



Meeting Summary

Santee River Basin Council Meeting No. 7 (Hybrid Format)

Date: June 10th, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Santee Operations Center
(1 Riverwood Drive, Moncks Corner, SC 29461)
Prepared by: CDM Smith
RBC Members Present: Todd Biegger, Sarah Wiggins, Mike Wooten, Alicia Wilson, Michael Melchers, Riley Egger, John Grego, Jason Thompson, Hunter James (alternate for David Wielicki), Allan Clum, Brandon Stutts*
RBC Members Absent: Jeff Ruble (resigned), W.E. Mickey Johnson, Jr., Hixon Copp
Planning Team Present: John Boyer, Scott Harder, Leigh Anne Monroe, Andrew Wachob*, Joseph Koon, Alexis Modzelesky*, Hannah Hartley*, Kirk Westphal*
**Attended virtually*

Action Items (New or Reminders)

1. (Reminder) RBC members should consider identifying an alternate who can fill in for them in they need to miss a meeting and should provide the alternates name and contact information to John Boyer.

Decisions

The RBC reached consensus on recommendations related to policy, regulatory, and legislative issues and the planning process (see meeting minutes).

Meeting Agenda

The following items were on the agenda, which was approved by RBC motion:

- Review of meeting objectives and approval of the agenda
- Public Comments
- Review of May RBC meeting highlights and decisions
- Surface water modeling update
- Discussion and selection of policy, regulatory, and legislative recommendations
- Discussion and selection of planning process recommendations.

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9 am, with Michael Melchers welcoming the RBC members. Michael stated the meeting objectives and invited the RBC members for approval of the previous minutes and the agenda. The previous meeting minutes were approved by Todd Biegger with a second by Allan Clum. The agenda was also approved by RBC motion by Mike Wooten and Todd Biegger.

John Boyer mentioned the WaterSC meeting on May 15th which focused on multi-state water management considerations and interbasin transfers. There was also a panel discussion about interbasin transfers with executive directors from three different Councils of Government. There will be another WaterSC meeting on the 19th of June and Michael Melchers and Alicia Wilson will be participating as part of an RBC panel discussion.

John provided an update on the surface water modeling effort. CDM Smith recently received and reviewed the Catawba basin baseline (Current Use Scenario) outflow data set. The data looks good enough to move forward and will be incorporated in the Santee basin SWAM model. The Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) noted that they may make further minor adjustments to their model which may alter the outflow data set; however, any changes are expected to be small. Catawba basin outflows flows associated with moderate and high demand scenarios have not yet been provided by the CWWMG.

John reviewed the approved drought response recommendations from the May meeting. John noted that he distributed drafts of Plan chapters 2 and 8 to the RBC for review and comments and requested RBC comments by June 20th.

The RBC approved policy recommendations related to water education programs, identifying partnerships and alternative sources including interconnections to build resilience and ensure adequate quantity of water; encouraging SCDES develop a cost share program to drill and operate deeper wells into aquifer units with less development pressure; and that the legislature should approve and adopt the State Water Plan and subsequent updates. Several other policy, regulatory, and legislative recommendations were discussed, but no decisions were made and they were marked for future discussion.

Under the planning process category of recommendations, the RBC agreed to recommend SCDES, the RBC Planning Teams, and the RBCs should conduct regular reviews of the RBC membership to make sure all interest categories are adequately represented and attendance across all interest categories meets the requirements of the RBC Bylaws. The RBC also agreed that SCDES should organize an annual statewide meeting of RBC's and State agencies; SCDES should continue to designate staff to coordinate and support ongoing RBC activities; and that RBC members should be encouraged to present observations and outcomes of the river basin planning process with approval of the content by the chair or vice-chair.

The next RBC meeting will be held on July 8th. For the August 12th RBC meeting, CDM Smith will present model results, assuming they will be sufficiently complete at that point. Also, John will set up a webinar for Jason Thompson to present mean vs. median before the July RBC meeting.