Planning Framework Overview

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July 15th, 2020
Contents of Planning Framework

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

Planning Framework is available for review and download at: http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/state-and-river-basin-planning.html
Section 2. Introduction

Describes:

• Need for and purpose of state and river basin planning.

• Role of State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC).

• Guiding principles.

• Regulatory framework.

Much of this information was presented at the first Council meeting.

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Other Features of a River Basin Plan

- Covers a **50-year** Planning Horizon.
- Considers both surface water and groundwater resources.
- Current focus is on water *quantity* not water *quality*.
- Not a regulatory document but may include recommendations regarding State water policy, laws and regulations.
- Updated every 5 years – *water planning will be an ongoing process*.
- Supported by hydrologic data and models along with water demand projections.
Section 3. River Basin Planning Process

Describes:

- *How* the River Basin Plan will be developed.
- The roles and responsibilities of:
  - River Basin Councils
  - State and Federal Agencies
  - Contractors
  - PPAC
- Stakeholder/public participation.
- Coordination with other planning bodies and committees.

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River Basin Council (RBC)

- **Stakeholder-led team** responsible for developing the River Basin Plan.
- Governed by a set of Bylaws.
- Consensus based decision-making process.
- Chair and Vice Chair elected by RBC.
- Initial terms are either **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**.

**Up to 25 members representing 8 interest categories**
RBC Roles and Responsibilities

• Identify water shortages or potential water resource issues using hydrologic models.
• Recommend strategies to mitigate or eliminate water use conflicts or water shortages.
• Form subcommittees to address specific issues or topics.
• Coordinate with other formal planning bodies.
• Communicate with stakeholders and the public on planning activities.
• Make policy, legislative/regulatory, technical or planning process recommendations.
• Help draft River Basin Plans.
• Support/promote final River Basin Plans.
• Fulfill Implementation Plan objectives.
• Update River Basin Plans every 5 years and amend River Basin Plans as needed.
RBC Support

- **Contractors** (solicited and hired by SCDNR):
  - Meeting Facilitation (CDM Smith, Inc.)
  - Meeting Coordination (Clemson University) – administrative and logistical support
  - Public Outreach (Clemson University)
  - Technical Support – surface (CDM Smith, Inc.) and groundwater modeling (TBD)
  - River Basin Plan report writing (CDM Smith, Inc., SCDNR)

- **Other State and Federal Agencies:**
  - RBCs can request agencies to serve as Advisors.
  - Advisors can participate in 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.**
Coordinating with Other Planning Bodies

- Planning Framework recognizes the existence of other formal water planning groups and drought management groups:
  - State Drought Committee
  - Groundwater Management Groups (Capacity Use Program)
- Planning Framework emphasizes coordination with such groups and provides general guidelines.
- Interbasin 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 Groundwater Management Groups

Capacity Use Areas

Explanation
- Planning Basin
- Pee Dee
- Waccamaw
- Trident
- Western
- Low Country
- Unregulated
- Unregulated, Requires Notice of Intent to Drill
Stakeholder and Public Participation Opportunities

• Guidelines for stakeholder and public participation described in the 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.
  • Meeting schedule/announcements posted on SCDNR website.
  • Approved meeting minutes/summaries posted on SCDNR website.
SCDNR Hydrology Section Website

- Site hosts:
  - Calendar of Events
  - Access to water planning documents (Planning Framework/technical reports)
  - RBC meeting materials/agendas

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

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http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/edisto-basin-planning.html
Section 4. Methodologies for Evaluating Water Availability

- **Describes:**
  - Hydrologic models used to evaluate water availability.
  - 4 scenarios for RBC evaluation
  - Approach to evaluating water management strategies.

- **Defines:**
  - *Surface and Groundwater Availability*
  - *Surface and Groundwater Shortage, etc.*

- A future RBC meeting will cover this section in more detail.

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Section 5. River Basin Plan Table of Contents

- Provides a detailed description of the “minimum requirements” for each Chapter.

- RBCs should generally adhere to this organization structure.

- Some discretion to include additional information not explicitly stated in the Planning Framework.

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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
10. River Basin Plan Implementation
Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation

- 2-year process
  - Time extension(s) can be requested.

- Monthly meeting schedule
  - May be modified while using virtual meeting formats.

- SCDNR responsible for hiring contractors.

- RBC, assisted by the Facilitator, will develop metrics, or benchmarks, that gage the performance of the RBC.

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Section 6. River Basin Planning Process Implementation

- Four Phases of Plan Development:
  - Phase 1 – orientation, administrative aspects, background information.
  - Phase 2 – technical analyses used to assess water availability.
  - Phase 3 – analysis of water management strategies.
  - Phase 4 – preparation of draft and final River Basin Plans incorporating final water management strategies and other recommendations.

- RBC responsible for submitting progress reports after each major phase.

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Section 7. River Basin Plan Implementation

• River Basin Plans are not intended to be static documents.
• The River Basin Plan is required to have a 5-year Implementation Plan (Chapter 10 of the River Basin Plan):
  • Objectives – based on recommended water management strategies and other recommendations.
  • Schedule.
  • Budget.
• RBCs required to meet annually but frequency dependent on objectives and available funding.
• Implementation challenges/considerations:
  • Funding.
  • Broader stakeholder buy-in.
  • No regulatory authority.
Section 8. State Water Plan

- Contingent upon completion of 8 River Basin Plans.
- Major content includes:
  - A summary of legislative, policy, process, and program recommendations regarding the State’s water resources documented in the River Basin Plans.
  - A summary of each River Basin Plan’s water availability analyses and conclusions.
  - An evaluation of statewide trends in water use and availability.

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