

Location:

September 26, 2023

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clemson Pee Dee REC

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **Pee Dee RBC members to send comments to Matt Lindburg on Pee Dee River Basin Plan draft chapters.**
2. **Melanie Shull to send 1 page summary to distribute to the PDRBC.**
3. **Melanie Shull and Leigh Anne Monroe to put together 3-4 things regarding allocation mitigation strategies.**

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)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Coastal Groundwater Model – Calibration Run Results
- Groundwater Management Plans in the Pee Dee Basin
- Background on Surface Water Permits vs Registrations
- Agricultural Perspective on Surface Water Allocations
- Discuss Progress of Plan Chapter Drafting
- Summarize Surface Water Management Strategies
- Evaluating Potential Effectiveness of Demand-side Strategies in the Edisto and Broad River Basins
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (September 26th)

JD Solomon, Pee Dee River Basin Council Facilitator, called the September 26th meeting of the Pee Dee RBC to order at 9:10 AM. The sixteenth 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 47 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 August 22nd meeting. A public comment period was held with no comments. An agency public comment period was held with comments from SCDA and USGS.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the Coastal Groundwater Model by Brad Harken, USGS. Brad presented draft calibration run results from the MODFLOW 6 regional Pee Dee groundwater model developed as a subset of the Coastal Plain Model. The USGS will continue their work on groundwater modeling calibration and will move to forecasting for future meetings.

Leigh Anne Monroe, SCDHEC, presented information on DHEC's Capacity Use Area groundwater management plans. Leigh Anne introduced the Water Quantity Programs that exist in SC which included information on capacity use areas, the Groundwater Use and Reporting Act, groundwater management planning, and the groundwater management plan process. Capacity Use areas are evaluated every 5 years, or length of the permitting cycle. Next, Leigh Anne presented information relevant to the Pee Dee river basin – the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, and Santee-Lynches Capacity Use Areas.

Following the break, Leigh Anne Monroe presented about Surface Water Permits vs Registrations which was followed by commentary from Melanie Shull, Shull Ag, on the Agricultural Perspective on Surface Water Allocations. Leigh Anne covered: SC Surface Water Law which included the SC Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act, SC Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting Use, and Reporting Act, and Groundwater Use and Reporting Act. Melanie Shull followed up with some talking points regarding the agricultural perspective on Surface Water use which, in summary, is that agricultural surface water users and groundwater users require surface and groundwater allocation in times of dry and drought conditions to supplement rainfall to have the ability to produce agricultural goods. A comment and question and answer period followed.

Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell, then reviewed the progress on writing specific chapters of the Pee Dee river basin plan and summarized current surface water supply and demand management strategies the RBC had considered which will be included in Chapter 6. Chapters 1

and 2 are more or less finished but the RBC is expected to continue to review and provide feedback on chapters by identifying missing information or concepts or other information or statements that would make RBC approval difficult.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, presented examples from the Broad and Edisto river basins which evaluated the potential effectiveness of demand-side strategies in those basins. John briefly discussed what effect water conservation and efficiency strategies and reductions of 10, 15, and 20% have on reducing projected Municipal shortages in the Broad, the approach to evaluate demand-side scenarios in the Edisto, and results for High Demand 2070 scenarios compared to MIFs and 5th percentile flows, and the portfolio of surface water management strategies assessed.

JD Solomon and Cara Schildtknecht concluded the meeting at 12:26 PM. The next meeting of the Pee Dee RBC will be October 24, 2023 at the Clemson Pee Dee REC.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 10/24/23