

Water Supply Coordinating Council  
October 26, 2011  
Draft Minutes

**ADMINISTRATIVE – Kathy Stiller**

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Kathy Stiller who announced that she was pleased to meet and chair the Council. Also, the administrative functions formerly done by her office would revert to the Water Supply Section. Self-introductions were made. Attendance list is below.

**Minutes**

The March 31, 2011 minutes had a minor change to properly accredit United Water Delaware's utility report to them, not Sussex County. Also, some recalled a motion being made at that meeting but it was not reflected in the minutes. Others believed there was no motion and other thought it was at the previous meeting. With the correction and a request to do a fact check the minutes were approved. Fact Check: At the December 16, 2010 meeting the only motion mentioned in the minutes was one from the chair who asked on the desire of the Council to declare a Drought Watch (it was never so moved)

Final minutes are online at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx).

**WATER CONDITIONS REPORT – DGS – Stefanie Baxter**

Stef summarized the *Analysis of Northern Delaware Drought Advisory Guidelines for September 30, 2011*, which can be found on <http://www.dgs.udel.edu>. Most indicators are above or far above normal except for a lingering lag in Sussex.

**FALL/WINTER FORECAST SYNOPSIS – David Legates, State Climatologist**

Nationally, there had been wide ranges in precipitation amounts and Delaware was similar with a sharp demarcation existing between the northern two-thirds and the southern one-third of the state. While precipitation had been as much as 200% above normal in the northern portion, it remained less than normal in the southern part. The excessive rains had a recurrence frequency of at least 1 in 50 years. The winter is forecasted by the Climate Prediction System to continue in a weak La Nina state, which typically translates to temperature in the Mid-Atlantic being somewhat above normal and precipitation somewhat below normal. However, conditions overlap with transition of ENSO states so forecasts are not very reliable and other variables can come into play. Accordingly, NOAA gives us Equal Chances for above, normal or below normal temperature and precipitation. The big variable will be the phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and if it goes negative (high latitude blocking) this can dramatically change the weather outcome. Victor Singer commented on the long term versus short term implications of variation in ENSO state.

**WATER UTILITY REPORTS**

**Artesian – Joe DiNunzio:** Wells are in excellent condition. ASR remains in recovery mode with injection planned to begin in December for a target storage volume of 100 MG by spring of 2012. Artesian had also been supplying Middletown to supplement them due to the replacement of two of their wells.

**Newark–Roy Simonson:** The supply was in good shape with the reservoir at capacity. Dorothy Miller asked about the options for replacing Dam #5. Roy explained this is the dam at the head of race supplying the treatment plant. Storms had caused significant damage and repairs were needed. As an alternative the City was looking into various options including the installation of a Ranney system. He was considering giving a presentation on the subject.

**New Castle –** Not present.

**United Water Delaware – Susan Skomorucha:** Overall, operations are normal, and 16 MG remained in storage in the ASR well. She noted that demand was up from this time last year. Victor Singer asked at what flow the TCS goes into operation. Stewart Lovell replied 42 MGD.

**Wilmington– Matt Miller:** Demand was running between 18 and 20 MGD. Hoopes Reservoir has been drawn down over the summer to -4 feet and the City had begun some refilling, bringing it back to the 88-foot level, and the remaining 2 feet would be allowed to refill naturally. Matt also noted that they would be doing an upgrade at the Brandywine Treatment Plant to install a membrane filter and this would take the plant off-line for about a year. Sheila Shannon asked if a tour would be possible and Susan Skomorucha asked if water quality improvements would result. Matt did not know on either question.

**Sussex Shores –** Not present

**Tidewater - Sheila Shannon:** Supplies were plentiful and demand was normal or slightly below normal.

**KENT-SUSSEX WATER SUPPLY PLAN – DGS: Pete McLaughlin/Amanda Lawson  
WRA: Jerry Kauffman**

Pete provided an outline of the project as consisting of updates in three parts; Supply, Demand, and Water Allocations, and the need for this work since it had been 35 years since the previous compilation. Demand projections are extended to 2030 and a 13 MGD increase is foreseen due to population increase and the continuing growth of agricultural irrigation. The objectives of DGS's tasks are to provide aquifer maps for both the confined and unconfined aquifer systems, provide aquifer parameters, and compile usage data for each aquifer. The usage data would be for the period of 2004-2007, or more recently if available. Also, usage data that would have to be estimated would be done with new, high-quality methods. He then provided a brief status report on each objective. He admitted the work was way behind schedule but it is progressing. Amanda Lawson then presented on some of the difficulty with the demand data and that far more time had been required to deal with this element than had been expected. The data tended to be

confusing and contained many gaps. Pete finished by stating the goal was to complete work by the end of Q2, 2012.

Jerry reiterated the charge of the Council under statute and thus the importance of the study effort for one of its benefits of fostering economic development. He outlined a timeline for submission of the first draft to Council in January, a second draft in March, and a final report by June. He added that two demand scenarios were planned; one with climate-change impacts and one without.

Discussion ensued with Andrea Maucher asking if conservation was being considered, such as for code changes. Jerry replied yes, and then recommended the Council agree to the revised schedule as he proposed. Stewart Lovell offered some details on the water usage and water allocation data going into the report. He said it was purposely being delayed to allow for the most recent data to be incorporated, providing data up to the end of 2011. Pete suggested that the first draft in January might be too optimistic, to which Victor Singer replied that without an optimistic schedule, the target is guaranteed to be missed. Lorraine Fleming wondered how the data problems could be fixed, and Susan Skomorucha asked if possibly the data were being double counted. Pete explained the data were accurate; it was reporting irregularities that were the problem. The Council informally agreed to stick with the schedule and do its best to meet it.

## **GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN NEW CASTLE COUNTY (SNCC) & NORTHERN KENT COUNTY (NKC) – DGS – Scott Andres**

Scott did a history on ground-water evaluation methods starting with the 1950s to date showing the evolution from analytical methods by hand to numerical methods with state-of-the art computer modeling, and the various tools and data inputs involved. He said these types of studies are now on 10-year life cycles due to rapid advances in the field. As far as the current study, he outlined tasks for each phase and said the first phase had been completed, the second phase had been granted a capital appropriation and was underway, and the scope of work for the final phase was being refined. He also noted a cooperative agreement between the DGS and Rutgers would provide valuable resource benefits and that financial arrangements were being worked out. The project is tentatively planned to last 30 months, but a start date has not been set yet.

Laura Mensch asked what analytes would be tested and Scott said typical ions, and some set of VOCs in the shallow aquifer including disinfection by-products. Victor Singer pressed for more details on the schedule. Kathy Stiller offered that there is a first step in the process which is contracting, then comes the purchase order but the latter has become more and more burdensome due to heightened attention from OMB on budgets and spending. She said to expect the process to take several months. Pete also noted that there had been some add-ons to the scope of work requested by DNREC, and spring of 2012 would be the very earliest drilling could begin. The add-on work could not be done without extra funds or aid from a cooperator such as the Cancer Consortium. Either way the project will remain tightly focused on the long-term infrastructure needs. Victor Singer wanted to see the primary tasks implemented first, and then use any excess funds for the add-ons. Kathy stated the add-ons were not big ticket items. Victor became critical

of what he saw as excessive delays implying there was foot dragging on the part of DNREC. Stewart objected saying that with a project of this magnitude and complexity, the correct approach is to get it right, not get it fast. This did not mean that there was foot-dragging either, and that his top priority was to get the P.O. executed as soon as possible.

Lorraine asked which aquifers had problems with arsenic and Scott replied the Rancocas Group and the Mt. Laurel.

Andrea reminded the utilities of the PSC filing schedule.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**NEXT MEETING – CHAIR**

February 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, with an alternate time of 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The minutes/notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Water Supply Coordinating Council members in supplementing their personal notes and recall of Board discussions and presentations and to provide information to Board Members unable to attend. Minutes recorded and submitted by S. Lovell.

Attendees: Listed alphabetically by last name.

First Name	Last Name
Scott	Andres
Stefanie	Baxter
Valann	Budischak
LeFeisha	Cannon
Joseph	DiNunzio
Sharon	Duca
Lorraine	Fleming
Hal	Godwin
Mary Ellen	Gray

First Name	Last Name
George	Haggerty
Ed	Hallock
Paul	Hyland
Gerald	Kauffman
Amanda	Lawson
David	Legates
Stewart	Lovell
Andrea	Maucher
Peter	McLaughlin

