

State Water Planning

THE BACKGROUND (CLAY DUFFIE), CURRENT PLANNING (SCOTT WILLETT),
RIVER BASIN COUNCILS (JILL MILLER) & CALL TO ACTION (CHARLIE GRAY)

State Water Planning Background

- The Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act of 1967 created the South Carolina Water Resources Commission who was then tasked with water resources planning for the State of South Carolina.
- During the reorganization of State government in 1993, those responsibilities were placed with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).
- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Environmental Affairs division is tasked with the responsibility to regulate water use in South Carolina.
- First State Water Plan was published in 1998.
- State Water Plan was updated in 2004, after drought of early 2000's.
- Many good recommendations.
- Not adopted by General Assembly.

Laws Regulating Water Resources in SC

- Surface Water Withdrawal and Reporting Act
- Groundwater Use and Reporting Act
- SC Pollution Control Act
- State Safe Drinking Water Act
- SC Drought Response Act
- Interbasin Transfer of Water Act

Planning Process Advisory Committee Technical Advisory Committees (TAC)

- Surface Water Model TAC – SWAM model by CDM
- Groundwater Model TAC – USGS Regional Groundwater Model
- Water Demand Projections – SCDNR

Planning Process Advisory Committee

- New way of doing business for the DNR
- Started monthly meetings in March 2018
- Self-funded an independent facilitator
- Committed to delivery and adoption of State Water Management Plan
- Goal is to develop a framework to guide the development of a state water management plan
 - Consensus decision making
 - Basin approach
 - Stakeholder driven



Planning Process Advisory Committee

- State Agencies
- Water Utilities
 - Large and small
 - Surface water and groundwater
 - Regulated and unregulated surface water
- Energy Providers
- Agriculture
- Environmental Advocates
- Large Industry
- Citizens

PPAC Progress

- Developed and signed charter
 - Stakeholder buy-in, including state agencies
- Identified additional technical information to be developed
 - SWAM models, groundwater models, demand forecasts
- Discussed planning budget issues
 - Continuing costs and upfront/one-time funding
- Identified 15 areas for discussion
 - Subcommittees discussed and made draft proposals to PPAC for acceptance
- Have started writing draft report, Final by August
- Prioritized basin planning activities
- Engage River Basin Councils in Fall 2019

Keep Informed: PPAC

[https://www.clemson.edu/public/water-assessment/State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee.html](https://www.clemson.edu/public/water-assessment/State%20Water%20Planning%20Process%20Advisory%20Committee.html)



- Home
- Water Modeling
- Surface Water
- Broad River Basin
- Catawba River Basin
- Edisto River Basin
- Pee Dee River Basin
- Salkohatchie River Basin
- Saluda River Basin
- Santee River Basin
- Savannah River Basin
- Groundwater

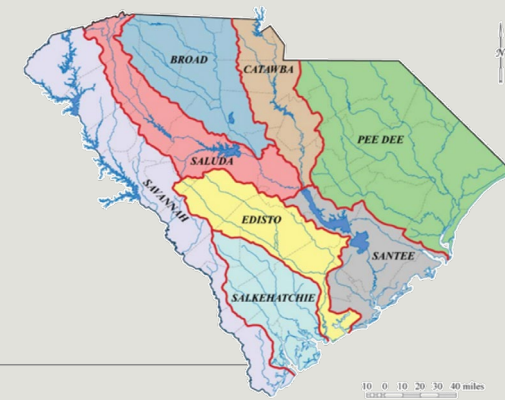
State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC)





8 South Carolina River Basins
Proposed River Basin Council
Boundaries

What are River Basin Councils tasked to do?



“Each of South Carolina’s eight river basins will have a River Basin Council (RBC) charged with developing, implementing, monitoring and periodically revising a Water Resources Plan for the surface and groundwater resources in its river basin to ensure those water resources can meet the projected human needs throughout the identified Planning Horizon (i.e., 50 years) while ecologically protecting the affected environment.”

Who participates on River Basin Councils?

8 Overarching Categories (Maximum 25 participants overall):

- Agriculture Forestry and Irrigation
- Local Governments
- Water and Sewer Utilities
- Economic Development Interests
- Water-Based Recreation Interests
- Environmental Interests
- Reservoir Operators and Well Drillers
- At-Large Basin Residents



Who participates on River Basin Councils?



Advisory Roles:

- SCDNR
- SCDHEC
- Forestry Commission
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – by federal law not able to sit on the planning committee
- Army Corp of Engineers
- USGS
- Academic, Resource specialists and Extension
- Neighboring State representative for basins that cross state lines

How do you participate on a River Basin Council?

- Whenever an industry umbrella association exists, the respective Association makes recommendation for appointment directly by submitting Application and endorsement letter;
- Whenever an umbrella group is not present general applications are accepted and reviewed by the PPAC committee at large with recommendation made to DNR for final appointment.
- For At large Basin Residents; Application submitted to PPAC/DNR along with submission of endorsements from associations, agencies and elected officials.

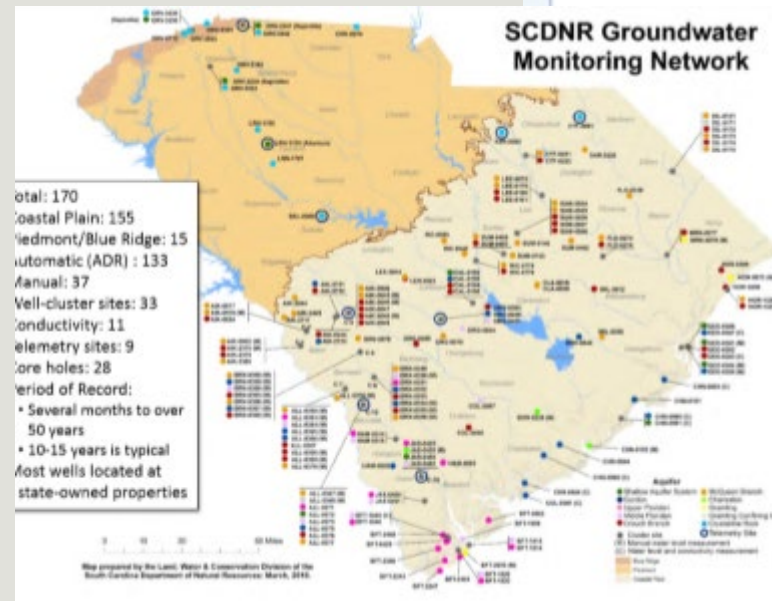
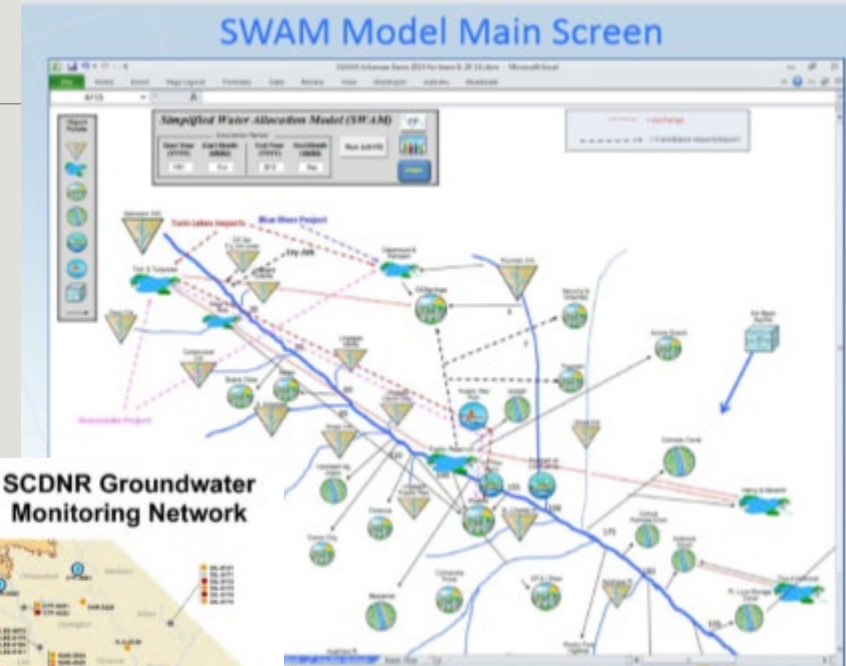
River Basin Councils... But with what resources?:

Technical:

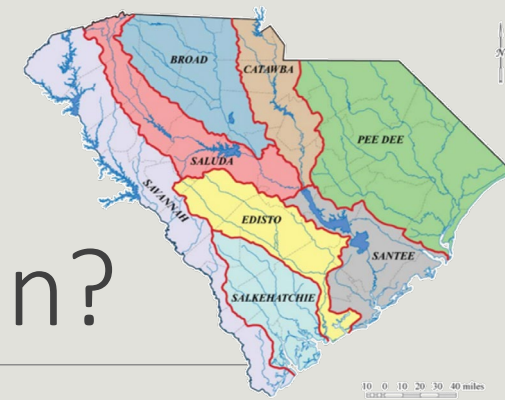
- Surface Water Models
- Ground Water Models
- Water Demand Projections

Support:

- Facilitator
- Communications Specialist
- Basin Modeling support
- DNR & DHEC supporting staff



How do River Basin Councils contribute to the overall State Water Plan?



Recommending local solutions for local issues...

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Importance of Rural System Involvement in the Water Planning Process

What role do we play?

- DHEC Recognizes 293 Public Water Systems in SC.
- Only 36 Systems with more than 10,000 taps.
- Only 10 Systems with 30,000 or more taps.
- So, 257 or 88% of the total providers of water are small systems!

Importance of Rural System Involvement in the Water Planning Process

What role do we play?

- Whether you are a surface or ground water system, water planning and withdrawal regulations are your concern.
- Water planning and usage projections are complex and require quality input from multiple informed sources such as you.
- Not only is available volume a concern, but of equal or more importance, is water quality.
- Water planning takes both into consideration.
- The projection model is only as accurate as the data that is input into it.
- Nobody knows your service area and special considerations more than you.
- Your input and ongoing involvement is critical in this process.

Importance of Rural System Involvement in the Water Planning Process

What role do we play?

- As an industry, public water providers tend to maintain a low profile in public policy decisions.
- Agriculture, Industry, and Economic Development typically receive the lions share of attention and money.
- Without water and wastewater however, there is no Agriculture, Industry, or Economic Development!
- South Carolina needs a quality, accurate, and comprehensive water plan.

Please get involved and help in this effort before it's too late.

Stay Informed...

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/waterplan/surfacewater.html>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/waterplan/groundwater.html>