Member Organizations Present

Catawba River WTP (Lancaster Water and Sewer District and Union County)
Charlotte Water
City of Belmont
City of Cherryville
City of Gastonia-Two Rivers Utilities
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
Duke Energy
International Paper
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (NCDEQ-DWR)
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Long View
Town of Mooresville
Town of Valdese
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey (USGS)

Other Organizations Present

HDR Engineering
National Weather Service
York County

Member Organizations Not Present

American & Efird
Bessemer City
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Camden
City of Lincolnton
City of Marion
City of Mount Holly
City of Newton
Clariant Corporation
Invista
National Marine Fisheries Service
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Resolute Forest Products
SCANA Corporation
Siemens Waterhouse
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SDHEC)
Springs Industries
Town of Dallas

Introductions, Agenda Review and Announcements

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

- Storage Index (SI)
  - The SI represents the total of all remaining usable water storage in the eleven reservoirs combined, from Lake James down to Lake Wateree, as a percentage of the total usable water storage volume (full pond) in the eleven reservoirs.
  - The SI graph shows storage above normal for this time of year, but this is mainly due to reduced downstream flow releases resulting from being in the LIP for several months. Duke Energy has not been able to add significant additional storage volume in preparation for spring.
- U.S. Drought Monitor
  - The three-month numeric average for the US Drought Monitor as of February 21, 2017 is 1.67, which supports a Stage 1 Condition.
- Streamflow
  - The streamflow indicator is a measure of the actual six-month rolling average compared to the historical six-month rolling average measured at four USGS gages on tributary streams across the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.
  - As of March 13, 2017, the ratio was 40.6% which supports a Stage 3 condition. The last six months streamflow average has been less than half of the long-term average, and that percentage continues to decline.
- Groundwater
  - Groundwater readings are reported for four USGS gage locations representing the geographical spectrum of the basin. Levels at all wells continue to be below the long term average which indicates streamflow will also likely continue below average.
  - Langtree Regolith Gage – Groundwater at this gage is trending downward again after a slight rise the previous month.
  - Glen Alpine Gage – Groundwater levels at this gage are fluctuating slightly but continue to be below the long term average.
  - Near Pleasant Gardens – Groundwater levels at this newer gage remain below the long term average.
  - Lancaster Gage – Groundwater levels at this newer gage remain below the long term average.

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

- Precipitation
  - The long term average annual precipitation for the basin from 1999-2016 is 42.5 inches; 2017 basin-wide precipitation to date is approximately 7.07 inches.
  - NOAA estimates 9-12 inches of rainfall are needed to return the basin to a normal condition; with ~15% chance of getting enough rainfall over the past four months to end the drought.
  - Precipitation in the basin is an average of 2-4 inches below normal for the last 30 days.
- Forecast
  - Short term: NOAA predicts 1/2 inch or less rain over the next 7 days; followed by an equal chance of above normal, below normal, or normal precipitation for the 8-14 day outlook (as of meeting date).
  - The overall forecast for March is for above normal temperatures and equal chance of above, below, or normal precipitation.
  - Long term: NOAA predicts above normal temperatures with equal change precipitation through June and drought remaining but improving in the Upper Catawba-Wateree River Basin.
- Soil Moisture Outlook
• The long term soil moisture outlook shows equal chance of being above or below normal through the end of June.

Streamflow
• USGS streamflow readings are trending at the 5th percentile or below in three of the four gages reported.
• The South Fork Catawba River at Lowell gage is showing extreme drought.

Reservoirs
• Storage levels in Lakes James, Norman, and Wylie have increased slightly; Wateree has declined slightly. Under the LIP, Wateree will continue to experience increased habitat flows for spawning.

Summary & Operations
• The Catawba-Wateree River Basin remains in Stage 1 since November 1, 2016.
• Duke Energy system precipitation is 0.18” below normal for March.
• NOAA is forecasting warmer temperatures with equal chance of normal precipitation for spring.
• Stream flows are at or below the 10th percentile.
• Duke Operations has adjusted minimum flows per the LIP and operating conservatively.

Residential Water Use Patterns (Mr. Williams)
• The residential water patterns presented are based on data received from members of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group members through January 2017.
• Overall, residential water use is trending downward but continues be above the long term average.
• Charlotte Water represents about 50% of water used by the CWWMG membership overall. Charlotte Water’s residential use for January was slightly above the long term average; use by all other suppliers was about 6% higher than the January long term average.
• Duke Energy’s Wateree Hydro Station generation continues below long term averages due to discretionary retention of water and lower flows under the LIP.
• Mr. Williams reminded CWWMG members to submit their annual water use data for February 2017 by the end of March. Monthly data will continue to be collected while the basin is in a drought stage.

Closing Comments

Members directed the CW-DMAG communications subgroup to draft a public communications reminder about Stage 1 conditions for potential use over the next few months.

Mr. Bruce adjourned the meeting at 3:58 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2017 by conference call.