

Location:

March 20, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission Office

Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

1. **Kevin Miller to revise his recommendation based on RBC meeting feedback.**

Decisions:

1. **Saluda RBC Vision Statement: A resilient and sustainably managed Saluda River Basin that balances human and ecological needs. (May 2023)**
2. **Saluda RBC Goals: 1. To perform a review and update of the plan every 5 years at a minimum or sooner should a significant event occur requiring plan update, 2. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the Saluda River Basin, and 3. Apply science-based resource management and conservation strategies that consider resource availability and allocation. (May 2023)**
3. **The Saluda RBC elected KC Price as Chair and Katherine Amidon as Vice Chair. (June 2023)**
4. **Formation of a Public Supply Water Demand projections subcommittee. (July 2023)**

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Summary
- Public and Agency Comment Period
- Review of February Meeting Highlights
- Review Results of Flow-Ecology Relationships
- Additional Surface Water Analyses
- Discussion of Proposed Reaches of Interest and Surface Water Conditions
- Discussion of Water Management Strategies

- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary (March 20th)

The Saluda RBC Chair, KC Price, called the March 20th meeting of the Saluda RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The twelfth meeting of the Saluda RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Saluda RBC members and planning team, there were 43 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. KC discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Saluda RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The February minutes and summaries were approved. A public comment period was held with no formal comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. John Boyer reviewed the February meeting highlights.

Luke Bower, Clemson, updated the Saluda RBC on the flow-ecology relationships work for the Saluda River Basin. Luke discussed the ecoregion (Piedmont rolling hills) and stream classes (Perennial runoff and Perennial Flashy). The results included: permitted and registered scenario showed greatest impact for MA1 and Richness while other SWAM scenarios showed little to no impact on flow and little to no change in TL1 for all scenarios. A report of the work and findings will follow.

John Boyer lead discussion on additional surface water analyses. The primary focus was on allocating future Greenville Water demands between the Saluda and Savannah river basins and updated scenario results which reflected the change in Greenville demands for the 2070 moderate and high demand scenarios.

Kevin Miller, Saluda RBC member, presented a proposal for surface water conditions. The proposal was: *To maintain the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the stream taking into account the needs of recreation, navigation, and downstream users, a surface water condition should be set at 40% of the unimpaired mean annual daily flow for the months of January through April; 30% of the unimpaired mean annual daily flow for the months of May, June, and December; and 20% of the unimpaired mean annual daily flow for the months of July through November.* Discussion focused primarily on Saluda Lake and the hydro facility operations which are impacting recreational users. Kevin will revise his recommendations based on discussion.

John Boyer lead the RBC in additional discussion of water management strategies. The RBC discussed agricultural water efficiency strategies, municipal water conservation and efficiency strategies, and industry and energy water conservation and efficiency strategies.

John reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and topics including a field trip for April. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Saluda RBC meeting will be held April 17, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:03 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/17/24