

Location:

April 4, 2019
Rembert Dennis Building (DNR Boardroom)
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Action Items for May 2nd:

1. Tom to provide final Charter for review and discussion
2. Subcommittee to discuss inclusion of water quality in this planning process
3. PPAC to review and propose edits of Chapters 1-3 for final revision
4. SCDNR revise Chapters 1-4 and draft Chapter 5

Meeting:

Unfinished Business

- Breakout discussions and revisions of Chapters 1-3

New Business

- Breakout discussions and revisions of Chapter 4

Presentation: DNR South Carolina's Climate Report Card (https://www.clemson.edu/public/water-assessment/downloads/SCClimateReportCard_PPAC442019alt.pdf)

Presentation: DHEC Surface Water Permitting (<https://www.clemson.edu/public/water-assessment/downloads/DHEC%20Surface%20Water%20Permit%20PPAC.pdf>)

Running Consensus and Contention Points

August 2nd - **Contention and Consensus** - Basin stakeholder approach, when to assemble the basin stakeholder groups to maximize momentum/prevent stagnation (contention). How to notify and achieve broad stakeholder inclusion (general idea consensus with details needed in future topic discussion). Further discussed the issue on September 6th with some preliminary subcommittee reporting due October 4th and November 1st (Process of designating members to River Basin Councils and Public and Stakeholder Notification and Participation).

September 6th - **Consensus** - The PPAC changed Basin Advisory Committees to River Basin Councils (RBCs) to reflect the level of autonomy and decision-making power that will be included in Regional Water Plans. Still in an advisory role without legislative ability.

September 6th – **Consensus** - Vision in the Charter.

October 4th – **Contention** – Size limits on RBCs - Texas has 20 members on planning groups. Number of spots for RBCs allotted vs open - 8 broader categories vs (over)specifying RBC membership requirements.

November 1st – **Consensus** – RBC maximum member number, state and federal agency role as advisory in RBCs, specific groups on RBCs as identified in draft document in Process of Designating Members to RBCs.

December 6th – **Consensus** – Letter to the Editor, SUB1 Process of Designating Members to RBCs draft, SUB2 Roles and Responsibilities of the RBCS, SUB7 Table of Contents as annotated, SUB10 Committee report and DNR to detail implementation.

January 3rd – **Consensus** – Top priorities for 2019 are a Budget for the planning process to be completed and an Implementation approach.

February 7th – **Consensus** – Move forward with Letter to the Editor with added language from Clay. Basin priority agreement: Edisto first round and Savannah last round. Exception to the 6-month rule for adding a new PPAC member and DNR to appoint additional agriculture representative.

Meeting Summary (April 4th)

The PPAC Facilitator, JD Solomon, called the April meeting of the PPAC to order at 9:15 AM. The PPAC held a public comment period with public comment regarding the Safe Yield formula and its effectiveness in making permitting decisions. The concern is that the safe yield formula will over-allocate the rivers to registered and permitted users. It was requested that the PPAC form a subcommittee to study the safe yield formula. Another public comment was regarding updates on the funding to begin the RBC process. Additional water planning money, if any, will be known in approximately four to six weeks.

Approval of minutes and summary documents from the March 7th meeting were unanimous after edits to the minutes as was approval of the April 4th meeting agenda (9:32 AM and 9:33 AM, respectively).

The meeting began with JD Solomon discussing plans for the next PPAC meeting regarding review and revisions to the Charter and timeline for PPAC deliverables. The PPAC was organized approximately one year ago and the Charter set forth ambitious goals for deliverables to inform the upcoming RBC process. The current Charter will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Some general discussion focused on Capacity Use TACs and future interaction in the RBC process. The door is open for the possible formation of additional Capacity Use TACs to address local groundwater issues. The (statewide) Groundwater Availability Assessment TAC will consider how the RBCs and Capacity Use TACs should interact.

The PPAC formed breakout discussion groups to review Chapters 1-3 of the framework document. After reviewing and addressing concerns in breakout groups, the PPAC debriefed as a larger committee and went through specific chapters of the framework. Groundwater was again a point of emphasis in the group debrief as was potential regulatory concerns and water quality. The PPAC then formed breakout groups again to discuss Chapter 4 of the framework document, which was a newly drafted chapter.

There were two presentations made in the afternoon. The first presentation was by Dr. Hope Mizzell of DNR, State Climatologist, on South Carolina's Climate Report Card: Understanding SC's Climate Trends and Variability. Three of the big takeaways were increased low temperatures at night, more frequent multi-day rain events, and increasing precipitation in the fall. The second presentation was made by Rob Devlin of DHEC, Director of the Water Monitoring, Assessment and Protection Division, about the Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting process. The presentation demonstrated the various requirements for the three types of surface water withdrawers: existing surface water withdrawers, agricultural withdrawers, and new surface water withdrawers.

Finally, the PPAC debriefed from the discussions on Chapter 4 with some feedback for the next round of revisions: water demand projections, firm yield versus safe yield, and reaches of concern.

The next meeting of the PPAC will be held May 2, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Harbison State Forest Environmental Education Center. Agenda items include: Water Demand Projections presentation, USGS presentation, Texas approach to groundwater management, revisions of Chapters 1-4, and possibly new material for Chapter 5.

The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: May 2, 2019