

Location:

October 6, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom meeting

Action Items:

1. **PPAC members to inform planning team if they are available for either of the Saluda river basin kickoff meeting PPAC panels (November 1, Columbia and November 3, Greenville).**
2. **SCDNR to evaluate and make formal staff recommendation to the PPAC regarding the CWWMG proposal for the Catawba river basin.**
3. **SCDHEC to continue to update the PPAC regarding stakeholder involvement in the review of EPA determination of new water quality standards under the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act.**

Meeting:

New Business

- Welcome and Budget Update
- River Basin Planning Updates
- Redefining Planning Basin Boundaries for the Saluda and Santee Basins
- The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group's Integrated Water Resources Plan and Catawba-Wateree River Basin Planning Discussion
- Next Basin(s) for Implementing Planning Framework
- Role of PPAC in the review of the Environmental Protection Agency's Determination of New Water Quality Standards under the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act

Meeting Summary (October 6th)

The Hydrology Section Chief of the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Scott Harder, called the October 6th quarterly meeting of the PPAC to order at 10:00 AM. 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 July 7th meeting were unanimous as was approval of the October 6th meeting agenda.

The meeting began with a welcome from Scott Harder and 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, and Pee Dee river basin planning processes. The Edisto plan is nearing completion and the RBC approval process, first public meeting, revisions based on public comment, and second public meeting are the last items before initial Edisto planning process completion. The Broad planning process will be entering Phase 2 at the next regular meeting of the RBC. The Pee Dee planning process is still in Phase 1.

Next, Scott Harder announced the kickoff of planning activities in the Saluda river basin. The kickoff meetings will be held November 1st and November 3rd in Columbia and Greenville respectively. PPAC members are asked to serve on a Q and A panel session at each meeting. Scott then presented a proposal to redefine the Saluda and Santee basins for efficiency purposes to remove groundwater modeling from the bottom of the Saluda river basin. The proposal was approved by the PPAC.

The next agenda item was a proposal from the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (Jimmy Bagley and Jeff Lineberger) to formally propose one planning process for the Catawba basin across NC and SC. The CWWMG has already started the second iteration of their Water Supply Master Plan rebranded as the Integrated Water Resources Plan to reflect the comprehensive approach to long-term planning in the basin in NC and SC. The PPAC asked for SCDNR staff to make a formal recommendation for approval at a PPAC meeting before the next quarterly meeting after considering many technical items including planning scenarios and water modeling. Scott Harder then transitioned back to his presentation to discuss the next basin for planning activities. If sufficient funding is available, the Upper and Lower Savannah planning processes would kick off next Spring.

Rob Devlin, Assistant Bureau Chief of SCDHEC's Bureau of Water, updated the PPAC regarding the EPA decision and SCDHEC response to the EPA determination of new water quality standards under the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act. There is disagreement between the two agencies regarding this determination of a water quality standard. SCDHEC intends to go to their Board and the Legislature in January. A stakeholder engagement process will be available for stakeholder input. Rob and Kristy Ellenburg will reach out to the PPAC regarding the stakeholder engagement and input process soon.

Ken Rentiers concluded the meeting at 11:35 AM.

The next quarterly meeting of the PPAC is currently scheduled for January 5, 2023.

Summary: Tom Walker

Approved: January 5, 2023