

**Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Meeting Summary  
September 24, 2008**

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

**Member Organizations Present:**

Abitibi-Bowater  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities  
City of Camden  
City of Charlotte  
City of Gastonia  
City of Hickory  
City of Lenoir  
City of Morganton  
City of Mount Holly  
City of Newton  
Duke Energy  
NCDENR-PWSS  
NCDWR  
International Paper  
City of Rock Hill  
SCDHEC  
Town of Fort Mill  
Town of Granite Falls  
Town of Mooresville  
Union County  
USGS

**Other Organizations Present:**

NC Green Industry Council  
USC - Department of Geography  
HDR Engineering  
Kearns & West

## York County

### Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

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

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

2. Ed Bruce reviewed a presentation of the LIP triggers and included an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI), stream flow and groundwater gages. The SI went above its target level after the recent heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay, and is significantly higher than it was a year ago. The U.S. Drought Monitor has improved, and there are only a few narrow areas in the basin where the U.S. Drought Monitor is still at stage D3.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and Duke's hydro operations. The basin benefited significantly from Fay, with record rainfall of 10 to 11 inches in 24 hours in some areas, although this was not evenly distributed across the basin. Even so, it is likely that September will conclude with below-average rainfall, and the drought will continue because there isn't enough rainfall to keep stream and lake levels up. Duke continues to release only Critical Flows.

### Update on Water Use Restriction Results through August 08

4. Kearns shared the combined per-meter residential water use data collected from most of the area's large water suppliers through the end of August. The charts showed significantly above-average water use (~15% above) during last summer (2007) before water use restrictions were put into place, and then usage dropped to well below average (~20% below) once the LIP Stages 2 and 3 were declared. Kearns concluded that, without restrictions, the water use would likely have remained above average because 2007's fall period remained hot and dry. Water suppliers were asked to provide their September per-meter residential water use numbers once it is available.

### Consideration of April 1 Temporary Stage 3 Recommendations on One-Day-a-Week Irrigation and April 17 Recommendation for other Outdoor Water Uses (All)

5. Bruce and Kearns proposed that residential water use restrictions temporarily allow landscape irrigation and other outdoor water use twice a week until November 30. There were no objections. Kearns drafted a press release for this recommendation including an explanation of why conditions warrant it, emphasizing that conservation is still the basin-wide goal.
6. Bruce proposed that, after November 30, LIP updates be distributed twice a month instead of weekly since the SI has stabilized. Bruce has been sending weekly e-mail updates since last summer, when the SI was declining two to three percent a week. The LIP states that updates should be sent bi-weekly, once the LIP is activated.

### Roundtable

7. Lauren Kirkpatrick provided an update on the Water Consumption Committee's irrigation meter data. The Committee compared winter use to summer use, removing car washing and swimming pools, and found irrigation to be about 20 percent of

summer water use. Kirkpatrick requested that the water suppliers send her pumping data from the last two years so that she can better predict water use for irrigation.

8. Barry Gullet noted that the next Water Management Group meeting will be on October 14. The Group will be reviewing the five-year strategic project list and is soliciting input from outside the group.
9. Bruce mentioned that the Glen Alpine Gauge has been turned over to USGS as part of the effort to upgrade the groundwater network in the basin. They have also added a rainfall gauge there, and Boo Robinson confirmed that these are up and running.
10. At CW-DMAG's request, Kearns is considering how expand the water use restriction analysis beyond the residential sector by gathering water use data from commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. He is collecting that data from the five jurisdictions that had first participated in assessing the residential water use reductions. Kearns will send an e-mail requesting commercial water user numbers from those five jurisdictions.

#### Conclusion

11. The next CW-DMAG meeting will be a luncheon on October 22. The location will be announced closer to the meeting date.
12. Kearns adjourned the meeting.