

Edisto River Basin Council

Meeting #7 (Virtual)

November 18th, 2020

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) Review of Coastal Aquatic Resources
- 2) Review of Freshwater Aquatic Resources
- 3) Review of Cultural Resources
- 4) Review of Water Law
- 5) RBC Discussion

1. Call the Meeting to Order (John Boyer, Facilitator) 9:00–9:05
 - a. Review of Meeting Objectives
 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - c. Approval of October 21st Minutes and Summary
2. Public Comment (John Boyer) 9:05-9:10
 - a. Public Comment Period¹
3. Review of Coastal Aquatic Resources and Q & A (Joey Ballenger, DNR) 9:10-9:40
4. Review of Freshwater Aquatic Resources and Q & A (Chris Thomason, DNR) 9:40-10:10
5. Review of Cultural Resources and Q & A (Sean Taylor, DNR) 10:10-10:40
- *Break* 10:40-10:55
6. Review of Water Law and Q & A (Josh Eagle, USC) 10:55-11:25
7. Edisto RBC Member Vision Statement and Goals for the Edisto Basin (John Boyer & Planning Team) 11:25-11:55
8. Meeting Conclusion (John Boyer) 11:55-12:00

Setting the Long-term Vision and Goals

- By the end of Phase 1, the RBC should develop a **Vision Statement** and **Goals** for the basin.
- The **Vision Statement** and **Goals** should summarize the RBC's **priorities** for water resource use and management in the Edisto River Basin.



Example Vision Statements

Example Vision Statements from the GA Regional Water Planning Councils:

“The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council seeks to conserve and manage our water resources in order to sustain and enhance our unique coastal environment and economy of Coastal Georgia.”

“The Vision of the Suwannee-Satilla Regional Council is to manage water resources in a sustainable manner under Georgia’s regulated riparian and regulated reasonable use laws to support the state’s and region’s economy, to protect public health and natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens; while preserving the private property rights of Georgia’s landowners, and in consideration of the need to enhance resource augmentation and efficiency opportunities.”

Example Vision Statements

Example Vision Statements from the GA Regional Water Planning Councils:

“The Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers along with the region’s groundwater resources will provide high quality and quantity water supplies for balanced growth while protecting the natural and built environments. The Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council, through collaboration with stakeholders, will formulate river basin policies based on current and developing technologies and conservation methods. Because of the results of our Council and other councils’ efforts, Georgia will be recognized across the country as the leader in water resource management.”

RBC-Identified Basin Priorities from August 2020

- Finding an **optimal balance** of water for people and nature
- **Rectify potential over-allocation** through recommendations to legislature
- Improved **monitoring systems** for both surface water and groundwater
- **Data-driven decisions** supported by modeling
- **Sustainability** as an outcome
- **Collaboration** and **consensus**
- Use of **best practices**
- **Implementation** is important
 - Clarity on who has authority and responsibility for implementation
 - Commitment to implement
 - Identify funding sources

Vision Statement for the Edisto River Basin

- The Edisto River Basin Council...

Example Goals

Example Goals from the GA Regional Water Planning Councils:

- *Manage and develop high quality water resources to sustainably and reliably meet domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural water needs.*
- *Identify fiscally responsible and implementable opportunities to maximize existing and future supplies including promoting water conservation and reuse.*
- *Identify and utilize best available science and data and apply principles of various scientific disciplines when making water resource management decisions.*
- *Protect and maintain regional recreation, ecosystems, and cultural and historic resources that are water dependent to enhance the quality of life of our current and future citizens and help support tourism and commercial activities.*
- *Manage groundwater and surface water to encourage sustainable economic and population growth in the region.*
- *Work to enhance the public's understanding of regional water issues and the need for support of new policies to protect future resources.*
- *Work with EPD to establish ongoing relationships with South Carolina stakeholders and other Water Planning Councils to equitably address water sharing issues.*

Goals for Edisto River Basin

In Phase 3, water management strategies will be developed to support these goals.

- **Goal 1...**
- **Goal 2...**
- **Goal 3...**
- **Goal 4...**
- **Goal 5...**
- **Goal 6...**

Next Edisto RBC Meeting

Wed, December 9 (in 3 weeks)

Informational Topic

- Surface Water Model Overview
- Groundwater Model Overview
- Environmental Flows Study Introduction
- Performance Measures Primer

Speaker

John Boyer, CDM Smith

Bruce Campbell, USGS (retired)

Eric Kruger, The Nature Conservancy

John Boyer, CDM Smith

RBC Discussion and Housekeeping Items

- Develop Goals for the management and use water resources in the Edisto River Basin

Wed, January 6th – Begin Phase II, Comparison of Water Availability and Demand