

Location:

July 16, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Call

Action Items:

1. **DNR to update PPAC on any budget information relating to River Basin Planning**
2. **DNR to follow-up regarding Groundwater Flow Model report and presentation to Groundwater TAC and PPAC**
3. **DNR to follow-up regarding the process of Edisto RBC final four selections after January PPAC meeting**

Meeting:

New Business

- Budget update
- Update on Groundwater model report and training with the USGS
- Edisto RBC meetings discussion

Meeting Summary (July 16th)

The Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Ken Rentiers, called the July 16th quarterly meeting of the PPAC to order at 10:07 AM. The quarterly meeting of the South Carolina PPAC was held via conference call due to Covid-19 policies. The PPAC held a public comment period with no public comment received. Approval of minutes and summary documents as revised from the April 2nd meeting were unanimous as was approval of the July 16th meeting agenda (10:10 AM and 10:11 AM, respectively).

The meeting began with a budget update from Ken Rentiers. There is some uncertainty regarding the budget for future basins. The State Legislature will reconvene on September 15th to discuss the budget. There is still a chance for funding for the Pee Dee river basin planning process. The full funding request for all river basins is likely more uncertain and will depend on the economic forecast for the State. Any updates on future river basin funding will be passed on to the PPAC as it becomes available.

The discussion then moved to the groundwater modeling final report. The groundwater final report is still under internal editorial review at the USGS. USGS has been training DNR and DHEC staff on the groundwater flow model and how to use it, interface with the model, and use the elements inside the model. Training will continue into September per the contract with the USGS and, at that time, DNR should be in a position to run the model. Bruce Campbell from USGS will be running five different groundwater use scenarios which will be useful for the Edisto RBC process. DNR groundwater staff will look into getting a presentation from Bruce on the groundwater flow model for the Groundwater TAC and PPAC.

The next agenda item was discussion of the Edisto RBC meetings from Tom Walker of the SC Water Resources Center. Tom provided a summary of the first two meetings of the Edisto RBC and opened the floor to the PPAC for discussion from RBC and PPAC members regarding the RBC meetings to this point using the virtual format. The RBC meetings have gone well to this point in the process and could continue in a virtual format during the pandemic with educational and informational presentations and discussion. Feedback included: a roadmap of coming meetings, technical virtual meeting capabilities of all RBC members, and limitations to meeting virtually. This discussion segued into the discussion and recommendations from the PPAC in moving forward with the Edisto RBC process. Discussion then moved to electing a Chair and Vice Chair for the Edisto RBC, discussion on meeting in-person in future meetings or developing a hybrid virtual and in-person format. Additional discussion was had about Edisto RBC policy recommendations and having those recommendations filter through the PPAC before any recommendations are made publicly.

The meeting concluded with final discussion on the final four selections of the Edisto RBC, the next Edisto RBC meeting, and flooding considerations for the Pee Dee RBC process. DNR will follow-up regarding the process of the final four selections to the Edisto RBC. The next Edisto RBC meeting will take place virtually on August 19th from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Flooding is a major issue in the Pee Dee basin and the Pee Dee RBC can consider flooding issues in their planning process.

The next quarterly meeting of the PPAC is scheduled for October 1, 2020.

The meeting concluded at 11:09 AM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: October 1, 2020