

Southeast Tennessee Regional Water Supply Study Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Fall Creek Falls, TN

December 1, 2016

Welcome, Mr. Brock Hill

- Meeting was requested to be held by Governor Haslam to facilitate conversation and develop solutions to the drought problem in the Sequatchie Valley area.
- Invited 7 counties to the meeting: Fentress, Morgan, Cumberland, Bledsoe, Rhea, Grundy, Sequatchie

National Weather Service, Mr. James LaRosa

- Chattanooga is on pace for the driest year on record.
- Currently transitioning from El Nino to La Nina. The trend recently is that La Nina's are dryer than normal.
- Could potentially be the first year of approx. 3 years of lower precipitation for Southeastern Tennessee. Possibly headed into a period similar to 2007.

Previous Studies, All

- SETDD – Hiwassee River study may be useful as guideline. Area experienced similar issues.
- TDEC – Regional Water Resources Planning Guidelines for Tennessee outlines study guidelines.

Utility District Concerns and Issues, All

- City of Dunlap – Withdrawals from Sequatchie River. Lack of water is affecting industry (Seymour Piping) and job growth. Mayor is concerned about the financial aspects.
- Morgan County – Would like to see collaboration with others in the northern portion including Oneida. Possible separate study start.
- City of Dayton – Not experiencing a lack of water issue. Would like to have interconnections with Pikeville and others to possible share/sell water.
- City of Pikeville – Primary source of water is groundwater (wells), pulls raw water from Sequatchie River as backup source. Mayor would like to see a reservoir built within city limits, approximately 500 acres. Resident owns 2.5 miles of property along Sequatchie River. Cannot interconnect with other Utility Districts (Dayton) until contract issue is resolved with TDOC.

Potential Corps Study, Mr. Russ Rote

- Joint Corps-non-federal partner study would be the first step in the long term fix for the water supply problem.
- *Why study? To ensure wise and efficient use of taxpayer funds!*
- Through the conduct of the study, the team:
 - Develops an array of alternatives to solve the water resource problem
 - Analyzes each alternative based on costs and benefits, while also working to avoid or mitigate impacts to environmental and cultural resources
 - Compares alternative solutions
 - Recommends the most cost effective plan which includes all known costs
 - Design
 - Real estate required

- Construction
- Any environmental mitigation required
- Predicted future operation and maintenance costs
- Could potentially initiate a study under three different authorities; Planning Assistance to States (PAS); Sec 729, or Sec 219.
- Section 219: Assists non-Federal interest in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Cost shared on a 75% Federal / 25% non-Federal basis.
- Section 729: Leads to the development of a watershed plan that recommends tools and a strategic course of action for achieving the desired conditions in the watershed. Costs associated with this phase are shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal, with the non-Federal sponsor given credit for services in-kind.
- PAS: Assists the States in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Cost shared 50% Federal / 50% non-Federal.
- Study partners contribute cost share funds. Study stakeholders may or may not contribute cost share funds.
- Corps potentially has as much as \$200k for a study start in FY17.

Next Steps, Mr. Russ Rote

- Need to define study area. Development Districts to help define what counties/cities need to be involved.
- Next Meeting: Mid December 2016. To be scheduled by Mrs. Dana Sexton.