

Drought Response Committee Conference Call

Date: September 4th, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

A Drought Response Committee Conference Call was conducted at 10:00 a.m., August 13th, 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 (SCDNR) opens the meeting. He announces that the meeting is being recorded.
- b. Ken (SCDNR) reads the Freedom of Information Statement.
- c. Hope Mizzell (SCDNR) reaffirms that the meeting is being recorded.
- d. Hope (SCDNR) then does a roll call and checks each DMA for a quorum.
 - i. If there is not a quorum, a vote would not be able to be cast.
 - ii. Every DMA has a quorum
- e. Ken (SCDNR) offers a motion for approving the minutes from the last meeting.
 - i. Marion Rizer, Southern DMA Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 1st
 - ii. Matt McCants, Southern DMA Power Generation Facilities, 2nd
- f. Hope (SCDNR) introduces the agenda for today
 - i. The license plates are nearing completion, but Hope would like another email from those who have requested one.
- g. Hope (SCDNR) shares the scdrought.com website.

II. PowerPoint Presentation

- a. Hope (SCDNR) shares the drought status as of the last meeting.
 - i. Some areas that missed out on the rain from Hurricane Debby are still struggling.
- b. Hope (SCDNR) Discusses:
 - i. The 30-day Percent of Normal (7/14-8/12)
 1. She notes that this includes the rainfall totals from Hurricane Debby.
 - ii. The 30-day Percent of Normal (8/5-9/3)
 1. Much of the West DMA is lacking rainfall
 - iii. The "Precipitation Roller Coaster", a significant difference in rainfall from the first twelve days of August versus the 13th through September 3rd.

- iv. The 30-day SPI graph.
 - 1. The upper-left corner of the state is visibly lacking rain.
- v. The CoCoRaHS data for the West DMA from the last meeting (8/13) until now.
 - 1. Most of the area has received two inches of rain or less.
- vi. The CoCoRaHS data for the Central DMA from the last meeting (8/13) until now.
 - 1. She notes that a few counties in this DMA could be moved up to Incipient Drought.
 - 2. Counties closer to the coast are benefitting from the lack of rain.
- vii. The CoCoRaHS data for the Southern DMA from the last meeting (8/13) until now.
 - 1. They have received some rain, not much notable here.
- viii. The CoCoRaHS data for the Northeast DMA from the last meeting (8/13) until now.
 - 1. Once again, this area remained dry, but they received so much rain from Debby, it did not negatively affect them.
- c. Hope (SCDNR) discusses the U.S. Drought Monitor, valid as of August 29th.
 - i. Elliot Wickham (SCDNR) discusses why some areas were upgraded to D1 Drought. Some areas may need to be upgraded.
 - ii. Hope (SCDNR) responds and discusses why there needs to be a lot of support to approve a drought declaration.
- d. Hope (SCDNR) discusses the Current Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI).
- e. The crop moisture graph is not available. There was an issue with the calculations, so we are not using it as much.
- f. Scott Harder, SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), discusses the 14-day average Streamflow graph.
 - i. Some counties in the Western part of the state are struggling, while counties towards the coast have a lot of water.
- g. Scott Harder (SCDES) discusses the Regulatory Standards Streamflow graph.
- h. Scott Harder (SCDES) discusses the Streamflow table.
 - i. Using the 14-day and 28-day averages, there is evidence for drought.
- i. Scott Harder (SCDES) discusses the streamflow in each DMA
 - i. The Northeast DMA.
 - 1. Many water levels are receding. Hurricane Debby caused extensive flooding in this area.
 - ii. The West DMA.

1. Little River near Mt. Carmel is not showing drought status, but it is dry.
- iii. The Central DMA.
 1. The rivers in this DMA are on the drier side.
- iv. The Southern DMA.
- j. Scott Harder (SCDES) displays the Lake and Reservoir Levels across the state, as of Tuesday, September 4th.
 - i. Lake Murray is a foot below normal. Lake Hartwell and Thurmond are roughly 5 feet below normal. Lake Jocassee is 8.5 feet below normal; the rest of the state is relatively close to normal.
 - ii. He notes that USACE Reservoirs and Duke Energy's Keowee-Toxaway project are in stage 1 drought.
 - iii. In a detailed graph of Lake Hartwell Reservoir, it has been on a steady decline throughout the summer.
- k. Scott Harder (SCDES) then shows the groundwater levels across the state.
 - i. They are normal to above normal now. He removed the Allendale well due to a lack of response to recent rainfall.
 - ii. There is also future monitoring sites listed throughout the state.
- l. Scott Harder (SCDES) discusses the groundwater levels in Each DMA
 - i. Northeast DMA.
 1. Normal across the board.
 - ii. Central DMA
 1. Receding, but typical for this time of year.
 - iii. West DMA
 1. Oconee County has been in a long decline throughout the summer.
 - iv. Southern DMA
 1. Much of the area is normal.
- m. Hope (SCDNR) asks why Lake Murray is so low. Scott Harder (SCDES) says it is due to controlling the water levels.
- n. Hope (SCDNR) asks if anyone has questions. None asked.

III. State Agency Reports

- a. Darryl Jones, SC Forestry Commission (SCFC), discusses the KBDI values.
 - i. KBDI stations cover a large area for each station but it generally follows the precipitation maps. The driest areas are in the mountains, the Table

Rock and Andrew Pickens stations did not get the rain from Tropical Storm Debby.

- ii. Multiple Stations are showing “severe” status based on our State’s scaling for the data. With that being said, there have not been any significant fire issues in the last few weeks. Fire occurrence has been low due to higher humidity levels. Due to the higher temperatures people have generally been out less, reducing burning activities.
 - iii. For consideration, we are heading into a dry time of year and the mountains are already dry going into Fall. The last time we saw these types of conditions were in 2016, which is when the Pinnacle Mountain Fire occurred.
 - iv. Right now we do not have any immediate concerns but looking out for the next few weeks there is the potential for fall wildfire activity to start.
- b. Darryl (SCFC) expressed that things are okay now but he was worried about what could happen within the next few months
 - c. Hope (SCDNR) asks Darryl (SCFC) if any of these counties should be considered for upgrading. Darryl (SCFC) says that the counties in the Northwest portion of the state with the highest KBDI values could go into moderate drought status. As for the other counties in the state, if the KBDI is the only indicator, he did not feel that they were in need of changing status yet. It’s not good to hinge everything on KBDI data, as each station is covering a large area, and there may be areas between stations that did get rain. Darryl (SCFC), state that ultimately, the KBDI should not drive the process for any counties in the Lowcountry to change status.
 - d. Elliot Wickham (SCDNR) states that many of the KBDI values were in no drought status after Tropical Storm Debby, but three weeks later, most of the stations were in either incipient, moderate, or severe drought status. He states that the current KBDI values do not reflect current fire potential but show the trend in drying conditions since Tropical Storm Debby. He asks for clarification from Darryl (SCFC)
 - e. Darryl (SCFC) agrees with Elliot’s (SCDNR) statement for how to interpret the current KBDI data.
 - f. Hope (SCDNR) since fire occurrence is not currently matching the KBDI values, we need to take that into consideration for the Lowcountry.
 - g. Darryl (SCFC) asks about fall conditions, generally, but Hope (SCDNR) responds that it will be discussed shortly in the forecast and outlook section.
 - h. Hope (SCDNR) asks if any other State Agencies would like to provide an update.
 - i. Dave Thachik, SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), no information on impacts from his perspective. The SERC call at the end of

the month will focus on wildfire, which may have capacity for some DRC members to join. Any notes from that meeting will be available to all DRC members.

1. He discusses an upcoming workshop provided by SCEMD.
- i. Hope (SCDNR) would like to host a drought tabletop exercise in 2025 at SCEMD.
 - i. The last two were in 2017 and 2019, where we went through an extreme drought scenario, focusing on how to successfully respond to and manage the scenario, just as we do for hurricanes and earthquakes.
- j. Joe Koon (SCDES) states there are no water supply issues now.
- k. Sam Quinney, SC Department of Agriculture (SCAG), mirroring what we have heard so far, the Northwest part of the state is seeing impacts, regarding agriculture. Hay yields are in bad shape, but row crops are about average.
- l. Hope (SCDNR) asks for any information from State and Federal partners. No one responds.

IV. Short- and Long- Term Forecasts

- a. Hope (SCDNR) discusses:
 - i. The 7-day precipitation forecast.
 1. The driest area of the state is still not expected to receive rain. The only area receiving normal rainfall is the southernmost area of the state. On average, October and November are the two driest months of the year, especially if the Tropics are quiet – which would further the drought situation.
 - ii. The 6–10-day temperature outlook.
 1. They are expecting temperatures to cool down, but the precipitation is largely based on tropical rainfall.
 - iii. The CPC 3-month outlook.
 1. There is a chance for higher temperatures and more precipitation, once again, dependent upon the tropics.
 - iv. The Drought Outlook provided by NOAA.
 1. They are expecting for the drought to improve, but it depends on tropical activity. Elliot (SCDNR) says if we do not have rain from tropical weather, it may start to worsen.
- b. Elliot (SCDNR) discusses the CMOR Conditions Report from 8/28-9/3.
 - i. Three areas are reporting as severely dry in the Upper to Mid Savannah area, along the South Carolina/Georgia border. There are also reports from Spartanburg and Chesterfield Counties that it has been mildly dry.

V. Open Discussion and Vote

a. Hope (SCDNR) does a quick review of the indicators we use for drought declaration.

i. This includes the U.S. Drought Monitor, 14-day Streamflow, 30-Day % of Normal Rainfall, KBDI, 30-day SPI, and the PDSI.

b. West DMA

i. Hope (SCDNR) opens the discussion, stating that improving conditions seems unlikely. Rather, do any of these counties need to be moved to higher drought status and would that extend further south into the DMA.

ii. Preston Pierce, DMA Power Generation Facilities, states that Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson need to be raised from Incipient to Moderate.

iii. Hope and Elliot (SCDNR) discuss how Abbeville's drought is worsening.

iv. Elliot (SCDNR) discusses that in the U.S. Drought Monitor drafts for this week, that severe drought (D2), may be added in Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson Counties, which would support what Preston just stated. However, that will not be finalized until Thursday morning (9/5).

v. Mark Warner, DMA Counties, discusses how Lake Thurmond's water levels have declined further since our last call, and McCormick County could be upgraded to moderate drought status.

vi. Elliot (SCDNR) asks for clarification from Mark, if his thoughts for moderate drought status for McCormick would also include Abbeville to connect an increase to moderate drought status from Oconee and Pickens down to McCormick or if he was just speaking for McCormick County.

vii. Hope (SCDNR) asks for thoughts on what should happen with Edgefield County. She then asks for Darryl (SCFS) for any Fire data in that area that would provide more information for Edgefield County.

viii. Darryl Jones (SCFC) states that it is dry in Aiken and Edgefield as the KBDI station in those areas are in incipient and moderate levels of drought.

ix. Preston Pierce, DMA Power Generation Facilities, states that based on the precipitation totals reflected in the DMA, everything in incipient drought should be brought to moderate drought. The question is then what to do with the counties that are in normal status. Aiken County could go to incipient but not sure how much further down the DMA incipient drought should go.

x. Hope (SCDNR) agrees with Preston's evaluation.

- xi. Elliot (SCDNR) mentions the stark difference between pre-Debby and post-Debby. The Upper half of the West DMA including the northern Half of Aiken County had below normal precipitation for the past 30-day period. For this same period, the southern half of Aiken County and the southern half of the West DMA had above normal precipitation.
- xii. Hope (SCDNR) shows that the Savannah River at Augusta USGS stream gauge on the west side of Aiken County is in much below normal condition on 14-day average streamflows.
- xiii. Hope (SCDNR) The only indicators that show drought conditions south of Aiken County are the KBDI stations. But since fire occurrence is not matching the KBDI values in the southern portion of the DMA, maybe those stations should stay in normal status.
- xiv. Hope (SCDNR) asks Brian Chemsak for his thoughts for the lower portion of the basin
- xv. Brian Chemsak, DMA Special Purpose District, states that leaving the Beaufort and Jasper counties in normal status is appropriate, given the indicators and the outlooks. He also stated that he heard from some contacts that Hampton and Allendale are drier.
- xvi. Hope (SCDNR) ask for anyone else on the call that can speak for the conditions for Barnwell, Allendale, and Hampton counties.
 - 1. No comments or input provided.
- xvii. Preston Pierce, DMA Power Generation Facilities, states that according to the CoCoRaHS rainfall amounts since 8/13, Allendale and Hampton have not received rainfall.
- xviii. Hope (SCDNR) states that while that is true, that is just a 3-week timeframe and we have to also include how much rain these areas received during Tropical Storm Debby.
- xix. Elliot (SCDNR) notes that we will be meeting again in at least a month, so we can reassess these areas during our next meeting.
- xx. Hope (SCDNR) makes the point, we need to distinguish if conditions are dry or if they are drought conditions.
- xxi. Sam Quinney (SCAG) states that for those who he has talked to in Barnwell, Allendale, and Hampton counties, conditions are becoming dry but not yet indicating any drought status within agriculture.
- xxii. Hope (SCDNR) states that given Sam's report, that Aiken county could go to incipient drought status and all DMA counties south of Aiken could stay in normal status / no drought. Counties from Oconee / Pickens to Edgefield would go to moderate drought status.

- xxiii. David Evans, DMA Industry, asks for a bit more information on McCormick and Edgefield counties, for clarification on why those counties would move to moderate drought status.
- xxiv. Hope (SCDNR) the primary reasons were the streamflow values, the KBDI values, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers drought declarations for the Lake system.
- xxv. Mark Warner, DMA Counties, states that in the last call, Lake Thurmond was down about 4 ft and now the lake is down over 5 ft.
- xxvi. Hope (SCDNR) asks David Evans what his concerns are for those two counties going to moderate drought status.
- xxvii. David Evans, DMA Industry, states that Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, and Abbeville counties seem to be drier than McCormick and Edgefield counties. Also, he felt that the streamflows looked okay in Edgefield and McCormick counties.
- xxviii. Scott Harder (SCDES) states that the streams in Edgefield and McCormick are drier than most in the state. They're not dry enough to trigger the regulatory method. So the streamflow indicators may not indicate moderate drought status, but given the reservoir levels and lack of rainfall could support moving these two counties to moderate status. However, he indicated he could support status quo or moving to these two counties to moderate drought status.
- xxix. David Evans, DMA Industry, stated that he would lean towards what the members from Edgefield and McCormick are stating, but he did want to double check.
- xxx. Mark Warner, DMA Counties, asked Scott Harder (SCDES) what was the level of Lake Thurmond this time last year.
- xxxi. Scott Harder (SCDES) said he would have to look into that information.
- xxxii. Mark Warner, DMA Counties, states that regarding the status for McCormick and Edgefield counties, it is important to not show inconsistencies between counties
- xxxiii. Hope (SCDNR), asks if David Evans or other West DMA members have questions about the status of McCormick and Edgefield Counties.
- xxxiv. David Evans, DMA Industry, states that he just wanted more discussion on those counties. Based on the indicators its about 50/50 so he is fine with either an incipient or moderate declaration for those counties.
- xxxv. Rick Green, DMA Regional Council of Governments, states that he would put McCormick and Edgefield in Moderate. When we get to the Central DMA, some of the adjoining counties need to be bumped up as well.

xxxvi. County recommendations: Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, and Edgefield counties move to moderate drought. Aiken County moves to incipient drought. Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper, and Beaufort counties remain in normal status.

xxxvii. **Motion:**

1. Officially called by Ken Rentiers (SCDNR)
2. Motion: Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, Edgefield move to moderate status; Aiken moves to incipient status; and Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper, and Beaufort remain in normal status.
3. Preston Pierce, DMA Power Generation Facilities, 1st
4. Rick Green, DMA Regional Council of Governments, 2nd
5. Members of the West DMA unanimously agreed on the motion.

c. Central DMA

- i. Hope (SCDNR) discusses how there are only two counties in drought. Given some of the indicators, the two current counties in incipient drought could be moved to moderate drought and some other counties in the upper part of the DMA could be considered for incipient drought. She then opens the floor for discussion.
- ii. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, states York, Chester and Lancaster counties can remain in normal status. There is a difference between being dry versus being in a drought. Given the current indicators and that the committee will meet again in a few weeks, he suggested keeping those counties in normal status.
- iii. Peggy Swearingen, DMA Counties, says Fairfield County is dry but not in drought status, but York and Chester are dealing with wet and flooding conditions. Contrasting, the Broad River is down.
- iv. Hope (SCNDR) states that we are at a time of year when streamflows tend to decrease in a natural way.
- v. Scott (SCDES) discuss that the Broad River near Carlisle is at 35% so it is dropping but is not in drought conditions yet.
- vi. Peggy Swearingen, DMA Counties, states how Fairfield has not had any rain in past week or two, but York and Chester counties did.
- vii. Fred Castles, DMA Special Purpose District, states that he did talk to a producer contact and that conditions are dry, but since it's nearing harvest, there aren't agricultural concerns at this time. Therefore, he would agree with normal status.

- viii. Elliot (SCDNR) reads the chat aloud. Some individuals are having mic issues. Brandon Lambert (FSA) discusses a mild drought in Northern Fairfield with issues for hay production. Central Chester County is also having some problems, behind on hay production. However, conditions for these counties are not as bad as they were earlier this summer.
- ix. Christy Jones, DMA Domestic User, says Richland County is normal. Based on her recent travels, Spartanburg and Newberry counties appear to be normal. She states Saluda can be moved to Incipient based on some of the indicators presented today. She then inquires about the issues for Fairfield. Would changes be made based on a portion of the county being dry or the overall indicators?
- x. Hope (SCDNR) regarding Fairfield County, conditions are dry but based on the indicators have not necessarily reached the level of incipient drought yet. She then asks Darryl Jones (SCFC) about his thoughts on counties in the northern part of the DMA.
- xi. Darryl Jones (SCFC) states that the northern part of Greenville County is similar to the Pickens – Oconee area, dry. Greenville could go into Incipient.
- xii. Hope (SCDNR), although the northern portion of Greenville County is dry, the rest of the county has had adequate rainfall.
- xiii. Elliot (SCDNR) pulls up the 14-day average streamflow map from the USGS and shows that generally streamflows are in good conditions in Greenville, although 1 gauge does show below normal conditions.
- xiv. Scott (SCDES) asks for the indicators for Saluda County and if it should be moved to incipient drought status and if so, what were the indicators for support?
- xv. Hope (SCDNR) discusses the USDM status for the northern portion of Saluda County. She asks Darryl Jones (SCFC) for any forestry indicator support in the Saluda County.
- xvi. Darryl Jones (SCFC) states that there is not a KBDI station in Saluda County. He said that there is an increasing potential for fires due to the dry conditions across the state but there has not been any fire occurrence in Saluda County.
- xvii. Hope (SCDNR) asks if there was a committee member that recommended any changes for Saluda County.
- xviii. Elliot (SCDNR) reads the chat and discusses Sam Quinney's comments (SCDA) that Laurens, Greenwood, and Union counties are dry, but that he did not make any statements about Saluda County.

- xix. Scott Harder (SCDES) asks if Laurens and Greenwood would stay in incipient drought status or if they would be moved to moderate drought status.
- xx. Elliot (SCDNR) tells Scott that we have not gotten to that discussion yet.
- xxi. Hope (SCDNR) states we are going county by county. The discussion seems to indicate that DMA counties Lexington and South should stay in normal status. Spartanburg, Cherokee, York, Chester, and Fairfield counties also stay in normal status. The question is now what to do with Greenville, Union, Newberry, Saluda, Laurens, and Greenwood counties. She restates that Christy Jones, DMA Domestic User, said Newberry was in normal conditions. Then states that Scott Harder (SCDES) is not in favor of moving Saluda County to incipient conditions based on lack of indicator support.
- xxii. Christy Jones, DMA Domestic User, confirms normal status for Newberry County
- xxiii. Scott Harder (SCDES) confirms his opinion on Saluda County for normal status based on the indicators.
- xxiv. Hope (SCDNR) states that we are left now with the decision for Greenville, Laurens, and Greenwood counties. She states that Darryl Jones (SCFC) suggested that Greenville County could go to incipient due to the KBDI values and the fire potential in the northern part of the county.
- xxv. Darryl Jones (SCFC) confirms Hope's statement. Then states that if KBDI is the only indicator for the County, based on being limited to just the northern part of the county, he is fine with keeping it in normal status for now and reevaluating it in the next meeting.
- xxvi. Jimmy Bagley, DMA Municipalities, states that the US Drought Monitor has support for the northern part of Greenville County to be in incipient drought status.
- xxvii. Hope (SCDNR) states that when making changes to counties, it is not based off of one portion of the county, but rather the majority or the entire county. Furthermore, this approach has to be consistent with how we consider changes to each county.
- xxviii. Elliot (SCDNR) asks Darryl Jones (SCFC) if the fire occurrence in northern Greenville County has followed the climbing KBDI values or is it just the potential that is increasing.
- xxix. Darryl Jones (SCFC) confirms that it is just the potential that is increasing, not the actual fire occurrence. He then states that he is okay with keeping

Greenville County in normal status right now and reevaluating the status during the next meeting.

- xxx. Elliot (SCDNR) reads the chat from Glenn Thomas, FSA, stating that Union county received most of it's 30-day rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby and has been dry since and conditions were dry prior to Debby. Elliot states that from Glenn's perspective, Union county is dealing with Incipient drought status.
- xxxi. Scott Harder (SCDES) states that from an indicator perspective, he does not see any support for Union to move to incipient drought status other than the rainfall totals. He would recommend keeping in it in normal status. It is an area to keep an eye on in the future but is currently fine.
- xxxii. Hope (SCDNR) asks for input for Greenwood and Laurens counties. She states that the US Drought Monitor does have support for increasing the status to moderate drought but asks for Scott Harder's (SCDES) input.
- xxxiii. Scott Harder (SCDES) recommends keeping them in incipient drought status as of now. But states that if rainfall remains low, those counties could warrant a status change in the next meeting.
- xxxiv. Darryl Jones (SCFC) agrees with Scott Harder (SCDES). Fire occurrence in those two counties have not been high enough to warrant an increase in drought status.
- xxxv. Hope (SCDNR) asks for other feedback or thoughts from the Central DMA members.
- xxxvi. County Recommendations: Newberry, Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Cherokee, York, Chester, Fairfield, Union, Saluda, Greenville, and Spartanburg counties remain normal status. Greenwood and Laurens remain in Incipient. Status remains the same as the last Drought Response Committee Meeting.
- xxxvii. **Motion:**
 - 1. Officially called by Ken Rentiers (SCDNR)
 - 2. Motion: Leave all counties in the DMA as is, status quo.
Greenwood and Laurens in incipient drought status. Newberry, Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Cherokee, York, Chester, Fairfield, Union, Saluda, Greenville, and Spartanburg counties remain in normal status.
 - 3. Jimmy Bagley, Municipalities, 1st
 - 4. Christy Jones, DMA Domestic User, 2nd
 - 5. Members of the Central DMA unanimously agreed on the motion.

d. Southern DMA starts

- i. Hope (SCDNR) opens the floor for discussion.
- ii. Jason Thompson, DMA Commission of Public Works, discusses how the area has received isolated precipitation post-Debby, but if they do not receive rain over the next two weeks, they could move to Incipient.
- iii. Marion Rizer, DMA Soil and Water Conservation District, states that there has been little rain since Tropical Storm Debby, but does not think the area is in drought status yet.
- iv. Matt McCants, DMA Power Generation Facilities agrees and would second what has been discussed so far, regarding isolated rainfall totals since Tropical Storm Debby. Things are getting a little dry but it is best to wait for an incipient status to see what the next few week bring.
- v. County Recommendations: Bamberg, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Colleton, Charleston, and Berkeley Counties remain in normal status.
- vi. **Motion:**
 - 1. Officially called by Ken Rentiers (SCDNR)
 - 2. Motion: Leave all counties in the DMA as is, status quo, in normal conditions.
 - 3. Matt McCants, DMA Power Generation Facilities, 1st
 - 4. Eric Odom, DMA Municipalities, 2nd
 - 5. Members of the Southern DMA unanimously agreed on the motion.

e. Northeastern DMA

- i. Hope (SCDNR) opens the floor for discussion. States that this DMA was the driest in July. Since then there was a period of larger rainfall, followed by a period of little rainfall. She asks for the committee's thoughts on the status of the Northeast DMA.
- ii. Karolan Ohanesian, DMA Domestic User, says that Horry County is still in normal status.
- iii. Athena Strickland, DMA Industry, states that it would be best to leave things in normal status, especially if the committee will convene again soon.
- iv. Hope (SCDNR) discusses how there is little indicator support in the area for making any changes, other than the KBDI. She then calls on Jimmy Bagley (Central DMA) to speak about Lancaster County, since it is close to York County.
- v. Jimmy Bagley, Central DMA Municipalities, discusses that there has been variation in rainfall in Lancaster County, but the county is in relatively

good conditions. If the committee will meet again in a few weeks, he believes Lancaster can stay in normal status.

- vi. Elliot (SCDNR) states that Joe Ghent, DMA Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is having mic issues so Joe put in the chat that conditions are good in Lancaster County and that it is in normal status.
- vii. Alan Watkins, DMA Counties, says it has been dry since Tropical Storm Debby, and some areas are starting to dry out again but things are not critical at this point and we can reevaluate in the coming weeks.
- viii. Clint Elliott, DMA Municipalities, agrees with the discussion so far and states that the DMA can be left as is for now and reevaluate in the next meeting.
- ix. County Recommendations: Lancaster, Kershaw, Chesterfield, Darlington, Lee, Florence, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, and Horry counties remain in normal status.
 - 1. Officially called by Ken Rentiers (SCDNR)
 - 2. Motion: Leave all counties in the DMA as is, status quo, in normal conditions.
 - 3. Clint Elliot, DMA Municipalities, 1st
 - 4. Karolan Ohanesian, DMA Domestic User, 2nd
 - 5. Members of the Northeast DMA unanimously agreed on the motion.

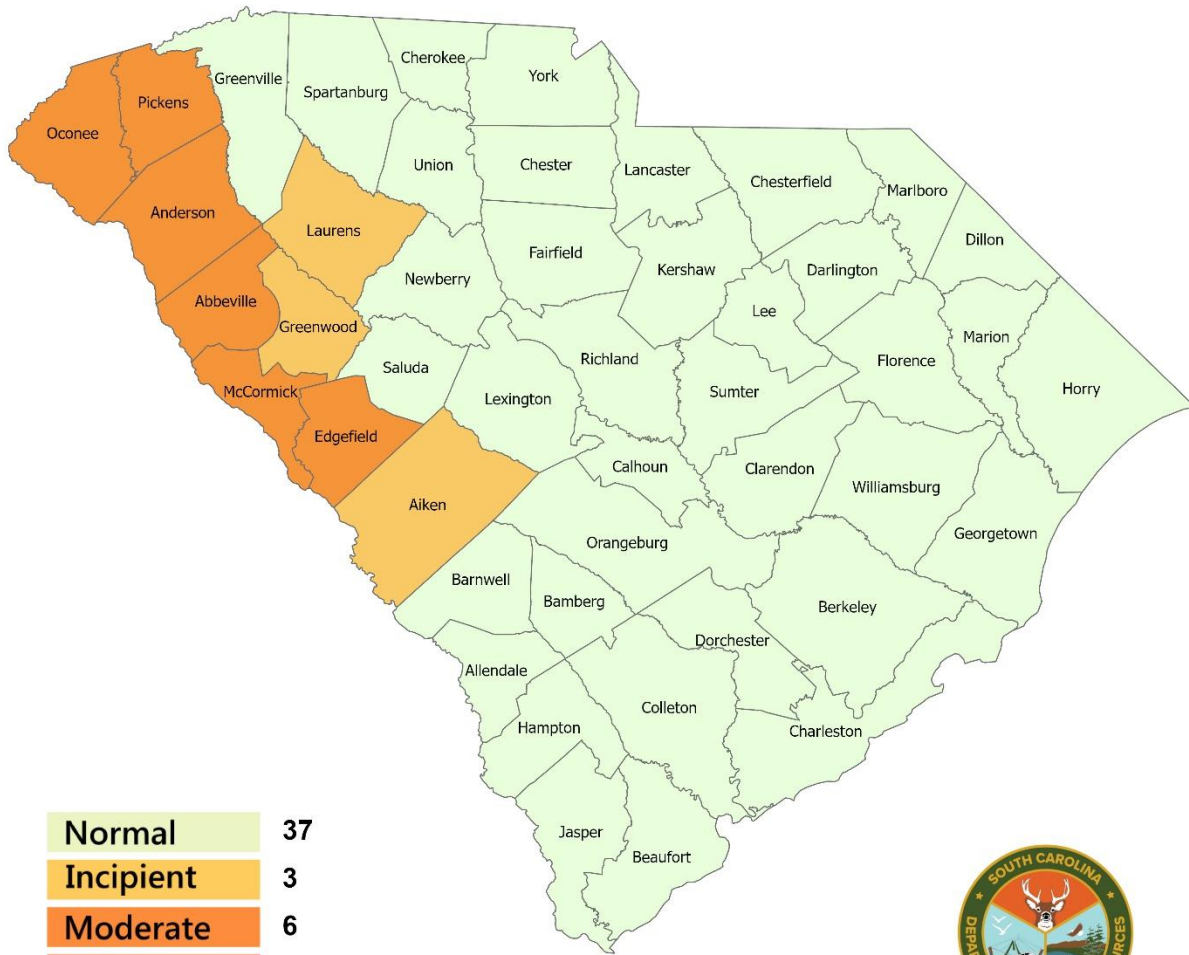
f. Future Drought Response Committee Meetings

- i. Hope and Elliott (SCDNR) provide a quick recap of all the motions
 - 1. No questions or discussion presented.
- ii. Hope (SCDNR) once again mentions the license plate form.
- iii. Proposed Dates: Wednesday, October 2nd and Wednesday, November 6th.
 - 1. There is a sense of urgency for the next meeting presented by multiple members. The next proposed date is three weeks from today, Wednesday, September 25th. Tentatively, Wednesday, November 6th, is proposed for the following meeting, but that is subject to change.

iv. Motion to Adjourn:

- 1. Officially Called by Ken Rentiers (SCDNR)
- 2. Jimmy Bagley, Central DMA Municipalities, 1st
- 3. Jason Thompson, Southern DMA Commission of Public Works, 2nd
- v. Meeting has been adjourned.

Drought Status: 09-04-2024



Normal	37
Incipient	3
Moderate	6
Severe	0
Extreme	0

Number of counties in each category.



SC Department of Natural Resources
State Climate Office

Committee Members	Group	Attendance 9/4/2024
West DMA		
Reg Williams	Agriculture	
Cheryl Daniels	Commission of Public Works	
Mark Warner	Counties	X
Eric Carrier	Domestic User	
David Evans	Industry	X
Lynn McEwen	Municipalities	Appointment Pend.
Preston Pierce	Power Generation Facilities	X
J. Scott Willett	Private Water Supplier	
Chris Rasco	Public Service District	X
Rick Green	Regional Council of Gov.	X
Yvonne Kling	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	
Brian Chemsak	Special Purpose District	X
Central DMA		
John Irwin	Agriculture	
Ken Tuck	Commission of Public Works	
Peggy Swearingen	Counties	X
Christy Jones	Domestic User	X
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.	
John T. Rivers	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	

Fred Castles	Special Purpose District	X
Northeast DMA		
Caleb Miller	Agriculture	
	Commission of Public Works	VACANT
Karolan Ohanesian	Domestic User	X
Athena Strickland	Industry	X
Clint Elliott	Municipality	X
	Power Generation Facilities	VACANT
	Private Water Supplier	VACANT
Alan Watkins	Counties	X
Elbert Warren	Public Service District	X
Lindsay Privette	Regional Council of Gov.	
Joe Ghent	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	X
Nathan Ward	Special Purpose District	Appointment Pend. X
Southern DMA		
	Agriculture	VACANT
Jason Thompson	Commission of Public Works	X
Larry Harper	Counties	Appointment Pend.
Chris Wallace	Domestic User	Appointment Pend.
Chris Muckenfuss	Industry	Appointment Pend.
Eric Odom	Municipalities	X
Matt McCants	Power Generation Facilities	X
	Private Water Supplier	VACANT
Russell Cornette	Public Service District	Appointment Pend.
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
Joe Koon	SC Dept. of Environ. Services	X
Darryl Jones	SC Forestry Commission	X
Sam Quinney	SC Department of Agriculture	X
Other Participants		
Hope Mizzell	SCDNR	X
Elliot Wickham	SCDNR	X
Scott Harder	SCDES	X
Alexis Modzelesky	SCDES	X
Michael Wright	SC Farm Bureau	X
Lynn Dunn	Duke Energy	X
Denise Bunte-Bisnett	Santee-Cooper	X
Brandon Lambert	FSA	X
Glenn Thomas	FSA	X
Brice Shuler	FSA	X
Bobby Jo		X
The Seneca Journal		X