

WATER SUPPLY COORDINATING COUNCIL
September 11, 2008
MINUTES

ADMINISTRATIVE – Kathy Bunting-Howarth

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Self Introductions

Minutes

There were corrections needing to be made to the draft June 12 meeting minutes. With regard to a question about White Clay Creek at Stanton at 42 mgd, and White Clay Creek at Newark at 58.3 mgd on the first page. John Talley responded that on a handout for May, White Clay at Stanton was 192 and White Clay at Newark was 58. Corrections will be made.

WATER CONDITIONS REPORT –Stefanie Baxter

“Analysis of Northern DE Drought Advisory Guidelines for August 2008 was handed out and discussed. (Handout can be found online at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx.) Stream flows were updated to include recent rain. Because of the rain, everything else will go up, too. Before the rain last weekend, it was getting pretty dry. Streamflows: Brandywine went up to 129.4 last month, very close to the drought mark. White Clay Creek went up to 61.3, above the drought line. White Clay at Newark up to 26.3, very near drought mark before the rain.

United Water Delaware started monitoring for chlorides on August 22 and continued until the rainfall on September 6. They were monitored accordingly for August 26 through September 8; the first five days exceeded the limit. **Tom Hubbard** said the maximum was 65 on 9/6, right before the storm. **Stewart Lovell** asked if UWD inflated the Tidal Capture Structure. It keeps the salt level from coming up further. **Tom:** Responded with a yes and that they were in Phase 2 of the Drought Watch. **Stefanie:** Last chloride reading from DRBC (September 5) 250 ppm at River Mile 84, normally at River Mile 75.

Stefanie asked about ASR. **Bruce Kraueter** stated Artesian used roughly 65 mg this summer; has 60 mg left. Not currently using it. They are in good shape. They probably will wait until mid- to late-October to start filling again.

Reservoir levels current as of September 2: Hoopes at 90% capacity, down 1-1/2 feet from old level. City of Newark: As of September 2, minus 2 feet. Stefanie asked if this is what is expected when students come back to college. **Bill Zimmerman** said they expected it to drop below shut-off certain times of the year. The Octorara (Chester Water Authority) is 83% full; New York City reservoir 79% capacity before rain storm.

No drought indicators for Kent and Sussex Counties: Kent precipitation: Better at 12-month level than during 2002 drought. St. Jones stream flows are starting to come up a bit. Normal status in 2002. Sussex: 12-month running deficit -4.79 compared to -14.77 in 2002. Stream flow at Nanticoke quite different. Ground water levels currently below normal. Information is also available on DGS web site. Web pages will be updated every month. Web site manager is currently on vacation; web site should be updated within a week or two. Stewart Lovell asked if it would be possible to put the numerical volume on the chart when it is updated. With index, one-hundredth makes a difference. Jerry Kauffman asked if we should put Marsh Creek Reservoir (PA above Downingtown) on the reservoir section. John Talley said DGS could put the current storage on there if you give us concrete numbers. Jerry will work on that. Stewart suggested listing flow at the Chadds Ford gauge, too.

Dave Legates presented “Prognostications of the Weather Conditions for the next Six Months in Delaware.” Expect conditions will be dry and warm. We are in the Mid-Atlantic transition region. Air temperature predicted normal. For September, October, and November, it’s on cusp of being above normal temperature. For November-January, above normal; January-March above normal; April-June, normal and July-September, summer – “flip a coin.” His presentation can be found online at www.deos.udel.edu.

Precipitation: Expect some additional rain in September. September-November, in between; October-December, dry in southeast; December – February and January-April, La Nina event expected. Diminish in April-June. Will largely be the same next summer. Drought monitor has DE abnormally dry for Southern NCC and Kent and Sussex. We have more area in “moderate drought” than we had a year ago. Seasonal drought outlook should improve. Impacts will be easier through November. If you have further questions, go to www.deos.udel.edu. It is updated every five minutes. DGS uses it very heavily. There is a good agriculture Web site coming. There has been less than 2” of rain in Sussex County, and northern DE has received over 4” so far. There is a lot of soil moisture deficiency in Southern DE.

WATER UTILITY REPORTS

Artesian: Bruce Kraueter reported that demands are falling off after last weekend’s rain. (1) they are in normal fall demand period–groundwater levels are typical, (2), used half of water from ASR well, (3) anticipate keeping 60 mg in storage over the winter, and (4) they will be reinjecting over the fall through winter.

Newark: Bill Zimmerman said the reservoir is operating as expected–refilling it now after the rain. Both treatment plants are operating. Curtis treatment plant is being upgraded to increase production up over 4 mgd. Demand is up a little bit but everything is operating as expected. Stewart: thought Curtis upgrade would take you to 5 mgd. Bill: It does, but we only went up 4 mgd.

United: Tom Hubbard–It was a dry summer; but with recent rain, we are in much better condition. ASR construction began in early June. We anticipate completion in early October. ASR total 75 mg first well, total of 225 mg with two more wells.

Wilmington. Matt Miller–Demand in August was 20 mgd. Hoopes is being filled. We filled at 11.5-12 mgd. The Brandywine plant was offline all of July for repairs to raceway. The entire system is being fed by Porter. One of our pumps broke. We had to supplement water from Hoopes. Talley: City of Wilmington is very progressive and proactive in monitoring water quality and emerging contaminants in the Brandywine at Chadds Ford and Wilmington. If turbidity exceeds at a certain place, it notifies Wilmington immediately so that we can adjust. It helped when Hannah came through. Unfortunately, right now Porter is the only plant that can use Hoopes water–hope eventually they will reach Brandywine.

DROUGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE – DWR WATER SUPPLY – Stewart Lovell

Last August, the Governor declared a Drought Watch. In March, we recommended the Drought Watch be lifted. It was questionable as to whether or not appropriate action was taken so a subcommittee was formed to determine if the Council acted appropriately in recommending imposing and lifting the drought watch. The sub-committee met in May, and it was determined that the Council acted appropriately and that the operation of the three-tier drought plan worked well. They concluded that we will use same indicators to come out of a drought watch as the ones used to go into a watch. These are not hard triggers. None of this is written down anywhere. Vic Singer drafted language for future use that he would like to present to this Council for future drought situations. The language was handed out.

John: What we are proposing is pretty consistent with what is in the DE Emergency Operations Plan.

Kathy: The Secretary would be confident recommending these changes to the Governor, assuming subcommittee recommendations are accepted by this Council. His personal concern was that WSCC ends at the end of 2010. Kathy would be more than happy to make a recommendation but would like to ask WRA and DGS to look into extending WSCC or whether WSCC needs to continue, etc. If we are going to make a major policy change, it should be made by a more permanent body.

Stewart, John T, and Jerry: All felt that would be an important recommendation to make to the next General Assembly. **John:** Do the Council members feel it is important to carry on the WSCC? **Charles Jenner:** Felt there is general acceptance that south of Canal is the next frontier and felt we should continue. **Jerry:** This group has done a lot. He was in favor for extending its existence. **Vic Singer:** The functional advantage this group enjoys is the ability to reach positions without the need for permission. There are no political constraints on the group as a whole. That kind of advantage is a resource for government. Things can happen in spite of the system. He proposed to move that this committee “live” beyond 2010. We have an efficient exchange of views so what needs to be done gets done.

Stewart: If there are any changes to the proposed wording, let him know within two weeks. Once he gets them, he will send them to everybody. He will track any changes and present them at the next meeting.

Lorraine: How does this translate to DEMA guidelines? Ed Durst, DEMA: As long as we stick with what's written here, we can do it. We will deal with administrative aspect of changes.

Jerry: Moved that we add the State Climatologist to the Council. Motion was approved.

NCC MONITORING NETWORK UPDATE – DGS

John: At the last meeting it was suggested we prepare a document to discuss at this meeting. In the meantime, we thought maybe resolution was not the best way to go. In talking to Stewart, it appears that we may be able to obtain funds in FY09 (this fiscal year). If that is the case, it gives more time to develop a fact sheet and some sort of document to introduce to the General Assembly to get funding for phases 2 and 3. We are very encouraged that we may have funding to start Phase 1 this year. **Kathy:** This is election year. Transition documents probably will be requested for the new administration. Stewart identified some sources of funding in FY09 and possibly FY10. Want to start the ball rolling for bond bill in FY2011. Federal grants start in October, and the state FY starts July 1.

Vic: Suggestion that we set ourselves up to observe data easily available to greater intensity than has occurred earlier. Corps of Engineers Report gives some evidence that we are mining water in New Castle County. We need to understand what's going on because implication of mining water in DE affects the ground water availability in NJ and MD. Potential of law suits at Supreme Court level if it appears DE is not doing its homework. We have to get that going in FY09, not FY10. Do we spend money for technical information or legal talent and technical information? We have to get going with Phase 1 as soon as possible. **Lorraine:** I think I heard Talley say he can see his way clear to start with existing wells very soon [yes]. We better also start exploring potential sources right away and start working on initiation of new General Assembly ASAP. **Kathy:** Expressed that we need to plan a fact sheet and background sheet soon because it takes awhile to get things going. The good news is we will have some federal money within the next few months and a larger portion later.

John: DNREC should sit down with DGS and develop a project proposal as soon as possible. We should draft a fact sheet as soon as possible and have something put together within the next month. **Scott Andres:** Wrote a one-page summary that is on the Web site now. That is a good place to start. Graphs on that presentation are available for something more extensive. DGS will work with DNREC and Jerry and try to get this done in the next 6 weeks. Talley invited Vic to be involved. **Jerry:** Felt this was a good plan. It is in line with political cycle and economics.

OTHER BUSINESS

DRBC Water Resources Program–Stewart Lovell–Basically there was another assessment done that supported the first Corps of Engineers' study. There will be further investigation by DNREC and DRBC.

David Sayers: The DRBC Water Resources Program provides a snapshot of results from the DRBC/Army Corps report. The report is not ready yet but is in a very near final state and should be issued within next couple of months. The study area comprised the entire Delaware River

Basin, broken into 147 watersheds. What we tried to do was apply a consistent methodology in all four states that would compliment the states' own planning processes. Our study results did align with known areas of concern in Delaware, but the state is further ahead of PA and NJ in the planning process and has already implemented strategies to help resolve known issues. Our methodology also relied on estimates of agricultural water use and sources of supply, based on Ag. census data that proved not to be applicable in Delaware. These data issues were discussed by DRBC and DNREC recently and changes were made to the report.

Road Salt Meeting Follow Up – Doug Rambo, DNREC–The Water Supply Section reported that the Source Water Protection Program staff met a few times with DelDOT and the surface water systems that provide drinking water in New Castle County. The meetings were requested by United Water Delaware after chloride levels in their drinking water exceeded 500 mg/l, following the President's Day storm in 2007. He indicated that the group applied for a DNREC Non-Point Source grant to study the problem but narrowly missed the cut-off line for funded projects. He stated that the Source Water Protection Program is investigating the use of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) set-aside money for some rounds of water quality sampling to investigate the issue. DNREC is awaiting a response from USEPA to see if the project is a viable use of DWSRF monies. It's quite possible some of the salt may be coming down from PA. Christina Clean Water Basin Committee would be the perfect place to address that.

Emergency Response Contacts – Doug Rambo, DNREC. Doug mentioned that the Water Supply Section is updating a publication used by emergency responders detailing where the State's public, industrial, and commercial surface water intakes are located. This project was first put together in 1996 and was updated in 2001. Since then the number of intakes increased, and it was decided to update the list once again. The 2008 document will have a 3x increase over the number of intakes that were permitted in the 2001 version (40). **Jerry** asked if the DNREC plans to share this document with first responders in Pennsylvania. **Stewart** answered that it would be a good idea if DNREC would do that. **Jerry** stated that he would provide contact information for Chester County, PA authorities via e-mail. **Vic:** We have to make a decision whether it is or is not an emergency to water supplies. I don't want to go from there unless it is a water supply problem. **Tom Hubbard:** The reality is watersheds all over the country are grappling with this. Is it a problem? Yes. Is it an emergency? I don't know. Even if it wasn't an emergency, it makes a lot of sense to do this study. **Lorraine:** From another perspective, while it may not turn out to be a serious problem for drinking water, it is very serious for aquatic life. Jerry asked Doug to make sure people in PA have an updated contact list. Stewart asked Jerry to give DNREC names of the contact person that he has for updating the contact list.

Emerging Contaminants: Stewart Lovell–This refers to basically everything not currently regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act; e.g., pharmaceutical products, personal care products, etc. In our area, there are a handful of studies done. The good news—contaminants were recorded in very low concentrations (parts per trillion). At this date, there are no recommendations to add these to list of regulated compounds (one added to candidate list). It is an ongoing study occurring in upper region of the Brandywine by the City of Wilmington and USGS. They are going to do quarterly sampling. It started two years ago and will continue

another 2-3 years. EPA solicited comments on this issue from DNREC. The Secretary replied basically with what I suggested we did. Because there is increasing emphasis to get the proper way of disposal to the public, we had two drives to collect these items. Many thousands were collected. **Ed Hallock:** We are doing some sampling (Cancer Consortium). We have 85-90 monitoring wells. Now we are sampling shallow public wells. We have 200 samples–collected 116. (one-time snapshots). There are no results yet. Sometime before end of the year, we should have a report that will be made public through the Cancer Consortium. **Dorothy Miller** asked if anyone was looking at herbicides. They are using them along Creek Road close to the White Clay. I would like to see somebody address this issue. **Ed Hallock:** We do monitor a set of herbicides.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was to be December 11, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dept. of Agriculture, but the date later was changed to December 18.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting handouts can be found at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx

Minutes respectfully submitted by
 Juanda F. Duley
 DNREC, Division of Water Resources

* * * * *

ATTENDANCE LIST

Scott	Andres	DE Geological Survey
Stephanie	Baxter	DE Geological Survey
Scott	Blaier	DE Dept. of Agriculture
Valann	Budischak	DE Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
Katherine	Bunting-Howarth	DNREC, DWR
Bruce	Burcat	DE Public Service Commission
Michael	Clar	New Castle County Dept of Land Use

Joseph	DiNunzio	Artesian Water Co.
Ed	Durst	DEMA
Lorraine	Fleming	DE Nature Society
Kelly	Glenn	Sussex Shores Water Co.
Brenna	Goggin	DE Nature Society
Diana	Golt	Kent Co. Gov.
Ed	Hallock	Division of Public Health

Andrew	Homsey	Water Resources Agency
Thomas	Hubbard	United Water DE
Charles	Jenner	DE Grounds Mgmt. Assoc.
Gerald	Kauffman	Water Resources Agency
Patti	Deptula	Sussex County Gov.
Bruce	Kraeuter	Artesian Water Co.
Stewart	Lovell	DNREC, DWR/WSS
Andrea	Maucher	DE Public Service Commission
Matt	Miller	City of Wilmington
Dorothy	Miller	Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys
G. Arthur	Padmore	DE Public Advocate
Nancy	Parker	Artesian Water

Thomas A.	Roth	Sussex Co. Association of Towns
John	Rudd	State Fire Office
David	Sayers	DE River Basin Commission
Sheila	Shannon	Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
Victor	Singer	Civic League for New Castle Co.
Susan	Skomorucha	United Water DE
John	Talley	DE Geological Survey
Jonathan J.	Urbanski	Bidermann Golf Course
Martin	Wollaston	Water Resources Agency, UD
Bill	Zimmerman	Newark Dept. of Water
Mary Ellen	Gray	Kent Co.