

Broad RBC Meeting- Meeting #2

Meeting Minutes

4.14.2022

Hybrid Meeting: Spartanburg CC and Zoom

RBC Members Present: Jeff Lineberger, Angus Lafaye, Ken Tuck, Frank Eskridge, Jeff Walker, Mark Boland, Raymond Sligh, Bryant Fleming, Daniel Hanks, Erika Hollis, Devin Orr (James Kilgo's alternate), Amy Bresnahan, Chip Few, Karen Kustafik, John Alexander, Brison Taylor, Justin McGrady, Kristen Austin, Bill Stangler, Steven Hilbert, & Paul Pruitt

RBC Members Absent: Jim Cook & Jason Wright

Planning Team Present: John Boyer, Dave Mason, Scott Harder, Andy Wachob, Joe Gellici, Leigh Anne Monroe, Tom Walker, Jeff Allen, Kaleigh Sims, Andrew Waters & Chikezie Isiguzo

Total Present: 53

1. Welcome

Call meeting to order

- John B. starting the meeting
- We do have a quorum and will do quick introductions
- Agenda-Jeff L. made a motion to approve
- Minutes and summary -Erika motion to approve, Frank second

2. Public Comment

- No public comment
- No agency comments

3. RBC New member Introduction

- Did around the room introduction and intro to alternates

4. Review of planning framework and Q&A

- Scott H- providing details of the framework provided high level overview of each of the section/chapters
 - Steve Question: isn't the teeth covered by some federal legislation that requires putting clean water back into the system?
 - Scott- this is about quantity, but this is process is making recommendations, they do not have legal authority behind it. Other legislation that exists has regulatory teeth but what comes out of this process does not become law.
 - John B- want to be sure we clear up confusion about the process and what we want to accomplish as the end goal
 - Erika- do we have schedules for the phases?
 - John B- Yes in the framework it generally spells out 6 meetings per phase

5. Broad River Basin Water Resources and Hydrologic Monitoring

- Scott H- providing presentation on general introduction of the basins water resources
 - Online question- Scott response is we can do volumes if we need to for rainfall
- Questions so far?
- Has the state determined in stream flow needs at certain points for things like wildlife habitat?
 - Scott- some data at FERC license projects, DNR did a study back in the 80's and recently DNR working with Clemson and natura conserve to develop biological flow standards on smaller – moderate flow stream- we hope to incorporate that study in this process. Not necessarily getting at minimum flows but can tell you if change by x% then biological changes by y%.
- Have you looked at stream high and stream low events, maybe more of daily evaluation, anything that shows those spike events?
 - All this information available on USGS for actual events, you can customize how you want to look at it more in depth
 - In later presentation we may talk about low flow and other topics related
- Wonder if you did a best fit curve through annual data points? Looks like from 1980 on those flows are decreasing a little bit? Possible have to do with things happening in the NC part of the basin?
 - Scott- yeah how water is used in NC will affect how water used in lower basin in SC- we will include NC in future presentations to learn more about their water management
 - 70s was unusually wet period too so that could be skewing the trend
 - How accurate are really low flows USGS reports?
 - USGS- good question, on of the thing's techs do is to continue to make reading throughout range to try to make the adjustments as needed
- Alex P - responses to online questions
 - Are we affecting GW recharge based on land use?
 - Scott- yes certainly as we develop more land and divert water we can affect GW recharge, not something we personally quantified
- USGS Toby- going to talk about monitoring and their tools on the web
 - Providing overview of USGS and the data section
 - John- 3-4 new gauges that came online the last couple years. Scott yes they came online the last couple years- keep in mind that recommending additional locations for gauges is something for the council to consider

6. Field Trip Ideas

- John B- intro to field trips to get to know the basin a little better we would like to take some field trips in phase 1
- Dominion Energy offered to go to Parr Hydro an Fairfield pump storage facilities, maybe a 2 hr session, if this of interest? Oh yes

- Another possibility is Spartanburg water – possible paddling opportunity, visit operation and watersheds – most RBC would be interested in this
- Other ideas? City of Columbia would like to offer up a trip to see recreational resources could also see the water lily and see where the broad becomes the Congaree
- Access on the broad is limited but Justin could talk to golf course area to see if that is a potential stop for a field trip to learn more, or Harbison park – Justin willing to talk more about what he could help with
- Any ag reps willing to give a tour? Possibly Weyerhaeuser to look at forestry activity, maybe strawberry hill
- Visit nature conservancy- blue wall preserve area in the headwater

Do you want to do field trips in place of a monthly meeting? Yes, do field trip in place of monthly meeting. What about scheduling something for the May meeting? Thumbs up to May meeting

7. Identification of process metrics

- John B- going over process and progress metrics, if RBC okay we can hold off on identifying progress metrics until later when we have a better idea of the plan and implementation? Yes, that is fine
- Optimistically we hope to stick to the 2-year timeline in the broad – we should include this as a goal
- Everyone on board with 4 first process metrics? Karen makes a motion to adopt, Steven seconds, everyone is in favor.
- Other 4 potential process metrics to make 8 at this point: any of these metrics need any work?
 - Would these be true metrics or are they more guidance?
 - They are both guidance and a metric so we can refer to and say yes, we are doing these things
 - Maybe these are just more guidance since metrics tend to drive improvement
 - Wonder about 4. The social part of that are we making decision or using this to guide suggestions? “So decisions are guided by best available science”- everyone comfortable with this tweak? yes
 - How do you measure 3.? One way would be that we heard something wasn’t clear, so we received feedback to make it easier to understand Receiving feedback to make things more clear
 - 3. Group learning is really what we are trying to do, we say self-study, group learning is much stronger- want to add group learning to this one? yes council member agree
 - 1. Is there a provision for allowing public comment? Yes we allow public comment at the beginning of each council meeting and then we will have at least one more public meeting to get public input towards the end of the plan

- 3. Will slides like Tobys be available to the group? Technical slides from the presentation? Yes usually 3-5 days after meeting DNR will post the slides to download just have to go to the basin page
- Are emails shared on the site? No emails on site but we do have group email- so we can send out a roster to share email and contact with other RBC members
- Do you want to adopt these as official? Frank made a motion and Steven second to adopt all 4 of these, council agreed
- Other potential metrics continued (final 4 for total of 12)
 - 6. Don't really see as metric but as a guideline but also not sure its really possible, we all have biased – its important to get the needs and thoughts of each group- going back to 5. As long as we discuss open and respectful its important to hear each groups needs
 - So maybe 5 & 6 already covered in bylaws might not need to keep as process metric – few head nods
 - 7. Seems like code of conduct which is covered in the by-laws
 - 8. Can be more objectively measured than 5-7 so 8. Should be process metric. Everyone agree that 8 is the most reasonable to keep as metric and remove 5-7? Steve- first motion Ken- second, council all in favor

8. Vision and goals development and working lunch

- John B providing overview of identified priorities and providing example vision statements for the council to see
- Amy sent proposed vision statement, did anyone else have one? Devon presenting one on behalf of James K“ the broad basin council seeks to empower decision makers and other local stakeholders with the necessary tools to meet the needs and demands of the water resources in the basin”
- Two proposed vision statements we have so far
- Do you see any need for mission statement? No, okay focus on vision
- Any thoughts on first or second?
 - Second focuses on people and economy more instead of habitat ... make me think more about business resources
 - The term balance is important to get in a one of these vision statement, because competing uses and we need a balance of competing uses – does RBC agree to add balanced approach? Yes
 - First might have redundancy so maybe just use ecosystem and remove habitat and environment.
 - Yes, the vision statement has got to include in some form, the needs of public health and economy
 - Natural and social ecosystems is a suggestions – natural and social system maybe?
 - Maybe “ to identify actions that will help preserve extend and enhance capabilities of broad basin to provide water resources for human needs whiles maintain ecological integrity of water resources”

- Like the use of enhance
- Kristen online has one that blends the first two
- Anyone leading towards one or the other out of the 3 potentials? Kristen says she needs to digest each of them a little – suggestion to strike last line of Kristens vision
- Focus boils down to Jeffs statement – tweak this one
- Save some things for the goals like the statement about empowering decision makers
- Need to educate the people too – maybe focus more on the stakeholder rather than decision makers- feel that education to public needs to be part of our vision
- Would y'all to take some time to digest these? Yes, we would like to so homework will be to think about these and send suggested tweaks
- Goals
 - Amy suggested goals
 - Work to protect and support land management to promote an equitable and balanced approach regarding land use and development practices
 - Suggested this one need to focus on water management – this is too broad so don't include this one
 - Enhance the publics understanding of regional water issues and the need for support of policies to protect resource through promotion and education.
 - Leave this one for now – could we add the word behavior somewhere? maybe remove public so it's just enhanced understanding which is across the board
 - Everyone is comfortable with this one
 - Support collaboration for all entities to plan for growth and manage the basin based on sound science and data driven practices
 - Make a multi-point approach
 - We can wrap this up at the next meetings

9. Meeting conclusion

- Want to make sure covering everything you want to hear about in this phase which is educational and Q&A to make sure everyone has firm baseline of basin, anything you don't see that you want to hear about?
 - Should have some discussion on scenic river status of a section of the Broad – maybe July meeting
 - Population projections and land use change would be good for the council to see what that could look like – if someone can talk about land use trends would be great
- Meeting location- Union is right in the middle – consensus that council likes 2
 - Will look into Presbyterian college
- We will try to work in a field trip for May, but the planning team will try to work that out
- Any other questions or comments? None

Minutes: Kaleigh Sims and Tom Walker

Approved: June 9, 2022

Zoom Chat:

08:36:03 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

There is going to be a mandatory tornado drill at 9 so we will get started once the drill event is over.

08:59:28 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

we are going to start a little after 9 due to a tornado drill here at SCC just fyi

08:59:51 From RMPP2 to Everyone:

Thanks, no problem

09:02:47 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

we're going to get started but may need to pause for the tornado drill.

09:05:57 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

public comment?

09:06:13 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

agency comment period

09:14:52 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

tech issues hold on a sec

09:36:39 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

one sec for tech issue

09:41:57 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

we have a zoom toolbar that keeps blocking our presentation on our side. john is logging out and back in really quickly

09:47:02 From Chip to Everyone:

do we have rainfall volume data for the basin as opposed to inches?

09:47:23 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

I'll ask hold on one second

09:47:52 From Chip to Everyone:

just curious

10:14:18 From Chip to Everyone:

is ground water supply/base flow affected by how we handle surface water? Has it changed over time?

10:14:40 From Alex Pellett to Everyone:

The regulatory Broad Basin (the portion in SC) is 3,800 sqmi. That's 2.43 million acres. If the average is 50 inches, then that is 122 million acre-inches. Let's round it to 10 million acre-ft. That's over 3.25 trillion gallons per year, of rainfall on the SC portion of the Broad basin, on average. The low of 30" would mean about 6 million acre-ft, and 2 trillion gallons. Compare that to ~ half a million acre-ft of reservoir storage capacity (adding it up roughly from the table in the presentation). We can also compare it to streamflow - the Alston gage averages 5,300 cfs, that's 167 billion cubic ft per year, 1.25 trillion gallons per year. The Broad has a drainage area of 4,800 sqmi at the Alston gage. Converted back to inches, it's about 15" per year of stream runoff, on average, from the land. That might seem abstract, but it indicates that about 30% (15 inches / 50 inches) of the rainfall in the Broad basin ends up flowing past the Alston gage, on average. Just some quick numbers, I could be mistaken.

10:19:35 From Chip to Everyone:

thanks Alex.

10:20:16 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

i'll make sure that's in the minutes so everyone can see that. Thanks Alex

10:45:06 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

15 minute break. be back at 11am

11:08:00 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

other ideas from RBC members

11:08:02 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

?

11:08:57 From Bill S. - Congaree Riverkeeper to Everyone:

And don't forget about the Spider Lilies Karen!

11:09:48 From Chip to Everyone:

Would one of the ag reps be able to give a tour?

11:10:13 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

I'll mention this in a second

11:13:14 From kaustin to Everyone:

I have a potential field trip idea to visit TNC's Blue Wall Preserve in far headwaters in northern Greenville Co right on the Spartanburg Co line. Spartanburg Water has an intake above our property that provides water to the town of Landrum. There's a conservation/public use/water utility partnership effort story there. This would be a walking tour.

11:13:44 From kaustin to Everyone:

Way to view the headwater area.

11:14:24 From kaustin to Everyone:

I insist Ken Tuck help lead this! :-)

11:15:27 From kaustin to Everyone:

yes to Strawberry Hill!

11:17:07 From kaustin to Everyone:

`May field trip sounds good.

11:21:06 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

are rbc members comfortable with these as they are presented?

11:21:26 From kaustin to Everyone:

Yes

11:21:38 From Brison Taylor to Everyone:

yes

11:21:59 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thank you all

11:31:08 From kaustin to Everyone:

Yes- I agree to adopt.

11:31:19 From Brison Taylor to Everyone:

agree

11:35:59 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

discussion to include number 8

11:36:05 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

but not 5-7

11:37:31 From kaustin to Everyone:

Vote Yes- in favor

11:39:30 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

10 min pause for lunch here

11:56:34 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

any thoughts/ preferences on these two?

11:56:55 From kaustin to Everyone:

I don't - I feel like we are part of the overall mission to support the development of the state water plan.

11:57:10 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

ok thank you

11:57:58 From kaustin to Everyone:

ecosystems

11:58:30 From kaustin to Everyone:

how about the natural and social ecosystems?

12:02:40 From kaustin to Everyone:

The RBC seeks to empower decision makers and other local stakeholders with necessary tools to support the balance between natural and social systems of the Broad River Basin to meet the needs and demands of the water resources in the basin. (Trying to combine all the key thoughts here).

12:04:06 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

can I get you to unmute and share in a second Kristen?

12:06:43 From kaustin to Everyone:

That's a good point

12:07:50 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

anybody leaning toward any of these? do they capture everything?

12:08:25 From kaustin to Everyone:

I feel like I need to digest each of them a bit.

12:12:20 From kaustin to Everyone:

Good point!

12:13:10 From kaustin to Everyone:

Like dynamics

12:13:33 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

one second bill

12:17:25 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

resilience better?

12:18:01 From Chip to Everyone:

agree on conserve vs preserve

12:18:03 From kaustin to Everyone:

Agree! I like the second one better!

12:19:27 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

go ahead and jump in chip

12:22:16 From kaustin to Everyone:

I really appreciate that point, Chip.

12:22:55 From Chip to Everyone:

thanks Kristin

12:39:45 From kaustin to Everyone:

Want to include

12:40:10 From kaustin to Everyone:

I like behaviors

12:44:01 From kaustin to Everyone:

I like the direction of these goals- I'm wondering though if we need to add more measurable or specific language- curious how we will measure if we are successful with these goals.

12:45:20 From Chip to Everyone:

SMART goals

12:55:30 From Alex Pellett to Everyone:

Please share references to the landcover change studies that were mentioned.

13:00:49 From Bill S. - Congaree Riverkeeper to Everyone:

We've used the Canal Room at EdVenture in Columbia for meetings too.

13:01:06 From Brison Taylor to Everyone:

Presbyterian college and city of Clinton have locations we could use

13:02:53 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thanks everyone

13:02:59 From kaustin to Everyone:

Thank you! Excellent meeting!

13:03:04 From John to Everyone:

Thanks

13:03:05 From Chip to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!

DRAFT