

Location:

May 11, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom meeting

Action Items:

1. **DNR to contact Pee Dee Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation applicant about serving as alternate for another applicant.**
2. **DNR to finalize Pee Dee RBC appointments and distribute for PPAC feedback.**

Meeting:

New Business

- Budget Update
- Pee Dee River Basin Council Application Review and Selection
- River Basin Planning Process Clarification

Meeting Summary (May 11th)

The Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Ken Rentiers, called the May 11th quarterly meeting of the PPAC to order at 1:04 PM. The quarterly meeting of the South Carolina PPAC was held via Zoom meetings application. The PPAC held a public comment period with no public comment received. Approval of minutes and summary documents from the January 6th meeting were unanimous as was approval of the May 11th meeting agenda.

The meeting began with a welcome from Ken Rentiers. Ken provided a few comments on the planning processes in the Edisto, Broad, and Pee Dee. Regarding the budget, the Senate finance side of the General Assembly provided \$3.5 million for water planning in their budget. The House side of the General Assembly provided \$2.3 million for water planning in their version of the budget. It keeps the planning process moving but is less than requested. A brief update on S.0002 revealed some conflict between the Senate side and House side version of the bill. Debate is ongoing and there will need to be some reconciliation between the two versions to pass. This is an ongoing process, so more information is forthcoming in the future.

Scott Harder, SCDNR Hydrology Section Chief, updated the PPAC on the progress made on the Edisto river basin plan. The Edisto RBC has held 22 meetings and is in phase 3 of the planning process, weighing surface and groundwater strategies to include in the plan. A final draft of the Edisto river basin plan will be ready by early Fall.

Scott then updated the PPAC on the Broad river basin planning process. The Broad RBC has met twice and is scheduled for a field trip in place of the regularly scheduled meeting on May 12th. The field trip

included visits to Columbia Water, the diversion dam on the Broad river, and a visit to the Fairfield Dominion Energy sites.

The Pee Dee public meetings were held in March with good attendance in Conway and at the Pee Dee REC. The planning team has held the first planning team meeting with Brown and Caldwell which were selected to author the plan and facilitate the planning process. Scott introduced Brooke Czwartacki who will lead the Pee Dee planning process for DNR. Brooke walked the PPAC through the 26 applications and map for the Pee Dee RBC appointees for consideration by the PPAC. Some discussion was had on Agriculture, Forestry, and Irrigation applicants and how to narrow the applicant pool down from 6 to 5, Economic Development versus Local Government category selection for an applicant, At-Large applicants, out-of-basin applicants and organizational interests in the basin, and balance across interests and distribution across the Pee Dee basin geographically.

The next agenda item solicited clarification from the PPAC regarding RBC groundwater planning and existing CUA groundwater management plans and individual membership on multiple RBCs. The Edisto RBC expressed some concern of duplication of effort between CUA groundwater management plans and RBC groundwater planning. Clarification was requested from the PPAC. Additional concerns are potential conflicting recommendations from the RBC planning process and CUA groundwater management plans and groundwater permitting regulation processes. The RBCs should make groundwater recommendations in the river basin plans which complement and potentially enhance the CUA groundwater management plans. Membership on multiple RBCs by one individual is not forbidden but is discouraged due to the workload of each planning process.

The meeting concluded with brief discussion around expenditures on the Edisto river basin planning process and anticipated efficiency gains in future basin planning processes.

The next quarterly meeting of the PPAC is currently scheduled for July 7, 2022.

The meeting concluded at 2:25 PM.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: July 7, 2022