

Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Meeting Summary

March 12, 2008

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant**

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater	Lancaster County Water & Sewer
Chester Metropolitan District	District
City of Belmont	Lincoln County
City of Camden	NCDENR-PWSS
City of Charlotte	NCDWR
City of Gastonia	SCDHEC
City of Hickory	SCDNR
City of Lenoir	Town of Granite Falls
City of Morganton	Town of Valdese
City of Mt. Holly	Union County
City of Newton	Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water
City of Rock Hill	Treatment Plant
Duke Energy Carolinas	

Other Organizations Present:

Alexander County Emergency Services
Catawba County Emergency Services
Centralina COG
City of Fort Mill
City of Mooresville
City of Newton Planning & Utilities
Green Industry Council
HDR Engineering
Kearns & West, Inc.
University of South Carolina – Dept. of
Geography
USGS
York County

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ken Kearns opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

LIP Trigger Update

2. Ed Bruce showed a presentation of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI) and readings for the stream flow gages and noted that Duke is continuing to build storage in March even though the area is receiving less than normal rainfall. George Galleher showed charts indicating how much rain would be needed and over what time periods to return the six-month average stream flow indicator to 55 percent of normal.

Duke Operations and Meteorological Update

3. Galleher provided an update on area meteorology predictions and Duke's hydro operations. Recent rains have fallen at varying amounts depending on the location in the basin. Duke is currently storing run-off and continues to make only minimum releases from the dams. At Lake Wateree, Duke is sometimes increasing the minimum releases to maintain lake levels for potential high-water management considerations.

Temporary Water Intake Permitting

4. Joe Hall (Duke) presented a proposed accelerated application process for drought-related water intake modifications. Group members recommended including the NCDNR-PWSS, NCDWQ, and SCDHEC to the 15-day consultation process.

WMG Ground Water Well Project Location Needs

5. Bruce Campbell (USGS) informed the group that the USGS is searching for a site for a new ground water monitoring well in SC near Lake Wateree. Bruce asked the group to inform him of any potential locations preferably on public land. He will distribute a list of needed site physical characteristics along with a map of areas where the entire system of 10 well are planned. Group members will consider possible land tracts and send suggestions to USGS.

Water Consumption Committee

6. Lauren Kirkpatrick (lead) provided an update on the Committee's work to explore water conservation measures related to swimming pools. The Committee is working to calculate the water used by area swimming pools and determine effective ways for people to reduce water losses from swimming pools.

Use Restriction Effectiveness Committee

7. Kearns showed several plots comparing average 2007 residential water used in two different jurisdictions with the average used over the last 7-10 years.

Guidelines for Basinwide Coordination of Water-Use Restrictions for Each LIP Stage

8. Kearns reported that he'd received the requested edits for the Guidelines from several members and would work with the Committee to review the edits and finalize the document. He noted that the goal of the document is to have a consistent set of basin-wide recommended water-use restrictions.

Discussion with Emergency Management Personnel

9. Emergency management personnel from Alexander County, Catawba County, York County, and the City of Hickory discussed the importance of the DMAG coordinating with and working with emergency management personnel in planning for emergency related to extreme drought conditions. The group discussed other types of emergencies for which they had planning and training, but noted that more needed to be done to prepare for water emergencies. The Group members and the emergency planners both supported the need to continue information sharing.
10. Kearns suggested that, as a way to begin the process and structure the planning, the group could compile the various ways that water system functions would be diminished or eliminated as a result of extreme droughts. Each water system would likely be slightly different.

Round Table

11. The Group recommended issuing a press release to announce its recommendation for the region to continue with the current Stage 3 water restrictions and to remind the community that the area is still in a drought and that water restrictions must continue in preparation for a potential dry summer and fall.
12. Lineberger suggested forming a sub committee to begin taking an objective look at the LIP and determine what, if any, refinements would make improvements.
13. Ed Bruce reported that Duke has bathymetric survey information for the intakes and also the 2007 water use data reported by the public water suppliers. Members can contact him if they'd like copies.

Conclusion

14. The next DMAG meeting will take place on Thursday, April 17th. The location is TBD.
15. Kearns adjourned the meeting.