

Savannah River Basic Advisory Council
June 8, 2010 Meeting Summary

Agenda: See Attached

Attendance: See Attached

Action Items: See Below

Mission: The Mission was approved as written:

Enhance the public welfare of SC citizens by ensuring strong communication and collaboration between stakeholders and the state agencies on issues related to operation, comprehensive planning, and sustainable management of water resources within the Savannah River Basin.

Vision:

The Council requested changes to the Vision prior to approval. The following points were discussed: eliminate “legislative backed” in opening phrase; since volunteer group delete “professional and reliable” in second bullet; reword 5th bullet to eliminate concerns on the ordering of factors and word “balancing”; incorporate words from the fourth bullet of version 1.

Guidelines and Rules:

The following changes were requested to the Guidelines (see actions below):

- Need to add specific guidelines on proxies for voting
- Need to consider voting e-mails

The Rules were not discussed and will be covered at the next meeting

Member Participation and balanced distribution:

The Co-chairman indicated that additional members from the lower basin are being considered to ensure coverage throughout the entire basin. Total Council membership (as is covered in the Guidelines) will not go above 25.

- SRBAC Representative to Coastal GA: Scott Willett
- SRBAC Representative to Savannah – Upper Ogeechee: Charles Sexton
- SRBAC Representative to SC/GA Governors’ Joint Council: Vernon Osteen
- Braye Boardman will be the non-voting representative from the GA Regional Water Councils to the SRBAC.
 - Council will send copies of the minutes and other coordinating documents
- William Bailey has been assigned as the non-voting member from the ACOE

Discussion of On-going activities:

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- State Water Plan
 - Bud Badr State Hydrologist will be retiring June 28th.
 - Joe Gellici is the designated replacement and worked on the 2004 Plan and will be responsible for the water plan revision.
 - Completion of a draft for review is expected within 6 months.
- Discussion of S452/H4285 - Water Withdrawal, Permitting , Use, and Reporting Act (Surface Water)
 - Passed on 6/3/2010 with 10 minutes left in the session; currently awaiting Governor's signature
 - Key to working with other states since most states have a water use permitting system to track usage
 - Users with >3MGPD are permitted. Current users are grandfathered at their current amounts.
 - Establishes minimum in stream flows to maintain biological chemical and physical integrity; seasonally adjusted; safe yield based on the amount of water available
 - Changes current SC riparian system to a regulated riparian system
 - New users have to have a contingency plan for low flows
 - Inter-Basin Transfers are not prohibited but the regulatory development process needs to take place; Current users are grandfathered to their current usage until their permit expires. They will need to reapply at that time for any additional usage. New interbasin transfer requests will need to follow a completely new permit application process.
 - Opportunity for Council to get involved in regulations review for any new or increased water request for interbasin transfers since regulations won't be ready until 2012 legislative session.
- Governor's Water Planning Committee:
 - TMDL: have final agreement on model from both sides; 2006 EPA ruling on 0 TMDL load; GA adopted SC standards for dissolved O²; Load reduced from 750,000 lbs/day to 130,000 lbs/day; GA/SC dischargers have a year to look at current allocation and work out a compromise. SRBAC has an opportunity to provide input. We need specifics on dates.
 - Water Sharing Agreement is needed between GA and SC. No date to accomplish this or who will be involved.
 - Salt water intrusion in Floridian Aquifer impacting Hilton Head and ultimately Savannah, GA.; the plume is currently moving at about 200' per year; even if there were no pumping the plumes would continue to exist; the local users need to be involved to examine alternatives.
- GA is doing a consumptive use study with DHEC data on SC users.
 - Updates are found at georgiawaterplanning.org
 - SC State has 2035 County population data.

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- Drought Plan/ACOE:
 - Three ongoing ACOE planning actions: EA for additional development of Wildwood Park; Emergency Drought Study; Restart of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study.
 - Emergency Drought Study: Operation when in a Level 4 drought -- when the conservation storage is empty; examines what "3,600 cfs for as long as possible" would mean; whether that operation is the best procedure when we reach that drought level; expect draft EA out in the August time frame District decision in October.
 - SRB Comprehensive Study Restart: Addresses potential changes to the Drought Plan and the Operations Manual; funding challenges for both the Corps and the States; goal to prioritize issues and address some of them earlier; two planning documents: Review Plan (quality control) due in late June & Project Management Plan (PMP) due for states review in September.

- DHEC
 - Updating to 2009 usage and consumption data on SRB (2004 data on <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/capuse.htm>).
 - Note the data does not currently report discharges or returns in data base
 - DHEC stated that they would like the Council's input on the water assessment document in regard to usability, organization, etc. (Much of the basic content is driven by regulations). Info on access will be sent to the SRBAC when the document is available for review and comment.

- **Wrap-up**
 - Future meetings: Would like to explore the idea of meeting in Columbia; Rest of meeting sites should stay within the SRB; next meeting in Anderson tentatively on August 2; following meetings will be Buford-Jasper and then Columbia
 - List of Studies
 - Discussion was held on developing a list of the current on-going studies in the SRB.
 - Charles Sexton reported that the USGS and NOAA are studying the salt water wedge moving up the SRB.
 - Focus of next meeting: Survey of what are the issues of the stakeholders and Drought Plan issues & studies
 - Bud Badr mentioned several possible studies e.g. Conservation pool changes, Minimum flow, Salt water wedge
 - The Council asked for DHEC/DNR to put together a prioritized list of studies or plans that are currently underway or planned for the SRB (and the State) including who is managing them, planned completion and when inputs from the Council may be expected. Included are the
 - New Comprehensive Water Plan by DNR,

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- Inputs for detailed requirements related to S452/H4285 - Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act (Surface Water). Of particular interest here is
 - The interbasin transfer specifics.
 - Identification efforts to determine the minimum in stream flows for the SRB

Action Items:

Number	Action Item	Responsible
6-10-01	Reword vision to reflect Council comments.	Massey/Shelley
6-10-02	Modify Guidelines to incorporate proxy voting and consideration of voting e-mails.	Massey/Shelley
6-10-03	Provide name tags for members to use during the meeting.	Massey/Shelley
6-10-04	Examine options to enhance member communication including use of a collaborative web site.	Spratlin, Strickland
6-10-05	Set up meeting site in Anderson	Massey
6-10-06	DHEC/DNR to put together a prioritized list of studies or plans that are currently underway or planned for the SRB (and the State of SC)	DHEC/DNR
6-10-07	Develop individual lists of 3-5 key SRB issues and submit to Co-chairmen for consolidation and presentation at next meeting (Members please supply by July 16 th)	Council Members