

Drought Response Committee Conference Call

Date: July 24th, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

A Drought Response Committee Conference Call was conducted at 10:00 a.m., July 24th, 2024. Notice of the date, time and call-in information was posted and provided on the scdrought.com website. Chairman Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director of SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)-Land, Water and Conservation Division presided at the meeting.

I. Introduction

- a. Ken Rentiers, SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

II. Roll Call

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR State Climatologist, completed roll call
- b. Cody Simpson, Governor McMaster's Agricultural Advisor, thanked everyone for their time and dedication to this very important issue

III. PowerPoint Presentation

- a. Waiting for SC Department of Motor Vehicles Drought Response Committee License Plate which is supposed to be produced by August 28. Hope will send the form to members after plate is finalized.
- b. Hope, SCDNR, encouraged everyone to routinely check Drought website (scdrought.com)
- c. Hope, SCDNR, provided overview of last Drought Response Committee Meeting
- d. Hope, SCDNR, showed and discussed maps/tables:
 - i. 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation, 30-Day Standard Precipitation Index Data, 60-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation, 60-Day Standard Precipitation Index Data.
 - ii. Table of July 9th-23rd Rainfall Totals highlighting stations with heaviest and lowest rainfall totals.
 - iii. CoCoRaHS Rainfall Totals for four Drought Management Areas (DMA) for the periods, 6/9 to 7/8 and 7/9 to 7/23
 - iv. 30-Day Maximum Temperature Departures and Rankings for 6/22-7/21
 - v. U.S. Drought Monitor Scales and Impacts Chart
 - vi. Progression of U.S. Drought Monitor since June 4. Elliot Wickham shared his input.
 - vii. Crop Moisture Index which is not reflective of current conditions. She reached out to Climate Prediction Center to confirm whether there are data issues. She is waiting for a response.
 - viii. Palmer Drought Severity Index map, a 9-month drought indicator.

- e. Scott Harder, SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) showed and discussed maps/tables:
 - i. USGS Map of 14-day streamflow compared to historical streamflow
 - ii. Streamflow Regulatory Standards
 - iii. Streamflow Table comparing regulatory method drought levels to 14- and 28-day percentiles
 - iv. USGS hydrographs for select streams in each DMA
 - v. Lake/Reservoir Levels
 - vi. Groundwater level in each DMA

IV. **State Agency Reports**

- a. Scott Harder, SCDES, reported no overall issues with water systems, but some private well issues.
- b. Dave Thachik, SC Emergency Management Division, reported receiving calls about the heat.
- c. Sam Quinney, SC Department of Agriculture, reported still very dry conditions in some counties, especially Sumter, Clarendon, Lee, and Horry counties.
- d. Darryl Jones, SC Forestry Commission, explained the forest fire condition has improved since last meeting due to the lower temperatures and more thunderstorms across a lot of the state. There are still a few areas that have high Keetch-Byram Drought Index numbers, but the rain combined with lower temperatures and higher relative humidity has reduced fire danger in many areas. Even though some of the KBDI values are high we are not seeing that turn into fire problems. For the week ending on July 21 the Forestry Commission responded to 22 wildfires that burned just over 77 acres, so fire occurrence has been lower and much closer to normal levels.
- e. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked for any other State and Federal agency partner input and there were no comments.

V. **Short and Long-Term Forecasts**

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, presented the 7-day Precipitation Forecast, 6–10-day outlook, CPC 3-Month Outlook and NOAA Drought Outlook.
- b. No Representatives from Federal Agencies, NOAA, or NWS

VI. **PowerPoint Presentation**

- a. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, presented the Condition Monitoring Reports and other drought impact photos from Laurens, Aiken, Hampton, Darlington, Richland, Saluda, Union, York, Clarendon, and Abbeville Counties. Hope stated some of the impact photos were taken closer to the last Drought Response Committee meeting, but others are more recent such as the one on Saluda from July 22nd.

VII. Open Discussion

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, started the Open Discussion and did a review of the indicators. She said the vote would start in the Northeast because that region has been hit the hardest. She stated that to stay at severe she would suggest you need multiple indicators supporting the decision, but that can be open for discussion. She said the area has received rain. The Little Pee Dee River gage and the US Drought Monitor would support staying at Severe in some areas, but for other areas there is not really support to maintain severe drought.

VIII. Northeast Drought Management Area (DMA) Discussion

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, showed rainfall totals for the Northeast DMA
- b. Athena Strickland, DMA Industry, stated there has been a lot of rain in Marlboro County with 5 inches falling last night. River indicators in northern part have improved she would support moving up one maybe two levels in the northern part. She can't speak for Marion, Horry, Florence but would recommend other counties going to incipient but wants to hear what others think.
- c. Karolan Ohanesian, DMA Domestic User, supported Athena's recommendation to go to Incipient for Horry County because of all the rain and support from other indicators. She does have concern over the very low flows in the Little Pee Dee River.
- d. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, added Crystal from Farm Service Agency reported 0.5" last night in Dillon.
- e. Lindsay Privette, DMA Regional Council of Government, lives on Florence/Darlington line and Florence has received more rain than Darlington. There are places in Darlington that almost received no rain but she has standing water in Florence.
- f. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, stated she was hesitant for the group to go down two levels because the areas were so dry, there are still low flows and we are still receiving impact photos.
- g. Clint Elliott, DMA Municipality, the rivers are still low. He supports only going to moderate no incipient
- h. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, pointed out we have another meeting in a few weeks to revisit conditions
- i. Joe Ghent, DMA Soil and Water Conservation District, said conditions have greatly improved and supports Florence going to incipient.
- j. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, encouraged not going two levels unless there is overwhelming support from the indicators.
- k. Joe Ghent, DMA Soil and Water Conservation District, said he is fine only going to moderate rather than incipient

- l. Darryl Jones, SC Forestry Commission, said he could support either decision, but prefers a progression in the drought level rather than a big jump. Even though conditions have improved if we start experiencing a lot of hot dry days they could slide back.
- m. Sam Quinney, SC Department of Agriculture, said Lancaster, Kershaw, Chesterfield there is support to lower the status, but Lee and Darlington could stay in severe due to agriculture impacts and being the headwaters. He asked about rainfall data for Darlington County.
- n. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, said it could be an oversight or too much missing data. She asked Lindsey her opinion about Darlington
- o. Lindsay Privette, DMA Regional Council of Government, said Darlington should not move to incipient. If other people support keeping it in Severe she was okay with that decision.
- p. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, reviewed 30-day rainfall stating that the USDM is only indicator to keep Darlington in severe
- q. Athena Strickland, DMA Industry, said she lives in Darlington County and they received a lot of rain over last two to three days. She wanted to know how much streamflow improved in last 24 hours.
- r. Scott Harder, SCDES, said streamflows have improved in that area but not a dramatic change because it is a 14-day average.
- s. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, shared there are two rainfall gages in Darlington County. One observed 4.68" and the other 5.06" in the past two weeks and those totals don't include the rainfall overnight. She asked if the group was okay downgrading Darlington to moderate.
- t. Sam Quinney, SC Department of Agriculture, said he was okay with that. He said there will be yield losses and understand at this point in the year the corn is done regardless of the lack of rain. Even the little showers have improved soybean and cotton crops.
- u. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, said she would include statements to reflect agriculture impacts in the press release.
- v. Michael Wright, Farm Bureau, thanked group for focus on agriculture. He echoed what Sam said. He asked for Mr. Caleb Miller's input on Dillon and Marion since those areas were so close to completely losing crops during his July 9th report.
- w. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, provided Dillon rainfalls.
- x. Alan Watkins, DMA Counties. He is from Lee County and they have received considerable rain in the last week to 10 days. As the whole the county has improved and he would support a one level downgrade.
- y. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, discussed Lee's rainfall

- z. Josh Johnson, Calhoun County Farmer, says Calhoun County is in pretty bad shape.
- aa. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, stated Caleb Miller, DMA Agriculture, is having microphone issues but he supports a move to moderate not incipient because we didn't get in the drought in two weeks we are not going to get out of the drought in two weeks.
- bb. Christopher Thomas, Clemson Extension, echoes that he supports only moving one level. He discussed low rainfall in lower Lee County
- cc. **Northeast DMA Motion:**
 - i. Officially called by Ken Rentiers, SCDNR
 - ii. Proposal: Move the Northeast DMA from severe to moderate.
 - iii. Clint Elliott, DMA Municipalities, 1st
 - iv. Karolan Ohanesian, DMA Domestic User, 2nd
 - v. Karolan Ohanesian, DMA Domestic User, asked for clarification about whether Lee was staying in severe drought.
 - vi. Clint Elliot, DMA Municipalities, said he was still on the fence.
 - vii. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, said only support for severe in Lee County is the US Drought Monitor.
 - viii. Final proposal: restated motion to move all counties in Northeast DMA from severe drought to moderate drought.
 - ix. Clint Elliot, DMA Municipalities, 1st
 - x. Joe Ghent, DMA Soil and Water Conservation, 2nd
 - xi. Members of the Northeast DMA unanimously agreed on the proposal.

IX. **Central DMA**

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, reminded group about Josh Johnson's request for Calhoun County and she also read an email she received from a concerned citizen, Michelle Jones, from Calhoun/Orangeburg area. Ms. Jones sent letter on July 10th and asked that it be brought before the Committee. She is concerned that ponds are almost dry because farmers are running irrigation systems "24/7". She stated they have never had this problem before, and she is very concerned about wells and ponds in this area going dry due to farm irrigation. Since this is an issue handled by SCDES I forwarded the email to Joe Koon and Joe and his team have been in touch with Ms. Jones.
- b. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, presented Central DMA rainfall totals. She is unsure if the indicators support downgrading the counties in incipient to normal. There is some support to downgrade the counties in moderate to incipient but also support to maintain moderate. There is less support to

downgrade all the counties in severe to moderate, more support to downgrade Georgetown.

- c. John Irwin, DMA Agriculture, is from Laurens County and after reviewing the numbers and talking with people, he supports leaving Laurens in moderate drought. There is green up, but we still have folks feeding hay. He supports all Upstate SC staying in moderate drought.
- d. Ken Tuck, DMA Commission of Public Works, stated incipient counties have received some good rain especially 30-day totals, but supports maintaining in incipient unless there is other discussion He stated some counties such as Fairfield, Newberry and Richland have received more rain and could be downgraded. He is unsure about Fairfield and Saluda. There may be support to move the counties below Richland to moderate, but he wants to hear from folks in that area. He echoed that we have to look at the whole picture not just agriculture impacts.
- e. Jimmy (James) Bagley, DMA Municipalities, parts of the county have received over 3 inches while others received less than an inch. He is okay leaving in incipient. Some of the farmers are still having problems. The rain fell fast so there was runoff. Surface water is good, streams have improved, but a lot of the rain didn't soak into the ground.
- f. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, provided CMOR reports from York County.
- g. Hope Mizell, SCDNR, talked about rainfall variation across the Midlands with some areas receiving over 5 inches of rain. She asked for Greg Sprouse's input.
- h. John Rivers, DMA Soil and Water Conservation District, stated Sumter County is in bad shape receiving only 0.5 inches. Streams are dry and streams are not flowing. He supports leaving in Severe drought.
- i. Fred Castles, DMA Special Purpose District, rainfall has been variable and dries out quickly, so he supports leaving Chester County in incipient drought.
- j. Peggy Swearingen, DMA Counties, Northern Fairfield has received 5 inches in the last three weeks. A participant added southern Fairfield has also received over 5 inches in two weeks.
- k. Hope Mizell, SCDNR, asked for Clint Elliott to provide input on Georgetown. His input has been helpful for that area in the past.
- l. Clint Elliott, DMA Municipalities, stated there has been improvement, but still a ways to go for recovery. He would recommend only dropping to moderate.
- m. Scott Harder, SCDES, streamflow in Williamsburg has improved 7th percentile flow which would put it in a moderate status.

- n. Elliot Wickham, SCDNR, the Black River never dropped to the critical low level that the Little Pee Dee did.
- o. Scott Harder, SCDES, stated the Black River has not responded like some of the other rivers, it is still low.
- p. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, if the US Drought Monitor is only indicator supporting a level we try to find other supporting evidence and Williamsburg appears to be close to severe.
- q. Ken Tuck, DMA Commission of Public Works, supports keeping Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, York, Union and Chester in incipient, maybe downgrading Fairfield, Richland, and Lexington counties to incipient.
- r. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, stated southern Richland County is closer to moderate. She received calls last week asking why Richland County was not in Severe after the July 9 meeting. The farmers are now saying conditions have improved, but still moderate. There is support to bring Fairfield to Incipient, but maintain the other counties in moderate that were placed in moderate on July 9.
- s. Glenn Thomas, FSA, supports upgrading Union County to Moderate drought based on rainfall reports he received from local farmers receiving only 0.3 inches in two weeks and impact reports. A producer working on foundation went down 12 inches before reaching moisture. Glen referenced the photo of the dry creek Elliot shared which is still dry. Rain has not filled up water sources. Union is the driest county in his five-county region.
- t. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked for any other discussion and then summarized the discussion with Georgetown going to Moderate, still not a consensus about Williamsburg, leaving Calhoun, Sumter, and Clarendon in Severe, leaving Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Saluda, and Richland in Moderate, upgrading Union to Moderate, downgrading Fairfield to Incipient and leaving Greenville, Spartanburg, York and Chester in Incipient. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, confirmed that is what he heard. Hope asked him to make an official motion.
- u. **Central DMA Motion:**
 - i. Officially called by Ken Rentiers, SCDNR
 - ii. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, made motion to downgrade Georgetown and Williamsburg to Moderate, leave Calhoun, Sumter, and Clarendon in Severe, leave Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Saluda, and Richland in Moderate, upgrade Union to Moderate, downgrade Fairfield to Incipient and leave Greenville, Spartanburg, York and Chester in Incipient

- iii. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked for clarification on Williamsburg because streamflow gage is so close to Severe.
- iv. Christopher Thomas, Clemson Extension says farmers only reporting 0.6 inches in two weeks and any rain hitting the ground is not soaking in.
- v. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, amended the motion to leave Williamsburg in Severe drought
- vi. Ken Tuck, DMA Commission of Public Works, asked if Union was the only county being upgraded. Hope and Elliot confirmed but no vote has yet been taken. Jimmy points out the discussion was for parts of Union, but you can't designate a portion of a county. Ken says he has property in Union that has received rain. Jimmy said his contacts in Union received rain, but others on the call say Union has not received rain. Ken asked whether Union should be upgraded now with mixed information, or do we wait since we are meeting again in two weeks with maybe more data to validate.
- vii. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked Glen Thomas to respond since he requested Union go to Moderate. Glen responded via chat stating Union could have gone to Moderate drought during the July 9 call and not much has changed. Union is like Laurens which is in Moderate. Hope reviewed streamflow for the area with a gage in Union that did support Moderate. She asked John Irwin for his thoughts since he is in Laurens and he supported Union going to Moderate drought. Hope confirmed that Jimmy was okay leaving his motion with Union in Moderate.
- viii. **Final Proposal:**
 - 1. Final proposal officially called by Ken Rentiers, SCDNR
 - 2. Proposal:
 - a. Incipient: Fairfield, Chester, York, Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Greenville Counties
 - b. Moderate: Georgetown, Union, Laurens, Greenwood, Saluda, Lexington, and Richland Counties
 - c. Severe: Sumter, Clarendon, Calhoun, and Williamsburg Counties
 - 3. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, 1st
 - 4. John Irwin, DMA Agriculture 2nd
 - 5. Members of the Central DMA unanimously agreed on the proposal.

v.

X. Southern DMA

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, presented rainfall totals for Southern DMA. She asked should we leave those counties in their current drought status.
- b. Jason Thompson, DMA Commission of Public Works, stated the area has received some relief and the area was better off than other areas of the State during the July 9 call. Goose Creek is full pool. Edisto River has improved. He suggested Berkely and Charleston could stay in Incipient drought in recognition of Statewide drought conditions. He wants to hear from other Committee members on the status of other counties.
- c. Eric Odom, DMA Municipalities, stated similar comments to Jason. North Fork Edisto River has improved, parts of Orangeburg did receive some rain and others didn't receive any and with the high temperatures he doesn't think there is enough relief to move Orangeburg and Bamberg out of Moderate. He recognized southern Dorchester did receive significant rain with maybe support to move to Incipient.
- d. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked for input from other Committee Members.
- e. Matt McCants, DMA Power Generation Facilities, supports first two comments on the south but as far as Colleton and Dorchester he deferred to local input. He supports maintaining or downgrading depending on local input.
- f. Darryl Jones, SC Forestry Commission, supports moderate declarations
- g. **Southern DMA Motion:**
 - i. Officially called by Ken Rentiers, SCDNR
 - ii. Proposal: Entire area remains as declared during the July 9th call.
 - iii. Eric Odom, 1st
 - iv. Jason Thompson, 2nd
 - v. Members of the Southern DMA unanimously agreed on the proposal.
- h. Landrum Weathers, SC farmer, said there was no time for public comment. He was disappointed in the July 9th declaration for Orangeburg County. The area has not gotten better since last meeting. He questioned and requested clarification on why neighboring counties are in Severe and Orangeburg is not.
- i. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, explained we don't have streamflow and KBDI values in every county and the Committee had to evaluate the conditions across the entire county. Orangeburg is a larger county like Richland County. Sixty percent of Richland County was not in Severe Drought and 60 percent of Orangeburg was not in Severe drought during the July 9th meeting. She requested input from local committee members.

- j. Jason Thompson, there was a lot of debate on whether those counties should be in severe status, but he can't speak to the nuances of the decision for those counties.
- k. Melanie Shull, Commissioner for Aiken County and a Farmer from Orangeburg/Aiken area shared rainfall total comparison for 2023/2024 and said it is driest she has ever seen. She said they are experiencing extreme drought.
- l. Hope asked Ken if he could change anything since the vote was taken. Ken stated that since the vote was taken we would revisit during the next meeting. Hope asked anyone to stay on after the call to discuss any county drought status.
- m. Landrum Weathers reintroduced himself as a Crop Insurance Agent wants to stress the importance of how this group affects the crop insurance world. He is not requesting a declaration just so a farmer can get paid. He is just stressing the importance of the state declaration.
- n. Ken Rentiers, SCDNR, discussed how the state now has a full-time position focused on providing South Carolina conditions to the U.S. Drought Monitor authors. Elliot does a great job with his efforts to the U.S. Drought Monitor each week.
- o. Ken Rentiers, SCDNR, thanked Landrum Weathers for his participation and encouraged continued participation on future calls.
- p. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked Landrum to stay on the call to discuss how much weight the State declaration plays in funding for farmers. We know there is some federal funding available based on U.S. Drought Monitor declarations, but we receive conflicting information about whether any funding for farmers is connected to the State's drought declarations.

XI. West DMA

- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, presented rainfall totals for West Drought Management Area and asked has the rain been enough to make any declaration changes.
 - i. Yvonne Kling, DMA Soil and Water Conservation District, thanked Landrum and Melanie for their input. She requested when we have hot spots for discussion we may want to consider looking at Drought Management Areas together such as the Central and the West. This may add clarity to the discussion especially when conditions vary significantly within a county. The conditions in a portion of a county may be closer to that of a neighboring county than conditions within the same county. She requested some counties could stay the same but other counties could be moved to a higher level but asked for input from other members.

- b. Preston Pierce, DMA Power Generation Facilities, is from the Upstate and because the rain is so recent and based on his data evaluation he suggests maintaining the current designations and reevaluating during the next meeting.
- c. Scott Willett, DMA Private Water Supplier, concurs with Preston after looking at all the indicators. He stated that during a drought water use goes up, but currently for the area served by Anderson Joint Regional water use is 10% below average for the last 14 days. This tells him the rainfall is widespread. He recommends the top four counties remain status quo. Yvonne asked Scott about Abbeville County and he said he didn't agree with the US Drought Monitor level for Abbeville, but could support maintaining moderate for the State declaration.
- d. Brian Chemsak, DMA Special Purpose District, recommended going to normal conditions for Beaufort and southern Jasper based on rain and reduced demands.
- e. Mark Warner, DMA Counties, is from McCormick and that area has received considerable rain with standing water. He has no problem maintaining McCormick in Moderate drought.
- f. Elliott Wickham, SCDNR, provided input from Jasper/Hampton FSA agent that southern Hampton and northern Jasper are in pretty rough shape.
- g. Christopher Thomas, Clemson Extension, shared that the line between the counties is dry with their station showing only 0.1" in two weeks.
- h. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, asked Brian Chemsak if he would be okay leaving Jasper in Moderate and shared there has been 5 to 6 inches in Beaufort that supports his recommendation to downgrade Beaufort to normal. Brian is fine with leaving Jasper in Moderate if that is what the data shows.
- i. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, revisited Yvonne's request to upgrade some counties to Severe showing there is not enough support to get those areas to Severe. Yvonne Kling asked about the well level in Aiken. Scott Harder, confirmed it is much below normal. Yvonne Kling said she would be okay not going to Severe since we are meeting in a few weeks.
- j. **West DMA Motion:**
 - i. Officially called by Ken Rentiers, SCDNR
 - ii. Proposal:
 1. Beaufort County moved to Normal (no drought declaration)
 2. Incipient: Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson
 3. Moderate: Abbeville, McCormick, Edgefield, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper
 - iii. Scott Willett, 1st
 - iv. Yvonne Kling, 2nd

- v. Members of the West DMA unanimously agreed on the proposal.
- XII. Further Discussion
- a. Hope Mizzell, SCDNR, thanked Committee Members and encouraged Committee Members to provide impacts, suggestions, feedback and data to the SC Drought Response Center email drought@dnr.sc.gov. She also encouraged members to review conditions on the SC Drought Website www.scdrought.com. She informed the call that following the last meeting a letter was mailed to all water systems encouraging them to review, update and implement their Drought Ordinances and Plans as needed. A press release was issued and public notices run in newspapers.
 - b. Ken Rentiers, SCDNR, Thanked Committee Members for their participation.
 - c. Next Meeting: August 14th
 - d. Ken Rentiers calls for Adjournment
 - i. Fred Castles, 1st
 - ii. Yvonne Kling, 2nd
- XIII. Meeting adjourned

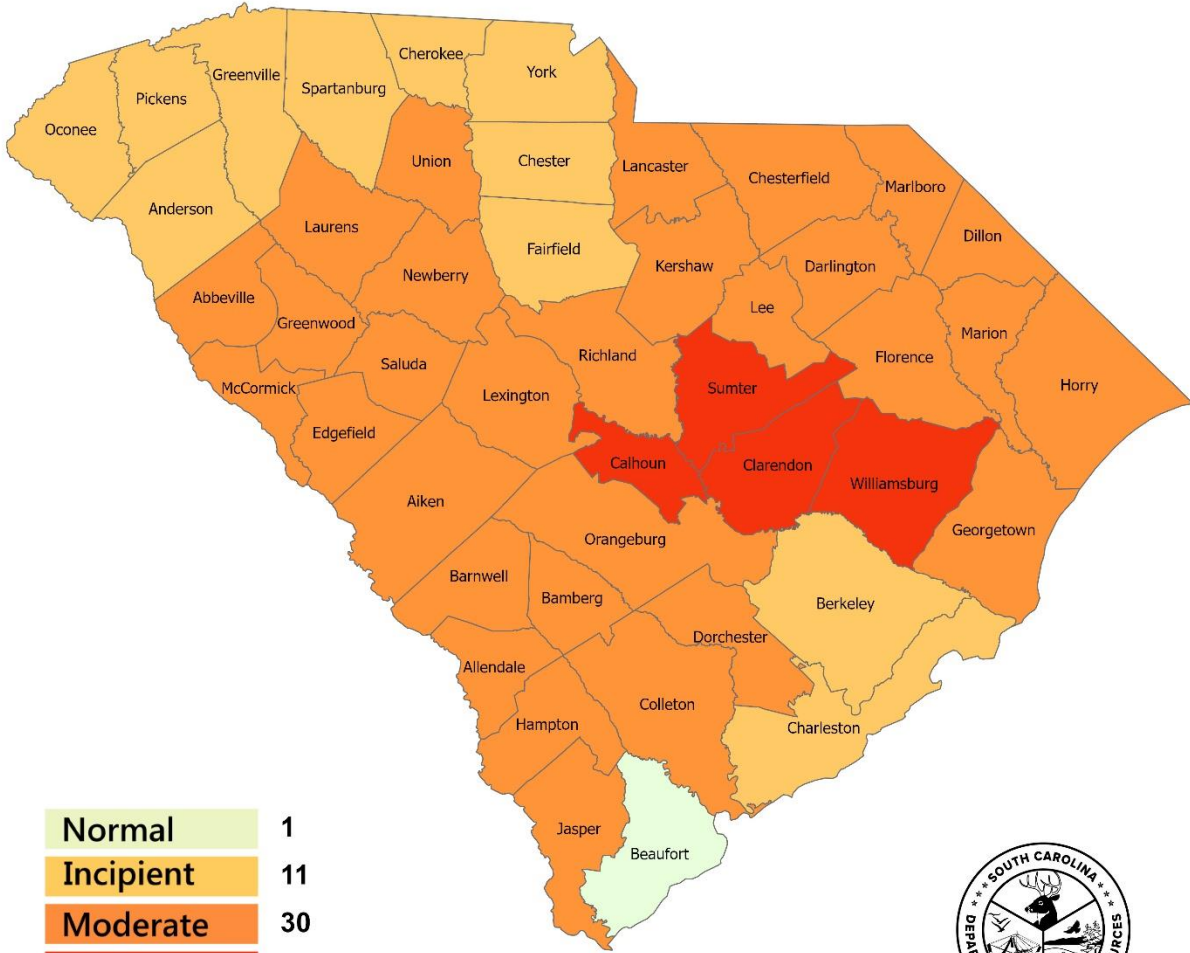
Updated County Statuses

- **Northeast DMA:**
 - o Lancaster, Kershaw, Chesterfield, Lee, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Florence, Marion, and Horry Counties downgraded from severe drought to moderate drought
- **Central DMA:**
 - o Fairfield downgraded from moderate drought to incipient. Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Chester, and York Counties maintained in incipient drought.
 - o Union County upgraded from incipient to moderate drought. Georgetown County downgraded from severe to moderate drought. Laurens, Greenwood, Saluda, Lexington, Richland, and Newberry Counties maintained in moderate drought.
 - o Sumter, Clarendon, Calhoun, and Williamsburg maintained in severe drought
- **South DMA:**
 - o Orangeburg, Bamberg, Colleton, and Dorchester Counties maintained in moderate drought
 - o Berkeley and Charleston Counties maintained in Incipient Drought
- **West DMA:**
 - o Beaufort County downgraded from incipient to no drought

- Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson Counties maintained in incipient drought
- Abbeville, McCormick, Edgefield, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper Counties maintained in moderate drought

County Status Drought Map

Drought Status: 07-24-2024



Normal	1
Incipient	11
Moderate	30
Severe	4
Extreme	0

Number of counties in each category.



SC Department of Natural Resources
State Climate Office

Drought Committee Member Participation

Committee Members	Group	Attendance 07/24/2024
West DMA		
Reg Williams	Agriculture	
Cheryl Daniels	Commission of Public Works	X
Mark Warner	Counties	X
Eric Carrier	Domestic User	
David Evans	Industry	
	Municipalities	VACANT
Preston Pierce	Power Generation Facilities	X
J. Scott Willett	Private Water Supplier	X
Chris Rasco	Public Service District	X
Rick Green	Regional Council of Gov.	X
Yvonne Kling	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	X
Brian Chemsak	Special Purpose District	X
Central DMA		
John Irwin	Agriculture	X
Ken Tuck	Commission of Public Works	X
Peggy Swearingen	Counties	X
Christy Jones	Domestic User	
Ed Holder	Industry	
James G. Bagley	Municipalities	X
Alan Stuart	Power Generation Facilities	
Brad C. Powers	Private Water Supplier	
	Public Service District	VACANT
Gregory Sprouse	Regional Council of Gov.	X

John T. Rivers	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	X
Fred Castles	Special Purpose District	X
Northeast DMA		
Caleb Miller	Agriculture	X
	Commission of Public Works	VACANT
Karolan Ohanesian	Domestic User	X
Athena Strickland	Industry	X
Clint Elliott	Municipality	X
Charles Allen	Power Generation Facilities	
Alan Watkins	Counties	X
Elbert Warren	Public Service District	
Lindsay Privette	Regional Council of Gov.	X
Joe Ghent	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	X
	Special Purpose District	VACANT
Southern DMA		
James Traywick	Agriculture	
Jason Thompson	Commission of Public Works	X
Larry Harper	Counties	Appointment Pend.
	Domestic User	VACANT
	Industry	VACANT
Eric Odom	Municipalities	X
Matt McCants	Power Generation Facilities	X
	Private Water Supplier	VACANT

	Public Service District	VACANT
Ronald E. Mitchum	Regional Council of Gov.	
Marion L. Rizer	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	X
	Special Purpose District	VACANT
State Agency Members		
Ken Rentiers	SCDNR, LWC Division	X
Dave Thachik	SC Emergency Management Divis.	X
Scott Harder	SC Dept. of Environ. Services	X
Darryl Jones	SC Forestry Commission	X
Sam Quinney	SC Department of Agriculture	X
Appointment Pending Members		
Larry Harper	Southern DMA – County	
Other Participants		
Hope Mizzell	SCDNR	X
Elliot Wickham	SCDNR	X
Alyssa Paguaga	SCDNR	X
Leigh Anne Monroe	SCDES	X
Alex Pellett	SCDES	X
Jason Romlien	SC EMD	X
Christopher Thomas	Clemson Extension	X
Cody Simpson	SC Governor’s Office	X
KC Price	LCWSC	X
Michael Wright	SC Farm Bureau	X
Kayla Stroman	FSA	X
Christel Youmans	FSA	X
Glenn Thomas	FSA	X
Linda Williams	FSA	X
Josh Johnson	Producer – Calhoun County	X

Landrum Weathers	Producer – Orangeburg County	X
Melanie Shull	Aiken Soil and Water Conserv. Dist.	X
Lynn Dunn	Duke Energy	X