

Location:

June 12, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 11 (Hybrid Format)

Starr – Iva Water District Office

Action Items:

1. Follow up with USACE to see if boat ramps have changed
2. Alternative 2 rules – SWAM model run

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
- May Meeting Review
- Updates to Surface Water Analyses
- Development of Drought Management and Response Strategies and Recommendations
- Development of Technical, Program, Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Topics

Meeting Summary (June 12th)

Jill Miller, USRBC Chair, called the June 12th meeting of the Upper Savannah RBC to order at 10:00 AM. The eleventh 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 35 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 May. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Ashley Reid reviewed the May meeting highlights.

John Boyer, CDM Smith, presented updates to the surface water analyses to the USRBC members in attendance. The presentation added critical recreation access levels (swimming and boating) to model analysis and provided the percentage of the simulation months that each lake drops below the recreational access levels. John also covered example drought plan triggers for several Upper Savannah water suppliers and a typical drought ordinance flow chart.

Kirk Westphal, CDM Smith, presented an update on safe yield of major reservoirs. Kirk started with the Lake Keowee system (with Bad Creek and Jocassee) and presented results for baseline, 2070 high demand, and permitted and registered safe yield. Kirk then proceeded to the Lower USACE reservoirs and presented results for Hartwell and Russell. The intake level for Hartwell was based on Pioneer Rural Water District's intake which was higher than previous analysis.

The discussion on drought response strategies and recommendations was moved to the June meeting from the May meeting. John Boyer led the discussion which was focused on Chapter 8 of the river basin plan. John reviewed the state DRC and DMAs. John led the RBC through discussion of several drought response options: how does the RBC want to communicate to the rest of the RBC, the public, and stakeholders, does the RBC want to develop any drought

management or response strategies or make recommendations to adjust any existing strategies, does the RBC want to develop recommendations on drought management, the RBC encourages water utilities in the basin to consider drought surcharges on water use during severe and/or extreme drought phases, and when droughts occur, the RBC encourages water users and those with water interests to submit their drought impact observations through CMOR. Development of Technical, Program, Policy, Legislative, and Regulatory Recommendations discussion was moved to the July meeting.

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 July 10, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 1:51 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: July 10, 2024