Location:
May 2, 2019
9:00am-3:00pm
Harbison State Forest Environmental Education Center
5600 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Action Items for June 6th:

1. **Charter edits and updates**
2. **DNR to complete drafts of Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5**
3. **PPAC to review document revisions**

Meeting:

Unfinished Business

- PPAC Charter and Schedule Updates
- Breakout discussions and revisions of Chapter 5 and outlines of Chapters 6 and 7

New Business

- Report out of discussion from subcommittee on water quality in the planning process

Presentation: South Carolina Atlantic Coastal Plain Groundwater Availability Model

Presentation: Water Demand Methodology

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.

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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 (May 2nd)

The PPAC Facilitator, JD Solomon, called the May meeting of the PPAC to order at 9:11 AM. The PPAC held a public comment period with public comment regarding the river gages on the Edisto river and the water levels which are -200 cubic feet. Discussion focused on if, during growing season (April 1 – October 1), the majority of the time the water required for safe yield is not available should that affect registration and permitting decisions. Funding for the RBC process has been a point of emphasis for several meetings and an updated figure is now tentatively $1.3 million. If the money is appropriated some of it will go to forming the Edisto RBC and begin the river basin planning process.

Approval of minutes and summary documents from the April 4th meeting were unanimous as was approval of the May 2nd meeting agenda (9:18 AM and 9:21 AM, respectively).

The meeting began with JD Solomon reviewing the last year of PPAC meetings and the items that need updating in a re-Charter. With the potential lack of funding to begin the RBC process, discussion began with a focus on if the PPAC should begin working on the state water plan and the pros and cons of that approach. The PPAC then went through a success and concern exercise for the PPAC and RBC processes. Factors for success identified by PPAC members included: an effective and adaptable plan for RBC use, an implementable and sustainable implementation plan for RBCs, a consensus-based plan, supporting the Edisto basin, meeting the initial Charter objectives, long-term water management sustainability, PPAC member commitment through the RBC process, stakeholder engagement, securing funding sustaining the PPAC to assist the RBCs, developing scenarios for implementation, ability to provide tools to the RBCs, understand other viewpoints, and meeting deadlines for completion. Factors of concern identified by PPAC members included: funding, special interests driving the RBC process, lack of political

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will, lack of political and stakeholder support, sufficient stakeholder engagement, implementation, inability to overcome past issues, timeliness of completion, commitment, conflict with final document, similar level of RBC professionalism, changing initial processes, technical capability of RBCs, and too much RBC technical focus. The re-Charter then received attention with the schedule for the PPAC deliverable being a primary point of emphasis. Discussion concluded with a tentative updated timeline for the PPAC in the coming months and reflecting those changes in a finalized re-Charter document.

The meeting then moved to a subcommittee report regarding water quality in the planning process. While water quality is not the main focus of the water planning process, it is a secondary issue to consider and should not be precluded, but left to the RBCs whether to include or not in the river basin plans. Clarification on this issue will be included in an upcoming revision of Chapter 2 of the framework document.

The PPAC formed breakout discussion groups to review Chapter 5 and the table of contents for chapters 6 and 7 of the framework draft document. After reviewing and addressing concerns in breakout groups, the PPAC debriefed as a larger committee and went through specific chapters of the framework. Discussion began regarding interbasin transfers and legal constraints in the basins. Additional suggestions included having legal counsel present at the beginning of the RBC process for any questions or issues that may arise.

There were two presentations made in the afternoon. The first presentation was by Bruce Campbell of the USGS, on the South Carolina Atlantic Coastal Plain Groundwater Availability Model. The second presentation was by Alex Pellett of the SCDNR on the Water Demand Methodology update.

The next meeting of the PPAC will be held June 6, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Agenda items include: funding decisions and discussion, scenario planning for implementation, document review, groundwater permitting presentation, and an allocation versus permitting presentation.

The meeting concluded at 2:08 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved:

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