

Drought Response Committee Conference Call

Date: October 28, 2025

Time: 10:15 a.m.

A Drought Response Committee Conference Call was conducted at 10:15 a.m., October 28, 2025. Notice of the date, time, and call-in information was posted and provided on the scdrought.com website.

Introduction

- a. Ken Rentiers (SCDNR) opens the meeting and reads the agenda.
 - i. Ken (SCDNR) makes notice that this meeting is being recorded.
- b. Hope Mizzell (SCDNR) conducts the Drought Committee roll call.
 - i. She does a roll call of state agency members and any additional attendees.
 - ii. There is a quorum in all DMAs.
- c. Ken Rentiers (SCDNR) puts forth a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, which took place on October 7th.
 - i. Jason Thompson, 1st
 - ii. Jimmy Bagley, 2nd
 - iii. Motion passes unanimously. Minutes have been approved.
- d. Hope Mizzell discusses that there will be some potential changes to the Drought Response Act and Regulations. They are working through the documents with the DNR legal counsel and do not anticipate proposing any changes until 2026 legislative session.

II. PowerPoint Presentation

- a. Hope Mizzell (SCDNR) begins with the presentation.
 - i. Displays latest DRC drought map – 40 counties are in incipient and 6 counties in normal.
 - ii. Total rainfall and percent of normal shows the rain from the coastal low that impacted the coastal counties, especially apparent in the 30-day maps. These maps do not display the rain we've received over the past two days.
 - iii. CoCoRaHS maps – Two day total rainfall from Sunday and Monday. 3-4" in some of the updates, Midlands 1-2", and coastal counties with the lowest rain (only a few tenths).

- iv. PDSI and CMI – Show the long-term and short-term dry conditions, but do not display the current moisture we've received the past few days.
- v. SPI maps compare difference in conditions between 5th and 27th. They do not include Monday, October 26th's rainfall.
- vi. The latest US drought monitor map that was approved last Thursday, October 23rd.
- vii. Clemson Station Data – This is a different map than sent in email yesterday. It shows some of the latest rain few received yesterday.
- viii. 30-day and 60-day rainfall for all DMAs – shows the rainfall through Monday at 8AM. Rainfall received from coastal low shown in coastal counties is clearly present.

b. State Agency Reports

- i. SCDES (Alexis Modzelesky) –Streamflow across the state range from below normal to near normal. No drought shown on the map. Some incipient in table.

- 1. Pee Dee, Savannah, and Saluda show some dry patches.
- 2. Shows the streamflow levels across the DMAs. Some dry conditions across all DMAs with some locations, especially in the southern and central DMAs in the upper percentiles.
- 3. Hartwell Reservoir – expected to touch level 1 and hover.
- 4. Reservoirs – Most of the state hovering near guide curve. A couple are below, but only by a few feet which is okay.
- 5. Groundwater – most of the state wells are at normal, or just below normal (ex. Upstate – Greenville, which is low, tends to respond slowly).
- 6. Typo in the table – Thurmond and Hartwell.

- ii. Phil Fragapone (Duke Energy – Catawba/Wateree) They will know more about the about the water level after the rain this week. They will determine Monday and declare stage 0 if needed.

- iii. Darryl (SC Forestry Commission) – We were dry until the latest rain. Few fires, but fuels were not dry enough for any large fires. The values in PowerPoint do not represent the current conditions since slide was made before the rainfall. Rain should help with fire activity through

Christmas. Values expected to dramatically drop this afternoon with the rain. Improvement on Savannah River side too.

iv. Sam (Dept of Ag) – Soybeans saw a hit from the dryness, corn (dry and heat), disease in peanuts.

v. Joe Koon (SCDES) – No issues to report.

vi. Jordan Van Delden (SCEMD) – No updates.

c. PowerPoint Presentation – More Updates

i. Hope Mizzell (SCDNR) presents the short- and long-term forecasts

1. Tropical – Hurricane Melissa is the only area of concern in NHC's 7 tropical weather outlook.

2. 7-day precipitation forecast: Heavier precipitation forecast for the upstate.

3. 6-10 day outlook – Below normal temps and near normal precipitation. CPC 3 month outlook - just above normal temps and below normal precipitation outlook due to weak La Nina.

ii. Josh (NWS Greenville/Spartanburg) – Additional 1-2” inches today through Thursday will be beneficial. Dry stretch following for the extended.

iii. Frank (NWS Columbia) – Agrees with Josh – same for Columbia forecast area. Coastal low may bring moisture up to coastal counties early next week – models are varying.

iv. Open discussion – No additions.

III. Open Discussion and Vote

Hope Mizzell (SCDNR):

a. Central DMA

i. Jimmy Bagley – No discussion yet about the water with others, ok with leaving incipient conditions due to Catawba/Wateree.

ii. Ken Tuck – Georgetown, Clarendon and Williamsburg received a lot and could be taken out of incipient.

iii. Fred Castles – Agrees with keeping upper counties in incipient.

iv. Alan Stuart & Brad Powers – Supports Fred. All in incipient instead of bottom 3.

- v. Motion: All remain in incipient but move Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown back to normal.
 - 1. Brad Powers, 1st.
 - 2. Alan Stuart, 2nd
- vi. Motion passes unanimously.

b. West DMA

- i. Brian Chemsak – Beaufort is okay to stay no drought but does not know about the situation in Hampton and Jasper.
- ii. Lynn McEwen– Allendale, Barnwell, and Hampton are not getting the rain and very dry.
- iii. Scott Willett – Anderson is very dry and was trending towards incipient, until yesterday and today's soaking rain.
- iv. Mark Warner – Agrees with Scott and the conditions mirror in McCormick. The amount of rain they received helped and support normal.
- v. Yvonne Kling – Aiken needs incipient due to dry conditions and should keep the rest as is.
- vi. Motion: Keep those in incipient and no change to west DMA.
 - 1. Yvonne Kling, 1st
 - 2. Lynn McEwen, 2nd
- vii. Motion passes unanimously.

c. Southern DMA

- i. Jason Thompson – Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston County are in much better shape, but the question is where Bamberg and Orangeburg stand.
- ii. Eric – Much better condition in Orangeburg and Bamberg than previously, but still show some moderate drought. Should keep them in incipient and move others to normal.

iii. Darryl – Drought index dropping rapidly. One fire in Colleton. Fire is not a concern in southern with plentiful moisture.

iv. Landrum Weathers supports Eric's thoughts on the southern DMA.

v. Motion: Keep Orangeburg and Bamberg in incipient and put the other counties back in normal.

1. Jason Thompson, 1st

2. Eric Odom, 2nd

vi. Motion passes unanimously.

d. Northeastern DMA

i. Clint Elliott – Suggests that we take Horry County out of incipient and put into normal. Plentiful rain and more to come.

ii. Athena Strickland – Agrees and suggests that we add Darlington, Florence, Marion, and Marlboro back into normal. Clint supports.

iii. Alan Watkins – Lee County mentioned that only the lower half of the county got plentiful from coastal event. Suggests that despite more rain yesterday and today, we keep Lee County in incipient.

iv. Motion: Move Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro, and Horry back to normal. Rest stay in incipient

1. Alan Watkins, 1st

2. Athena Strickland, 2nd

v. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Closing Remarks

a. Hope (SCDNR) the discussion begins on next meeting date. December 3 or 10th. December 10th works best for the DRC.

b. Ken (SCDNR) puts forth a motion to adjourn:

i. Jason Thompson, 1st

ii. Clint Elliott, 2nd.

c. Meeting is adjourned at 11:17 a.m. on October 28, 2025.

Committee Members	Group	Attendance 10/28/2025
West DMA		
Reg Williams	Agriculture	
Cheryl Daniels	Commission of Public Works	X
Mark Warner	Counties	X
-	Domestic User	VACANT
David Evans	Industry	X
Lynn McEwen	Municipalities	X
Preston Pierce	Power Generation Facilities	
J. Scott Willett	Private Water Supplier	X
Chris Rasco	Public Service District	
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	
Christy Jones	Domestic User	
Ed Holder	Industry	X
James G. Bagley	Municipalities	X
Alan Stuart	Power Generation Facilities	X
Brad C. Powers	Private Water Supplier	X
-	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	
-	Commission of Public Works	VACANT
Karolan Ohanesian	Domestic User	
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.	
Nathan Ward	Special Purpose District	
Southern DMA		
Landrum Weathers	Agriculture	X
Jason Thompson	Commission of Public Works	X
-	Counties	VACANT
Chris Wallace	Domestic User	
-	Industry	VACANT
Eric Odom	Municipalities	X
Matt McCants	Power Generation Facilities	X
-	Private Water Supplier	VACANT
Russell Cornette	Public Service District	
Ronald E. Mitchum	Regional Council of Gov.	
Marion L. Rizer	Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	
-	Special Purpose District	VACANT
State Agency Members		
Ken Rentiers	SCDNR, LWC Division	X
Jordan Van Delden	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, LWC Division	X
Melissa Griffin	SCDNR, LWC Division	X
Jennifer Simmons	SCDNR, LWC Division	X
Frank Alsheimer	NWS Columbia	X
Alexis Modzelesky	SCDES	X

Josh Palmer	NWS GSP	X
Scott Harder	SCDES	X
Phil Fragapane	Duke Energy – Catawba-Wateree	X
KC Price		X
Peter Balzani		X
Alex Floyd		X
Denise Bisnett		X