

**WATER SUPPLY COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**September 24, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

**ADMINISTRATIVE – Kathy Bunting-Howarth**

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

**Self Introductions** were made. Attendance list is below.

**Minutes**

The May 5, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

**WEATHER FORECAST SYNOPSIS – STATE CLIMATOLOGIST– DGS – David Legates**

Precipitation for May through August 2009 was quite varied with May being near normal; June being above normal by more than 3 inches in Kent and Sussex Counties; July being below normal, especially in Kent County; and August being above normal by more than 3 inches in New Castle and Sussex Counties. The U.S. Drought Monitor has all of Delaware in non-drought conditions, which is an improvement over the May report where all of Delaware was listed as “abnormally dry” and an improvement over last year when 80.1% of Delaware was listed as “abnormally dry.” Drought tendencies for the near future do not foresee an increase in drought for Delaware.

Long-term climate forecasts from the Climate Prediction Center indicate that the La Niña conditions of the spring have given way to El Niño conditions that should build throughout the winter. As a result, the long-term forecast for fall, winter, and next spring strongly reflect a winter-time El Niño influence with colder and wetter conditions across the southeastern states and warmer and drier conditions in the Appalachians and Midwestern states. How the weather patterns of Delaware play out over these coming months will depend on the spatial character of this particular El Niño event.

A copy of the presentation can be found at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/WSCC.aspx).)

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

New Castle County

The Water Conditions Index for August rose well above the Drought Watch level to 13.44. The 12-month (August 2008-August 2009) precipitation running surplus was 1.70" at Wilmington. The water level for September in well Db24-18 near Ogletown was at 12.10' feet below land surface. September marked the third consecutive month that the water level in Db24-18 was in the Normal range. The 30-day moving average on the Brandywine for the period ending

September 21, 2009 was 267.4 mgd. The guideline for Drought Watch is 85 mgd. The 30-day moving average on the White Clay Creek at Stanton (filter plant) for the period ending September 21, 2009 was 156.2 mgd. The guideline for Drought Watch is 42 mgd.

#### Kent County

The 12-month (August 2008-August 2009) precipitation running surplus was 2.55" at Dover. The water level for September in well Hb14-01 was 8.20 feet below land surface. The normal water level in this well during September ranges between 6.79 and 9.07 feet below land surface. The 30-day moving average for the period ending September 21, 2009 on the St. Jones River was 51.4 mgd. The mean flow for September is 20.2 mgd.

#### Sussex County

The 12-month (August 2008-August 2009) precipitation running surplus was 6.21" at Lewes. The water level for September in well Qe44-01 near Trap Pond was 8.20 feet below land surface. The normal water level in this well ranges during September between 8.90 and 11.30 feet below land surface. The 30-day moving average for the period ending September 21, 2009 on the Nanticoke River was 71.1 mgd. The mean flow for September is 50.3 mgd.

The presentation is located on the DGS website at <http://www.dgs.udel.edu>.

### **WATER UTILITY REPORTS**

**Artesian: Bruce Krauter:** Water demands have been like winter demands, in excess of 20% below normal expectations in northern New Castle County. Statewide is very similar. The ASR well was redeveloped over the winter - 91 MG was put into storage in the spring. We are currently conducting some additional testing during the recovery phase and are currently pumping the well at about 1.5 MGD.

**Newark: Roy Simonson:** Consumption is down and haven't had to use the reservoir.

**New Castle: Chip Patterson:** Demands down, which has allowed for maintenance.

**United Water: Tom Hubbard:** Down approximately 7%. ASR is in recovery phase—recharge mode next month.

**City of Wilmington: Sean Duffy:** 17-18 mgd in the summary. The Hoopes Reservoir is continuing to be filled and now is 7.5 feet below spill. It was lowered due to working on the raceway in Wilmington. Things are pretty normal. Going to revise Hoopes' operating plan and submit it to WSCC.

### **SELF-SUFFICIENCY FILINGS**

- **Jurisdictional Utilities – PSC – Bruce Burcat**

The PSC received United's and Artesian's self-sufficiency and conservations plans in July. The commission hired two consultants – one to review each company. The Commission will review plans at 10/20/09 meeting and expect to complete process by the end of the calendar year.

- **Non-Jurisdictional Utilities – Stewart Lovell**

City of Wilmington and City of Newark filings were past due since April. A reminder was sent to them, and they submitted their filings. Some additional information is in-hand but more information is needed from these two utilities. The plans should be available to vote on at the next meeting. The City of New Castle is not required under law to submit a plan; however, they prepared a good package and submitted it.

**Vic Singer:** Noticed that on the Newark's submission that the City's charge for sewer service is based on the total annual water consumption rather than just the winter month's consumption. Is basing it on the winter's months still the practice for investor owned utilities?

**Bruce K:** Back in the 70's NCC changed sewer rates to be based on the lower two quarters of water consumption. Investor utilities provide what the county asks.

**Lorraine Fleming:** Asked about the City of Newark's new meters increasing the water bill. What was problem with the old meters and was the whole city done?

**Roy:** The whole city is not done--working on replacing by nature of the meter's design and the way they work. Become less efficient with age.

## **KENT-SUSSEX WATER SUPPLY SCOPE OF WORK – WRA/DGS**

**Jerry Kauffman:** Jerry reviewed the draft scope of work for the Kent County and Sussex County Water Supply Plan that was submitted by the subcommittee on June 30, 2009. The draft scope of work is posted at <http://www.wra.udel.edu/publicservice/waterquantity-waterquality/wsc>. The WRA has commenced work on Task 2 Demographics and Task 4 Water Supply Service Areas (CPCNs). This work is authorized by law under the Water Supply Coordinating Council Act Amendments of 2009.

**Andrew Homsey:** The University of Delaware's Water Resources Agency has begun compiling the demographic and spatial data which will be used to characterize projected water demands in Kent and Sussex Counties. Maps were presented showing wells, wellheads, and excellent recharge areas, as well as water service areas, land use and zoning. An effort will be made to determine actual areas of water provision as well, and population projections will be presented for both counties.

**Kathy:** To what extent would the PSC and Towns participate in this exercise to know the distinction between what's been annexed, what's being served, what's an active CPCN vs. CPCN where not yet being served? Is that out of the scope of this project or are entities not recognized on this scope of work willing to put some resources into this activity to make sure that we have the best data possible for making our recommendations. Andrew stated that there is a disconnect to the data that he has access to like whether or not a CPCN is there whether it's serving or not serving a customer.

**Members:** Back and forth discussion took place on CPCNs. WRA will work with the PSC to obtain the most up-to-date CPCN information.

**Vic:** Action: Asked to work on language in the Introduction Purpose and Scope and provide words to Jerry about insuring continuity of supply. The purpose is to minimize public investment by the investor-owned utilities.

**Steff** expressed concerns from Scott Andres as follows: DGS feels that the scope of work is not adequately developed at this point—our comments have not been adequately addressed. The 18-month schedule is unrealistic. Given the limited resources of all agencies involved, we strongly suggest the subcommittee meet sooner, rather than later, to clear up some lingering issues.

**Lorraine:** Had a couple of comments and questions about the timing of the scope of work being realistic. She expressed that at the last meeting, she questioned DGS about the need for original research and defining the available resources. The answer to the question is critical to the development of the guidelines in completing this. There is an active representative from the League of Local Governments on Source Water Protection group—probably should tap that same source. Can't force the towns, but friendly persuasion might go a long way.

**Kathy:** We have a deadline, there is concern that the scope of work is old data, and we might need new data.

**Jerry:** Multiple meetings were held before the plan was submitted on 6/30. He would like to have known this 3 months ago and will talk with John Talley.

**Steff:** Stated that 18 months is a rush to do this project.

**Kathy:** If original research is needed and requires funding that participants don't have, we need to know that. Maybe that goes into recommendation of a draft report delivered on that date that states we could have finished it and these are preliminary recommendations.

**Vic:** Disagreed with the thought that this is too ambitious. Define problems and determine a path forward and work within a schedule that's defined.

**Steff:** Kent and Sussex Counties is a huge area. Narrow it down to something that is doable in 18 months.

**Vic:** The area that is used as the focal point to deal with the general problem has to be somewhere on the border of Kent and Sussex Counties so it's useful to both.

**Kathy:** Asked if a plan should be general based on the data we have and incorporate a pilot program of areas that states supply and demand and has own separate set of recommendations and conclusions or calls for a 2<sup>nd</sup> level plan?

**Action Item:** Kathy concluded by directing that WRA, DGS, and DNREC meet to resolve issues of concern expressed by DGS, and move forward with further development of the scope of work. Stewart was tasked with arranging the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING – Chair**

A date of December 3, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the same location was approved by the members for the next WSCC meeting. Mary Ellen will check on room availability and let Juanda know.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Juanda Frelin Duley.

**ATTENDANCE LIST :**

Colleen	Arnold
Stephanie	Baxter
Valann	Budischak
Kathy	Bunting-Howarth
Bruce	Burcat
Joseph	DiNunzio
Sean	Duffy
Juanda	Duley
Ed	Durst
Lorraine	Fleming
Hal	Godwin
Mary Ellen	Gray
George	Haggerty
Ed	Hallock
Rich	Heffron
Andrew	Homsey
Thomas	Hubbard
Gerald	Kauffman

Bruce	Kraeuter
David	Legates
Stewart	Lovell
Glen	MacDonald
Andrea	Maucher
Thom	May
Laura	Mensch
Dorothy P.	Miller
G. Arthur	Padmore
Nancy	Parker
Francis (Chip)	Patterson
Thomas A.	Roth
John W.	Rudd
Joanne C.	Rufft
David	Sayers
Roy	Simonson
Victor	Singer