

Location:

June 22, 2022
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Clemson Edisto REC
Hybrid Meeting

Action Items:

- 1. Edisto RBC members to e-mail John Boyer with proposed plan recommendations for RBC consideration prior to next RBC meeting.**

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 MIIF	River Flow Range (cfs) Lower	Upper	Basin-wide % Reduction in SW Withdrawals
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 May 18th Minutes and Summary Documents
- Public and Agency Comment Periods
- Old business/New business Discussion
- Update on Edisto River Basin Plan Chapters
- Review Additional Groundwater Model Management Strategy Modeling Results
- Discuss Low Flow Surface Water Management Strategy
- Discussion and Identification of River Basin Plan Recommendations
- Upcoming RBC agenda and schedule

Meeting Summary (June 22nd)

The Edisto RBC Chair, Hank Stallworth, called the June 22nd meeting of the Edisto RBC to order at 9:00 AM. The twenty-fourth meeting of the Edisto RBC was held in-person and virtually via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Including the Edisto RBC members and planning team, there were 44 people present at this RBC meeting in-person and online. The meeting began with Hank Stallworth discussing the agenda items for the meeting. The Edisto RBC approved the RBC meeting agenda and the May 18th 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 comments at this meeting.

John Boyer introduced the first major agenda item regarding the writing of the Edisto River Basin Plan. Chapter one is out for review with several others forthcoming for RBC review. Reviewing river basin plan chapters will take place over the last two months of the planning process in order to finalize the draft Edisto RBC plan.

The next agenda item focused on additional groundwater modeling results requested at the previous Edisto RBC meeting. USGS personnel presented the output of the additional model results: relocating future pumping demand and reduction of irrigation pumping by 15% under the high growth scenario and relocating future pumping demand and reduction of irrigation pumping by 15% under the moderate growth scenario.

The meeting pivoted to discussion of the low flow surface water management strategy. There was some discussion of what would trigger the low flow strategy and consideration of how to prevent continually moving in and out of the low flow strategy in lower flow conditions. After discussion and some wordsmithing, the Edisto RBC voted in a majority vote to adopt the low flow surface water management strategy.

Finally, the RBC meeting moved to a discussion on river basin plan recommendations. The three areas of discussion were: planning process recommendations, technical and program recommendations, and policy, legislative and regulatory recommendations. Most of the discussion focused on planning process recommendations and technical and program recommendations. The next meeting will continue discussion of plan recommendations and development of an implementation plan.

The meeting concluded with John Boyer discussing items for future meetings. The RBC meeting was adjourned. The next Edisto RBC meeting will be held July 20, 2022.

The meeting concluded at 1:48 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 7/20/22