

Location:

January 5, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Clemson Sandhill REC – Lake House and Zoom

Action Items:

1. **PPAC to review and provide comments as needed regarding the draft Edisto River Basin Plan.**
2. **SCDNR to distribute Saluda RBC final recommended list for PPAC feedback.**
3. **PPAC to provide feedback as needed to SCDNR regarding Saluda RBC applications and final recommended RBC roster.**
4. **SCDHEC to hold Surface Water Roundtable meeting with PPAC members.**

Meeting:

New Business

- Welcome and Budget Update
- River Basin Planning Updates
- PPAC conversation regarding Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act

Meeting Summary (January 5th)

The Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Ken Rentiers, called the January 5th quarterly meeting of the PPAC to order at 10:10 AM. The quarterly meeting of the South Carolina PPAC was held at the Clemson Sandhill REC – Lake House and via Zoom meetings application. The PPAC held a public comment period with no public comment received. Approval of minutes and summary documents from the October 6th meeting were unanimous as was approval of the January 5th meeting agenda.

The meeting began with a welcome from Ken Rentiers. Ken provided a few comments on the budget. There is no update regarding the budget as the General Assembly is not currently in session. A full fund request of \$5.5 million has been requested for the next budget cycle to complete the first round of basin planning activities.

Scott Harder updated the PPAC on the Edisto, Broad, Pee Dee, Saluda, and Upper Savannah River Basin planning processes. The Edisto draft River Basin Plan will be published in January with a Public Meeting to present the Edisto draft Plan in February. The PPAC will review the draft Plan and provide feedback as necessary. The Broad and Pee Dee planning processes are both currently in Phase 2 of the planning process. Jeff Lineberger, PPAC member, presented the draft resolution to the PPAC regarding One Process – One Plan in the Catawba – Wateree River Basin in North Carolina and South Carolina. The PPAC approved the resolution. Scott Harder then discussed the timeline for the Saluda River Basin planning process. Scott presented applications for the Saluda River Basin Council to the PPAC for feedback noting issues with some applications. The PPAC requested Scott and DNR to provide a

recommended Saluda RBC roster for feedback after the January PPAC meeting. Scott then presented the tentative timeline for the Upper Savannah River Basin planning process.

Myra Reece, Rob Devlin, and Kristy Ellenberg of SCDHEC led a conversation with the PPAC regarding the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act. Myra appreciated the opportunity to have this conversation since the PPAC has a vision statement that reflects the Committee's values of water as a shared resource and a shared responsibility. Myra reviewed the timeline of events over the last ten years since the passage of the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act. Rob Devlin spoke to some of the issues with the Statute and regulations that have occurred over the last decade. He provided Statutory considerations for the PPAC and presented several options for consideration. Kristy Ellenberg facilitated discussion with the PPAC regarding the issues presented and received feedback from the PPAC. Some of the major discussion points focused on grandfathered permits, permits for all users, permit duration, infrastructure costs, permit costs to smaller agricultural users, reasonable use and demand criteria, connection with River Basin Planning processes, and defining the problem and addressing what is broken in a comprehensive manner. The conversation will be continued at a future opportunity for PPAC members.

Ken Rentiers concluded the meeting at 1:52 PM.

The next quarterly meeting of the PPAC is currently scheduled for April 6, 2023.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 4/6/23