

**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, March 9, 2011

**Water Allocation Committee (WAC):**

Commissioner Mayor Darryl D. Moss, Chair  
Commissioner Stephen Smith, EMC Chair  
Commissioner Frank Crawley, EMC Counsel  
Commissioner Donnie Brewer  
Commissioner William L. Hall, Jr.  
Commissioner David H. Moreau  
Commissioner Jeffrey Morse  
Commissioner Dickson Phillips, III  
Commissioner Forrest R. Westall, Sr.

**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.

**2. Minutes and Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January meeting because they had just received them the night prior. The Committee approved the minutes of the January meeting as a true and accurate summary of the proceedings. The agenda for the March meeting included an annual status report on the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area program.

**Item II. Information Items**

**1. [Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area \(CCPCUA\) Program Update](#)**

**Discussion:** The Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA) permitting program requires people who use more than 100,000 gallons of groundwater per day to get a permit. Registrations are required for anyone using more than 10,000 gallons per day of either surface or ground water. The program is moving toward a completely paperless system, which has been helpful, but has added complications as well. There are 15 counties in the central coastal plain capacity use area and it covers ~8,000 square miles. There were 236 permit holders and 81 registrations in 2009. The program assigned an approved base rate to users in the Cretaceous aquifer zones. Reductions in water withdrawals are required from the approved base rates. Those rates are based on usage from 1997 or August 1999 through July 2000. In response to reductions, regional water supply of surface water has developed and individual systems are using shallower aquifers. Water treatment capability has also increased. There are many more interconnections between the systems.

The combined approved base rate (ABR) is 57.3 million gallons per day, which was established from the annual usage rates. Withdrawals recorded in the registration program are roughly 10 percent of the water withdrawals by permit holders. We are capturing the majority of the usage in the permitting program, which makes it more likely that the program will succeed. The agricultural community reports the usage by county and limits its reports using their non-disclosure policy, so we don't have the agricultural usage broken down by aquifer.

What's the basis for the non-disclosure policy? The basis comes from the federal census. There have been substantial reductions in the use of those aquifers. Why does it matter if they report it? What's the security issue? The Farm Bill prevents disclosure of what's going on in the individual farms, but large agricultural users (greater than 100,000 gallons per day) still need a permit.

Surficial means an unconfined aquifer, or the water table aquifer.

What sort of mines does that relate to and where are they? It applies to any of the mines, including sand pits and rock quarries. PCS Phosphate is an example in the CCPCUA.

Going paperless was a goal to increase accuracy of what's getting into the databases. Permittees can apply for permits and log in to record withdrawals and water levels. So far, 40 percent of the permittees are participating. There was a very fast move toward using these on-line forms.

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) is also looking at conservation measures. The rules set forth minimum conservation measures that various types of users will adopt depending on what type of system. DWR is trying to get the most updated information and has added this form to the on-line reporting system, so it reflects the current conservation measures. Kinston does very well. There was only seven percent of water unaccounted for in 2009.

Alternate sources of water: The Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) has been using the Tar River as a water source for some time. There is an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate in the process. Martin County will serve water to other communities within Martin County. There are several users that have alternate sources of water. So far, there has been a total of \$330 million dollars invested in alternate supplies. The Neuse River Water and Sewer Authority's (NRWASA) intake reduced withdrawals from the Cretaceous aquifer and replaced it with Neuse River water. DWR is seeing the aquifers responding faster than the division previously thought they would.

The recovery maps are derived by subtracting one potentiometric surface from a later surface. You get what looks like a mound. There is a map of recovery in Black Creek aquifer. New Bern is now making use of Castle Hayne aquifer. Even other sources of water are coming online. The recovery is reflected in hydrographs and the recovery map. What affect does drought have on recovery? The biggest influence on the Cretaceous aquifers is the amount of water withdrawn. It takes longer for rainfall to infiltrate into the aquifer and recharge takes place over hundreds or thousands of years.

Are you monitoring what's happening with surficial aquifers? Yes, there are well stations that monitor these. You can see how water moves through the system and how water is affecting the

deeper aquifers. DWR is monitoring other aquifers as well. Recovery is not only happening in the 15 counties of the central coastal plain. We are seeing recovery in the Lower Cape Fear aquifer because of a plant closure in Virginia, for example. DWR gives status reports on a five year basis. 2013 will be the next status report.

The Western Wake partners' meeting was a success and there were representatives from Cary, Apex, Chatham County. IBT issues finally came to a successful end and it was a skillfully moderated meeting. Everyone did a great job ending a contentious issue. It was truly a success story and represents a tremendous step. The staff did a wonderful job and accomplished what it is supposed to do. There were years of interactions with the communities and this was not a purely regulatory item.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, **Chairman Mayor Darryl D. Moss**, dismissed the assembly at 9:53 a.m.