

Location:

February 6, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting No. 13 (Hybrid Format)

Hampton, SC

Action Items:

1. Come prepared to discuss River Basin Plan recommendations and Implementation Plan
2. Send in pictures of the basin for the River Basin Plan

Major Decisions:

1. The LSSRBC adopted 11 process metrics (December 2023)
2. Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC Vision Statement (to be reviewed and potentially modified in every phase): Shared water resources are managed to sustainably meet the needs of all stakeholders in the LSS basins now and into the future. (December 2023)
3. LSSRBC Goals (from meeting #3):
 1. Develop water use strategies, policies, and legislative recommendations so that the LSS River Basins are resilient and:
 - a. Provide for an accurate accounting of current and future water availability
 - b. Promote stability of water allocations to support long-term planning
 - c. Maintain water availability to support public water supply, industrial, golf course, energy, food and fiber production and other legitimate needs
 - d. Allow for growth
 - e. Prevent saltwater intrusion and loss of freshwater resources
 - f. Maintain adequate flows to support instream needs of aquatic organisms and recreation.
 2. Enhance collaboration between all stakeholders and water interest groups, including Georgia and the Upper Savannah RBC.
 3. Educate and inform local governments on how land use decisions impact water availability.

4. Develop and implement an education and communication plan to promote the strategies, policies, and recommendations developed for the LSS River Basins. (January 2024)

4. The LSSRBC elected Kari Foy as Chair and Ken Caldwell as Vice Chair (March 2024)

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- January Meeting Review
- Discussion, Selection, and Prioritization of Water Management Strategies
- Introduction to Draft Chapters
- Discussion and Development of River Basin Plan Recommendations
- Future RBC Meetings Discussion

Meeting Summary (February 6th)

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the February 6th meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 10:06 AM. The thirteenth meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 30 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with John Boyer welcoming the RBC members to the meeting. Kari introduced the meeting structure and discussed the agenda items for the meeting. The Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda. The RBC also approved the January meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment noted Hannah Hartley moved to the Hydrology Section of DES. Newsworthy items included discussion of the WaterSC, Surface Water Study Legislative Committee, DNR website, Savannah Lock and Dam, and Drought Tabletop Exercise. John Boyer reviewed the January meeting.

John Boyer facilitated discussion, selection, and prioritization of water management strategies with the RBC. John and the RBC discussed planning framework definitions, group reports, strategy discussion, and demand side strategies. Demand side strategies included irrigation, municipal, and industry and energy.

Next, John introduced draft chapters to the RBC members. The chapters introduced were chapters 2 and 8. Comments and edits are requested by February 21. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 are close to having draft chapters completed.

The next agenda item focused on discussion and development of river basin plan recommendations. Possible recommendations discussed included WaterSC consider recommendations from the RBCs, reviewing membership, and relationship with Georgia. Technical and program recommendations discussion included groundwater capacity, biotic integrity, maintain and expand streamflow gages, SWAM modeling to include future uncertainties, future planning to include surface water quality and trends. John also noted the parking lot of potential policy recommendations.

Finally, John discussed the March 6th meeting and schedule moving forward. The March 6th meeting will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Hampton.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 3/6/25