CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

DROUGHT STATUS MEETING

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

MEETING SUMMARY

Member Organizations Present

Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (Union County, NC and Lancaster County, SC)  Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
Charlotte Water  North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Chester Metropolitan District  North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (NCDEQ-DWR)
City of Belmont  Resolute Forest Products
City of Camden  South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
City of Gastonia-Two Rivers Utilities  Town of Granite Falls
City of Hickory  Town of Long View
City of Lenoir  Town of Valdese
City of Rock Hill  US Geological Survey (USGS)
City of Statesville
Duke Energy
Invista

Other Organizations Present

HDR  York County
Town of Fort Mill

Member Organizations Not Present

American & Efird  National Marine Fisheries Service
Bessemer City  SCANA Corporation
City of Cherryville  South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SDHEC)
City of Lincolnton
City of Marion  Siemens Westinghouse
City of Morganton  Springs Industries
City of Mount Holly  The Greens of Rock Hill
City of Newton  Town of Dallas
Clariant Corporation  Town of Mooresville
International Paper  US Fish and Wildlife Service
Lincoln County

Agenda Review and Attendance Roll Call

– Ed Bruce, Duke Energy, opened the teleconference meeting at 3:30PM, welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda for the call.
– Audri Baker, HDR, conducted an attendance roll call by asking for voice confirmation of each organization’s participation on the call; member names were not requested or recorded.
Three sets of data slides were provided to the participants prior to the meeting; Mr. Bruce, George Gallaher (Duke Energy), and Jonathan Williams (HDR), reviewed the slide information and answered member’s questions; highlights were as follows.

**Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Update (Mr. Bruce)**

- **Storage Index (SI)**
  - SI represents the total of remaining usable water storage in all eleven reservoirs combined from Lake James down to Lake Wateree as a percentage of the total usable water storage at full pond.
  - Higher than normal rainfall has allowed storage to make a rapid recovery and is well above the Target Storage Index (TSI) for this time of year.

- **U.S. Drought Monitor**
  - The three month numeric average as of the end of December 1, 2015 stands at 0.00, Stage 0 condition.
  - In order to totally recover out of an LIP stage, all triggers must recover to above the threshold of the previous stage; therefore, by January 2016, it is anticipated the U.S. drought monitor average will return to Normal conditions.

- **Streamflow**
  - The basin has experienced significant rainfall in the last quarter of this year.
  - The six month average as of December 5, 2015 was 134%, Normal condition.
  - Streamflow is now trending above the long-term average.

- **Groundwater**
  - It appears to have taken a while for rainfall to penetrate the surface and impact groundwater, but it has now had significant impact as observed from increasing groundwater levels.
  - Langtree gage – December level is 18.09 ft.; above the long term average for this time of year.
  - Glen Alpine gage – December level is 6.66 ft.; well above long term average for this time of year.
  - York Co Regolith gage – well above long term average based on limited long-term data.
  - The two monitored groundwater gages with long-term records have recovered to Normal conditions.

- **Summary**
  - As of January 1, 2016, all triggers are expected to return to Normal Condition. Therefore no CW-DMAG call is planned for January at this time.

**Meteorology and Catawba-Wateree Project Operations Data (Mr. Gallaher)**

- **Precipitation**
  - Expect to finish the year above average.
  - 2015 Year to date precipitation is 40.92 inches; long term average for same period is 39.14 inches.
  - Charlotte year to date precipitation is 1.78 inches above normal.
  - Precipitation over last 30 days is ± 5-10 inches throughout the basin.
  - Overall rainfall for the year is normal to above normal in most areas of the basin.

- **Forecast**
  - The short term forecast for December shows an above average chance of precipitation.
  - December through February is expected to have an equal chance for normal, warmer or cooler temperatures and be wetter than average, for the period.
  - The US Seasonal drought outlook from mid-November through the end of February 2016 shows no forecasted drought conditions in our area.
  - El Nino is expected to continue through the winter and weaken through spring 2016. January through March of 2016 will likely be cooler and wetter than normal.

- **Streamflow**
- There has been significant rainfall, particularly in the upper basin.
- Above average levels of water are flowing through the Catawba-Wateree Hydro Project and streamflow conditions are well above their long-term averages.

  Summary
- Duke Energy is currently managing excess water conditions.
- El Nino this winter is expected to produce above average rainfall.

Residential Water Use Patterns (Mr. Williams, HDR)

- Residential water use updates are based on monthly data provided by Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) members and compared to long term average (based on years 2012-2015).
- Data is current through the end of October, 2015.
- Monthly residential use
  - Water consumption is now trending less than the long term average.
  - Both overall basin and Charlotte Water use individually are trending below long term average
- Hydro generation for October was significantly above the long term average due to excess water in the basin.
- Mr. Williams reminded CWWMG members to provide their November information by end of December.
- Annual water use data will be requested in January 2016; a separate email request will come from Mr. Bruce and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Bruce adjourned the meeting at 3:55 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting will be the Annual Meeting in May 2016.

Summary of Action Items:

ACTION ITEM: Residential water use data for November 2015 to be provided to HDR by December 31, 2015.