

Water Supply Coordinating Council
March 11, 2010
Minutes

ADMINISTRATIVE – Kathy Bunting-Howarth

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Stewart Lovell. Self-introductions were made. Attendance list is below. Stewart reminded attendees to sign in so that we don't miss names in the minutes.

Change on the agenda. John Talley requested deferring the last agenda item, Expanded SNCC Groundwater Network. It was agreed to do so.

Minutes

The December 3, 2009, minutes had some minor changes. With agreement to corrections, the minutes were approved. Final minutes are online at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx.

SPRING/SUMMER FORECAST SYNOPSIS – David Legates, State Climatologist

The El Niño event that developed during the fall extends across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are more than 1.0°C warmer than average across much of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and forecast models indicate the El Niño is expected to continue at least through the spring of 2010.

This generally means that for March through May the temperatures are likely to be slightly below normal for Delaware and the Southeast US while precipitation is likely to be slightly below normal. If the El Niño event begins to diminish during the summer, it will become more difficult to predict summer trends. The presentation that can be found at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx.)

WATER CONDITIONS REPORT – DGS – John Talley

John reported the following (prepared by Steff Baxter):

Precipitation: Oct. 2009-Feb. 2010(6 stations)–Totals ranged from: +14.5” at Lewes (182% of normal) and +8.39” at Greenwood (149% of normal). 12 out of 30 monthly readings were: record highs (3), 2nd highest of record (3), and 3rd highest of record (6)

Streamflows: Oct. 2009-Feb. 2010 (7 streams). 29 of 35 monthly mean streamflows were above normal. Record highs (4), 2nd highest of record (2), and 3rd highest of record (3). **St. Jones and Nanticoke Rivers were above normal for entire period**

Water Levels: Oct. 2009-Feb. 2010 (6 wells). 21 of 27 water-level measurements were above normal. Record high (1), 2nd highest of record (4), and 3rd highest of record (1).

WATER UTILITY REPORTS

Artesian—Demands comparable to what was experienced last summer—demands are low. On the supply side, the groundwater levels are pretty good to the point of restricting recharge in aquifer storage and recovery well.

Newark—Demands are normal. Supply is not a problem.

New Castle – Have the same situation as others.

United—Demands are a bit down. ASR is at 31.5 mg.

Wilmington—Production level is down. Similar to others.

Tidewater—Water production around the same level as in past.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY STATUS REPORT – DWR – Stewart Lovell & Lefeisha Williamson

Lefeisha said that their consultant completed their review and analysis of Artesian and submitted a preliminary report to Commission Staff. Artesian was given a draft report and provided written feedback. Staff and the consultant were reviewing Artesian's comments and would provide a final report and recommendations to the Commission by the end of the month (March). Generally, the consultant concluded in their independent analysis that Artesian has demonstrated it has sufficient water supply to meet the demands projected by the WSCC for 2012 and Staff will recommend the Commission accept the certification. The Commission accepted United's Self-Sufficiency filing at the December 22nd Commission meeting and that information is available on our website.

Stewart reported that the City of Wilmington's (COW) report is in an acceptable form pending a typo correction on page 2. With that revision, Stewart motioned that it be approved. Motion seconded and passed.

Lorraine Fleming—In COW's cover letter, the last sentence reads: "In the future, guidance information from DNREC may help standardize Utility responses to the Act." How has DNREC responded to that statement?

Stewart—We are not going to provide any standardized format. Leave to the utilities on how they will present.

Lorraine—Then do they rely on only the Act?

Stewart—Yes, there only are two simple components—self sufficiency and water conservation impacts.

Jerry—Since this is the second cycle, the approved filings done 3 years ago can be used as a framework.

Action: Stewart to get access to past filings for COW and condense that into a guideline.

Vic Singer—Suggested the information done in an internal study by Artesian nearly 25 years ago is useful. It provided information on residential usage, substantially the summer portion of usage due to domestic irrigation. It was prompted by an emergency situation at that time. Usage goes on. It would be nice if there were recognition that data descriptive of the usage be preserved so that we can make sense of what happens when development occurs. A day may come that this info would be available so that we can describe what happened and avoid the occurrence of problems that prompted study in the first place.

Bruce—We’ve come a long way and utilities have adequate water supplies. Folks that would create this new data are the small utilities least capable of doing these studies.

Vic—Not suggesting it is done by force—just suggesting the useful of that kind of information. It may be worth calling to the attention to a water system that is experiencing substantial growth.

Joe DiNunzio—Cautioned about using data from NCCo experience and applying it to Kent and Sussex Counties because other facts and circumstances are different. Think it’s important to keep in mind, lessons learned; e.g., when new developments occur, there is a higher peak demand to be considered when designing plant and infrastructure.

Vic—Didn’t suggest applying records from north, no one is working without a computer now. Info stored in computer for each parcel. Just add few more lines of data when a parcel comes on line and what the zoning category is of the subdivision. From that, can track kind of usage expected/experienced—suggested that this info could become quite useful.

KENT-SUSSEX WATER SUPPLY PLAN – WRA, DNREC, & DGS

Jerry, Stewart, and John presented on different portions of the report that can be found at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx.

The purpose and scope of the plan are:

- Assess water resources in Kent and Sussex counties.
- Evaluation of groundwater availability, current water use, water allocations, projections of future water demand through 2030
- Anticipate increases in water demands relating to management, development, conservation, and protection of State’s water resources

Jerry stated that the WSCC’s *Eleventh Report to the Governor and General Assembly* will be filed about this time next year. The report is prepared by DNREC, DGS, and WRA.

Jerry–Might be good at some point to get John Barndt or Doug Rambo of DNREC to provide Source Water Protection program information.

Kathy–On a national level, EPA Drinking Water and Office of Watershed staff are working closely so that when we have nutrient TMDLs and other requirements to reduce nutrients or whatever contaminants in the environment that we start looking at calculations related to drinking water in terms of cost of treating the water and the benefits the cleaner water provides. We might want to go to a citizen’s committee to review the study.

Kathy–Action: With regard to representative samples, she asked Jerry to supply her with a draft letter with specific information and addresses of water purveyors regarding existing demands; and we can work with the Secretary’s office to encourage voluntary participation in order to obtain this information.

Stewart–Are the suppliers that volunteered the ones out of the list?

Jerry–Yes, some are very motivated, but work is needed to fill in the blanks.

John–Wants to know each individual well so that they can calculate what aquifer is being used. We might ask for more details to determine how much water is being used out of a particular aquifer.

Discussion: May need to work with SCAT or face-to-face arbitration or even solicit John Barndt from DNREC to assist with obtaining information from the various sources. Agricultural usage can be captured through permits that are filed.

John presented a separate PowerPoint presentation, also posted online, which included the following objectives:

- To establish an up-to-date geological framework for the confined aquifers of Kent County
- To delineate the areal extent of these confined aquifer resources, including maps of depth and thickness

Kevin Burdette–Asked John if they’ll be looking at groundwater mounding that is occurring with reclamation projects that recharge directly to the aquifers.

John–No, DNREC is involved with that project on a case-by-case basis.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dorothy Miller–Referred to an article about NCCo going green and that they are reconstituting grey water. She asked if anyone knew anything about it – no responses.

Kathy–The Governor’s Office requested an updated listing of the members of the Council. Didn’t know if they will contact your organization or not. She didn’t want members to be caught off guard.

NEXT MEETING – CHAIR

The date of June 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. was selected for the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Juanda Frelin.

Attendees:

Valann	Budischak	DE Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
Kathy	Bunting-Howarth	DNREC
Kevin	Burdette	NCC Water Utilities
Joseph	DiNunzio	NCC Water Utilities
Lorraine	Fleming	DE Nature Society
Ed	Hallock	Division of Public Health
Andrew	Homsey	University of Delaware

Thomas	Hubbard	NCC Water Utilities
Paul	Hyland	Dept. of Public Health
Charles	Jenner	DE Grounds Mgmt. Assoc.
Gerald	Kauffman	University of Delaware - WRA
Bruce	Kraeuter	NCC Water Utilities
David	Legates	University of Delaware - OSC
Stewart	Lovell	DNREC

Laura	Mensch	Delaware Dept. of Agriculture
Dorothy P.	Miller	Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys
G. Arthur	Padmore	Division of the Public Advocate
Nancy	Parker	Artesian, Retired
Francis (Chip)	Patterson	NCC Water Utilities
Edward	Rapciewicz	Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
Thomas A.	Roth	Sussex Co. Association of Towns

David	Sayers	Delaware River Basin Commission
Sheila	Shannon	Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
Roy	Simonson	City of Newark
John	Talley	University of Delaware
Jon	Urbanski	Delaware State Golf Association
LeFeisha	Williamson	Public Service Commission
Martin	Wollaston	University of Delaware- WRA