

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

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

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Water Allocation Committee (WAC):

Commissioner Mayor Darryl D. Moss, Chair
Commissioner Stephen Smith, EMC Chair
Commissioner Donnie Brewer
Commissioner Marvin S. Cavanaugh, Sr.
Commissioner Steve Keen
Commissioner David H. Moreau
Commissioner Jeffrey Morse
Commissioner Dickson Phillips, III
Commissioner Clyde E. Smith, Jr.
Commissioner Steve Tedder

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 July meeting as a true and accurate summary of the proceedings. The agenda for the July meeting included three information items: A legislative update, a report on the schedule of basin model development and an interbasin transfer update.

Item II. Information Items

1. Interbasin Transfer Update

Kerr Lake Regional Water System submitted their Notice of Intent in January of 2009. A draft Environmental Impact Statement was received in September of 2011. The division has provided comments back to them. DENR will submit a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by January of 2012 and provide comments back.

Virginia is in the process of completing their draft water supply plan and has an improved database. There will be an update of the Roanoke River basin model. The draft EIS will go to the EMC for public review in the summer of fall of 2012. There will be public hearing and a clearinghouse review. Details can be found on the division's website at

[http://www.ncwater.org/Permits and Registration/Interbasin Transfer/](http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Interbasin_Transfer/).

2. Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA) Update

Cretaceous aquifers were formed 128 to 63 million years ago. They are currently being overdrawn. There are infrastructure improvements with associated costs. In the 15-county CCPCUA, there are 250 permits. They have to register their withdrawals if they withdraw between 10,000 to 100,000 gallons per day and obtain water use permits if they exceed 100,000 gallons per day. The CCPCUA reductions are based on the approved base rate. The reductions take place from the approved base rate. The annual usage from 1997-2000 is what determined the approved base rate. Annual usage has to be cut back to meet the CCPCUA requirements which means they will have to find alternate sources of water.

Shallower well systems had to have better water filtration systems. The three phases of reduction will bring us to a level of use that we can use for years to come. We are looking at the usage by each aquifer. In 2010, there was a large reduction from 57 to 20 million gallons per day.

Jeffrey Morse indicated that consumption has remained stable, but asked if conservation had changed. The division can look into that. They all have plans to be more efficient.

Stephen Smith asked why Beaufort County is higher. PCS Phosphate is located there and there is a lot of aquaculture.

Steve Keen asked if the regionalization in Onslow County is due to salt water intrusion. There are various alternatives that each system has access to. The way that salt water intrusion is drawn is based on where we have seen drawdowns. The zones are set up based on how aquifers are responding.

Counties that have sanitary districts have become independent over time. How will DWR further study this by 2030? Each system has put forward a plan and we have given them permits to work toward that goal. DWR can give advice about how to proceed but it's ultimately up to them to figure it out.

The program is trying to go fully paperless. The registrant can go to the website and register without filling paper out forms. There has been about 50 percent participation thus far. There used to be a lot of paperwork. Going paperless will also help improve accuracy.

Alternate Sources: Greenville Utilities Commission will serve Tar River water to more communities. They are currently working through the interbasin transfer process and fulfilling various conservation efforts.

Neuse WASA has eight users within Lenoir and Pitt counties. Neuse WASA has a surface water treatment plant. Martin County is in the process of building a surface water treatment plant.

Many systems are looking for alternates to using the Peedee aquifer. Recharge is faster in this area. 330 million dollars of investment have gone into this alternate water source endeavor. Water levels are beginning to recover in the area surrounding Neuse WASA.

Pressure is now higher in the aquifer in the Black Creek aquifer. The rise is associated with the Neuse WASA plant.

The Upper Cape Fear aquifer has had a similar type of rebound. Water levels are now rising near Cove City.

There is a great deal of information on the CCPCUA program on the DWR website at http://www.newwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Capacity_Use/Central_Coastal_Plain/.

Marvin Cavanaugh asked how much emphasis is placed on water reuse. There is a requirement in the rule that systems use water as efficiently as possible, although DWR is not telling them specifically which reuse techniques to utilize.

3. Session Law 2011-374 (House Bill 609) Report

DWR is looking into an affordable way of implementing this law. The authorization will be through a state and local partnership. DWR is working with systems to come up with a need.

Dr. Moreau stated there are good things about state and local partnership, although he wondered if there was a conflict that's created in assisting the applicant. Because of the structure of permitting the initial conflict already exists. DWR's role is facilitation more than anything.

Donnie Brewer talked about the true costs of providing water. DWR cannot require efficiency measures that are above and beyond what's already out there.

Butch Smith asked if the state will be involved in the 404 permitting requirements. Only the Corps can make a least environmentally damaging practical alternative (LEDPA) decision? The state will work on an assessments analysis with the local government.

There have been about a dozen of reservoirs built in North Carolina in the last 20 years. The process is designed to facilitate local governments having water for the future.

Mayor Moss asked about funding with Clean Water Management Trust fund. Their budget got dramatically cut. There is a provision that they can fund future reservoirs.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Chairman Mayor Darryl D. Moss**, dismissed the assembly at 12:01 p.m.