

## Town of Aulander

### Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP)

#### I. Authority

The authority for activating the WSRP when necessary lies with the Board of Commissioners. The alternate authority rests with the Water/wastewater Supervisor. The official spokesperson for the Town for all media contacts and press releases shall be the Commissioners. The Aulander Board of Commissioners has reviewed and approved the WSRP by resolution. Upon declaration of a water shortage, all entities associated with this system will enforce the appropriate water use restrictions and/or percent reduction goals for each level or phase of response to a water shortage. The Commissioners shall enact the plan when the triggers in section IV are met.

#### II. Notification of water use restrictions

Water users and system employees will be notified of required response measures by:

- A. Independent mailings to major users.
- B. Bill stuffers to all customers.
- C. Newspaper ads.
- D. Radio public service announcements.
- E. Flyers and handouts.

#### III. Levels of Response

The Town will take the actions listed below during each phase of a water shortage.

##### A. Voluntary Conservation phase

1. Inform the public about the potential problem.
2. Issue a water shortage advisory.
3. Set conservation goals and prepare for decreasing supply.
4. Request voluntary conservation from all water users.

##### B. Mandatory Restriction phase

1. Inform the public about the problem.
2. Issue a water shortage alert.
3. Set increased conservation goals.
4. Ban or restrict all Class 3 (non-essential) water use.
5. Request voluntary conservation for all other water uses.
6. Monitor compliance with the ban on use and enforce when necessary.

7. Make preparations to purchase water from Bertie County

##### C. Emergency Response phase

1. Issue water shortage emergency declaration.
2. Set increased conservation goals.
3. Ban all Class 2 (non-essential) water uses.
4. Ban or restrict Class 2 (socially and economically important) water uses.
5. Request additional conservation from Class 1 (essential) water users.
6. Monitor all drought activities, especially compliance with the bans and enforcement.
7. Enact advanced restriction pricing with for overuse.
8. Keep the public informed about the increased water shortage severity.
9. Purchase water from Bertie County as required.

D. Return to normal water supply conditions

When water shortage conditions have abated and the water supply situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during the Voluntary, Mandatory, and Emergency phases can be decreased in reverse order of implementation.

#### IV. Triggers

The Water/wastewater supervisor will establish the normal pumping water level for each well by routine monthly measurement of pumping and static water levels. Drought conditions will be monitored each month by the Town Clerk by checking advisories from the NC Drought Management Advisory Council (<http://www.ncdrought.org/>). The Town Clerk will alert the Mayor and the Water/wastewater Supervisor of extreme drought conditions and the necessity of initiating the WSRP. The following events will trigger the Voluntary, Mandatory, and Emergency phases of a water shortage.

A. Voluntary Conservation phase

1. The Voluntary Conservation phase begins when the NC Drought Management Advisory Council declares an extreme drought for the area, or when pumping levels in any of the wells reach 40% of the normal difference between pumping levels and the pump intake.
2. The Water/wastewater Supervisor shall begin monitoring the pumping water levels in the wells on a weekly basis.
3. The daily pumping time for the wells will be recorded.
4. Daily water usage will be recorded.

B. Mandatory Restriction phase

1. The trigger for beginning mandatory restrictions will be when the pumping level in any of the wells reaches 30% of the normal difference between the pumping level and the pump intake.
2. The Water/wastewater Supervisor shall continue to monitor and record pumping water levels weekly and daily pumping times.

3. If pumping times exceed 12 hours per day, water purchases from Bertie County will be considered.
4. Daily water usage will be recorded.

C. Emergency Response Phase

1. The trigger for beginning the Emergency Response phase will be when the pumping level in any of the wells reaches 15% of the normal difference between the pumping levels and the pump intake.
2. The Water/wastewater Supervisor shall continue to monitor pumping water levels weekly, and daily pumping times.
3. Water purchases from Bertie County will be considered.
4. Daily water usage will continue to be recorded.

V. Enforcement

- A. First Offense: A written warning will be issued to the offender.
- B. Second Offense: A \$25 will be issued to the offender for a second offense.
- C. Multiple Offenses: A \$50 fine will be issued to the offender each additional offense.

VI. Public Comment

A draft copy of this WSRP will be available for public review and comment at the Town Hall for a period of thirty days. A public notice advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper to notify the public. Substantive comments will be incorporated into the plan.

VII. Variance Protocols

Any requests for variances from the mandatory or emergency bans on water use will be presented to the Aulander Board of Commissioners for consideration. Variances will be granted based on their merit and will be voted on by the Board.

VIII. Effectiveness of the WSRP

The effectiveness of the WSRP shall be measured by comparing current monthly water usage (30-day average) with the historical normal (non-drought) average usage for the month in which the shortage occurs. Daily water usage and well run times, and weekly pumping levels shall be monitored and recorded, as each phase of the response plan is implemented. Water usage shall be compared with historical normal usage as each phase of water restriction is implemented to determine the percent effectiveness of voluntary and mandatory water use reduction.

1. Determine the historical normal monthly water usage from previous non-drought records.
2. Determine the current water usage from current records for past 30 days.
3. To determine the percent effectiveness, divide the current 30-day average by the historical normal monthly average.

#### IX. Revision of WSRP

This plan shall be reviewed for necessary changes after each implementation to ensure that it remains current and practical. This plan shall be revised to adapt to new circumstances, such as the addition of new water supplies, and shall be revised every five years.

#### X. Classes of water use

##### A. Class 1: Essential

1. Domestic use: Water necessary to sustain human life and the live of domestic pets, and to maintain minimum standards of hygiene and sanitation.
2. Health Care Facilities: Patient care and rehabilitation, including pools used for patient care and rehabilitation.
3. Public Use:
  - a. Firefighting, including teating and drills by the department if performed in the interest of public safety and is approved by the Town of Aulander.
  - b. Flushing of sewers and hydrants as needed to ensure public health and safety and if approve by the Town of Aulander.

##### B. Class 2: Socially or Economically Important

1. Domestic Use: All domestic uses other than those included in Classes 1 and 3.
  - a. Home water use including kitchen, bathroom and laundry use.
  - b. Minimal watering of vegetable gardens.
  - c. Watering of trees where necessary to preserve them.
2. Commercial, agricultural, industrial and institutional uses.
  - a. Outdoor commercial watering (public or private) using conservation measures.
  - b. Irrigation for commercial vegetable gardens and fruit orchards or the maintenance of livestock.
  - c. Watering by commercial nurseries at a minimum level to maintain stock.
  - d. Use of freshwater at a minimum rate necessary to establish vegetation following earth-moving, where vegetation is required by law or regulation.
  - e. Commercial can and truck washes.
  - f. Commercial Laundromats.
  - g. Restaurants.
  - h. Schools, churches, motels and similar commercial establishments.

##### C. Class 3: Non-essential

1. Ornamental Purposes, fountains, reflecting pools, and artificial waterfalls.
2. Outdoor non-commercial watering (public or private)
  - a. Gardens and lawns.
  - b. Filling and operation of recreational swimming pools.
  - c. Non-commercial washing of motor vehicles.