 **Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group**

 ***Meeting Summary***

**Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group (YPDWMG) Meeting**

12PM to 2:30PM, Wednesday, January 19, 2017

*Salisbury-Rowan Utilities Office*

1 Water Street, Salisbury, NC

#####  *Action Items*

The following action items were identified by the Group at the meeting:

* W. Miller will send meeting poll to schedule Group meetings for upcoming quarter. (next meeting will be March)
* R. Hargrove will draft comments to USACE on proposed rules for Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply: Group members who wish to comment can sign on to the letter. Information on proposed rules can be found at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-16/pdf/2016-30017.pdf
* W. Miller will work with newly voted in members of the Group to collect signed MOUs
* W. Miller will send members copies of the Jordan Lake Partnership peer review methodology used in their regional water supply plan.
* Jeff Jones (with W. Miller support) will organize a workshop in early March on local water supply plans for interested group members to share methodologies. Key learnings from the workshop will be reported to full Group at March meeting.

#####  *Welcome and Approval of Minutes*

Chair Christie Putnam called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm and the Group approved the November meeting minutes.

#####  *Presentation on Local Water Supply Plans from NC DEQ*

Linwood Peele of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) presented on local water supply planning to help guide the Group’s future project work. The full PPT presentation is available at [www.ypdwater.org/meetings](http://www.ypdwater.org/meetings)

Mr. Peele then answered questions from the Group. Below is a summary of the questions and responses:

***What is a target for water loss?***

* 5-10%, there is a problem if it is over 15%
* Systems should do a water audit and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) has developed an excel spreadsheet water audit for small water systems. It can be found on the Local Water Supply Plan webpage www.ncwater.org/Water\_Supply\_Planning/Local\_Water\_Supply\_Plan/

***Who else uses the Water Supply Plan?***

* Legislators ask to see these.
* Council of Governments
* Other planning associations
* South Carolina used in 2002 drought in interstate negotiations.

***What is your confidence in the Water Supply Plan?***

* The bigger systems tend to do a better job due to technical staff completing the plan

***Most have groundwater, is there interest in sustainability of groundwater?***

* We do look at domestic (private wells) at a statewide level – the State doesn’t regulate private wells.
* There is not enough good data about domestic well use available.

***Overestimating Water Supply? What kind of science does the State want to see with safe yield?***

* We push hydrologic – began a model that enables us to do safe yield analysis. We also ask water systems to reevaluate their existing yields to ensure it accounts for changes in conditions over the last three droughts.

***Is the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Public Notice period still open on its rules for using USACE reservoirs for water supply?***

* Yes (YPDWMG will draft a letter) DWR recommended that YPDWMG contact Kenny Waldroup with the City of Raleigh as a resource for this. Information on proposed rules can be found at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-16/pdf/2016-30017.pdf

***How do you determine Ag numbers?***

* Users with at least 1 MGD must register with DWR
* State Ag does a periodic survey (every two years) – it is aggregated by counties and basin and is confidential

***How do we get consistency in region in projections?***

* State suggests YPDWMG conduct a peer review of their water supply plan data
* Catawba-Wateree Water Supply Master Plan should match with local water supply plan. DWR reviews and ensures any environmental documentation submitted to the department or Environmental Management Commission must have data that matches the system’s local water supply plan.

***How does the State use local water supply plans (LWSP)?***

* To verify infrastructure funding needs. Occasionally DWR will receive requests from the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) to substantiate water loss claims from systems seeking capital for infrastructure projects.

DWI also checks that funding applicants that should have a LWSP do actually have an “Adopted” LWSP

* To provide data for modeling. DWR uses wastewater discharge data from the plans in basin modeling of available raw water supply in rivers.
* To respond to legislative requests. Occasionally DWR will receive requests from the legislature.
* To help systems become more efficient. The correct use of the plan will allow a system to see their water loss, which can facilitate discussions of setting goals for water loss reduction.
* To help systems meet their future water demands. Ultimately, the intent of the plan is to help systems adequately plan to ensure there is enough supply to meet future demand. When the average demand-supply ratio exceeds 80%, systems must present a plan to increase water supply before plans are approved.
* Used to ensure plan for new development (through Clearinghouse Reviews) will have enough water supply from either ground or surface water sources or both.
* Identify interconnections between water systems.
* To help develop Water Shortage Response Plans.
* Public Water Supply Section Regional staff uses plans to identify water systems’ supply issues, water surpluses to assist other water systems and if LWSP are not approved, then PWSS has an additional process to determine if water supply is adequate for expansion.

***Does the State have a check list it looks at for water supply plans?***

Please see the reporting form [at this link](http://www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Local_Water_Supply_Plan/docs/reporting_form.pdf). Other resources can be found on the [Local Water Supply Plan Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Local_Water_Supply_Plan/learn.php) page in the Forms & Doc box in the upper right corner.

***Does the State have definition for what per capita means?***

Per capita can be looked at in two ways to get a better sense as to what’s driving the system;

* Residential water use / Service population as reported, and
* Total water use for the system / Service population

***What else does the State need in addition to local water supply plans for creating a regional plan?***

It would be beneficial to any party developing a regional plan to have data from all other water users outside of the LWSP, Water Withdrawal Registrations, agricultural surveys, projections of future needs based on projected growth, any future sources that may be planned, pattern of use between multiple sources and how that pattern is determined (reservoir management), and minimum flow release requirements.

***How does the State determine water supply availability – particularly for systems in a reservoir – and for reservoirs with multiple systems drawing water?***

For available supply determination of reservoirs, an analysis that accounts for various flows in and out of the reservoir, minimum flow release requirements, evaporation, and other requirements would need to be applied. For reservoirs with other water supply priorities; such as hydropower production, water systems obtain contracts to withdraw water.

Available supply from hydropower reservoirs is affected by the management criteria in federal licenses issued by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

***How do we have consistency across our region in our projections?***

The State does not require water systems to use a particular methodology to produce water demand projections. The best way to handle this from a regional perspective is to have buy-in from all stakeholders that each system is using an acceptable method for producing demand projections.

***What are best practices in developing local water supply plans?***

Train staff how to complete plan updates. The LWSP instructions are a good starting point to learn the terms, and over the years, DWR has offered workshops to help water systems complete their plans.

Utilize tools on DWR's website to complete the plan. Over the years a number of tools have been developed to help water systems update their plans with reasonable data before submittal. Putting good data in the plan upfront produces a credible plan that can be reviewed and approved much quicker.

* LWSP Completion Assistance Tool
* Workbook to Determine Max Day Well Withdrawal (groundwater systems only)
* LWSP Projections Evaluation Tool (not on website; used in-house primarily for small systems)

Maintain communication among inter-connected systems. Systems that are interconnected should confirm the amount of water bought or sold at the end of the year at a minimum. At this time, the systems should also confirm the amount of water contracted to be sold or purchased. These actions will allow the plans to be reviewed and approved much quicker.

Maintain good contracts among inter-connected systems. Maintaining a good contract can ensure a reliable source of water supply for meeting current and future water demands.

Good recordkeeping. Evaluate the data needed for plans then plan your data collection accordingly.

Good communication among the different water-related facilities within a community so that everyone is using the same data such as population projections.

#####  *Project Management and Administrative Items*

The Group officially voted the following members into the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group:

* Rowan County
* Davie County
* Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County

The Group has $65,000 cash on hand. All but one member has paid their membership fee.

##### *Member Updates*

**Wilkesboro** – Army Corps of Engineers has a stakeholder meeting March 21st or March 28th in Raleigh

**Rowan County** – The County is considering getting in water business – It would be a partnership with Duke Energy in the northeast part of county – We would work with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities to buy bulk water.

**Duke Energy -** 2016 was dry and hot – Duke Energy has a rain gauge system at our power plants that were formerly owned by Duke Power and it has been collecting rainfall data since 1971 (i.e., 45 years) – 2016 was 2nd driest on record. The Group should consider discussing drought triggers, low flow protocols and coordinated drought response planning.

**Salisbury-Rowan Utilities** – We are moving forward on our smart meter program.

**Union County** – Interbasin Transfer (IBT) currently in mediation process.

**Alcoa Power Generating** – We will be changing our name to Cube Hydro Carolinas in February

##### *Future Meeting Discussions*

The following were discussed as future meeting topics:

* Continued discussion on local water supply planning
* Drought triggers, low flow protocols and coordinated drought response planning
* Source water protection planning

##### *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM.

##### *Meeting Attendees*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership Organization** | **Primary Representative** | **Attended** | **Alternate Representative** | **Attended** |
| City of Albemarle | Michael Leonas | X |  |  |
| Alcoa Power Generating | Mark Gross |  | Karen Baldwin | X |
| Cabarrus County Water & Sewer Authority |  |  |  |  |
| City of Charlotte | Barry Gullet |  | Ron Hargrove | X |
| City of Concord | Christie Putnam | X |  |  |
| Davidson County | Zeb M. Hanner | X |  |  |
| Davidson Water, Inc. | Ron Sink | X |  |  |
| Davie County | Johnny Lambert | X |  |  |
| Duke Energy | Jeff Lineberger | X | Edward D. Bruce | X |
| City of Kannapolis | Wilmer Melton |  | Alex Anderson | X |
| City of Monroe | Russell Colbath | X |  |  |
| Rowan County | Aaron Church |  | Ed Muire | X |
| City of Salisbury | Jim Behmer | X | Jeff Jones | X |
| City of Statesville | Joe Hudson | X | Jerry Byerly |  |
| Union County | Edward Goscicki |  | Aubrey Lofton ✓Andy Neff | X |
| Town of Wilkesboro | Sam Call | X |  |  |
| City of Winston-Salem | Courtney Driver |  | Bill Brewer |  |

**Non- Member Attendees:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Representative** | **Email Address** | **Attended** |
| Richmond County | Bryan R. Land | bryan.land@richmondnc.com | X |
| Richmond County | Jerry Austin | jerry.austin@richmondnc.com | X |
| Department of Environmental Quality | Tom Fransen | Tom.Fransen@ncdenr.gov | X |
| Department of Environmental Quality | Melanie Williams | melanie.williams@ncdenr.gov | X |
| Department of Environmental Quality | Linwood Peele | Linwood.peele@ncdenr.gov | X |
| Town of Norwood | John Mullis | townofnorwood@norwoodgov.com | X |
| Yadkin Riverkeeper | Will Scott | will@yadkinriverkeeper.org | X |
| Fountainworks | Warren Miller | warren@fountainworks.com | X |