



Oregon's Drought Readiness Council July 13, 2017 Meeting Notes



Phone meeting hosted by OWRD Salem, OR

Attendees:

Ken Stahr, Water Resources Department, Water Supply Availability Committee Chair
Justin Iverson, Water Resources Department
Samantha Phillips, Water Resources Department
Kathie Dello, Oregon State University
Heather Tugaw, Department of Environmental Quality
Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Tom Elliott, Oregon Department of Energy

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Ken Stahr, chaired meeting for Brenda Bateman, he welcomed everyone and participants introduced themselves.

2. Agenda Check:

No Changes

3. Approval of June Meeting Notes:

Members unanimously approved the June 2017 meeting notes.

4. Update on 2017 Water Conditions

Ken Stahr, Chair, Water Supply Availability Committee, presented a summary of water conditions from the WSAC to the Drought Readiness Council. Highlights and recap include:

- Snow lingering at high elevations. Yearly precipitation for mountains is more than 125 percent. Little to no mountain precipitation recorded in the past 3-4 weeks.
- State wide precipitation has been above average for water so far this year. Currently, precipitation is below average. Recent temperatures have been above average and predicted to stay the same. Long term outlook is for an increased probability of above average temperatures and an equal chance of above or below average precipitation
- Stream flows are subsiding. Flows are still above average for June, marking the fifth month of above average flows; with over 140 percent of average for the water year. Currently flows are dropping to below average in some locations such as the Umatilla Basin and Coastal watersheds. Reservoir Storage is above average and those reservoirs used for water supply are releasing water. Most all Central Oregon reservoirs were filled this year except Wickiup.
- Westside U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoirs are doing very well. Hills Creek reservoir is being held to lower levels due to their scheduled maintenance project. All reservoirs are projected to meet minimum flow requirements even through scheduled maintenance projects.
- ENSO neutral conditions now prevalent. Neutral conditions are predicted though Fall. The computer model predicts warmer and dry conditions into Fall and possibly beyond. A review of the U.S. Drought Monitor may start to show change in some areas of the state.
- Fire season is starting off to be a lower-than-average season. Currently fire danger is extreme in some parts of Eastern and Central Oregon. The ODF wildfire blog is posting updates as things change.

- Note that the SNOTEL map presented on page 5 of the 7/12/2017 Water Conditions Report is not reflective of actual conditions. The SNOTEL reporting processing system is experiencing technical difficulties at this time. There are currently no SNOTEL sites with measureable snow, thus statewide snowpack calculated by SNOTEL sites is now zero percent of normal.

5. Roundtable

Justin Iverson, (WRD) reported: Trends for groundwater levels are still waiting on data to be collected for the June/July. Data collected Feb/March incomplete due to snow blocking many of the sites. Water conditions in the Klamath area show depleted storage that is not being restored even with ample precipitation.

Heather Tugaw (DEQ) reported: Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Notices have been going out. Will need to check with DEQ's lab to find out if the number and frequency of listings are unusual.

Kathie Dello (OCCRI) reported that legislation passed, approving grant funds and that at next meeting she will present the particulars of the program.

Anna Pakenham-Stevenson , (ODF&W) reported that there is a climate change webinar July 19, 2017. She will send link out to the committee.

The group discussed how to continue moving forward throughout the season and concluded that at a minimum the group should continue with monthly check-ins.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 10:00.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Thanks for your continued support!