

Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Meeting Summary

April 17, 2008

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Environmental Services Facility**

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater	City of Newton
Chester Metropolitan District	City of Rock Hill
City of Belmont	Duke Energy
City of Camden	INVISTA
City of Charlotte	Lincoln County
City of Fort Mill	NCDENR-PWSS
City of Gastonia	NCDWR
City of Hickory	Town of Valdese
City of Lenoir	USGS
City of Morganton	York County
City of Mt. Holly	

Other Organizations Present:

HDR Engineering
Kearns & West, Inc.
News Channel 14
Western Piedmont COG

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 stream flow gauges. Despite low stream flow and rainfall, reservoir levels remain above Target for this time of year. As of April 17, 2008, the LIP drought indicators were:

- Storage Index (SI): 76.39%
- Target Storage Index (TSI): 70.80%
- Ratio: 107.9% (Supports Normal Conditions)
- Stream-flow Indicator: 44.5% (Supports Stage 3)
- Drought Monitor Indicator: +3.33 (Supports Stage 3)

Bruce noted that, under current conditions where the reservoirs are at or above Target levels, the stream-flow indicator is the most important factor for determining drought trends.

Duke Operations and Meteorological Update

3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and Duke's hydro operations. Throughout the spring, the stream-flow indicator increased after rainfall events, but quickly fell back down to below-normal levels, which indicates the ground is dry. Duke is continuing to build storage to meet storage targets and is making above-minimum releases to manage high-water risk. Mt. Island was brought down for a week for maintenance for the Riverbend steam plant. Work will take place on the Paddy Creek Spillway at Lake James in the fall and winter, when the Target lake level for Lake James at that time should be low enough to allow the work to be performed safely.

Water Consumption Committee Reports

4. Lauren Kirkpatrick shared data collected by the Consumption Committee in regards to residential car washing. They estimated that, if everyone in basin who washes their car washed their cars on the same day, water suppliers could see 10.3 million gallons used. The committee will continue to research water use by commercial car washes and by pools being filled in the basin.
5. Barry Gullet noted that some jurisdictions have allowed car washing and asked whether the Group would recommend allowing car washing. Maeneen Klein suggested that all outdoor watering should be allowed one day a week with a reassessment of this recommendation on May 31. The DMAG concluded to issue a news release with that information the next day.

Restriction Results Committee Report

6. Kearns explained that the Restriction Results Committee was created to determine a way to communicate the effectiveness of the water-use restrictions. He shared calculations of per-meter residential water use from Lincoln County, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, Gastonia, and Hickory. To calculate water use in the entire

basin, water suppliers will provide Kearns with total residential use and the number of meters per month for as far back as they can provide. Kearns will develop a template for water suppliers to use in supplying their water-use information.

Restriction Guidelines Committee Report

7. Kearns explained that the Restriction Guidelines Committee was redrafting the recommendations for water-use restrictions to look more like guidelines. Kearns noted that the DMAG should review the guidelines along with the LIP after the drought is over.

Water Management Group (WMG) Update

8. Gullet provided an update on the WMG's activities. The WMG is working on their Five-Year Strategic Plan and is investigating possible grant opportunities. They are still filing applications to be recognized as a 501(c)(3). Gullet noted that the WMG is working with USGS to find locations for new groundwater wells. Bruce stated that the new location must be at least 2,000 feet from shoreline and at least 10 feet above its full-pond level, and should have access to potable water. Gullet asked the DMAG members to look out for potential sites.

Follow-Up Discussion

9. Kearns suggested that the DMAG continue to work with emergency management personnel to identify and coordinate actions during a Stage 4 drought. Rayno noted that North Carolina is holding two severe-drought simulations in May (9 and 23). Rayno will share the results of that activity with the DMAG at its next meeting.
10. Kearns noted that the DMAG needs to come up with an easy-to-understand way to discuss drought status with external audiences. Cross shared graphs that showed the SI and stream flow compared to the TSI. Kearns will suggest a committee to begin looking at improved communications.
11. Kearns suggested the DMAG consider issuing a press release after every meeting to update the public on the drought status and its recommendations. Bruce suggested referring people to DMAG's Web site in press materials.

Conclusion

12. The next DMAG meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 20 at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities' Environmental Services Facility in Charlotte.

Kearns adjourned the meeting.