**Safe Yield Meeting #1 Summary**

**January 21, 2020**

**Alex Butler (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control):** Welcomed the Group and Presented the Agenda. Introduced Dr. Marcus

**Mike Marcus**: Welcomed Everyone. Detailed the Group was intended to evaluate the current safe yield calculation and examine possible alternatives without predetermining if one calculation was better than another or if a change was needed.

**Alex Butler (Slides):** Went over the Goal and timeline of the group. The Goal is to evaluate the safe yield calculation in R61-119 and examine possible alternative calculations. Other concerns that would need a change to the Statute are not up to discussion. Those issues and ideas should be routed through the Water Planning Process led by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). If the department determines the Safe Yield Calculation needs changing, a regulatory change would be needed.

**The Timeline for the work group is:**

January 21: Workgroup Kick Off

February 18: Evaluation of Alternative Calculations

March 17: Evaluation of Alternative Calculations

April 14: Discussion-Wrap Up

May 15: Summary Report

**Introductions of those in attendance**:

**Jeff Allen:** Director of SC Water Resource Center at Clemson; PPAC

**Jocelyn Walters Brannon:** BOW Public Participation Coordinator

**Pradeep** **Adhikari:** Surface Water Permitting Program, Hydrogeologist

**Leigh Anne Monroe:** Surface Water Permitting Program, Hydrogeologist

**Alex Pellette**: SCDNR, Hydrogeologist

**Rob Delvin:** Director DMAP, DHEC

**Ryan:** Columbia Water

**John Baker:** International Paper.

**JJ Jowers**: Bamberg County; PPAC.

**Ed Bruce:** Duke Energy

**Mike Caston:** Former Consultant, Citizen

**Jill Miller:** SCRWA; PPAC

**Gerrit Jobsis:** American Rivers Regional Director

**Charles Wingard:** Lexington County; Farm Bureau; Chair of Water Committee

**Scott Harder:** Lead Hydro at DNR; PPAC.

**Hugo Krispyn:** Friends of the Edisto; Edisto River Keeper

**Doug Busbee:** Aiken County; Citizen

**Eric Krueger:** Nature Conservancy

**Tommy Lavender:** Attorney with law firm; Chamber of Commerce

**Kristy Ellenberg:** DHEC; Director of Collaborative Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives

**Joe Gellici:** SCDNR; Retired Lead Hydro

**Jessie Cannon:** Santee Cooper; On

**Lance Foxworth:** Groundwater Permitting, Hydrogeologist

**Courtney Kemmer:** Groundwater Permitting, Hydrogeologist

**Myra Reece:** DHEC, EA Director

**Leigh Anne** **(Slides)**: Gave a brief summary of other Southeastern States methods for handling water withdrawal permitting. States researched: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

**Alex Butler (Slides)**: Presentedon the Current Law and Regulation governing Surface water Permitting in South Carolina. Major points were on the Definition in the Law of Safe Yield and Minimum instream Flow. How Safe Yield is calculated in R.61-113 was presented. Five Gauges were selected by the Department for review of impacts of safe yield calculation. There was discussion on who was subject to Safe Yield Review (New Permitted and Registered Users only). There was also discussion on how Mean Annual Daily Flow (MADF) is calculated (Use the entire period of Record).

**Alex Butler** **(Slides):** Presented 3 examples of Alternative Safe Yield Calculations at the five example gauges. The Methods presented and discussed were:

1. Minimum Monthly Flow - Minimum Instream Flow

2. Mean Monthly Flow - Minimum Instream Flow

3. Median Monthly Flow - Minimum Instream Flow

Metrics for evaluation of Alternative Safe Yield Calculations are:

* Is it allowable under current law?
* Is it scalable to Statewide Permitting Process?
* Is calculation protective of the resource (while still allowing for use of the resource) across varied stream types?
* Can the evaluation be done given the Departmental resources?

**Action Items from Meeting #1**

1. Workgroup Members should submit Suggested Alternative Calculations to be reviewed during the Feb18th Meeting by February 8th
2. The Department will develop a list of 5 or so assumptions the group is operating under. For Example, “No method will completely eliminate the risk that a registered user could use 100% of the flow under all circumstances”
3. The Department will add Steven Creek Gauge to the example gauge list at the request of DNR

**Meeting Number 2 is Scheduled for February 18th at 2600 Bull St. in Columbia. The Meeting has changed to 9am-12pm**