

**North Carolina Environmental Management Commission -  
Water Allocation Committee  
Meeting Summary**

512 N. Salisbury Street  
Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building  
Raleigh, NC

9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, January 9, 2013

**Water Allocation Committee (WAC)**

Commissioner Mayor Darryl D. Moss, Chair  
Commissioner Stephen Smith, EMC Chair  
Commissioner Marvin S. Cavanaugh, Sr.  
Commissioner Steve Keen  
Commissioner Jeffrey Morse  
Commissioner Dickson Phillips, III  
Commissioner Clyde E. Smith, Jr.  
Commissioner Steve Tedder  
Commissioner Amy Pickle  
Commissioner Benne C. Hutson

**Item I. Preliminary Matters**

**1. Committee Chairman, Commissioner Mayor Darryl D. Moss**, called the meeting to order. Pursuant to Executive Order Number One, the committee chairman called upon committee members to evaluate the matters to come before the committee and to identify any known conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest. There were no conflicts of interest.

**2. Minutes and Agenda**

The committee approved the minutes of the September and the November meetings as a true and accurate summary of the proceedings. The agenda for the September meeting included the Broad River basin model approval, an update on the Cape Fear River basin model and an update on the current interbasin transfer requests. The agenda for the November meeting included the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities interbasin transfer certificate background and re-opener process.

**Item II. Information Items**

**1. [Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area \(CCPCUA\) 5-Year Assessment](#)**

There is still a substantial cone of depression in both the Black Creek and Upper Cape Fear aquifers, but they have shown improvement during past several years. The CCPCUA is a 15-county area of the central portion of the coastal plain. There are currently 272 permit holders and 62 annual registrations in 2011. Permits are required for ground water use above 100,000 gallons per day. Registrations are required for ground water use between 10,000 and 100,000 gallons per day. Registrations are required for surface water use above 10,000 gallons per day. Within the Cretaceous aquifers, there are three critical zones of water use. These are the declining water level zone, the dewatering zone and the salt water encroachment zone. Those three zones were established and each permit holder was assigned an approved base rate. Water users are required to reduce withdrawals between 2002 and 2018 by between 30 to 75 percent, in three phases, from their approved base rate. This affects 60 of the 272 permit holders. The dewatering zone refers to an area

of the 15-county region where the water levels had been drawn down below the top of the aquifer. The declining water level zone is a zone where water levels were declining at a precipitous rate and the salt-water encroachment zone is where the division was seeing the boundary between fresh water and salt water moving land-ward or upward.

## **2. Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) Request to Convert Allocation**

This is not rule-making, but the EMC acts as the decision maker when it comes to Jordan Lake allocations. OWASA passed a resolution to move forward with converting to a Level 1 allocation and sent a letter in to DWR. In the March meeting, DWR will be requesting to move forward with that conversion. The reason OWASA wants to move forward is because, as part of their Water Shortage Response Plan, they need to access to the Jordan Lake water and will need a Level 1 allocation. The different levels were originally put together as an accounting tool to allow municipalities to defer costs. A Level 2 allocation means a municipality does not need to use Jordan Lake right away, so they only have to pay the interest and the operations and maintenance costs. Level 1 municipalities have to pay on the principal, interest and the operations and maintenance. The allocation levels are used as an accounting tool so that municipalities can delay costs until they need to use Jordan Lake water. The March meeting will include more detail on this process. There is some controversy about the proposed allocation level change. The controversy lies in a group within OWASA who do not feel Jordan Lake is a good water supply source. In the March meeting, there will be more information on the reasons behind the controversy and more information on the background about why the EMC is the body that decides the allocations for Jordan Lake.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, **Chairman Mayor Darryl D. Moss**, dismissed the assembly at 9:37 a.m.