

Location:

July 15, 2021

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

SCDNR Boardroom and Zoom meeting

Action Items:

1. **DNR to continue to pursue applicants for Edisto RBC open seats**
2. **DNR to update PPAC regarding full funding request for river basin planning when appropriate**
3. **DNR to update PPAC regarding roll out of planning processes for the Broad and Pee Dee river basins**
4. **DNR to update PPAC regarding public release of USGS groundwater flow model report**

Meeting:

New Business

- Budget update
- Broad and Pee Dee river basin planning update
- Flood management consideration for river basin planning
- Planning framework revisions update
- Groundwater flow model update
- Edisto RBC application approval

Meeting Summary (July 15th)

The Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Ken Rentiers, called the July 15th quarterly meeting of the PPAC to order at 10:08 AM. The quarterly meeting of the South Carolina PPAC was held in-person at the SCDNR Boardroom 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 April 1st meeting were unanimous as was approval of the July 15th meeting agenda.

The meeting began with a budget update from Ken Rentiers. The planning money that had at one time been in doubt has been appropriated for the Broad and Pee Dee basins. DNR will continue to pursue a request in the next budget cycle to receive full funding for the remaining basins for river basin plan development.

Scott Harder, Chief Hydrologist, presented the initial timeline for the Broad and Pee Dee river basins for river basin planning. The tentative planning process for the Broad river basin will begin first with the RFP process, contracts, and water demand projections provided to stakeholders in the July to November 2021 timeframe. October will feature informative public meetings regarding the Broad river basin planning process and presenting the Planning Framework, soliciting applications for the Broad RBC, and a water demand projection stakeholder meeting. November and December of 2021 will focus on

establishing the Broad RBC and the Broad RBC planning team will begin to meet with the first Broad RBC meeting scheduled for January 2022 and expected completion of the Broad river basin plan scheduled for January of 2024. The Pee Dee river basin planning process will follow a similar approach to develop the river basin plan. From October 2021 to February 2022 the timeline includes the RFP process, finalize contracts, and water demand projections provided to stakeholders. In January of 2022, tentatively there will be informative public meetings about the Pee Dee planning process and presenting the Planning Framework, soliciting applications for the Pee Dee RBC, and a water demand projection stakeholder meeting. From February to March of 2022 the Pee Dee RBC is expected to be formed and the Pee Dee planning team will begin to meet with the first Pee Dee RBC meeting scheduled for April 2022 and expected completion of the Pee Dee river basin plan scheduled for April of 2024.

The next agenda item focused on flood management and how that might interface with the river basin planning processes. The existing Planning Framework as developed by the PPAC focused primarily on water quantity and ensuring adequate supply now and through the planning horizon. The Pee Dee river basin has had significant flooding events over the last several years so the flooding management question will certainly arise during that process. The question was posed on how, to what degree, or if the RBC planning process should include flooding management into the river basin plan. The focus will remain on the primary objective of the Planning Framework but will coordinate with other agencies involved with flooding issues such as the SC Office of Resiliency in the planning process.

Next on the agenda was a general discussion relating to updating the Planning Framework document as needed. One item of discussion was the term “business as usual” in the planning framework relating to water demand forecasts. The question was posed if it would be more appropriate to use the term “moderate use” or another term that might capture the intent of that projection for planning purposes more clearly. There was lively and robust discussion regarding the term and what might be suitable to replace “business as usual” but the PPAC did not arrive at a consensus on the appropriate term.

Groundwater updates were next on the agenda and brief discussion focused on the USGS and the agreement in place for groundwater technical support for planning in the Edisto. The USGS groundwater flow model has been updated with new wells and associated water use and the period of recharge has been extended to 2020. Data has been provided to the USGS to develop the scenarios needed for the Edisto planning process. The USGS final report for the groundwater flow model has not been released publicly but is expected soon.

The meeting concluded with discussion regarding an application for an open seat on the Edisto RBC. Alan Mehrzad of the Bamberg Board of Public Works will fill a vacant water and sewer utilities seat on the Edisto RBC as approved by the PPAC.

The next quarterly meeting of the PPAC is currently scheduled for October 7, 2021.
The meeting concluded at 11:17 AM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: 10/7/21