

Location:

April 10, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 9 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. CDM Smith to run the SWAM model with back to back droughts until it “breaks”
2. John Boyer to send equity drought article (survey of 30 water utilities about drought)

Decisions:

1. The USRBC adopted 11 process metrics. (September 2023)
2. Upper Savannah RBC Vision Statement: A resilient US River Basin that collaboratively, sustainably, and equitably manages and balances human and ecological needs. (September 2023)
3. US RBC Goals: 1. Within 24 months, develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations for the Upper Savannah River Basin in order 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 Upper Savannah River Basin.
3. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin. (September 2023)
4. The USRBC elected a Chair (Jill Miller) and Vice Chair (Jeff Phillips). (November 2023)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- March Meeting Review
- Additional Surface Water Analyses
- Strategic Statewide Resilience and Reduction Plan
- Further Discussion and Selection of Water Management Strategies
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (April 10th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the April 10th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The ninth meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Upper Savannah RBC members and planning team, there were 41 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. Jill discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Upper Savannah RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the minutes and summary documents from March. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the March meeting highlights.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, presented additional surface water analyses to the USRBC members in attendance. The presentation covered daily timestep scenario results, comparison to MIFs, ecological flow nodes, & Lower Savannah basin scenario results.

Hope Warren, SCOR, presented the SCOR Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan to the RBC. Hope's presentation started with the recent history of severe flooding events which created SCOR and other information pertinent to the duties of SCOR such as resilience, disaster recovery, and mitigation. Hope then discussed specific sections of the plan which included legislative guidance, floodwater commission principles, resilience planning assumptions, a definition of resilience, planning conditions, climate trends, flood risk and vulnerability assessment, other hazards, current processes, funding, and recommendations.

After lunch, there was further discussion and selection of water management strategies. The discussion included planning framework definitions, looking at group reports, demand side strategies, potential uncertainties, and strategies that were considered and supported in the Saluda River basin.

The meeting concluded with Ashley Reid and John Boyer discussing the next Upper Savannah RBC meeting which will be held at the Starr Iva water district office. The meeting will be held May 8, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 2:06 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 5/8/2024