

waterSC

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SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**



**SOUTH
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PARKS, RECREATION
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WaterSC Guiding Principles

- "Water is a *shared resource* with *shared responsibility*"
- A *collaborative approach* to develop and implement a *science-based actionable plan*
- A plan that *balances economic, environmental and community needs*
- A plan that secures *reliable and resilient* water resources for the *future*



The Charge for WaterSC

Executive Order No. 2024-22

- Balance the State's ***economic, environmental, and social needs***;
- Ensure the ***reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and sufficiency*** of the State's water resources ***for all existing and future uses***, while simultaneously ***protecting the environment***; and
- Support and facilitate additional ***collaboration*** with ongoing efforts and existing initiatives.



The Charge for WaterSC

Executive Order No. 2024-22

Stakeholder Engagement Plan
October 31, 2024

Quarterly updates to the Surface Water
Study Committee

Advise on updated State Water Plan
December 31, 2025

WaterSC Full Scope

Guiding Principles

State of Surface
Water

State of
Groundwater

The State Water
Plan

Water
Management: ASR
& Conjunctive Use

Water
Management:
Water Reuse and
Conservation

Water
Management: IBT

Connections with
COGs & RBCs



Economic Growth
Forecast

Multi-state
Considerations

Water Planning
Framework &
Recommendations



**Today's
Focus: River
Basin
Councils &
Statewide
Planning**

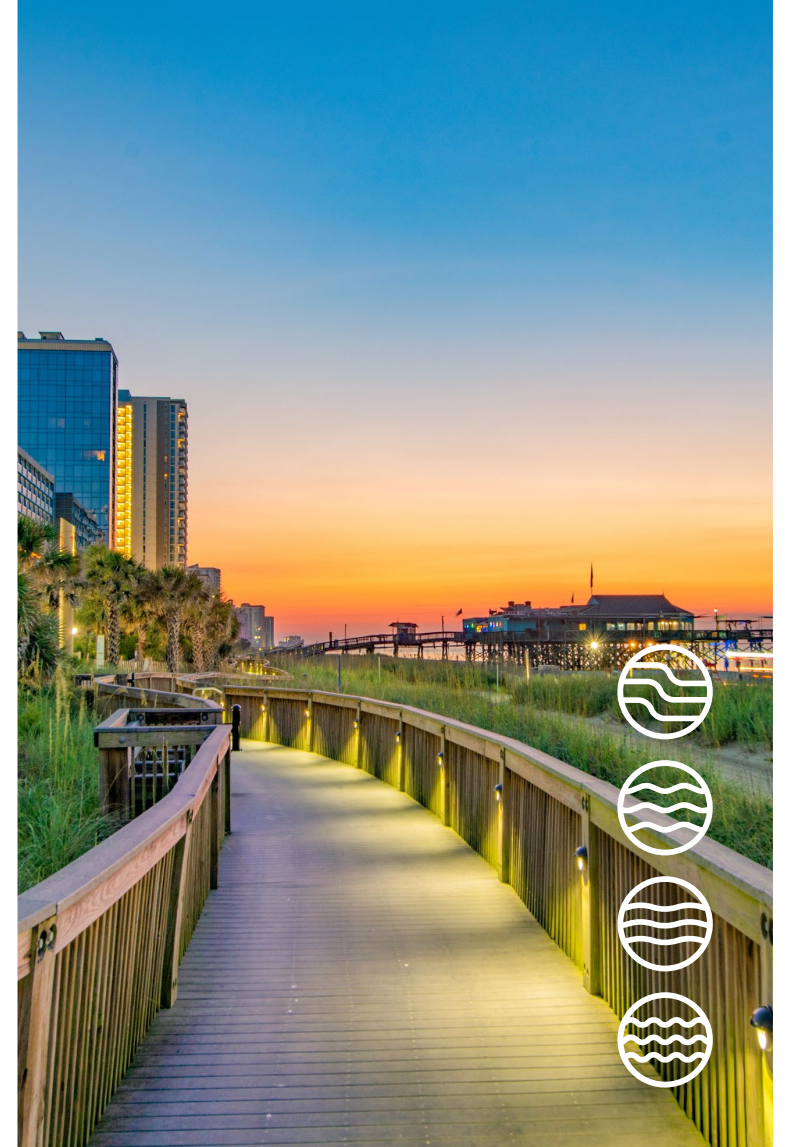
Time	Agenda
1:00 pm	Welcome & Leading the Charge for WaterSC
1:15 pm	Overview of River Basin Planning
1:30 pm	River Basin Council (RBC) Panel Discussion
2:45 pm	Break
3:00 pm	RBC Tabletop Discussions
3:30 pm	SC Water Planning Framework & WaterSC Process Discussions
4:00 pm	Adjourn& Networking



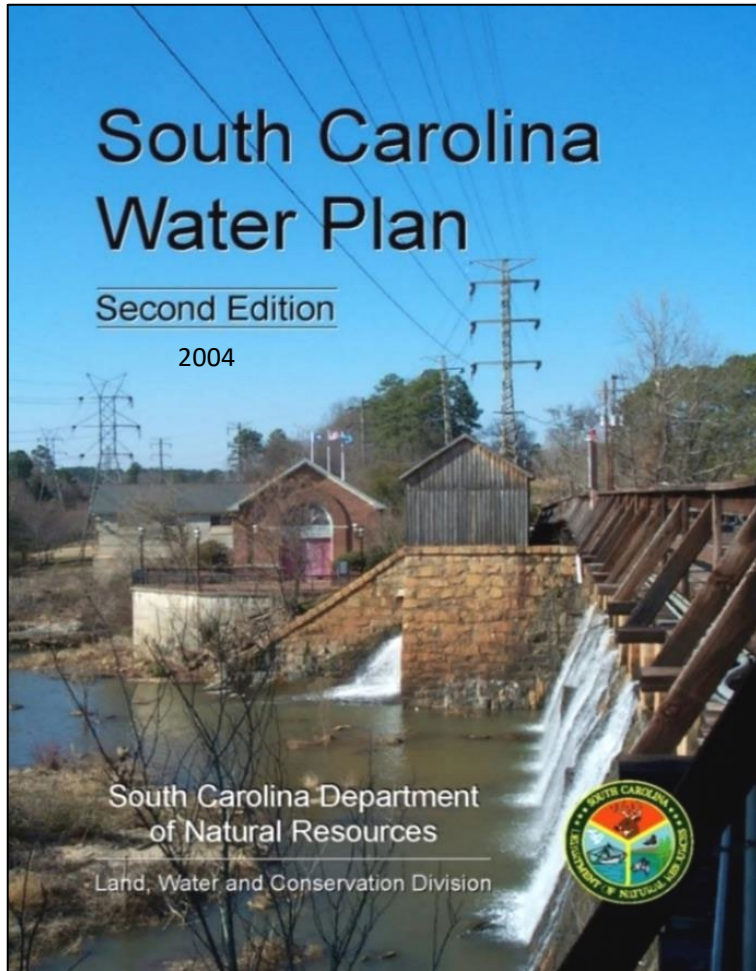
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Overview of River Basin Planning

Joe Koon, Director
Division of Water Resources



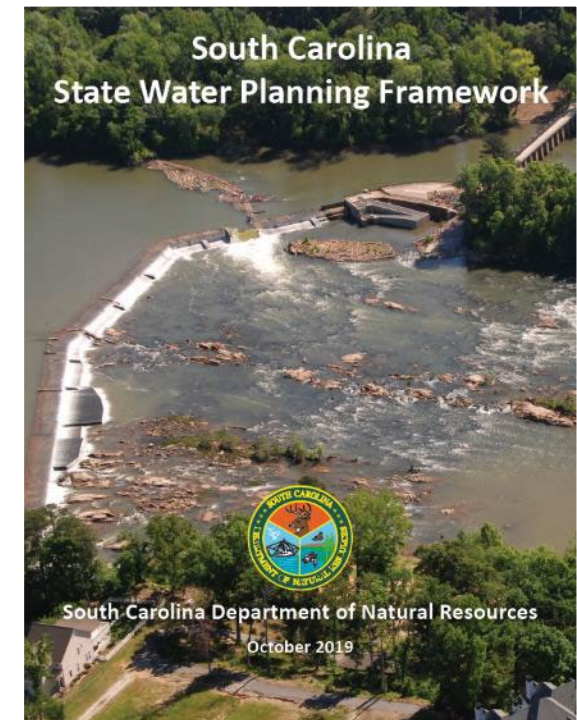
History of State Water Planning



- SCDNR published the **first edition of the State Water Plan in 1998**
- In **2004, SCDNR published the second edition** of the South Carolina Water Plan incorporating lessons learned from the drought of 1998-2002
- Recommended developing a **regional water plan for each major river basin** in the State
- In 2014, SCDNR initiated the first steps to developing regional water plans, now formally called **River Basin Plans**
- SCDES coordinates a broad collaborative stakeholder process to **update the State Water Plan**

Planning Framework

- **Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC)** Convened in March 2018
- Purpose – developed the **Planning Framework for developing River Basin Plans and for updating the State Water Plan**
- The **Planning Framework** was published in October 2019 after an 18-month process

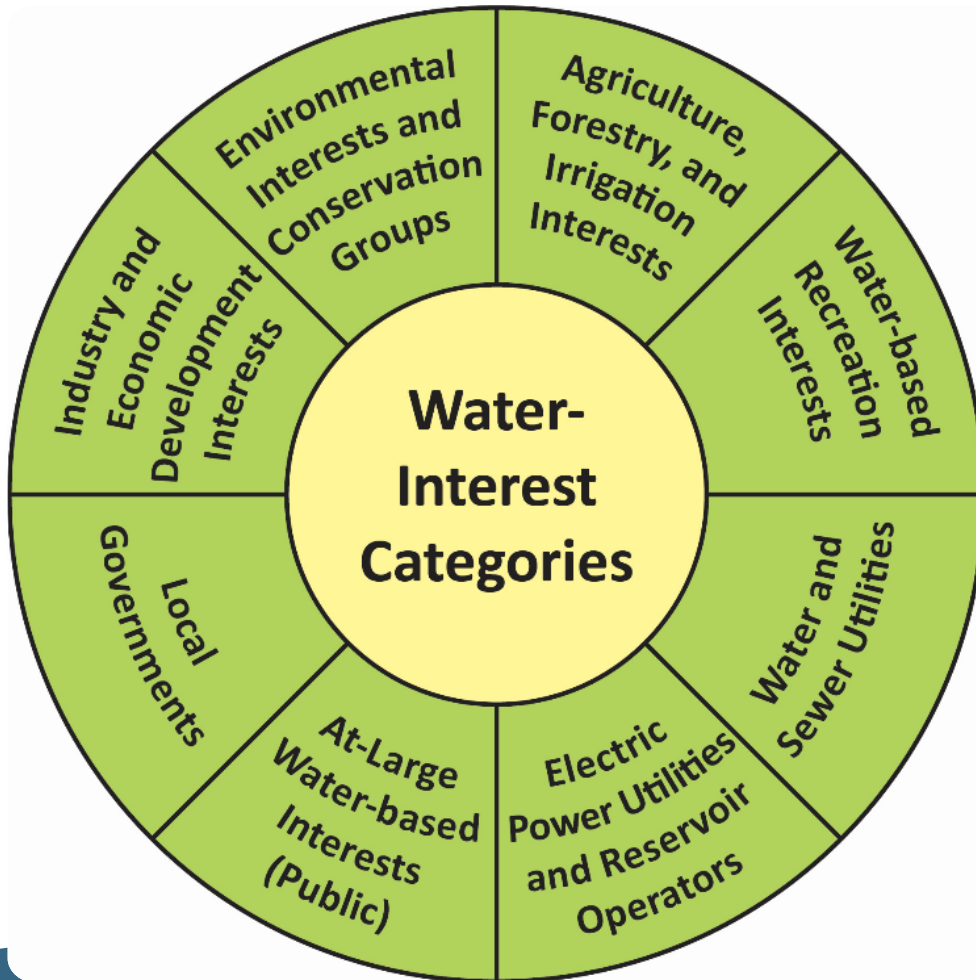


<https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/hydrology/water-planning>

Stakeholder and Public Participation

- Public meetings:
 - Kickoff meetings prior to routine RBC meetings to introduce basin planning and solicit participation
 - Draft River Basin Plan meeting to present the plan and answer questions from the public
- RBC meetings:
 - All meetings are open to the public
 - Each meeting includes a public comment period

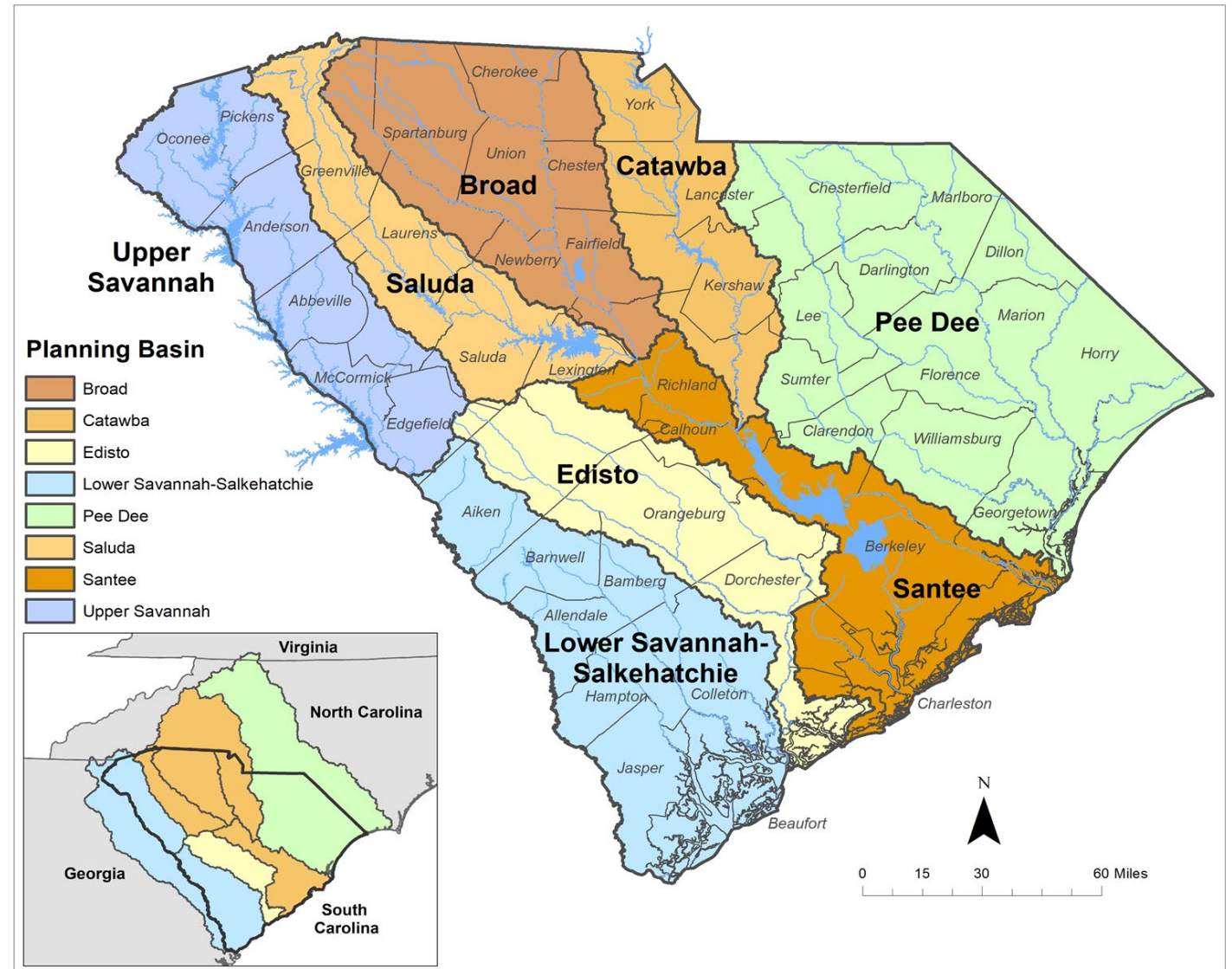
River Basin Councils



- **Stakeholder-led team** responsible for developing the River Basin Plan
- Up to 25 members representing 8 interest categories **145 total members** across seven planning basins
- Governed by a set of Bylaws
- **Consensus based** decision-making process
- Chair and Vice-Chair elected by RBC

River Basin Planning Basins

- River Basin Plans are being implemented for the **planning basins**
- Plans are using a "bottom-up" approach where **stakeholders in each basin lead the development of their basin plan**
- Collectively, the River Basin Plans will be **incorporated into the State Water Plan**



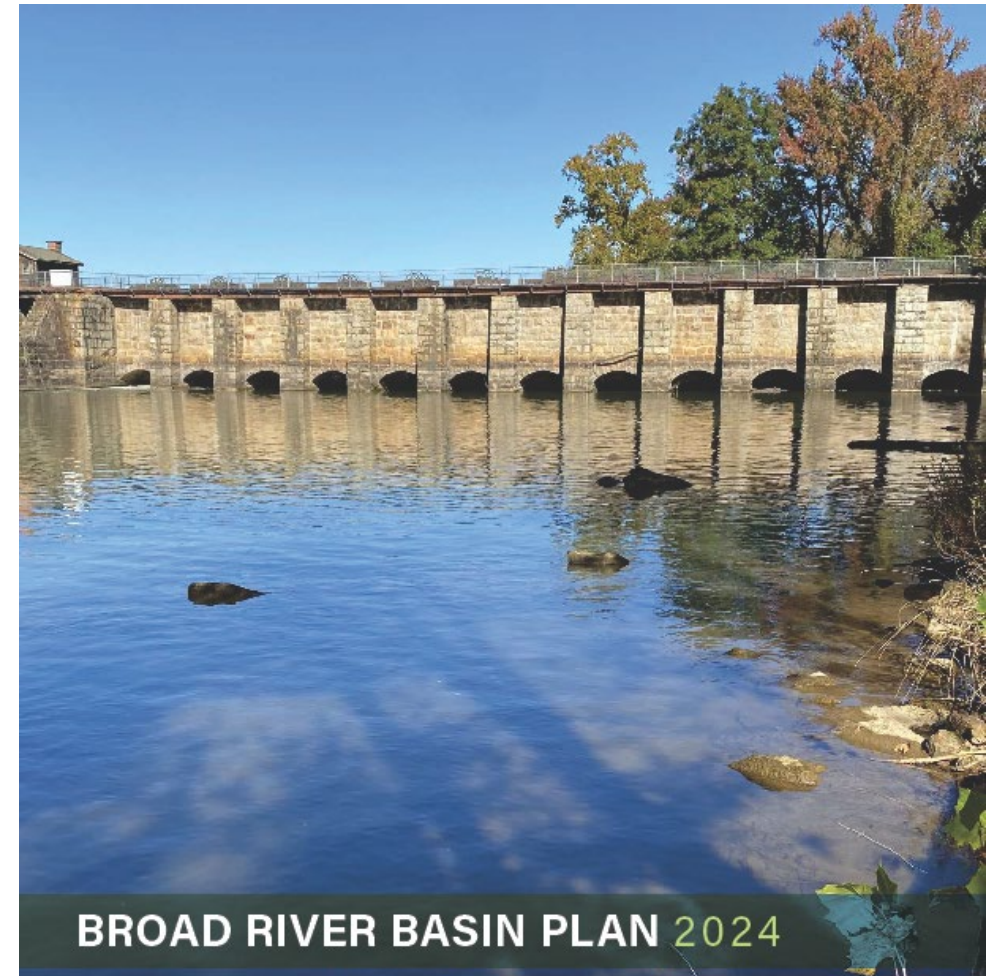
River Basin Plans

Key Outcomes

- Assesses **current** water supply and demand
- Identifies **future** water demand scenarios
- Identifies water management **strategies** to ensure supply meets or exceeds demand over the Planning Horizon

Features

- **Stakeholder-developed**
- Covers a **50-year** Planning Horizon.
- Considers both **surface water** and **groundwater**
- Supported by **hydrologic data, models, and water-demand projections.**



Phases of the Planning Process

Phase 1 Understand Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a vision statement and goals• Learn about the basin's water resources and modeling tools• Evaluate water demand projections
Phase 2 Assess Future Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate current and future water availability issues• Identify and quantify potential water shortages through year 2070 for several water demand scenarios
Phase 3 Develop Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and evaluate water management strategies• Recommend and prioritize strategies
Phase 4 Develop the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop legislative, policy, technical and planning process recommendations• Prepare the River Basin Plan that includes an implementation plan, Identifies drought response initiatives, and considers public input

River Basin Planning Current Status

Basin	Status	Completion Date
Edisto	Completed	June 2023
Broad	Completed	February 2024
Pee Dee	Completed	March 2025
Upper Savannah	July 2023 – present	June 2025
Saluda	March 2023 – present	July 2025
Lower Savannah/ Salkehatchie	November 2023 – present	August 2025
Catawba	CWWMG's Integrated Resource Plan 2020 – present	Fall 2025
Santee	December 2024 – present	Fall 2025
State Water Plan	October 2024 – present	Fall 2025



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River Basin Council Panel Discussion

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Decision-Making Processes

 1

- **Consensus** - Group collaboratively develops and agrees to support a decision, even if it's not everyone's first choice. We can all "Live with it."

 3

- **Majority Vote** - Group discusses options and votes; the option with more than half the votes wins.

- **Deliberative Dialogue** - Group explores values, evidence, and trade-offs deeply before identifying shared priorities.

 2

- **Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis** - Participants agree on key criteria (e.g., environmental impact, economic viability, equity), score options against them, and weigh the trade-offs.

Tabletop Discussions: How to Have a Productive Retreat

CONTENT

With the info shared by RBCs today and the topics of previous meetings in mind...

- What should WaterSC focus on?

PROCESS

- How will we capture the voice of WaterSC as we proceed?
- How will we know when there is agreement / disagreement?
- What Decision-Making Process does your Table Group recommend WaterSC use going forward?

Next Steps

Working Group Proposed Schedule

Retreat Aug 4-5

September 18

October 9

**Listening
Sessions
TBD**

**November
13**

December 11

WaterSC Full Scope

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