

MINUTES OF PEE DEE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL (RBC) MEETING (HYBRID FORMAT) HELD ON JULY 26TH, 2022 AT CLASSROOM #240, 2200 POCKET ROAD FLORENCE, SC.

RBC Members Present: Bob Perry, John Crutchfield, Charlie Gray, Frances McClary, Buddy Richardson, Everett Allen, Doug Newton, Ben Petrone, Michael Bankert, Bill Wiegand, Walter Beard, Jason Gamble, Megan Hyman, Brandon Durant, Cynthia Walters, Michael Hemingway, Jeff Parkey, Cliff Chamblee, Hughes Page, Christy Everett, Eric Krueger, John Rivers, Jeff Steinmetz & Lindsay Privette

Absent: Cara Schildtknecht (Debra Buffkin, alternate, present) & Cricket Adams

Planning Team Present: Scott Harder, Brooke Czwartacki, Leigh Anne Monroe, JD Solomon, Kirk Westphal, Thomas Walker & Chikezie Isiguzo.

Total Attendance: 49

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM with J D. Solomon (the Facilitator) welcoming the RBC (Committee) members and highlighting the main items in the agenda including reviewing the Planning Framework, considering a vision statement, metrics to measure progress and success, identifying the goals for the Pee Dee River basin, and discussing field trips for the RBC

2. REVIEW OF THE MEETING OBJECTIVES, APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE JUNE 28TH MEETING.

The agenda was unanimously approved. Bob Perry made a motion to approve minutes and summary documents which was seconded by John Crutchfield – unanimous approval.

3. OTHER INTRODUCTIONS

A member of the committee, Cynthia Walters introduced herself. Cynthia is a Senior Environmental Engineer at the Santee Cooper. J. D. Solomon led the group through a brief get-to-know-each-other and ice-breaker session. Scott H introduced Bruce Campbell, a retired staff of the USGS and developer of the Groundwater flow model that the RBC will use in its groundwater planning. Scott H also informed the RBC about a conference/workshop organized by the Environmental Finance Center and directed them to the event fliers for details.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Public comments: There were no public comments.
- b. Agency comments: No agency comments.

5. PLANNING FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW Scott Harder (Hydrology Section Chief, SCDNR) and Brooke Czwartacki (Hydrologist, SCDNR)

Scott H introduced the Planning framework again discussed the areas of focus for the meeting. They included: river planning process, methodologies for evaluating river basin plans, river basin planning process implementation, the River Basin Plan implementation, and State Water Plan.

Scott H emphasized the roles and responsibilities of RBCs, State and Federal Agencies, Contractors, the PPAC, and the need for stakeholder/public participation and coordination with other planning bodies and committees. He invited the RBC to note that it will be determining where and when demand exceeds supply under varying demand scenarios and deciding how to manage water to close the gaps. He introduced the RBC to the Pee Dee Simplified Water Allocation Model (SWAM) and Groundwater model (MODFLOW). He pointed out that the MODFLOW was developed by USGS with the assistance of SCDNR and SCDHEC and simulates the groundwater flow of the Atlantic coastal plain aquifer system. The groundwater flow model has been updated to include 2020 groundwater data. The Pee Dee SWAM was originally completed by CDM Smith in 2017 but was updated in 2021. The model is decision-making tool used to assess surface water availability and management strategies, contributing to the development of a river basin plan. Scott H informed the RBC that there will be a training on the model for any RBC member who is interested. He noted that the Framework requires Technical Advisory Committees for surface water and groundwater planning respectively.

Scott H presented a 10-chapter River Basin Plan Table of Contents to the RBC.

Scott H described the phases of Plan development and explained how the Pee Dee River Basin Plan and that of the other 7 basins will feed into the State water plan. The river basin plans have a 5-year implementation plan and are not expected to be static documents. The major plan implementation challenges include funding, broader stakeholder buy-in, and no regulatory authority.

Also, Scott H and Brooke C addressed group breakout questions raised in the June 28, 2022, RBC meeting.

6. PLANNING FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW PRESENTATION (J. D. Solomon, Facilitator)

JD Solomon expounded facilitated session as a structured meeting in which the meeting leader (the facilitator) guides the participants through a series of predefined steps to arrive at a result that is created, understood, and accepted by all participants. He explained that he would give directions where necessary and this is not intended to dominate the process but to support the RBC to achieve timely and informed decisions (consensus). He concluded by reminding the RBC of the importance of consensus and the need to aim for decisions that meet the group's objectives and not necessarily individual or sector interests.

Bylaws Adoption and Approval

JD Solomon invited the RBC to approve and adopt the Bylaws as presented.

The motion for adoption was moved by Bill Wiegand and seconded by Ben Petrone - unanimous approval.

Identification of Process Metrics

JD Solomon explained the two areas of performance – process and outcomes. An indicator indicates something while a measure is the quantity, size, weight, distance, or capacity of a substance compared to a designated standard.

JD Solomon invited the RBC to consider two conceptual schedules and select their preferred option. The members of the RBC expressed their preference for the more robust Schedule 2 compared to Schedule 1 which was more linear. One of the reasons for the choice is that Schedule 2 will result in more adaptive thinking.

Question: With all the moving pieces and different people doing different things, how do you ensure that the whole group is involved and understands all that is going on?

JD: I will have a schedule on the wall in every meeting, and you can look and see where we are now - like a roadmap. We shall track our progress.

Question: How do we manage the scope, so we don't end up in the weeds?

JD Solomon: the model will help define and manage the scope. My goal is to get the map ready for next meeting.

Breakout Session

The RBC was divided into groups to discuss what the RBC should measure in the context of processes and outcomes.

Breakout Session Notes:

Group A. Measuring Performance:

1. Staying on tasks each meeting
2. Staying focused on overall objective
3. Havin a consensus, what can we live with
4. Attendance and participation (members are here and participating)
5. How did we make it through 2002 drought-ideas and comparisons
6. Rating presentations
7. Stay on budget/although we are not in control of the budget-awareness of

Group B. Performance Metrics for Process

(For example, "decisions made in a transparent way," agendas sent out in a timely fashion, etc.)

The group said:

1. Ensure opportunity for all RBC members to engage / Composition of council is representative both geographically and sectoral
2. Meeting materials distributed to RBC in advance in meetings in a timely fashion
3. Not to get caught up in the weeds of technical aspects, e.g., models/science

Group C.

1. Consensus and milestones built in
2. Clarity of the process

Group D.

1. Realistic goals
2. General Assembly discussion should include a cross section of the people represented in this committee and the buy-in that we have from a geographic and industry standpoint
3. Participation and engagement

Group E.

1. Communication in the basin and upstream
2. Counting the number of decisions
3. Goals accomplished for each meeting

Online RBC Chat. Performance Metrics

1. I think we would need to establish benchmarks/dates for completion of certain tasks. We would initially measure ourselves to that schedule. Are we on schedule? As far as participation, there would need to be an attendance requirement, but I think that already exists.

Problem Framing

JD Solomon used the frame exercise to guide the RBC on identifying problems/issues that are of direct interest to the RBC and those that are not.

In the Frame: existing data, environment, municipal, standard methods, “can I live with it”, industrial, planning, standard models, low flow, agriculture, water quantity, power, RBC bylaws, recommendations, North Carolina, other RBCs & TACs

Out of the Frame: enforcement, re-writing regulations, citizen data & positions and posturing

On the Frame: flooding, developing new methods, water quality & co-benefits.

Question: What would happen if we later identified that some things we classified as outside the frame should be in the frame? For example, resiliency?

JD Solomon: We make sure the issue fits. Resiliency, by definition, may be a lot of things outside our scope.

Mission, Vision, and Goals

JD Solomon started by comparing the river basin plan to a strategic plan. He directed the RBC to the establishment documents and suggested a simplified Mission – “To develop, implement, monitor, and periodically revise a river basin plan for the surface and groundwater resources in the Pee Dee River Basin”.

Scott H explained that the primary goal of the river basin plan is to ensure that water is available for all users in the basin.

JD Solomon described vision as what the RBC desires to be in the future and presented the visions from other organizations, including the Edisto RBC, the Broad RBC, the PPAC, and the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council.

From the PPAC vision, JD suggested a modified version – “Working together to develop and maintain an actionable Pee Dee River Basin Plan balancing economic, environmental, and social needs of our regions for generations to come”.

JD Solomon also suggested the following goals from the establishment documents:

- i. Develop and implement the RBC using the guidelines set forth in the Planning Framework.
- ii. Review and update the River Basin Plan at least once every five years or amend it as needed.
- iii. Communicate with stakeholders throughout the river basin.
- iv. Identify needs for policy, legislative, regulatory, or process changes.

He challenged the RBC to come up with goals that reflect the peculiarities of the basin.

The RBC broke into groups to discuss the Mission, Vision, and Goals.

Summary of Breakout Session:

Some of the suggestions from the groups included:

VISIONS:

Discussion:

Safeguard water resources within the Pee Dee River basin for current and future generations while providing social, economic, and environmental needs.

To make sure water is available for all in the Pee Dee River Basin- Working together to develop and maintain an actionable Pee Dee River Basin Plan balancing (resiliency) economic, environmental and social needs of our region for generations to come.

One group said:

1. Statement should acknowledge all stakeholder groups/sectors
2. Should recognize different needs from stakeholders
3. JD’s suggested vision statement is good, perhaps substitute “basic” for “social,” or “shared needs” for “economic, environmental, and social”, or the like

GOALS:

Discussion:

- a. Develop and implement the river basin plan by June 1, 2024 (strategy, mgmt)
- b. Review and update the plan at least every 5 years or amend as needed
- c. Communicate with stakeholders throughout and adjacent to the river basin (which includes coordination with NC)
- d. Identify needs for policy, legislative, regulatory or process recommendations

JD goal slide discussion: The goals are generally good. Modify Goal (i) to “develop and implement the River basin plan by June 1, 2024”. Modify Goal (ii) to start with “Regularly”. Modify Goal (iii) to include

other congruent river basins. Modify Goal (iv) to include “Recommends”. End Goal (iv) with “...recommendations” instead of “...changes”.

Future RBC Field Trip

JD Solomon briefed the RBC on the benefits of field trips. Some of the benefits include exposing members to parts of the basin they may be familiar with and affording the RBC the opportunity to have special meetings. One idea of a place the RBC could be interested in is GSWSA Bull Creek Surface Water Treatment Plant.

RBC MEMBER OBSERVATION: I think the concept is wonderful, but I think before we decide, we need to have a couple of weeks or months of discussions to see if there is a place to go. To make a field trip now without having any discussion or input or anything it's just a shot in the dark.

Other field trip ideas were identified and discussed briefly.

JD. Solomon: Discussions on the field trip will continue in subsequent meetings.

7. MEETING CONCLUSION

The members of the RBC commended the break-out sessions and the opportunity it gave them to get to discuss in-depth. They commended the presentations and the quality of facilitation. The facilitator encouraged the members to remain engaged with the process. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

8. UPCOMING MEETING AND SCHEDULE

The next meeting will be held on August 23rd, 2022.

Minutes by: Chikezie Isiguzo and Tom Walker

Approved: 8/23/22

RBC Chat:

09:13:02 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

any public comments? raise hand for recognition

09:58:55 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

15 min break

10:32:37 From Kirk Westphal to Everyone:

It could lead to more targeted and informed modeling scenarios.

10:35:08 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

what performance process metrics would you like to see measured? Cynthia and Christy

10:36:53 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

I'm a bit confused on what exactly are we measuring? How well the RBC is staying on task according to the water plan? or the water quantity in the basin?

10:37:59 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

if you had to report to your board for a two-year process, what would you report every 6 months to demonstrate success is what JD said

10:39:26 From Kirk Westphal to Everyone:

Tom is correct - for now, the metrics refer to how well the process is working toward the development of an agreeable plan. The plan itself will likely have additional metrics to measure the effectiveness of its recommendations over the long term.

10:39:52 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thanks Kirk

10:41:49 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

I think we would need to establish benchmarks/dates for completion of certain tasks. We would initially measure ourselves to that schedule. Are we on schedule? As far as participation, there would need to be an attendance requirement, but I think that already exists.

10:43:08 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thank you. when the other groups report out, if any other ideas pop up, please feel free to chime in

10:45:33 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

still waiting for folks to come back. report outs in a second

11:32:00 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

online members - is that a good vision? or is there anything missing?

11:36:02 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

I think it is a good vision statement.

11:36:49 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

any ideas on goals? under the purpose section

11:38:54 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

I do like the comment that was made regarding scientific based data. I saw that in another section of vision or goals as well. and the goal for communication - what are we wanting to communicate to the stakeholders? May want to expand this slightly.

11:39:31 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

good comments thank you

12:02:32 From Kirk Westphal to Everyone:

Need to sign off - I apologize for my bad connection but I could hear all of you and really appreciated the input today. Great discussion.

12:02:41 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thanks kirk

12:03:19 From Cynthia Walters to Everyone:

What would we hope to achieve from the field trip? Is it just for education purposes?

12:04:05 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

that and for rbc members to see various water uses and to see specific sector uses depending on the field trip

12:05:06 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

field trips in other basins - saw a farm, canoe trip on the Edisto, dominion hydropower station in the broad. city of Columbia water treatment facility in the broad

12:05:19 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

those are the other ones we have done in other basins

12:06:05 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

GWSA would be happy to host the group for a tour of our Bull Creek Surface Water Treatment Plant and our land application sites.

12:06:40 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

great! we'll get that on the list

12:10:55 From Thomas Walker to Everyone:

thanks all, meeting conclusion

12:10:57 From Christy Everett to Everyone:

Thank you. Enjoyed the session.