

Location:

December 14, 2022

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Action Items:

1. John Boyer and CDM Smith to incorporate comments and feedback into draft Edisto River Basin Plan and distribute to the RBC.
2. Scott Harder to distribute Edisto budget to the Edisto RBC.
3. Edisto RBC to provide their level of endorsement on the Draft River Basin Plan.

Decisions:

1. Majority decision: Edisto RBC recommends establishing groundwater areas of concern in regions where groundwater data and/or groundwater modeling predict water levels drop below the top of the aquifers. Majority Vote: 17 – Yes and 3 – No. (March)
2. The RBC does not want to identify specific groundwater conditions but instead focus on a “desired future condition” approach in the final Plan recommendations. (April)
3. RBC recommends Agricultural Portfolio of Water Efficiency Strategies in priority order of: Water Audits and Nozzle Retrofits, Irrigation Equipment Changes, Soil Management and Cover Cropping, Irrigation Scheduling, Crop Variety, Crop Type & Crop Conversions, and Future Technologies. (May)
4. RBC recommends Portfolio of Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategies in no order of priority. (May)
5. The RBC recommends that responsible agencies and stakeholders consider encouraging new pumping in areas of concern come from aquifers that can support the additional withdrawals. One example indicted by modeling was the area of concern in the Crouch Branch of Calhoun County. Here the RBC recommends that future pumping be transitioned to the McQueen Branch, if monitoring suggest continued, increasing drawdowns in the Crouch Branch aquifer. Majority vote: 16 – Yes, 3 – No & 1 - Abstain (May)
6. The RBC recommends the use of small impoundments limited to 2nd order or lower tributaries to enhance availability during dry/low flow periods to build resilience. Majority vote: 17 – Yes and 1 – Abstain (May)
7. The RBC recommends conjunctive use as a supplement to surface water use during low-flow periods. (May)
8. The Edisto RBC adopt the proposed low flow management strategy which would trigger whenever the total basin discharge (measured at Givhans) drops below a

surface condition of 20% median (currently about 332 cfs) with the goal of reducing withdrawals equal to the exceedance of the surface condition in the following increments. The low flow strategy excludes withdrawers whose peak monthly withdrawals are less than 60 MGM (20x the regulated threshold of 3 MGM). The low flow management strategy is to be implemented over time contingent upon identified available funding. Majority Vote: 16 – Yes and 1 – No (June)

20% Increments Percent Below MIF	River Flow Range (cfs)		Basin-wide % Reduction in SW Withdrawals
	Lower	Upper	
0 - 20%	266	332	20%
20 - 40%	199	266	40%
40 - 60%	133	199	60%
60 - 80%	66	133	80%
80 - 100%	0	66	100%

Meeting:

- Review of Meeting Objectives
- Approval of Agenda and November 16th Minutes and Summary Documents
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Old business/New business Discussion
- Review Suggested Draft River Basin Plan Revisions
- Review and Discuss Proposed Additional Plan Recommendations
- Review Remaining Steps to Complete the Draft Plan
- Meeting Conclusion

Meeting Summary (December 14th)

The Edisto RBC Chair, Hank Stallworth, called the December 14th meeting of the Edisto RBC to order at 9:00 AM. The twenty-eighth meeting of the Edisto RBC was held virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Edisto RBC members and planning team, there were 37 people present at this RBC meeting online. The meeting began with Hank Stallworth discussing the agenda items for the meeting. The Edisto RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the November 16th minutes and summary documents. A public comment period was held with no comments received. An agency public comment period was held with no comments received. Old and new business had no discussion.

The first major agenda item was to review suggested draft river basin plan revisions. Several chapters had suggested edits which John reviewed with the Edisto RBC members. One RBC member suggestion regarding safe yield calculations and an additional recommendation to include recent registrations impacting overallocation will be included in Chapter 9 and/or the Executive Summary. Other discussion focused on edits regarding socioeconomic effects feasibility for certain strategies, revisions to better support discussion regarding the

recommendation for use of median over mean, and a revision to capture RBC member discussion point about existing regulation not being protective of minimum flows.

A good portion of the remaining meeting time was dedicated to specific additions to the Edisto River basin plan proposed by RBC members. The first of these discussion points was adding a seventh objective to the Implementation Plan and long-term planning objectives. The seventh objective received a tied RBC vote and will not be included in the plan. The second discussion point and vote was whether to include revised language in Table 10-2 which was voted on and will not be included. The next item for discussion and vote was whether to move objective seven content into Chapter 9. This content addresses water quality and will be included into the draft river basin plan in Chapter 9. Other discussion and subsequent votes were related to unresolved issues. Three unresolved issues were proposed to be included into the basin plan, but all three unresolved issues were voted down and will not be included in the plan.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing the remaining timeline for completion of the Edisto River basin plan. Discussion also focused on including the budget for the Edisto River basin plan into the First Public Meeting. Ken Rentiers will include discussion of the budget into his opening remarks and the budget will be distributed to the RBC. The RBC meeting was adjourned.

The meeting concluded at 11:23 AM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/26/23