

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Monday, Jun 08, 2009

Member Organizations Present:

Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
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 Newton
City of Statesville
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDENR-DWR
NCWRC
SCDHEC
SCDNR
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
USGS
York County

Other Organizations Present:

HDR
International Paper
Kearns & West, Inc.
NCDENR-PWS
Town of Fort Mill
Western Piedmont COG

York County

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ed Bruce opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

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

2. Bruce provided a LIP trigger update. Bruce noted that conditions in the area continue to improve due to recent rainfall, and the area is very close to reaching “normal” conditions. The streamflow gages’ six-month average is above 85 percent, which normal for the LIP. All groundwater gages with the exception of Linville are indicating LIP normal levels. Bruce suggested that the DMAG consider not using of the Linville gage because of questionable data it produces. (See later discussion.)
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and on Duke’s hydro operations. NOAA is forecasting an equal chance of below or above average rainfall in June, and Duke’s weather contractor is forecasting normal precipitation in June. In the near-term, forecasts are indicating showers throughout the week with substantial rainfall remaining to the north. Long-term forecasts indicate the area has an equal chance of above or below average precipitation. Soil moisture is currently slightly above normal and is expected to be normal through September. Although sea surface temperatures are slightly cooler than they were at this time last year, NOAA expects temperatures to rise in the fall. Lake James continues to hold at 95 ft so that work on the Bridgewater Dam and spillway can continue.
4. Ken Kearns provided an update on residential water use responses. Klein suggested adding to the charts the point when the area came out of mandatory restrictions. Klein suggested the same analysis that was done on residential water use responses can be done on total withdrawals during the same timeframe.
5. Bruce asked if the CW-DMAG would be comfortable temporarily removing the Linville Groundwater gage from consideration. If the CW-DMAG continues to use the Linville gage, the gage will likely keep the area from moving to a lower Stage. It’s unclear whether or not the Linville gage is functioning such that it is providing meaningful drought information. Several points were discussed regarding the Linville gage: small level range, peculiar variability, aquifer under pressure. Drawing from the discussion Kearns proposed that the CW-DMAG ignore the Linville gage for the time being because the gage is operating in such a way that it is not providing drought data. Greer clarified that the CW-DMAG not ignore the gage, but rather remove it from at a LIP recovery trigger.
6. Bruce noted that by removing the Linville gage from consideration, Storage, Streamflow and Groundwater triggers are normal. If the drought monitor map, which will be available on Thursday (6/11) is normal, the area would be experiencing normal conditions. If that happens, Bruce asked if the CW-DMAG be comfortable moving to “normal” in June instead of waiting until the readings in July.
7. Bruce reminded the CW-DMAG that the area is currently in Stage 1 because of the prior use of the Linville Groundwater gage. If the CW-DMAG decided today to go from a Stage 1 to a Stage 0, all water use restrictions would be lifted and the area would remain in a drought watch. Bruce added that the drought monitor map will be published on Thursday (6/11), and it’s possible that the information will indicate that the area is in normal conditions which would move the Drought Stage from 0 to normal. Bruce asked if the CW-DMAG would like to wait until Monday to make a

determination or move to normal conditions today. Several members of the CW-DMAG suggested moving to normal conditions now.

8. Bruce noted that a press release would be issued indicating that the area is experiencing normal conditions. Kearns suggested issuing the press release on Tuesday (6/9) indicating that conditions have improved and all water use restrictions can be lifted. The CW-DMAG agreed with this approach. Bruce suggested adding language that demonstrates that the CW-DMAG has reviewed data indicating that conditions have returned to normal.
9. Kearns reviewed the conclusions for the press release and noted that the CW-DMAG will not be using the Linville gage to move into or out of Drought Stages, which puts the area in a normal condition, assuming the US Drought Monitor is considered normal. The press release will note that conditions have restored to normal and all water use restrictions have been lifted.
10. Galleher noted that Duke will go to normal operating conditions within five days.
11. Bruce reminded the Group that Duke will send out monthly updates.

Conclusion

12. Kearns said that the LIP Evaluation Committee will continue its work, and there is no need to schedule a future CW-DMAG meeting at this time.

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