

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Member Organizations Present:

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Mt. Holly
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDWR
SCDNR
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Town of Valdese
Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

HDR Engineering
Kearns & West, Inc.
Town of Fort Mill
NCDENR Public Water Supply Section
USC

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ed Bruce opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Triggers, Duke Operations, and Meteorological Update

2. Bruce reviewed the LIP triggers, including an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI), stream flow, U.S. Drought Monitor and groundwater gages. The Storage Index (SI) has been above the Target Storage Index (TSI) for several months and the TSI is approaching a seasonal low point for the TSI. There is a small area in the upper basin that is in a severe drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, which is a Stage 2 condition. The stream flows are in Stage 1 condition. Groundwater gages are generally higher than they were in the fall, but have not collectively recovered above Stage 2. Overall, the basin is in a Stage 2 drought.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and on Duke's hydro operations. Total 2008 precipitation for the system was 8.21 inches below the long-term average. Year to date in 2009, the basin has received 2.45 inches of rainfall. Every area of the basin has received below-average rainfall in January 2009, and both NOAA and Duke's weather contractor are predicting that February through April will be drier than normal. Work is continuing on the Catawba spillway at Lake James, requiring lake-levels at Lake James be managed so that work can be completed.

Residential Use Responses

4. Ken Kearns reviewed the trends for per-meter residential use through December 2008. Water use has remained below average.

LIP Evaluation Committee Report

5. Ken Kearns reviewed the activities of the LIP Evaluation Committee, noting that its activities are to evaluate existing triggers and look at new ones, review LIP actions for Duke and other water users at different Stages, and to review CW-DMAG membership. At their last meeting, they reviewed the drought monitor, stream flow and groundwater indicators. The Committee thinks that any changes to the existing triggers should be incremental in scope, rather than large, wholesale changes.

Consideration of Temporary Stage 2 Recommendations

6. Kearns noted that the basin is now in Stage 2 and that the water suppliers are currently enforcing Stage 2 restrictions for outdoor water use. He proposed that the CW-DMAG not change its recommendation use restrictions at this time. After discussion, the CW-DMAG agreed to the proposal and indicated that there is no need for a press release since nothing has changed since the last press release.

Discussion of 2008 Water Use Reporting

7. Bruce reminded members to provide him and Kevin Mosteller with annual withdrawals and returns for calendar year 2008 by the end of the month.

Water Management Group Update

8. Barry Gullet reported that the Water Management Group (WVG) officers met on January 8. They discussed the mapping project. Duke is analyzing the use of smart irrigation tools for irrigating directly from the lake. The Town of Long View and City of Statesville are new WVG members. They and all present members have paid their dues for 2009. The Group is working on a Web site and logo, and they are reviewing comments on their five-year project strategic plan.

Conclusion

9. The next CW-DMAG meeting will be a conference call on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 AM.
10. Bruce adjourned the meeting.