

Reedy River

Water Quality Group



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



What is the Reedy River Water Quality Group?

The Reedy River Water Quality Group has one mission. We want to protect, preserve, and improve water quality in the Reedy River. To do this, we've gathered local city and county agencies, homeowners groups, conservation groups, and area citizens to work together toward reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into the river.

Why this Annual Report?

We want to celebrate our early successes and inform our community on our plans for the future.

What's the good news?

The Reedy River arm of Lake Greenwood and Boyds Mill Pond are no longer impaired by total phosphorous and chlorophyll a (algae) on the draft South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) 2016 bi-annual report on water quality conditions. The Reedy River Water Quality Group's efforts are continuing to help reduce the nutrients. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the DHEC, phosphorus is naturally occurring and necessary for a healthy Reedy River, but too much phosphorus can lead to algae blooms that can threaten aquatic life, recreational use, and drinking water supplies.



What are activities are going on TODAY?
Check our website www.cleanreedy.org

VISION

The Reedy River Water Quality Group participants share a vision for clean water and are invested in the quality of life and economic development of the Upstate region.

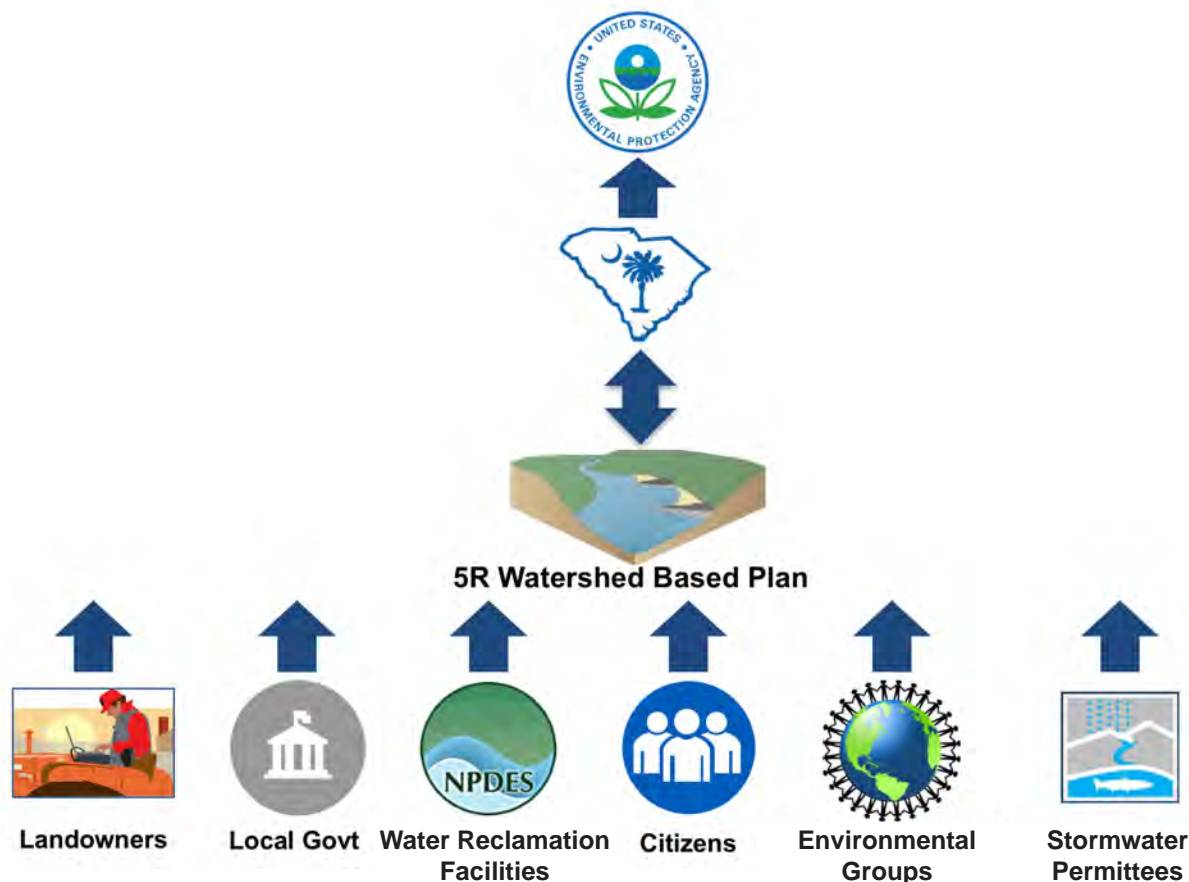
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Participants

More than 30 organizations comprise the Reedy Water Quality Group, including local governments, conservation groups, business and industry representatives, utilities, environmental regulators, and other stakeholders representing the Reedy River from its headwaters in Travelers Rest to its mouth at Lake Greenwood. In reducing the amount of nutrients entering the Reedy River, the group is working toward compliance with a section of our nation's Clean Water Act that seeks to identify impaired waters and develop plans to restore them.

Local Approach

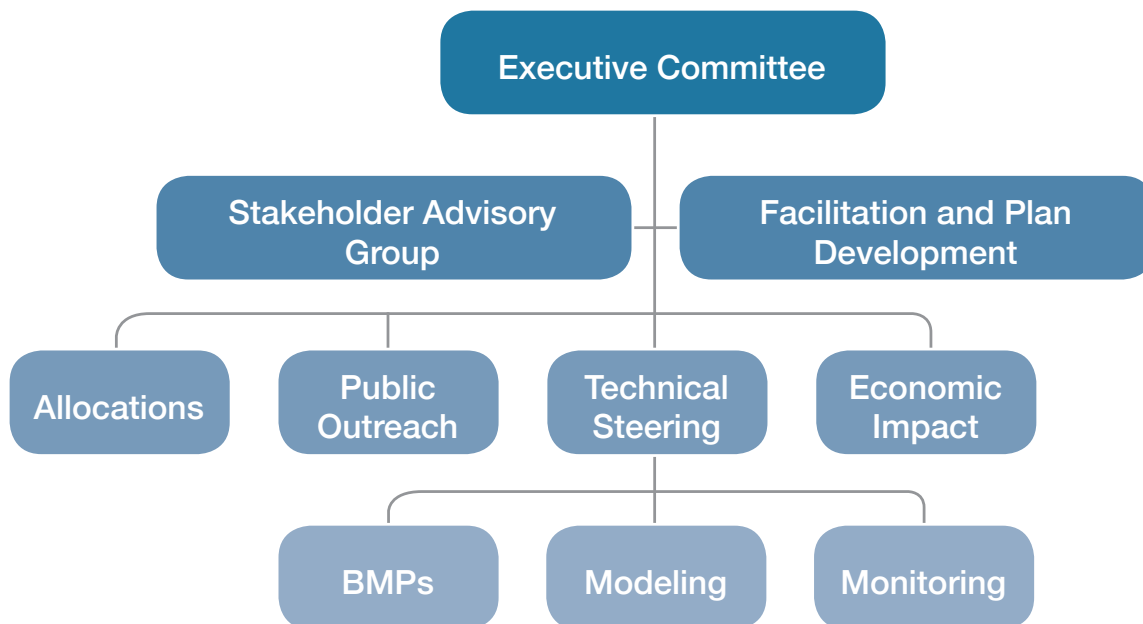
Instead of the State Government creating a regulatory plan to clean up the Reedy River system, our Group fosters an approach that employs local involvement and citizen engagement to reduce excess levels of nutrients in our waters. This approach means that the local watershed stakeholders, who enjoy the Reedy River every day and understand the local environment, are creating and implementing water quality improvement plans for the watershed.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Structure

With the City of Greenville, Greenville County and Renewable Water Resources serving as executive sponsors, we have formed committees based on our project needs. In 2015 and 2016 these committees have been actively engaged in developing plans and implementing water quality improvement activities. Committee participation is voluntary, and many of our participants have logged long hours in support of the Group mission.



Community & Conservation Groups

- Boyd Mill Pond HOA
- Conestee Foundation
- Connect Lake Greenwood
- Friends of the Reedy River
- Greenville Chamber of Commerce
- Home Builder's Association of Greenville
- Preserving Lake Greenwood
- United Utilities
- Upstate Forever
- Waterloo Water Wizards

City, County & University Partners

- City of Greenville
- City of Mauldin
- City of Simpsonville
- City of Travelers Rest
- Greenville County
- Greenwood County
- Laurens County
- Renewable Water Resources
- Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission
- Clemson Extension Service Greenville County

State, Regional & Federal Partners

- Appalachian Council of Governments
- Greenville Area Development Corporation
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
- South Carolina House of Representatives
- South Carolina Senate
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region IV

BIG TENT MEETING 2016

- Shared committee progress over 2015-2016
- Reaffirm commitment to Group Mission
- Charted path for 2016 and beyond
- Boat tour of Boyds Mill Pond monitoring stations

Over 80 citizens participated in our Big Tent meeting in March 2016.



PUBLIC WATER QUALITY AWARENESS

The Public Outreach Committee created and maintains the www.cleanreedy.org web site that provides education and news about watershed water quality; and manages the social media posts to create awareness about best practices.

Failing septic systems have been identified as a key pollution source in the Huff Creek sub-watershed.

The Reedy River Water Quality Group Public Outreach Committee is also administering a 319 Cost Share Assistance Program within the boundaries of the Huff Creek watershed to assist home and business owners to repair or replace failing septic systems.

Are you having Septic Problems? We may be able to help.
Check our website www.cleanreedy.org

DO YOU HAVE A SEPTIC ISSUE?



HELP MAY BE AVAILABLE!

Learn About the Huff Watershed
319 GRANT PROGRAM

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Group is working to identify appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and prioritize those BMPs based on effectiveness and cost and overall benefit to the community.

BMPs include landscape activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, treatment requirements, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States.....in other words everything from Scoop the Poop to Waste Water Treatment to Stream Restoration.

Cleveland Park Stream Restoration

The Cleveland Park stream restoration project was completed on schedule, and the area has been stabilized with temporary seeding and matting.

The project included stabilizing severely eroding streambanks and reconnecting approximately 500 feet of a Reedy

River tributary with its floodplain to promote water quality improvements in the area of the park between Woodland Way and Woodland Way Circle.



MONITORING THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERS

The Monitoring Committee currently compiles water quality data from 17 grab sample and continuous monitoring locations in the watershed that are operated by Greenville County (9), the City of Greenville (2), ReWa (2), and DHEC (4). Other Group participants are working to add additional monitoring stations in 2016-2017. Monitoring water quality provides our community with real world information that allows us to track pollutant sources and improvement in water quality as the result of Group activities.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WATERSHED BASED PLANS

The Economic Impact Committee is responsible for weighing the costs and benefits to the community and the environment for different water quality management options. The committee requirements and goals are

- Current and future economic impact to industry, business, and economic efforts, including direct, indirect and induced impacts, from water quality
- Develop cost benefit analysis that will articulate to the community why this process is necessary
- Develop comparison to traditional total maximum daily load (TMDL) path



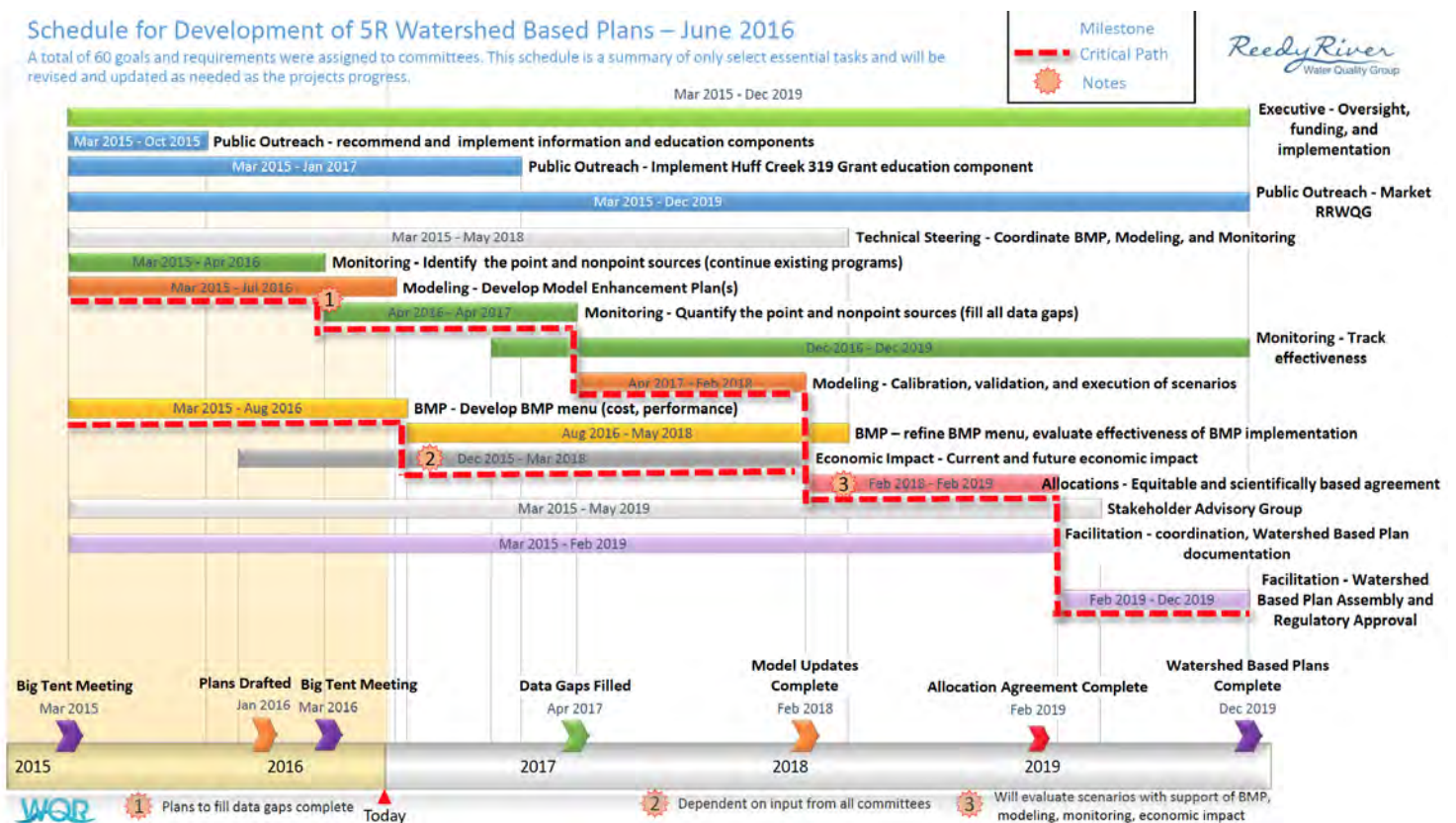
In 2016 the committee will conduct a study that frames the regional costs and benefits that will result from the water quality improvements plan.

WATER QUALITY MODELING

The Modeling Committee is responsible for the development of water quality modeling tools that will serve as the foundation for water quality management decisions. In 2015 the Committee scoped the needed modeling updates. In 2016 the Committee is enhancing the existing Reedy River watershed-receiving water LSPC-WASP model. The model will be a tool for analyzing, and potentially assigning, nutrient load reductions for different stakeholders within the watershed.



OUR PATH FORWARD





Join Us: www.cleanreedy.org

