

**Minutes of the Edisto RBC Meeting
Wednesday July 15, 2020
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Meeting was held virtually via the Zoom Meetings application

RBC Members Present: Mark Aakhus, Laura Bagwell, Kirk Bell, David Bishop, John Bass, Joel Duke, Richard Hall, John Haralson, JJ Jowers, Jr, Hugo Krispyn, Alta Mae Marvin, Trey McMillan, Eric Odom, Charles Shugart, Hank Stallworth, Natalie Tarpein, Jason Thompson, Alex Tolbert, Jeremy Walther, Jerry Waters, and Landrum Weathers

RBC Members Excused: Mike Moseley (Brandon Stutts, alternate in attendance) and Larry Yonce

Planning Team Present: Ken Rentiers, Scott Harder, Jeff Allen, John Boyer, Rob Devlin, Alex Butler, Joe Gellici, Andy Wachob, Tom Walker, Lori Dickes, Vincent Leon Guerrero, Chikezie Isiguzo, and Andrew Waters

Total Present: 82

**1. Agenda Item: Call the Meeting to Order (John Boyer, Facilitator)
9:00 AM**

At 9:00 AM, John Boyer calls the official meeting to order and introduces himself; he recognizes Thomas Walker and Thomas Walker begins recording.

Thomas Walker reminds the participants that meeting logistics are the same as last meeting including using the raise hand function on zoom and yes / no function for voting. Public comments can be directed to him if calling-in. He notes that for approval of the agenda, meeting one minutes, and summary, the yes/no voting function is located in the participants tab.

John Boyer clarifies the raise hand function and encourages participants to use the raise hand function as an exercise. John Boyer counts at least 14 RBC members and John Boyer officially calls quorum at 9:03 AM.

- a. Review of Meeting Objectives

9:03 AM John Boyer formally reviews four items to accomplish.

- b. Approval of Agenda

9:04 AM John Boyer moves to approve agenda, RBC votes yes-13, no-0, John Boyer announces agenda approved.

- c. Approval of June 17th Minutes and Summary

9:05 AM John Boyer moves to approve minutes and summary of June 17th, yes-12, no-0, minutes and summary approved.

2. Agenda Item: Public Comment (John Boyer)

9:06 AM

- a. Responses to Public Comments Received (June 17th meeting)

At 9:06 am John Boyer reviews public comments received from the June meeting: there was one public comment from Sharon Richardson, an RBC alternate, she notes that she has Edisto river basin maps and, if the GIS information is helpful, she would be happy to share. John Boyer thanks Sharon and notes that the RBC can potentially use the information but there is readily available contemporary data from the DHEC watershed atlas, and the RBC will have a tutorial by DHEC at a later time. DHEC maps includes additional information such as permit, eco regions, dams, flood hazards and is easily accessible.

- b. Public Comment Period

At 9:07 AM John Boyer notes the meeting is now open to public comment and to use the raise your hand function. If using the phone, you need to submit public comments via writing to Tom Walker. John Boyer request Tom Walker confirm no hands raised. Tom Walker agrees. No public comment received.

3. Agenda Item: Additional Introductions (John Boyer)

- a. Edisto RBC Members

John Boyer attempts to recognize RBC members not previously introduced. John Boyer notes that Johney Haralson was present at the last meeting and not recognized. Tom Walker notes Johney Haralson is not found in participants. John Boyer requests Johnny Haralson raise hand. John Boyer request Hank Stallworth, please raise hand to introduce. Tom Walker confirms he does not see Hank Stallworth in participant list. John Boyer request Larry Yonce, please raise hand. Larry Yonce is not present.

Members Johney Haralson, Hank Stallworth, and Jerry Waters were eventually recognized and introduced themselves:

Johney Haralson: Bamberg Soil & Water Conservation District

Hank Stallworth: Lives and works on farm. Started work with Attorney General's Office, has worked with all of the Natural Resources agencies. Eventually worked with S.C. Department of Natural Resources. Retired as chief of staff at SCDNR. Has been a volunteer for numerous conservation organizations. Supports format and purpose of plan; believes it will create consensus objectives.

Jerry Waters: At large member. Born on S. Edisto. Farms in Edisto Basin. Also, he is a residential commercial developer.

4. Agenda Item: Review and Discussion: Water Planning Framework (Scott Harder)

At 9:11 AM John Boyer notes that Scott Harder is to present on the Water Planning Framework and to feel free to raise your hand and questions will be answered during the presentation.

At 9:12 AM Scott Harder begins the Water Planning Framework review and discussion presentation. Scott Harder encourages the council to read and review the framework thoroughly. He reviews the introduction and purpose of River Basin planning. Scott also presents an introduction for a 50-year planning horizon for surface water and groundwater. He notes that the focus is on quantity and not quality in this process. Plans are to be updated every 5 years. They are to be supported by hydrologic data and models. Scott Harder notes he will give Hugo Krispyn an opportunity to speak on water quality.

Hugo Krispyn: The division between quantity and quality is arbitrary and not real and he is unsure if we should try to tease them apart. Hugo also makes note that the 50-year plan should have a funding mechanism and that legislative priorities should be supported and not have to go “hat in hand” on an ongoing basis. We should make clear that planning should happen every five years and there should be a funding mechanism to make sure planning is ongoing. The planning process needs to be supported and funded on an ongoing basis.

Scott Harder: Agrees water quality is a concern, however, notes the tools for water quality are different from tools for water quantity and we don’t have the tools available to evaluate how water quantity impacts water quality at this time. Scott returns to the River basin planning process. He reviews the RBC as a stakeholder-led team project, reviews interest-based membership, and the consensus based decision-making process including chair and vice chair positions on the RBC. He reviews staggered initial terms and subsequent terms duration of 3 years and members can serve up to 3 consecutive terms. Reviews the roles and responsibilities of RBC members, he requests questions from RBC, John Boyer notes no hands raised. Reviews RBC support contractors that were solicited and hired by SCDNR and groundwater modeling contracting is to be determined for this process. PPAC and SCDNR will provide oversight when needed for the RBC process. Other state and federal agencies are invited to participate and can act as advisors to the RBC. The RBCs can also request input from other non-governmental advisors, as well. Scott notes the RBC will need to coordinate with other planning bodies as needed such as the state drought response committee and groundwater management groups formed under DHEC. The framework provides guidelines on this interaction. Scott reviews Interbasin River councils of two or more basins and the need to communicate and resolve conflicts (not yet formed). There will need to be coordination with DHEC groundwater management groups. Groundwater management and river basin council interaction and any changes are subject to DHEC approval. Scott reviews stakeholder and public participation opportunities. He highlights public meetings and there are three to four scheduled per RBC process: one or two before selection of the RBC, one after the RBC draft plan is released, and one after the final RBC plan is released. Meeting schedules and announcements will be published on DNR and Clemson websites includes meetings for the public to stay engaged. Meeting minutes and summaries can be found on the SCDNR hydrology section website.

Scott Harder: Request for questions of recently covered presentation; John Boyer confirms no hands raised.

Scott Harder: Methodology and evaluating water availability: He reviews water scenarios and water management strategies that the RBC is to review. Review of minimum requirements for RBCs and reviews framework of RB plan. River basin reviews planning process implementation, reviews time frame (2 years) and meeting frequency (once a month). SCDNR responsibilities for hiring contractors and use of facilitator for the purpose of adhering to plan timeline.

John Boyer notes that Clay Duffie has a question.

Clay Duffie: Can RBC make a statement on water policy that's not necessarily a part of the plan or issued prior to plan approval?

Scott Harder: It is possible if RBC thinks it's important to make a statement on water policy. Offers to run it by the PPAC as an item of discussion.

Clay Duffie: There may be some regulatory issues that need to be addressed more urgently than the process allows for completion of RB plan. He agrees and will review with PPAC.

Scott Harder: Returns to river basin planning process implementation and reviews phases of plan development. Reviews necessary flexibility given the pandemic and need to address virtual format and the schedule needs modification following consensus of members. River basin plan implementation and objectives are over a 5-year time period to include schedule and budget. Implementation review included challenges specifically funding issues, broader stakeholder buy-in, and no regulatory authority. Scott reviews summary of common recommendations and concludes the presentation.

Comment from Hugo Krispyn: Is there an expectation to implement basin plan in advance of state plan?

Scott: It will depend on the objectives and funding.

5. Agenda Item: Review and Discussion: RBC Bylaws (John Boyer)

At 9:49 John Boyer presents Review of RBC by-laws slide presentation purpose of bylaws. Reviews modification to bylaws for special and unique situations in basin. Reviews membership and attendance stipulations and requirements for alternates. Reviews the need for members to identify alternates that are within same water use interest category. The importance of attendance and expectations of RBC members is very important and 2 unexcused absences can result in possible removal.

John Boyer: Landrum Weathers raised hand.

Landrum Weathers: Comments on alternates and request alternates are included on RBC emails.

John Boyer: Agrees that if we ask them to attend meetings we should email too.

John returns to review the code of conduct: Be prepared, operate on good faith, respect, avoid

conflicts of interest. Reviews clauses and process for removal, resignation, and reinstatement. Reviews RBC chair and vice chair roles. RBC members to nominate chair and vice and should be from different water use interest groups.

Jeremy Walther: Comments that when doing votes for Chair and Vice-chair it should be in executive session.

John Boyer: Comments that there may be a broader discussion of when because of pandemic and request discussion if we have put it off or we should poll for election at the next meeting.

Scott Harder: DNR is okay if we want to wait and DNR does not want to rush it.

John Boyer: Vote for election held at the next meeting.

Poll for RBC Chair and Vice-chair at next meeting: 5 yes, 5 no.

John Boyer: Request voters of no to comment.

Jerry Waters: It would be advantageous to the group to have a physical meeting and need to postpone the election.

Tom Walker: Jeremy Walther comments in chat box that he agrees with Jerry Waters.

Landrum Weathers: I agree with Mr. Waters.

John Boyer: We will revisit this subject at the end of meeting.

John Boyer: Returns to bylaw presentation and discusses meeting types, regular, closed meetings for sensitive topics to be approved by members. Special meetings unforeseen and time sensitive. Review of decision-making: consensus through interest-based negotiations and seek win-win outcomes.

John Boyer: Request questions or comments?

Tom Walker: Notes a comment from Hank Stallworth about being careful of closed meetings and open government record laws.

John Boyer: Returns to decision-making: majority vote and 2/3 supermajority vote for specific issues, decision-making and discusses river basin plan approval process: step 1 draft plan test consensus with 5-point rating scale, step 2 final plan and indicate support and disagreement regarding plan.

John Boyer: Request questions and comments. None noted.

John Boyer: Returns to review of subcommittees and interbasin river councils, short and long-term subcommittees; interbasin river councils are not subject to regular meeting requirements.

Concludes bylaw presentation and request questions from participants. No comments were received.

6. Agenda Item: Future Meeting Discussion (John Boyer)

At 10:08 John Boyer, request to collect RBC members thoughts regarding pandemic meetings and the virtual process. Requested comments from RBC members on moving forward. Outlines first meetings are informational rather than interactive.

Jason Thompson: Affirms the need for social distance in the near future. Request to discuss if we meet would it be possible to have it limited to RBC members and have avenue for public where the moderator is aware of public and acts to highlight public conversations. Also notes some employers have restrictions for meeting in-person.

John Boyer: Affirms public attending virtually is possible with some considerations for audio problems given spacing.

Scott Harder: We could be encouraged to do that in the fall and requests that Ken Rentiers weigh in.

Ken Rentiers: DNR board is not meeting in-person and we are hopeful about meeting in-person in the future, but we have to be mindful regarding safety.

John Boyer: Request participant discussion of possibility of field trips to different parts of the basin. Would the RBC be willing and interested in field trips?

Landrum Weathers: I agree with Mr. Rentiers, but short-term virtual items can be done such as permitting and regulation process presentations rather than discussion with virtual format. Maybe there are things that we need to get done anyways that can be done virtually.

Tom Walker: Notes comments in chat:

Jeremy Walther: Happy to host field trip

Charissa Waite: All members should be virtual and not only some.

David Bishop: Virtual meetings to educate.

Eric Kruger: Safety risk is high, and groundwork can be done with virtual

Hank Stallworth: Virtual is fine.

Jason Thompson: With a wide range of stakeholders is there a means for us to submit things that we feel we need more information on.

John Boyer: We will include a survey/questionnaire for topics to be covered and outside advisors for topics can also be suggested. We are open to ideas. Once an RBC chair is elected, agenda items will be filtered through them but for now feel free to reach out to Tom Walker or me. John Boyer request for final questions and none noted. John Boyer reminds RBC members to select an alternate and think about field trips.

Tom Walker: Reminder if you have a public comment on phone send them to me.

7. Agenda Item: Meeting Conclusion (John Boyer)

Meeting adjourned at 10:21.

Scott Harder: Hank Stallworth had asked about the next meeting date it is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Tom Walker: August 19th at 9:00am.

John Boyer: Thank you everybody.

Alta Mae: Thought meeting was at 10:30, I'm sorry I am late.

Tom Walker: The recording will be posted at DNR hydrology site and Tom Walker will send it out to RBC members once it is available.

Meeting minutes: Vincent Leon Guerrero, Andrew Waters, Chikezie Isiguzo, and Tom Walker

Minutes Approved: August 19, 2020