next several months.

Michael Yip of Georgetown County Water and Sewer District presented information about the 2001 drought from the Utility perspective. Some of the takeaways from the talk included: the importance of more water coming down from NC, finding an alternate intake was critical, a later drought in 2006-2007 caused long lasting problems with the saltwater wedge, consistent messaging in drought conditions, and coordinating on following the same procedures during drought conditions.

Matt Lindburg, Brown & Caldwell, discussed the status of several chapters in the Pee Dee River Basin Plan. Chapters 1 and 2 were discussed and the Pee Dee RBC approved Chapter 1. Chapter 2 needed some more significant edits and will potentially be voted on at the February meeting. Chapter 8 was distributed and Matt Lindburg requested feedback on that chapter. Matt will work on Chapters 6 and 7 and distribute the portion of Chapter 5 that is completed. The Pee Dee RBC approved a 20 – 30 page Executive summary and 2 page policy brief style handout to be developed.

JD Solomon concluded the meeting at 11:39 AM. The next meeting of the Pee Dee RBC will be February 27, 2024 and will be a virtual meeting.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: