Lake Marion, August 2008 (Photo courtesy SC State Climate Office)

Finish Discussion and Selection of Drought Management Recommendations

Agenda Item 4

Potential Drought Response Recommendation

The RBC encourages water utilities in the basin to consider drought surcharges on water use during severe and/or extreme drought phases. Drought surcharges, when used, are typically only implemented if voluntary reductions are not successful in achieving the desired reduction in water use. In the Santee River basin, several water utilities have already built into their response ordinance the ability to implement drought surcharges during the severe and/or extreme drought phases. One example is detailed below:

Example 1: MPW may, at its option, implement the following excessive use rate schedule for water for its residential customers during **severe** drought phases:

aular water rate
o times the regular water rate
ree times the regular water rate
our times the regular water rate
r

Four the **extreme** drought phase, the water usage category ranges are lower.

APPROVED BY RBC, WITH EXAMPLE REMOVED

Potential Drought Response Recommendation

When droughts occur, the RBC encourages water users and those with water interests to submit their drought impact observations through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR). The CMOR system, maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), provides supporting evidence in the form of on-the-ground information to help the authors of the U.S. Drought Monitor better understand local conditions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) uses the Drought Monitor to trigger disaster declarations and determine eligibility for low-interest loans and some assistance programs. The SCO also reviews and uses the CMOR system in a variety of ways. CMORs can be submitted by clicking the "Submit a Report" button at the NDMC's Drought Impacts Toolkit website.

https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx

Potential Recommendation Related to Climate Monitoring

The RBC recommends the funding and establishment of a mesoscale network of weather and climate monitoring stations in South Carolina. Establishing a mesoscale network of weather and climate monitoring stations, known as a Mesonet, provides near real-time data at the local level to improve situational awareness and preparedness and support decision-makers and stakeholders, such as emergency management agencies, water resources managers, agricultural interests, transportation officials, and energy providers. Currently, South Carolina is only one of 12 states in the United States without a Mesonet. A network of 46 weather stations (one per county) will provide an essential public service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Recommendation from the Broad, Saluda, Pee Dee, Upper Savannah, and Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie RBCs

North Carolina example (NC ECONet): https://econet.climate.ncsu.edu/

APPROVED BY RBC