

Drought Response in the COG Region

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Regional Drought Workshop
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Overview

- Our Regional Water Systems
- COG's Water Supply and Drought Plan
- Role of CAOs as Drought Coordination Committee
- History of drought declarations.

Water Supply in the COG Region

Potomac CO-OP System

Three major water suppliers in the CO-OP provide 90%+ of region's treated water

Fairfax Water - provides water to Fairfax County, Loudoun Water, Prince William County Service Authority, Vienna DPW, Virginia-American Water Company.

Washington Aqueduct Division - provides water to Arlington Department of Public Works, DC Water, and Fairfax Water.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission- provides water to most of Prince George's County and Montgomery County.

Additional water supply sources in Potomac River System

Patuxent Reservoir, Occoquan Reservoir
Backup storage – Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Little Seneca Reservoir

Jurisdictions with their own water supply sources

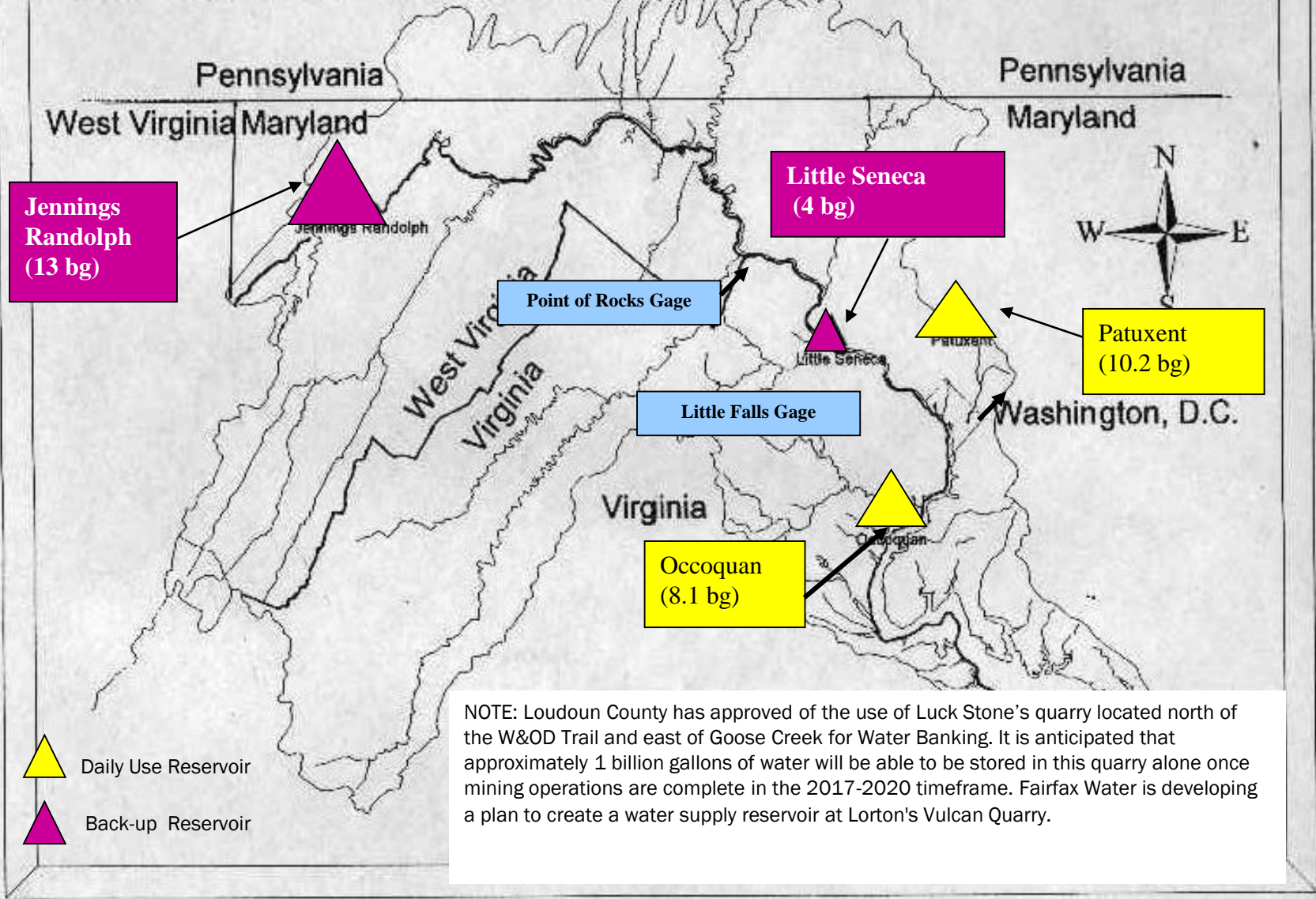
- Bowie- groundwater
- Loudoun County Towns
 - Leesburg, Purcellville, Hamilton, Hillsboro, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Round Hill
- Manassas
 - Also supplies water to part of Prince William County
- Poolesville – groundwater
- Rockville – Potomac
- Charles County – groundwater, Potomac



Potomac River Basin

CO-OP Utilities Current Reservoir Sites

Adapted from ICPRB



Creation of the Water Supply and Drought Plan

- COG Board created the Water Supply Task Force (WSTF) in the summer of 1999.
 - Initial Focus – water supply and current drought conditions.
 - Long-Term Goals - Board asked the Task Force to develop “common language” for region in the event of another serious drought.
- COG Board unanimously adopted the regional Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan on June 7, 2000 – two main components:
 - A year-round plan emphasizing wise water use and conservation; and a water supply and drought awareness and response plan.



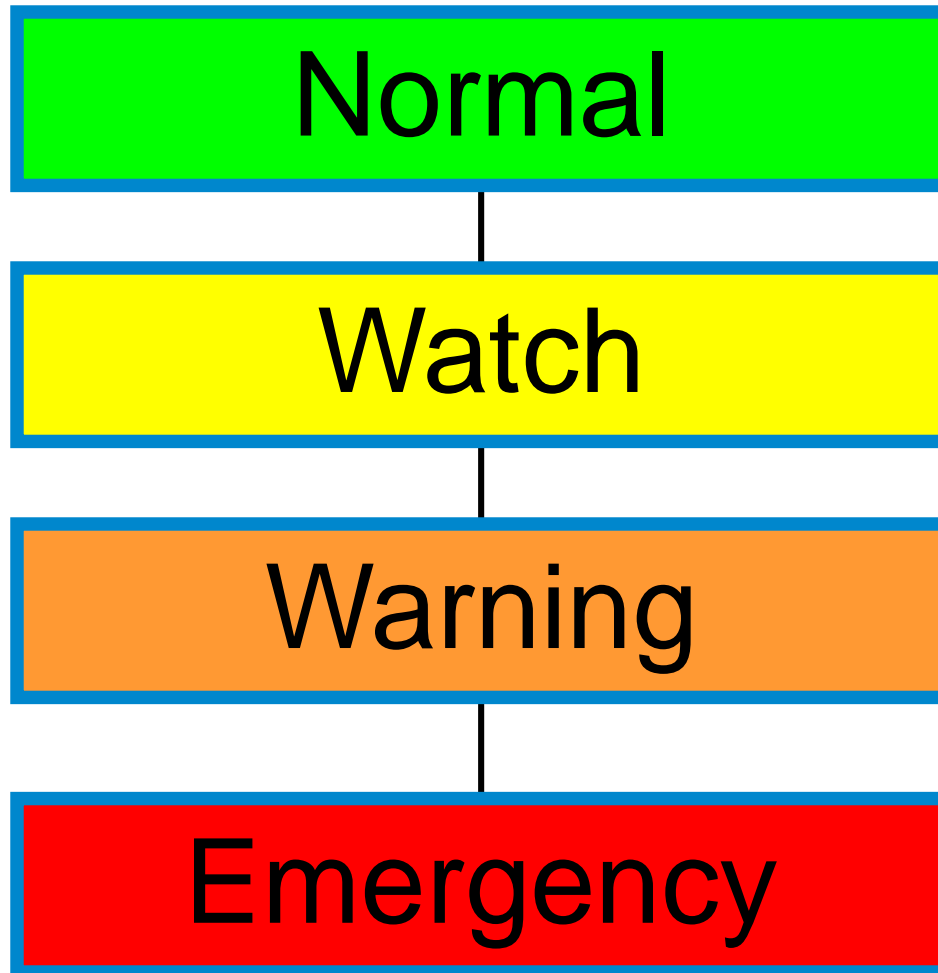


Components of the plan

- First part – Wise Water Use Campaign
 - A Public Outreach Campaign with Indoor and Outdoor Conservation Messages – year-round focus
 - Part of a Regional Outreach Effort – Community Engagement Campaign with advertising and outreach using various channels.



2nd Part – Drought Triggers and Actions



Note that the Plan consists of four stages and is primarily designed for those customers who use the Potomac River for water supply.

Normal

Water supply adequate to meet demands

Year-round wise water use program conducted

Routine reporting
Monthly water supply and drought outlooks
April - October

Email and Web Site Updates

Watch

Trigger: NOAA "D1" drought level for Potomac River Basin (Drought Monitor)
Drought coordination committee meets
Note: CAO Chair is on this committee

Regional media briefing

Voluntary Water Conservation recommendations issued

Additional media notification at first reservoir release -75% full reservoirs

Warning

Trigger: Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca combined storage below 60% for 5 consecutive days OR

5% probability of not meeting unrestricted water supply demands over next 1-2 months

Drought Coordination Committee meets

Voluntary water restrictions announced

Regional media briefings begun on weekly basis

Emergency

Trigger: 50% probability of not being able to meet demands over next month

Drought Coordination Committee meets

Mandatory Water Restrictions announced

Regional Press Conference on daily basis



COG's Role Per the Plan Guidance

Communication and Coordination

- Monitor and Report on Water Supply and Drought Conditions
 - Monthly from April – October - more as needed depending on Drought stage
- Convene the DCC and Drought Coordination Technical Committee (DCTC) as needed
- Issue Press Releases regarding Drought Stages (WATCH, WARNING, EMERGENCY)
 - Interact with Media as needed
 - Internal and External Meetings

Outreach

- Wise Water Use Events
- Community Engagement Campaign
- Website updates

Role of the Chief Administrative Officers

The COG Board adopted the Plan that delegated authority to the DCC

COG Board Adopted Resolution R23-00 on June 7, 2000:

“Resolution adopting the recommendation of the COG Task Force on Regional Water Supply issues for a Water Supply and Drought Awareness Program and Response”

The Plan defines the Drought Coordination Committee in the "Definitions" Appendix (Attachment A) to the Plan as follows:

Drought Coordination Committee – comprised of COG’s Chief Administrative Officers and supported by utilities, the states, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin Co-op Section, the Committee would meet in order to be briefed on drought related issues and to make decisions regarding the implementation of drought programs and responses as outlined in the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Program and Response Plan.

Also in the CAO By Laws Adopted May 11, 2011

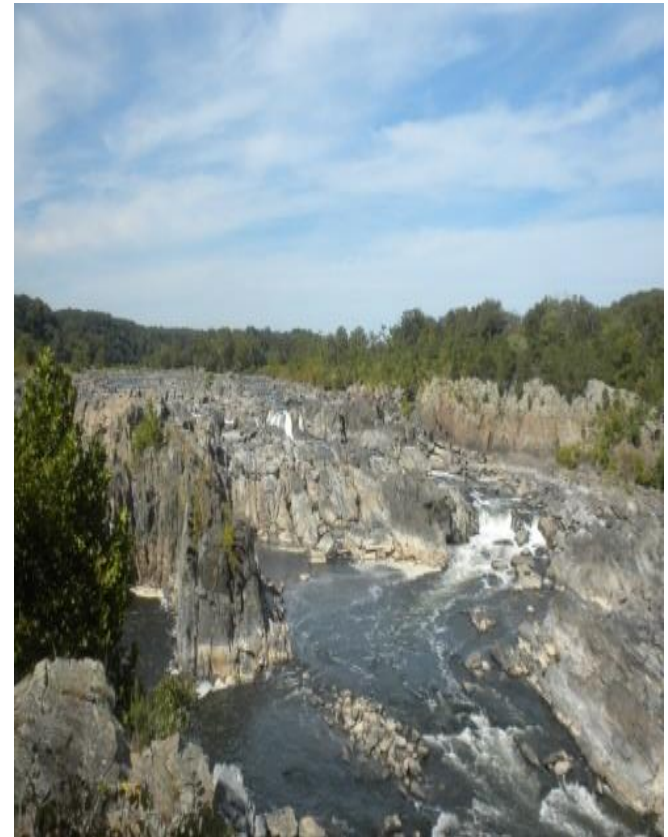
History of Use – Drought Declarations

COG's DCC issued the last Drought WATCH - **Sept. 9, 2010**

- Press Release urged residents and businesses to conserve water – use water wisely.
- Emphasized - water supply reservoirs that were constructed in the early 1980s to provide water during droughts were full but would be utilized if needed.
- Ended with Tropical Storm Lee.

Since the Drought Awareness Response Plan was adopted in 2000

- Declared a drought WATCH in 2002, 2007, and 2010.
- Never issued a WARNING or EMERGENCY for the Potomac system



Great Falls – Sept. 2010

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