



Finish Discussion and Development of River Basin Plan Recommendations

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Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical, and Planning Process Recommendations

The RBC can make specific recommendations at both a basin-wide and state level. These recommendations could include:

1. Suggestions for improving the river basin **planning process**;
2. Considerations for additional **technical** information or tools; and
3. Potential changes to state **policy** or to the **existing regulatory** or **legislative** environment that would benefit the water planning process.

River Basin Planning Process Recommendations

Planning process recommendations may include, but are not limited to:


- Changes to the RBC membership, bylaws, meeting schedules, or procedures
- Ideas to improve communication among RBCs and other groups
- Funding needs and sources of funding
- Improvements to the public outreach process
- Implementing the River Basin Plan and continued RBC activities and actions

LSS RBC Planning Process Recommendations



1. SCDES should organize an annual state-wide meeting of RBCs and State agencies.
 2. The South Carolina Legislature should continue to fund state water planning activities, including RBC-based river basin planning.
- ~~2 Alt Policy Rec from Dec: Recognizing that South Carolina is growing rapidly, the demand for water is increasing, and water resources are finite, water planning at the river basin and state level should continue.~~
3. RBC members should communicate with legislative delegations throughout the river basin planning process to promote their familiarity with the process and its goals and to generate buy-in on its recommendations.
 4. The RBC will support and promote outreach and education to increase awareness with the general public around watershed-based planning.
 5. SCDES should designate staff to continue to coordinate and support ongoing RBC activities.
 6. Request that WaterSC consider recommendations from the RBCs.
 7. SCDES, the RBC Planning Teams, and the RBCs should conduct regular reviews of the RBC membership to sustain and make sure all interest categories are adequately represented and attendance across all interest categories meets the requirements of the RBC Bylaws.
 8. The RBC, with the support of SCDES, should communicate with GADEP and request to coordinate water planning activities with the Coastal Georgia Regional Council. Meetings with other planning bodies in the Savannah River basin should occur annually, at a minimum.

Inter-River Basin Council Recommendation Discussions







-  9. As part of future water planning efforts, the RBC should attempt to increase engagement with USACE, and specifically with the Planning Division and Department of Energy.

Technical and Program Recommendations

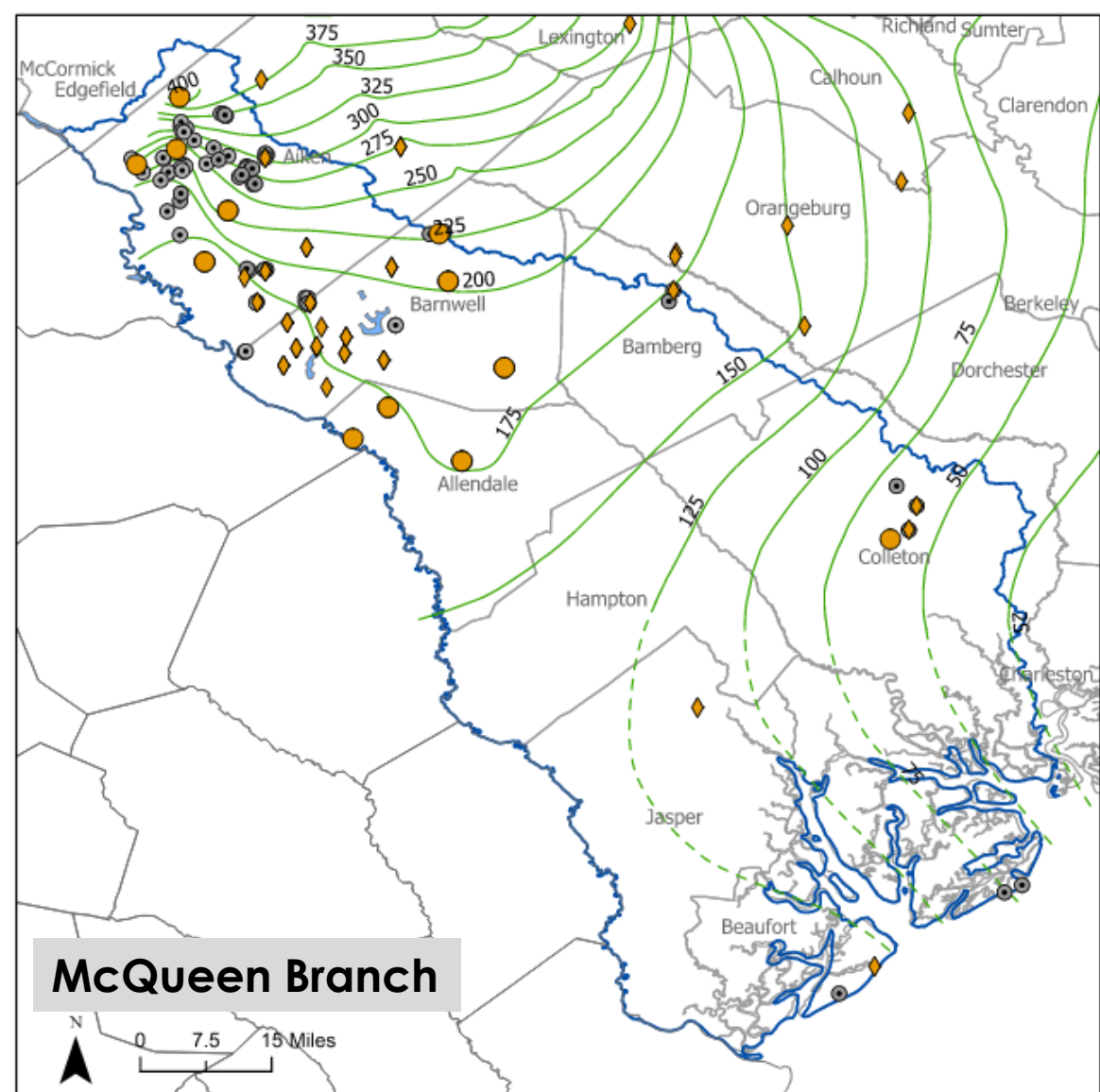
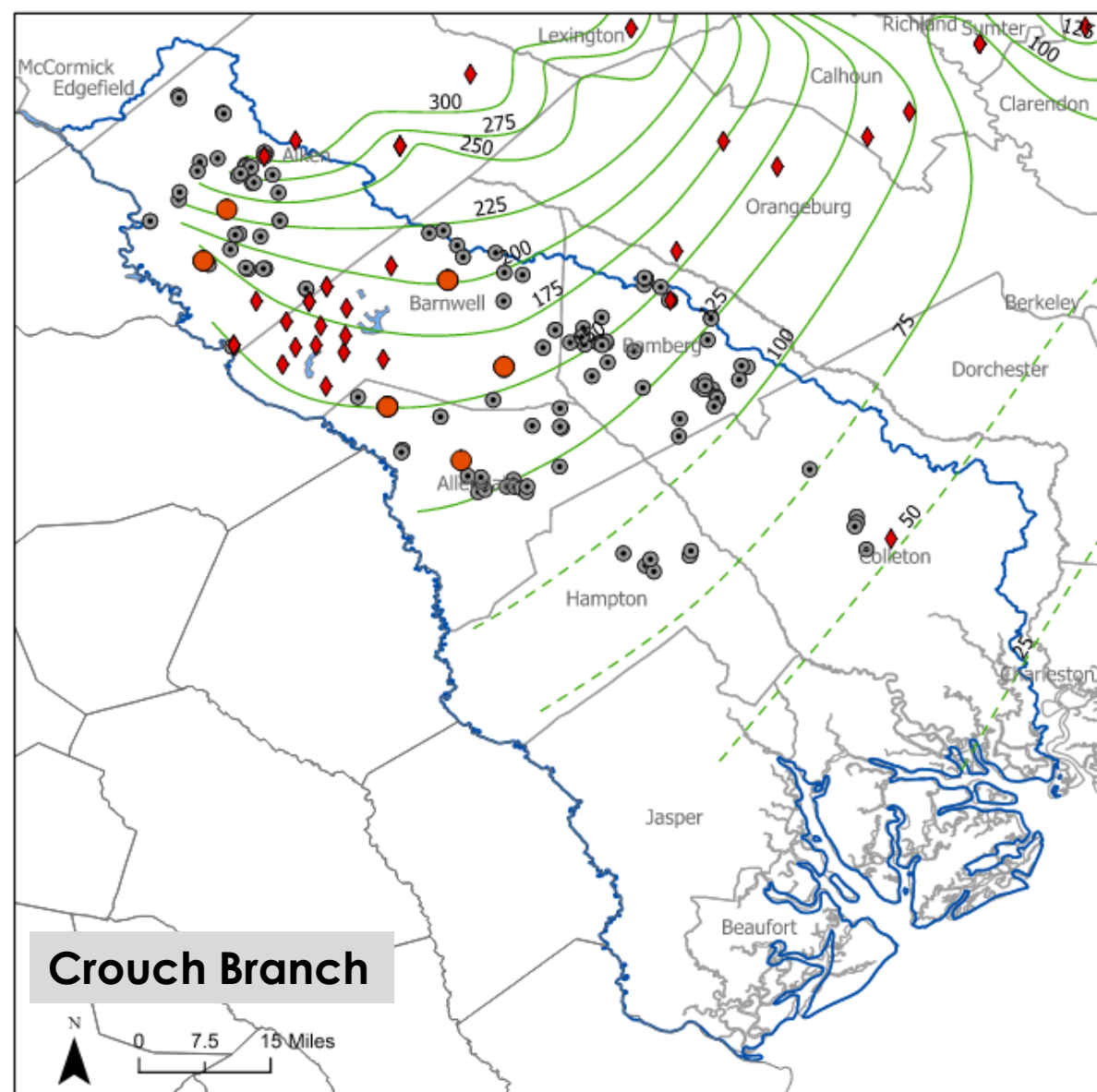
Technical and program recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- Need for more data (such as stream gages or monitoring wells)
- Model improvement (accuracy or functionality)
- Need for additional models to address specific issues
- Improved water use data, population data or estimates, water demand estimates, land use data, etc.
- Recommendations for technical studies to improve knowledge of specific issues
- Need for additional technical training for the RBC members
- Improved instream flow requirement information




LSS RBC Technical and Program Recommendations

-  1. SCDES should continue to work with the USGS to develop a groundwater model covering the LSS basins and use the model to better understand the capacity of each aquifer **and its ability to sustain future demands.**
-  2. Estimate the Index of Biotic Integrity (or similar scoring measure) for the Salkahatchie River within 5 years of plan approval as a baseline for this basin which has fewer environmental impact than other basins. If the scoring for this river is poor, determine the root cause and use this information to assess other stream reaches.
-  3. The RBC supports continued efforts to maintain and expand streamflow gages.
-  4. Future SWAM modeling should incorporate scenarios that further examine future uncertainties, such as changes in rainfall and hydrology, alternative population growth scenarios, and potential impacts of future development on runoff.
-  5. Future planning efforts should include evaluation of surface water quality and trends, including nutrient loading and sedimentation.
-  6. Funding be provided to SCDES to add monitoring wells in the central part of the basin, **such as Colleton, Bamberg, and Hampton counties**, in deeper aquifers.






Inter-River Basin Council Recommendation Discussions

-  7. The state should request for and cost-share in the completion of Phase 2 of the USACE Comprehensive Study and Drought Plan Update.
-  8. The RBC encourages local governments and land managers to act to reduce sediment loading to impoundments.
-  9. Encourage the new development permitting process where applicable to require developers work with water/wastewater utilities to ensure adequate availability/capacity.

Parking Lot of Potential Technical and Program Recommendations

 10. USGS should use the groundwater model to analyze and predict chloride levels in the Upper Floridan and Middle Floridan aquifers in Beaufort County.

 11. Study on the potential for ASR throughout the basin

 12. SCDES should study the use of indirect potable reuse.

Additional discussion for chapter: recycled water as a groundwater barrier to prevent saltwater intrusion.

 13. Fund and establish of a mesoscale network of weather and climate monitoring stations.

Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory Recommendations

Policy, legislative, or regulatory recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- Modifications to existing state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances
- New state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances
- Ideas for recurring funding for water planning work
- Restructuring existing groups or agencies

LSS RBC Consensus-Based RBC Policy Recommendations

1. Improve the current laws that allow for regulation of water use so that they are effective and enforceable.
2. The South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act should allow for reasonable use criteria to be applied to all surface water withdrawals, like those that currently exist for groundwater withdrawals.
- ~~3. Recognizing that South Carolina is growing rapidly, the demand for water is increasing, and water resources are finite, water planning at the river basin and state level should continue.~~
Replaced with planning process rec #2
4. The South Carolina Legislature should establish a grant program to help water users implement the actions and strategies identified in the legislatively-approved State Water Plan.
5. The water withdrawal permitting process should specifically assess the permit application's alignment with the legislatively-approved State Water Plan.

Inter-River Basin Council Recommendation Discussion









1. The RBC recommends that the Legislature approve and adopt the State Water Plan.

Other discussion: Note resilience planning rec in outreach recommendation – aligning RBP with other planning efforts in the state

Parking Lot of Potential LSS RBC Policy Recs



-  1. Recognizing that the resources of the Savannah River Basin are finite and shared between the states, the Governor of South Carolina should communicate with the Governor of Georgia to establish a coordinated, state-level planning and water management process for the Savannah River Basin and their shared groundwater aquifers.
-  2. Whether water law and their implementing regulations should distinguish between registrations and permits.
-  3. Is there value in making a distinction between the size and/or local or large corporate ownership of agricultural operations for planning and permitting?
-  4. Reevaluation of permit requirements/MIF for Salkehatchie where there is a unique flow regime.
-  5. Recommendation on strengthening state laws around protection of wetlands, given the 2023 Sacket vs. USEPA Supreme Court Decision which ruled that nearly half of the 118 million acres of wetlands in the US cannot be protected by the Clean Water Act.
-  6. SCDES should refrain from requiring the trading of permitted groundwater withdrawal capacities between aquifer systems in order for permittees to obtain withdrawal permits absent an analysis of available capacities within these aquifers.