

**Location:**

June 5, 2025

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Meeting No. 17

Virtual Meeting

**Action Items:**

1. RBC members to help promote draft River Basin Plan Public Meeting event
2. Finalize River Basin Plan at the next meeting

**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)**
- 5. The LSSRBC approved the draft Lower Savannah – Salkehatchie River Basin Plan for public comment (June 2025)**

**Meeting:**

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period
- Discuss Final Edits to Draft Plan and Executive Summary
- Perform the Test of Consensus on the Draft Plan
- Review the Plan's 2-Page Summary Sheet
- Discuss Public Meeting and Presentation
- Review RBC Membership and Term Limits
- Upcoming Schedule

**Meeting Summary (June 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Kari Foy, LSSRBC Chair, called the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC to order at 8:35 AM. The seventeenth meeting of the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC was held virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Lower Savannah - Salkehatchie RBC members and planning team, there were 29 people present at this RBC meeting. The meeting began with Grace Houghton 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 May meeting minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency comment period was held with no comments received. Newsworthy items included discussion of the May WaterSC meeting and an upcoming panel discussion at the June WaterSC meeting with RBC Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Grace facilitated discussion of final edits to the draft River Basin Plan and Executive Summary documents. The RBC worked through unresolved comments and terminology. Following discussion of final edits to the plan and Executive Summary, the RBC briefly discussed the 2-page summary of the River Basin Plan with additional discussion scheduled for later in the meeting. Grace reviewed the process ahead of the Test of Consensus and then the RBC members provided their vote on the draft plan with all present members voting a 1 or 2.

Several members were not online, and some members submitted their vote ahead of the meeting and the remaining votes will be gathered after the meeting. The RBC continued discussion of the 2-page summary document of the River Basin Plan. CDM Smith will make the final edits to the draft Plan, Executive Summary, and 2-page summary documents.

Finally, Grace and the RBC discussed the upcoming public meeting to present and to solicit public comments on the draft River Basin Plan. The meeting will be at Lake Warren State Park on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The RBC reviewed the meeting slides and assigned RBC member roles for the public meeting presentation. The review of RBC membership and term limits was moved to the next RBC meeting. The next RBC meeting is scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup> and will be virtual only.

The meeting concluded at 10:29 AM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 9/4/2025