

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Member Organizations Present:

Catawba River Water Supply Project
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Gastonia
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Mount Holly
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NC DENR Division of Water Quality
NC DENR Division of Water Resources
SCDNR
SCDHEC
Town of Fort Mill
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Long View
Town of Mooresville
Town of Valdese
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

HDR
Kearns & West, Inc.
McKim & Creed
Union County
York County

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ed Bruce, CW-DMAG coordinator, opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and called the roll.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Triggers

2. Bruce provided an LIP trigger update. The Storage Index (SI) is slightly below Target levels, although with hot temperatures and high evaporation rates, it may not remain there long without normal precipitation. The SI charts over the last several years show that typically around mid-July to early August, it is difficult to maintain storage at Target levels. However, during the past three summers there have been fairly significant storms that brought the Storage Index out of its decline. The U.S. Drought Monitor Index is in normal conditions. The southern portion of the Basin has been receiving slightly more rain than the northern portion. The four-month average streamflow is 72 percent of the historical average and the six-month average is 70 percent of the historical average. Both streamflow indexes therefore indicate Stage 1. Groundwater gages are trending downward.

Duke Operations and Meteorological Update

3. George Galleher gave an update on Duke's system hydrological information. For 2011, through July, precipitation levels are 88 percent of the long-term average. The forecast for the next six to ten days is for average precipitation, and the forecast for the next eight to fourteen days is for drier-than-normal conditions. Duke's meteorological consultant predicts drier-than-normal conditions for August in the southern portion of the Basin and normal conditions in the northern portion, transitioning to overall drier-than-normal conditions through October. NOAA's forecast is for an equal chance of above, below, or normal conditions for August through October. Galleher suggested that NOAA may be factoring in the potential for tropical storms to bring conditions back towards normal. Overall the Basin remains in Stage 0 of the LIP. Predictions suggest greater-than-normal number of named tropical storms.
4. Galleher noted that that Lake James (Bridgewater) is operating at levels to meet current License requirements.

Residential Water Use

5. Kearns displayed the per-meter residential water use charts through June 2011, based on the data provided by the water suppliers. He reviewed a few small corrections that he had made to the charts after were distributed. He noted that, combined, the Basin's per-meter residential water use is just slightly below the unrestricted use prior to 2007. Following up from the previous CW-DMAG call, Kearns reported that Klein had checked on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities June data, since they appear to be at its lowest levels of the last four years, and they are correct.

Press Release

6. Bruce confirmed that, because the Basin is in Stage 0, the LIP does not require voluntary conservation efforts at this time and stated that there is no need for a press release at this time.