Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning Public Meeting #1

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SC State Water Planning

Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning – Public Meeting #1

Walterboro Wildlife Center – Walterboro, SC

August 24th, 2023

Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director – Land, Water, and Conservation Division

SC Department of Natural Resources



Why Are We Here?



"The effective management of South Carolina's water resources is beyond the scope of any one agency or organization and will require cooperation and shared responsibility among federal, state, and local agencies, as well as public and private parties." - South Carolina Water Plan (2004)



Water Use in South Carolina

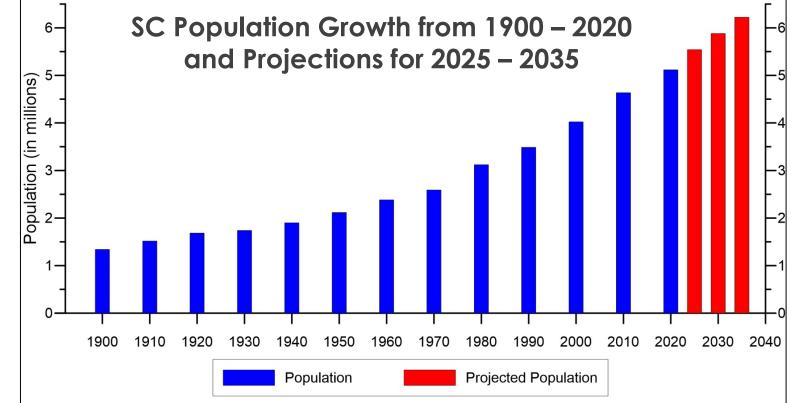


Why State Water Planning?



Population Growth → Increased Water Demand

- From 1990 2020, SC population increased from 3.5 to 5.1 million and is forecasted to increase to 6.2 million by 2035.
- Our growing population may increase future water demands and may increase competition for our water supplies.



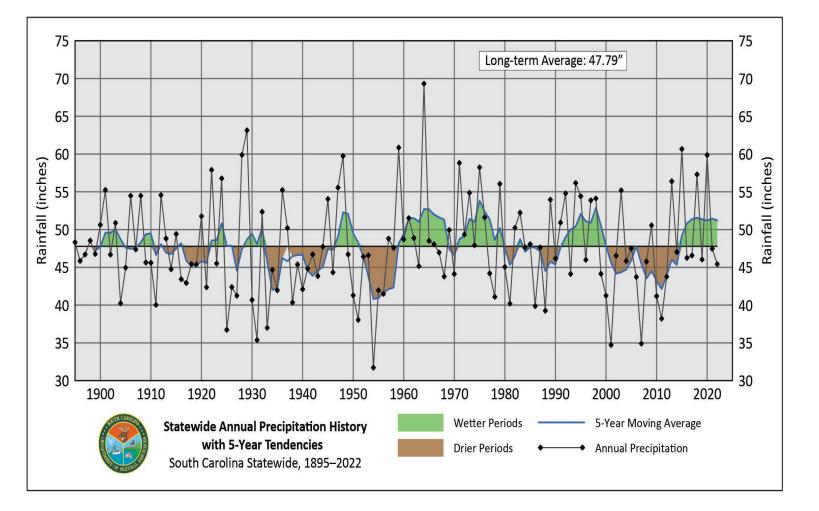
Data from the SC Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, 2021, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2021.

Why State Water Planning?



Drought

SC generally has an abundance of water, but recent droughts (1998-2002, 2007-2008, 2011-2012, 2016, 2019, 2021) have stressed the State's water resources.



Why State Water Planning?



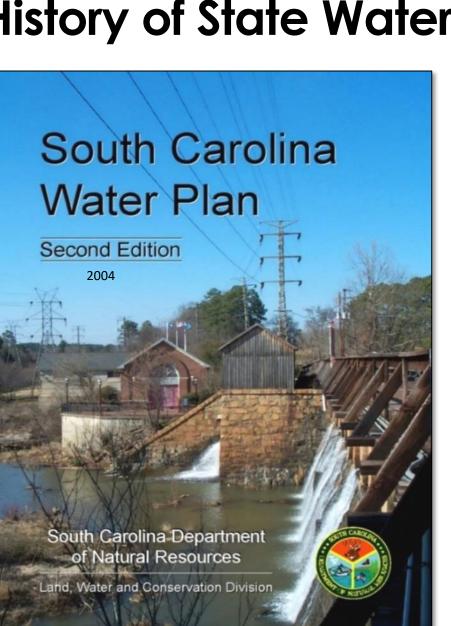
Tree-ring studies indicate the occurrence of more severe and longer-term droughts (Mega-droughts) over the past 400 years.

Uncertainty in future droughts + increased water demand = the need for comprehensive State and river basin planning.



Photos courtesy of National Drought Mitigation Center

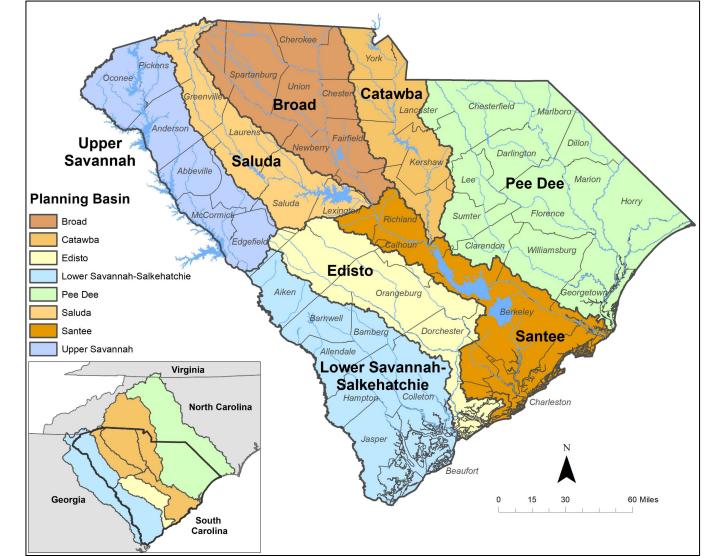
History of State Water Planning



- SCDNR is legislatively mandated to develop a State Water Plan.
- 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.
- One recommendation was to develop a regional water plan for each major river basin in the State.

South Carolina's Eight Planning Basins

- River Basin Plans will be developed for the State's eight major river basins using a "bottom-up" approach where stakeholders in each basin lead the development of their basin plan.
- Collectively, the River Basin Plans will form the foundation of a new State Water Plan.



Five-step Process

- 1. Surface Water Assessments completed in 2017 for each basin (CDM Smith, Inc).
 - Several models recently updated.
- 2. Groundwater Assessment completed in 2021 (USGS).
 - 3 regional models to be developed over the next several years.
- 3. Water Demand Projections methodology report completed in October 2019.
 - Projections completed for Edisto and Broad basins.
 - Projections for Pee Dee, Saluda, and Upper Savannah basins in progress.

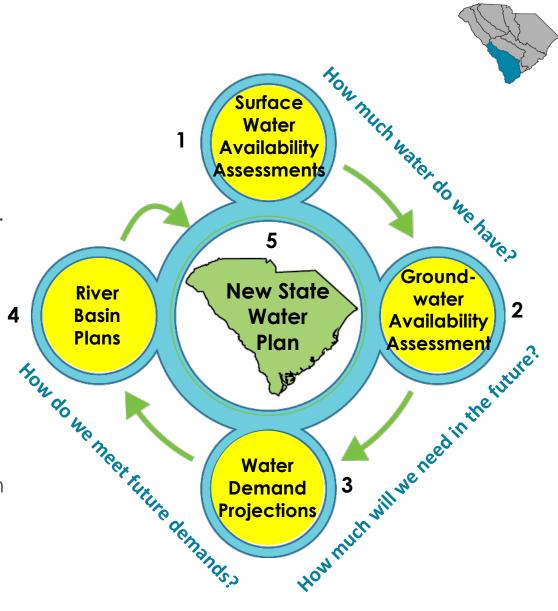
4. River Basin Plans

- Publication of South Carolina State Water Planning Framework.
- River Basin Plan for Edisto is complete.
- Broad, Pee Dee, Catawba, Saluda, and Upper Savannah basin planning in progress.

US Army Corps of Engineers

- Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin is the 7th basin to begin planning activities.
- 5. State Water Plan River Basin Plans will form the foundation of a new State Water Plan.





Stakeholder Participation

Edisto River Basin Council Field Trip



PPAC Meeting



Broad River Basin Council Meeting



SWAM Model Stakeholder Meeting



Pee Dee River Basin Council Meeting



Edisto Basin Water Demand Projection Stakeholder Meeting



Planning Process Advisory Committee

- Convened by SCDNR in March 2018.
- Purpose develop a guidance document (Planning Framework) for developing River Basin Plans and for updating the State Water Plan.
- South Carolina State Water Planning Framework (Planning Framework) was published in October 2019 after an 18-month process.



Planning Framework is available for review and download at: https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning-framework.html

PPAC Committee Members

Jeffery Allen David Baize David Bereskin/Jeff Boss Jesse Cannon Fred Castles, III

Clay Duffie Steve Hamilton Erika Hollis

J.J. Jowers, Jr.

Eric Krueger Jeff Lineberger Jill Miller Dean Moss, Jr. Myra Reece

Ken Rentiers Bill Stangler Landrum Weathers Scott Willett Charles Wingard

Clemson University SCAWWA/WEASC **Greenville Water** Santee Cooper Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group Mt. Pleasant Waterworks (retired) The Dunes Golf and Beach Club **Upstate Forever** Bamberg County citizen, Edisto Engineers and Surveyors, Inc. The Nature Conservancy **Duke Energy** South Carolina Rural Water Association Beaufort Jasper WSA (retired) South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control South Carolina Department of Natural Resources **Congaree Riverkeeper** Farmer Anderson Regional Joint Water System Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc.



For more information, visit: <u>https://www.clemson.edu/public/water-</u> <u>assessment/State_Water_Planning_Process_</u> <u>Advisory_Committee.html</u>



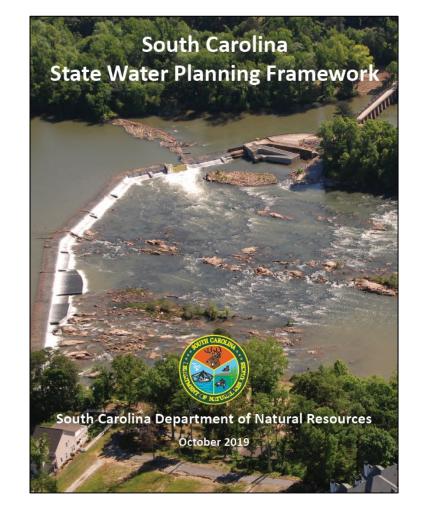
Contents of Planning Framework

The second

Sections:

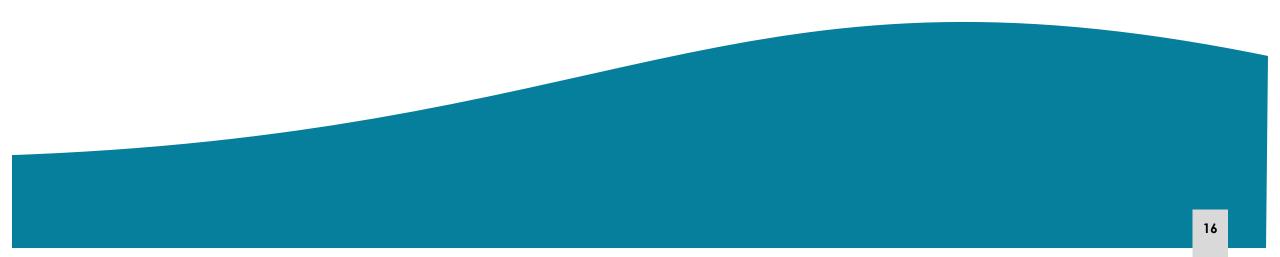
- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Introduction
- 3. River Basin Planning Process
- 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability
- 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents
- 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation
- 7. River Basin Plan Implementation
- 8. State Water Plan

Appendix: River Basin Council Bylaws

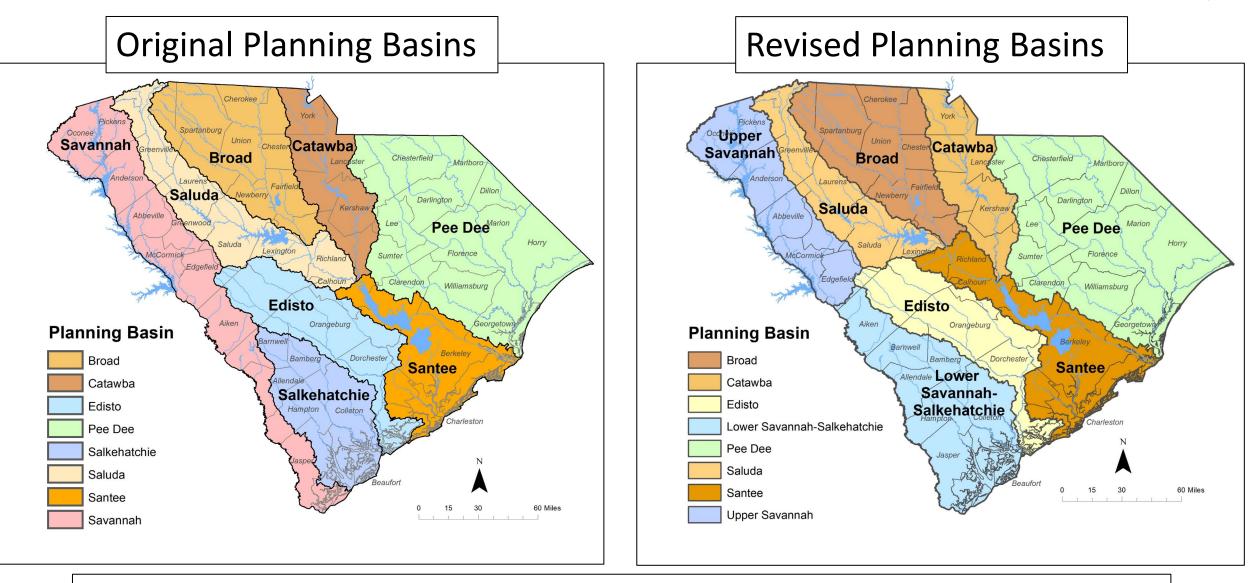


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SC River Basin Planning: Status and Long-term Schedule



Recent Changes to Planning Basin Boundaries

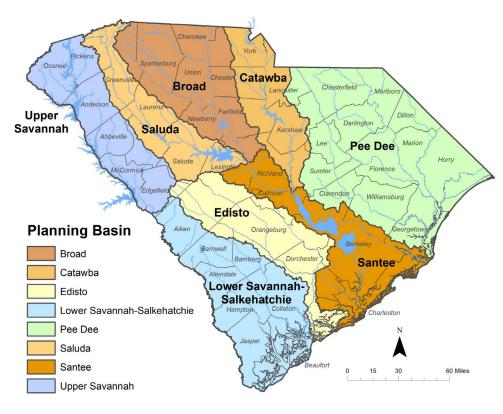


Impacted basins include the Salkehatchie, Saluda, Santee, and Savannah basins

River Basin Planning Current Status



| Basin | Status | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Edisto | Completed | | | | |
| Broad | March 2022 – present | | | | |
| Pee Dee | June 2022 – present | | | | |
| Saluda | March 2023 – present | | | | |
| Upper Savannah | July 2023 – present | | | | |
| Lower Savannah/ Salkehatchie | Scheduled to begin Fall 2023 | | | | |
| Santee | Scheduled to begin Spring 2024 | | | | |
| Catawba | CWWMG's Integrated Resource Plan in progress | | | | |



State Water Plan - Schedule



| Basin | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Edisto | | | | | | |
| Broad | | | | | | |
| Pee Dee | | | | | | |
| Catawba | | | | | | |
| Saluda | | | | | | |
| Upper Savannah | | | | | | |
| Lower Savannah/ Salkehatchie | | | | | | |
| Santee | | | | | | |
| State Water Plan | | | | | | |

Edisto River Basin Plan

- First plan to be completed.
- Executive Summary and Edisto River Basin Plan available at:

https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/edisto-riverbasin-plan.html

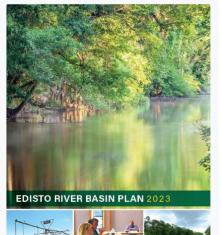


Edisto River Basin Planning Documents: <u>Executive Summary</u> Edisto River Basin Plan

Public Meeting Information: Date and Time: June 1st, 2023, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Meeting Agenda Location: Clemson Edisto Research and Education Center 64 Research St. Blackville, SC 29817 Purpose:

To introduce the final Edisto River Basin Plan and address public comments received on the draft plan.

Edisto River Basin Plan





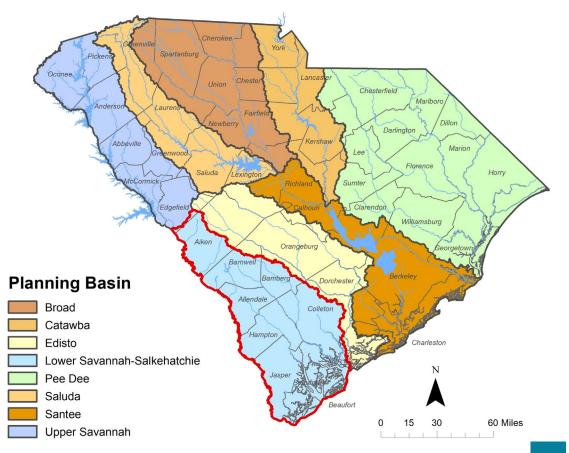
EDISTO RIVER BASIN PLAN 2023



Where Are We Now?

Ready to start the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River basin planning process under the guidance of the Planning Framework





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What is a River Basin Plan?

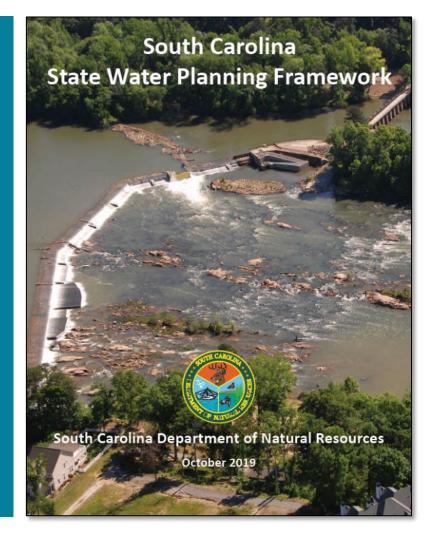


What is a River Basin Plan?



A River Basin Plan answers four questions:

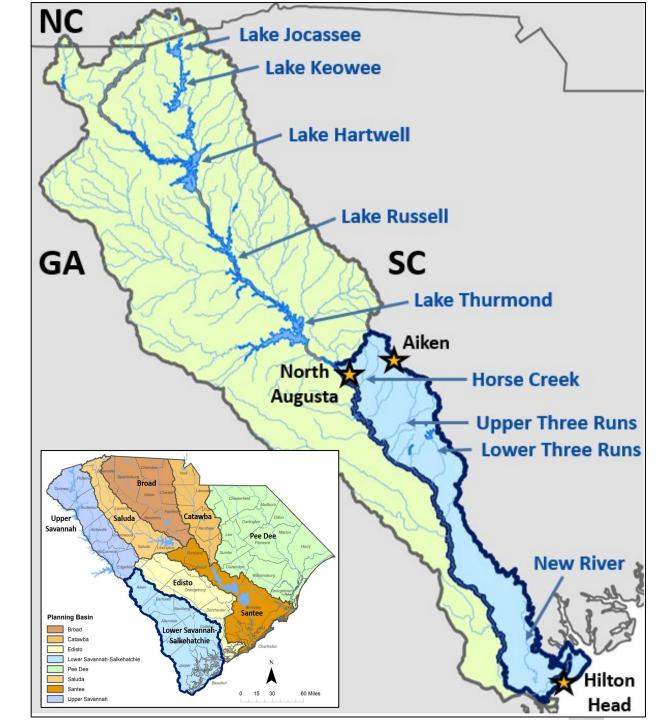
- 1. What is the basin's current available water supply and demand?
- 2. What are the current permitted and registered water uses?
- 3. What will be the basin's water demand over the Planning Horizon, and will the water supply meet the demand?
- 4. What water management strategies will be employed to ensure the supply meets or exceeds the projected demand over the Planning Horizon?



Proactive Water Management, not Reactive!

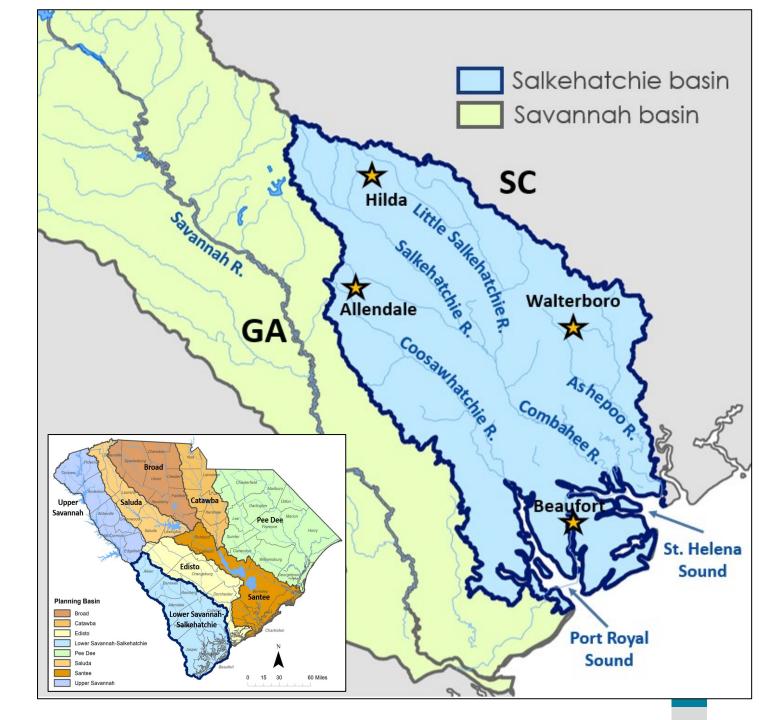
Savannah Basin Overview

- Length = 314 miles, with headwaters in the mountains of SC, GA, and NC.
- Spans 3 states NC, GA, SC.
- Area = 10,971 sq. mi.
 - GA 5,821 sq. mi. (53.1%)
 - SC 4,979 sq. mi. (45.4%)
 - NC 171 sq. mi. (1.6%)
- Upper basin dominated by reservoirs operated by Duke Energy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Lower Savannah Basin:
 - 1,759 sq. mi.
 - Outside of Savannah River Site, no major reservoirs.



Salkehatchie Basin Overview

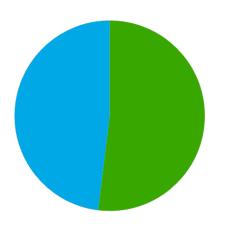
- Basin entirely lies in SC.
- Area = 2,725 sq. mi.
- Salkehatchie, Coosawhatchie, and Ashepoo are the major rivers draining the middle and lower Coastal Plain regions in the basin.
- No major reservoirs.
- The basin contains the most extensive estuarine water bodies in the State.



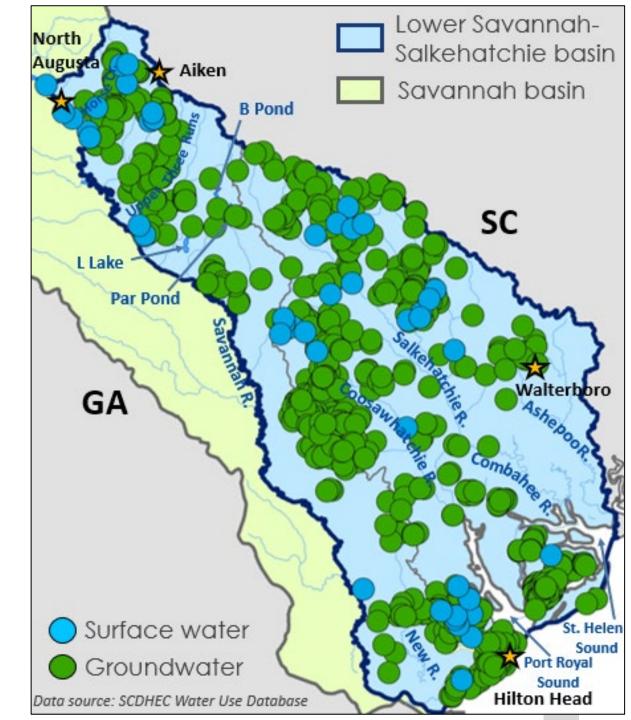
Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Water Use

• Both surface water and groundwater are important resources in the basin.



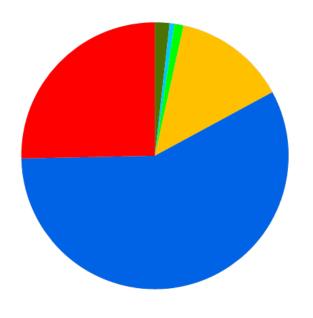


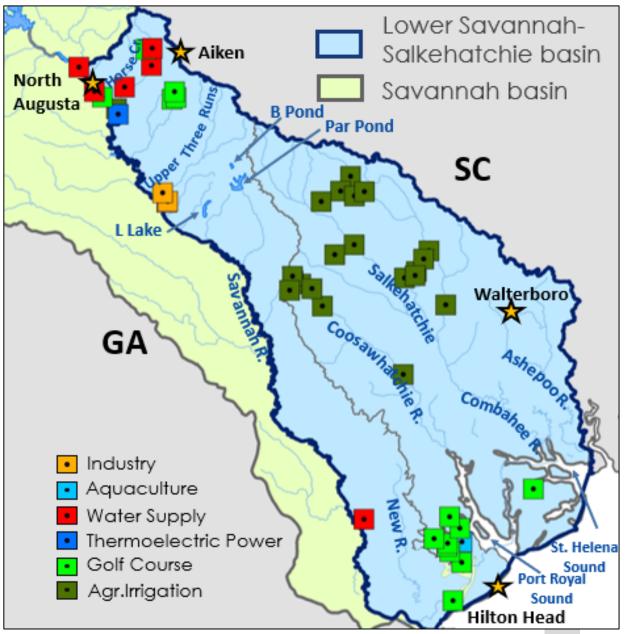
Excluding Energy SW: 48% GW: 52%



Reported SC Surface Water Withdrawals

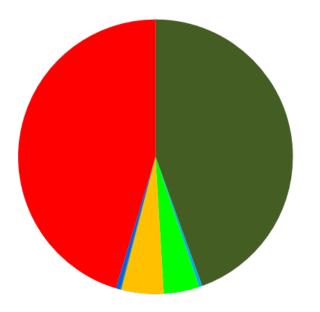
Thermoelectric Power (58%)
Water Supply (25%)
Industry (14%)
Agr. Irrigation (2%)
Golf Course (1%)
Aquaculture (1%)

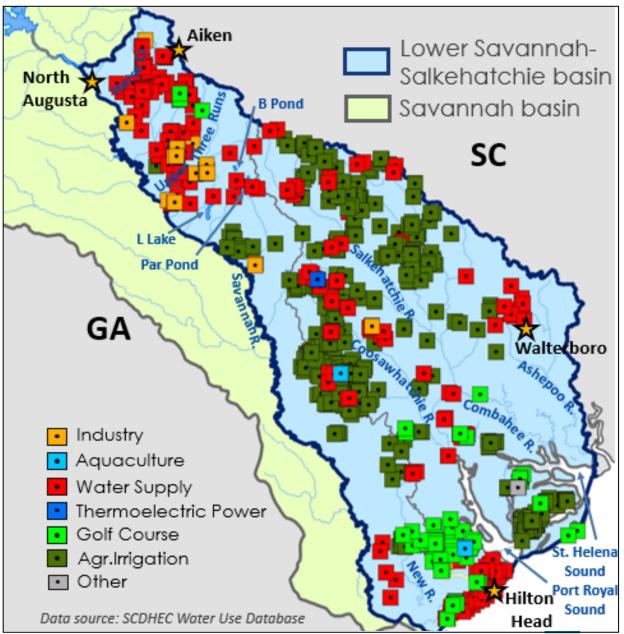




Reported SC Groundwater Withdrawals

Water Supply (45%)
Agr. Irrigation (44%)
Industry (5%)
Golf Course (4%)
Thermoelectric Power (1%)
Aquaculture (<1%)
Other (<1%)



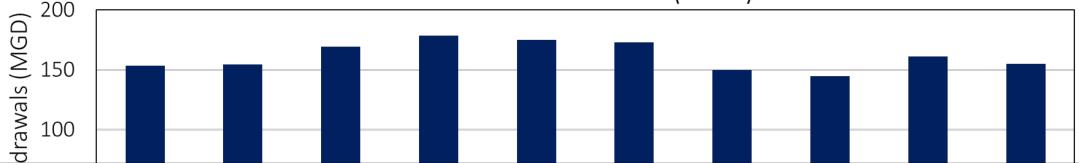


Reported Water Withdrawals (2013 – 2022)



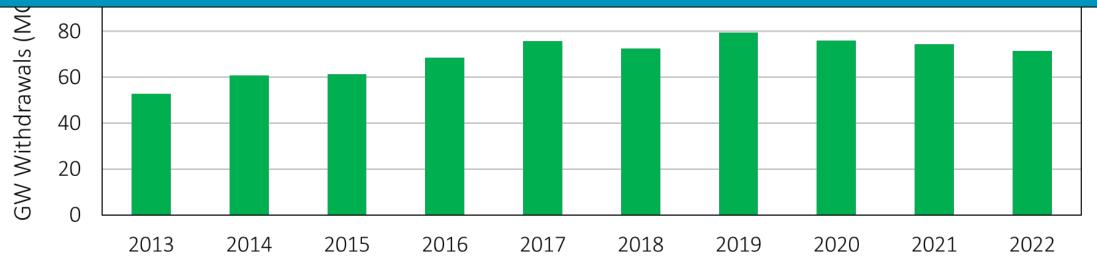
30

Surface Water Withdrawal (MGD)



How will this demand change over the next 50-years?

- Will we have enough water to meet those demands?
- If not, how can we manage our water resources to meet future demand?

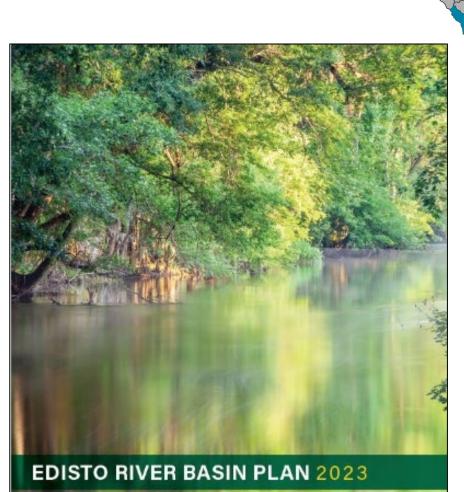


Guiding Principles

- Water is a limited natural resource and is a major factor for economic development and environmental protection.
- River Basin Plans should strive for the equitable use of water resources with the goal of ensuring water is available for all uses, when and where needed, throughout the Planning Horizon and under drought conditions.
- River Basin Plans should protect the public's health and well-being and should balance social, economic, and environmental needs.

Features of a River Basin Plan

- Stakeholder-developed.
- Covers a **50-year** Planning Horizon.
- Considers both **surface water** and **groundwater** resources.
- Current focus is on water *quantity* not water *quality* with emphasis on drought conditions.
- Not a regulatory document but may include recommendations regarding State water policy, law, and regulations.
- Updated every 5-years water planning will be an ongoing process.
- Supported by hydrologic data, models, and water-demand projections.





River Basin Plan Table of Contents

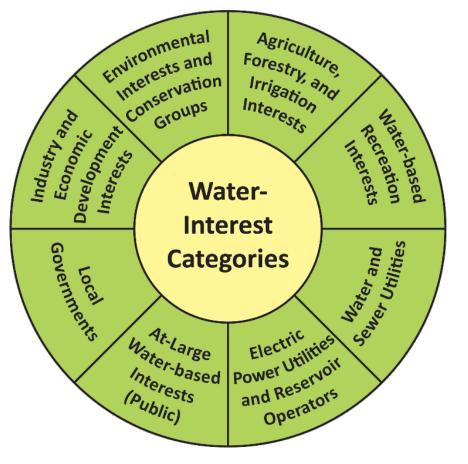
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Description of the Basin
- 3. Water Resources of the Basin
- 4. Current and Projected Water Demand
- 5. Comparison of Water Resource Availability and Water Demand
- 6. Water Management Strategies
- 7. Water Management Strategy Recommendations
- 8. Drought Response
- 9. Policy, Legislative, Regulatory, Technical, and Planning Process Recommendations
- 10. Implementation Plan

How will the River Basin Plan be Developed?



Planning Framework calls for the formation of a River Basin Council (RBC) in each planning basin

- **Stakeholder-led team** responsible for developing the River Basin Plan.
- 25-30 members representing 8 interest categories.
- Governed by a set of Bylaws.
- Consensus based decision-making process.
- Chair and Vice-Chair elected by RBC.



River Basin Plans will be developed over a 2-year period

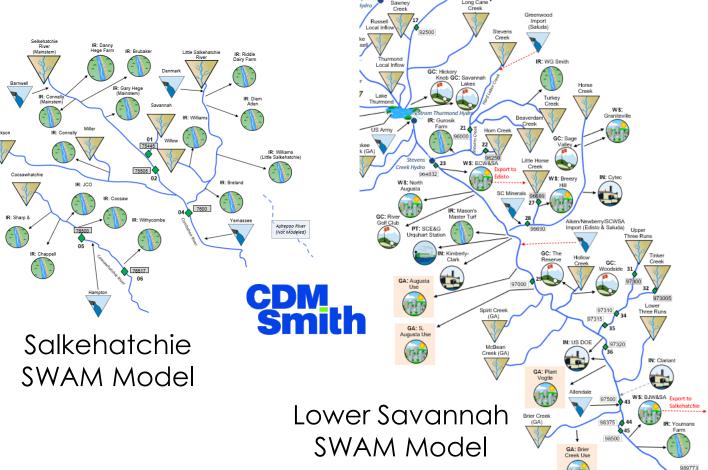
RBC Roles and Responsibilities

- Identify water shortages or conflicts using hydrologic models.
- Recommend strategies to mitigate or eliminate water use conflicts or water shortages.
- Communicate with stakeholders and the public on water planning activities.
- Coordinate with other formal water planning bodies.
- Recommend changes to water policy or legislation or to the water planning process.
- Help draft River Basin Plans.
- Update River Basin Plans every 5years and amend the plans as needed.



Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie Surface Water Models (SWAM)

Models are decisionmaking tools used to assess water availability and management strategies, and will support the development of the River Basin Plan



Updated models will be available at: https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/surface-water-models.html

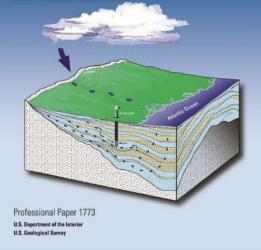
Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Groundwater Model





GROUNDWATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

Groundwater Availability in the Atlantic Coastal Plain of North and South Carolina





- •USGS Coastal Plain Groundwater model completed in 2021.
 - Regional model will be developed in coming year.
- Model is a decision-making tool used to assess groundwater availability and management strategies and will support the development of River Basin Plans.
- More information can be found at <u>https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/groundwater-models.html</u>.

Water Demand Projections

- ctober
- Water-demand methodology report released in October 2019 and available at:
 - <u>https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-demand.html</u>.
- Projections will be used in surface water model to assess future water availability and will support the development of River Basin Plans.
- Water-demand projections for the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin will be developed by Clemson University and SCDNR.
- RBC will have opportunity to review and provide feedback on the basin's water-demand projections.



US Army Corps of Engineers





RBC Support

- **Contractors** (solicited and hired by SCDNR):
 - Meeting Facilitation (CDM Smith)
 - Meeting Coordination (Clemson University) administrative and logistical support
 - Surface Water Modeling Technical support (CDM Smith)
 - Public Outreach (Clemson University)
 - River Basin Plan report writing (CDM Smith)
- Other State and Federal Agencies:
 - RBCs can request agencies to serve as Advisors.
 - Participate in RBC meetings and subcommittee meetings as requested.
- RBCs can request input from other outside Advisors.

PPAC and SCDNR will continue to provide oversight of the river basin planning process.

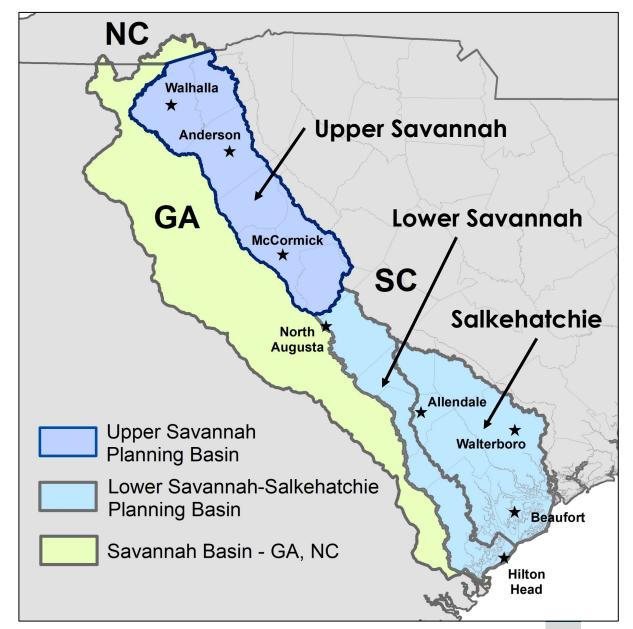
Coordination with other Planning Bodies



- Planning Framework recognizes the existence of other formal water planning groups and drought management groups.
- Planning Framework emphasizes coordination with such groups and provides general guidelines.
- Inter-basin River Councils (IRCs):
 - Made up of RBC members from two or more basins.
 - A forum for adjoining basins to communicate and coordinate on mutual interests and to resolve conflicts.

Coordination with Upper Savannah RBC

- Upper Savannah river basin planning activities began in July 2023.
- An IRC will be formed between the Upper Savannah planning basin and the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie planning basin.
- IRC will meet quarterly to coordinate planning activities.





Upper Savannah RBC

Planning Team

- Clemson
 - Coordination
 - Public Outreach
- CDM Smith
 - Facilitation
 - SW Tech Support
- SCDNR
 - Oversight
 - Education
- SCDHEC
 - Education







| Name | Organization | Interest Category |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mack Beaty, IV | Beaty Farms | |
| Chuck Connolly | Carolina's Golf Course Superintendent Association | Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation |
| Daniel Milam | Milam Farms | |
| Jill Miller | SC Rural Water Association | |
| Dan Murph | Murph Investments, LLC | At-Large |
| Harold Shelley | Friends of the Savannah River Basin | Artaige |
| Tonya Winbush | Veterans of Foreign Wars/Adopt-A-Stream | |
| Carl Price | Santee Cooper - Rainey Station | Electric-Power Utilities |
| Alan Stuart | Duke Energy | Liechic-i ower ommes |
| Tonya Bonitatibus | Savannah Riverkeeper | |
| John Hains | Friends of Lake Keowee Society | Environmental Interests |
| Katie Hottel | Upstate Forever | |
| Cole Rogers | Delux Construction, Inc. | |
| Mark Warner | McCormick and Abbeville County Economic Development | Industry and Economic Development |
| Will Williams | Western SC Economic Development Partnership | Development |
| Reagan Osbon | City of Westminster | Local Governments |
| Jon Batson | Anderson County | |
| Cheryl Daniels | McCormick CPW | |
| Tim Hall | Abbeville Public Utilties | |
| Jeff Phillips | Greenville Water | Water and Sewer Utilities |
| Melisa Ramey | Seneca Light and Water | |
| Scott Willett | Anderson Regional Joint Water System | |
| Billy Owens | Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron | Water-Based Recreation |

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River Basin Planning Schedule



Aug - Sept 2023

- Public kick-off meetings
- Solicit RBC applications

Sept - Oct 2023

- Appoint RBC members
- Planning Team (SCDNR, SCDHEC,
 - Clemson, contractors)
 - begins to meet

Oct 2023

• First RBC meeting

Nov 2023 – Sep 2025

• Monthly RBC meetings

Oct 2025

 Completed River Basin Plan

RBC Membership Qualifications and Considerations



- SCDNR appointments based on the following criteria:
 - Applicant's credentials
 - Knowledgeable and experienced in their interest category.
 - Must either reside, work or officially represent an entity having a significant water resource interest in the basin.
 - Additional qualifiers membership on the State Drought Response Committee, for example.
 - Recommendations and endorsements submitted by various interest groups or organizations.
 - Geographic diversity.
 - PPAC recommendations.

SCDNR will strive for a balanced RBC representation!

Membership Terms and Commitment Considerations

- Initial terms are 2, 3 or 4 years.
- Subsequent terms of 3 years (each additional term subject to SCDNR approval).
- RBC members can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.
- Considerations for RBC applicants:
 - Multi-year commitment.
 - Monthly in-person meetings (held during normal business hours).
 - Subcommittee meetings.
 - Review of various technical reports and other documents.
 - Help write and review the River Basin Plan.
 - Annual meetings between iterations of the River Basin Plan (possibly higher frequency).

Lower Savannah- Salkehatchie River Basin Council Application Process

Applicants should carefully consider the time commitment and workload required to an RBC member.

| | MEMBERSHIP APPLIC | ATION FORM | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Last Name: | First Nan | ne: | |
| Address: | Phone 1: | | |
| | | Phone 2: | |
| City: | State: | ZIP: | |
| Organization/Compar | ıy: | | |
| Position: | E-mail: | | |
| Indicate which one In | terest Category you are requestir | ng to represent (required): | |
| Agriculture, Fo | orestry, and Irrigation Interests | | |
| Local Governm | nents | Interests | |
| Water and Sew | | Water-based Recreation Interests | |
| Electric-Power Utilities and Non-Federal | | Environmental Interests | |
| Reservoir (| operators ed with this Interest Category? | At-Large Water-based Interests | |
| 2. Explain what makes | s you an appropriate representati | ve of your selected Interest Category: | |
| 2. Explain what makes | s you an appropriate representati | ve of your selected Interest Category: | |
| - | | | |
| - | | ve of your selected Interest Category: | |
| - | | | |
| 3. Describe your relev | ant qualifications and backgrour | | |
| 3. Describe your relev 4. Explain how you wo | ant qualifications and backgrour | ad or experience with water resources: | |

https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/lowsav-basin-planning.html

RBC Application Process



- Application period: August 24th September 15th, 2023.
- Application forms available on SCDNR website:

https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/lowsav-basin-planning.html

- Application forms and recommendations should be sent to Ken Rentiers (see application for contact information).
- Application review period: September 16th Sept 29th, 2023.
 - PPAC will review applications and make recommendations to SCDNR.
- Final selection and notification by **October 6th, 2023**.
- Applicants not appointed for membership may be placed on a waiting list.

Stakeholder/Public Participation Guidelines

- Guidelines for stakeholder and public participation described in Section 3.7 of Planning Framework.
- Public meetings (3 to 4 per basin):
 - Prior to first RBC meeting "kickoff" meeting(s).
 - After *draft* River Basin Plan is released.
 - After *final* River Basin Plan is released.
- Draft River Basin Plan public review period (30 days).
- RBC meetings:
 - Open to the public.
 - Each meeting will include public comment period.

SCDNR Hydrology Website

Water Planning

The SCDNR Hydrology Section is responsible for formulating and establishing a comprehensive water resources policy for the State of South Carolina.

Public Notice: SCDNR will host two public meetings in Anderson, SC on April 10th and in McCormick, SC on April 11thto kick-off river basin planning activities in the Upper Savannah basin. Meeting dates, locations, and agendas can be found on the <u>Upper Savannah Basin Planning</u> website.

Public Notice: SCDNR is accepting public comments on the <u>draft Edisto River Basin Plan</u>. Public comments on the draft plan will be accepted through March 17th, 2023. The draft plan, along with comment submission instructions, can be found on the <u>Edisto River Basin Plan</u> website.



https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/water-planning.html

Site will host:

- Announcements/Calendar of Events
- Access to water planning documents Planning Framework, technical reports
- RBC meeting materials agendas, presentations, recordings

Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie Basin Planning

Activities and reports on water planning in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River basin.

Overview

River basin planning activites in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie river basin have been initiated under the guidance of the <u>South Carolina State</u> <u>Water Planning Framework</u>. Two public meetings will be hosted by the SCDNR on August 24th at the Walterboro Wildlife Center in Walterboro, SC and on August 29th at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC to kick-off planning activities. Additional meeting information, including agendas, can be found below. An overview of the South Carolina State Water Planning Framework will be provided, and applications to serve on the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council will be solicited. Formal Council meetings will begin in the Fall of 2023. Please visit this website for periodic updates and new information regarding Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie river basin planning activities.

Public Meetings

Meeting #1 - Walterboro, SC August 24th, 2023; 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Location: Walterboro Wildlife Center 100 S. Jefferies Blvd. Walterboro, SC 29488 Draft Agenda Directions via Google Public Notice: SCDNR will host two pubic meetings on August 24th and 29th in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin to kick-off river basin planning activities.

Meeting dates, locations, and agendas can be found below. Please contact Scott Harder (<u>harders@dnr.sc.gov</u>) for more information.

Meeting #2 - North Augusta, SC

Augusta 29th, 2023; 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Location: North Augusta Community Center 495 Brookside Ave. North Augusta, SC 29841 <u>Draft Agenda</u> <u>Directions via Google</u>

https://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/lowsav-basinplanning.html

Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning – Public Meeting #1



1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Dr. Jeff Allen, Clemson University

2. Why We Are Here – Ken Rentiers, SCDNR, Deputy Director of the Land, Water & Conservation Division Why is water planning important to all South Carolina citizens? Where are we in the planning process, how did we get here, and where are we going?

3. Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning – Scott Harder, SCDNR, Hydrologist What is a River Basin Plan and how will the River Basin Plan be developed?

4. Next Steps for Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning – Scott Harder, SCDNR What is the schedule for planning activities in the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basin? How can stakeholders apply to be on the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Council? What are other ways stakeholders can be involved?

5. Pee Dee River Basin Planning – Buddy Richardson, Chairman of the Pee Dee River Basin Council The Pee Dee River Basin Council Chairman will share his perspective on State water planning and his experience with the Pee Dee basin planning process.

6. Comments from the Planning Process Advisory Committee and Q&A Session – moderated by Dr. Jeff Allen, Clemson University. *PPAC members will share their perspectives on water planning and along with SCDNR address any comments or questions about the Planning Framework and river basin planning activities. Let us hear from you. We welcome your questions and feedback.*

Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie River Basin Planning – Public Meeting #1



6. Comments from the Planning Process Advisory Committee and Q&A Session – moderated by Dr. Jeff Allen, Clemson University.

PPAC members will share their perspectives on water planning and along with SCDNR address any comments or questions about the Planning Framework and river basin planning activities.

Let us hear from you! We welcome your questions and feedback.

Contact Information: Scott Harder <u>harders@dnr.sc.gov</u> 864-986-6254

