

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL
Thursday, December 18, 2008
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater
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 Newton
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
USGS
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDWR
SCDHEC
SCDNR
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
York County
Invista

Other Organizations Present:

HDR Engineering
Kearns & West, Inc.
Town of Fort Mill
NCDENR Public Water Supply Section
USC
Western Piedmont COG
York County

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), streamflow, and groundwater gages. The SI is above average for this time of year. The base streamflow has been improving, in part as a result of Hurricane Fay last summer and slightly higher precipitation levels. Groundwater levels have also seen a small but steady increase over the last few months and two of the three monitored gages are now in Stage 2.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and on Duke's hydro operations. The Basin has experienced near average precipitation in December and average rainfall is predicted for the next two weeks followed by a dryer weather pattern in the longer term.

LIP Evaluation Committee Report

4. Ken Kearns reviewed the activities of the LIP Evaluation Committee noting that it met on December 10 for a thorough discussion of triggers. Several possible alternative triggers were suggested for stream flow and the drought monitor index. Suggestions included looking at various stream flow time averages and assessing the drought monitor index using area-weighted and storage-value averages. The technical support folks are doing some comparative analysis prior to the next meeting on Jan 9. When the Committee completes its "lessons learned" and recommendations for the LIP, it will move to recommendations for the CW-DMAG for issues that are not directly addressed in the LIP.
5. Kearns also noted that all of the basin's November 2008 combined per-meter residential water use data had not yet been collected. As soon as the rest of the data are gathered, he'll update the charts and send them to CW-DMAG members.

Consideration of Extending the September 24 Temporary Stage 3 Recommendations on Two-Days-a-Week Outdoor Water Uses

6. Bruce reviewed the CW-DMAG decisions in previous meetings regarding its recommendation to continue recommending two-days-per-week outdoor watering through the winter period unless there was need to reevaluate it prior to that. He noted that the basin drought conditions are improving, with most indicators in LIP Stage 2 conditions or better. Noting the improving conditions and triggers and that the outdoor water restrictions were already at Stage 2 recommendations, Kearns proposed that the CW-DMAG continue with its current recommendation at this time. After discussion, the CW-DMAG agreed to the proposal and indicated it would issue a press release to that effect.

Water Management Group Update

7. Barry Gullet reported that the Water Management Group (WMG) met on December 9 for its annual meeting. The 2008 officers were reelected for 2009. The USGS groundwater-well project is proceeding well, but the mapping initiative project still requires attention. A WMG Committee charged with developing a WMG logo and Web site will sign a contract to complete this work. The WMG also approved its five-year strategic plan. Gullet announced that Longview and Statesville will probably join the WMG. In January 2009, all of the water supply utilities, in addition to Duke Energy, will be paying dues. The next WMG meeting will be on February 10, 2009. The next WMG Board meeting will be January 8, 2009.

Conclusion

8. The next CW-DMAG meeting will be a conference call on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 10 AM.
9. Bruce adjourned the meeting.