

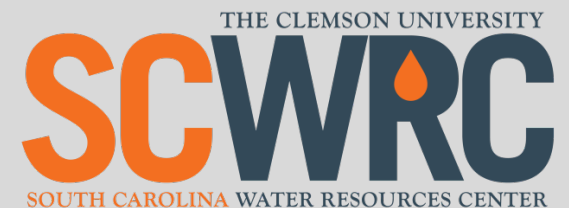
South Carolina Drought Tabletop Exercise

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SCEMD



Drought in South Carolina



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

“A period of diminished precipitation which results in negative impacts upon the hydrology, agriculture, biota, energy, and economy of the State.”

(SC Drought Response Act)



2019 Goals and Objectives



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- Exercise the South Carolina drought monitoring and response process
- Increase awareness of participants' roles and responsibilities for drought response and planning within their agencies and organizations
- Identify gaps in existing processes and prioritize follow-up actions

2019 Participants



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- 92 individuals
- 48 organizations and agencies
 - Emergency Management
 - Agriculture
 - Water
 - Energy



Format



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- Overview of drought-related legislation, plans, programs
- 4 Scenarios
 - Moderate Drought
 - Severe Drought (breakout groups)
 - Extreme Drought (breakout groups)
 - Emergency Operations
- Hot Wash

Challenges/Discussion Topics



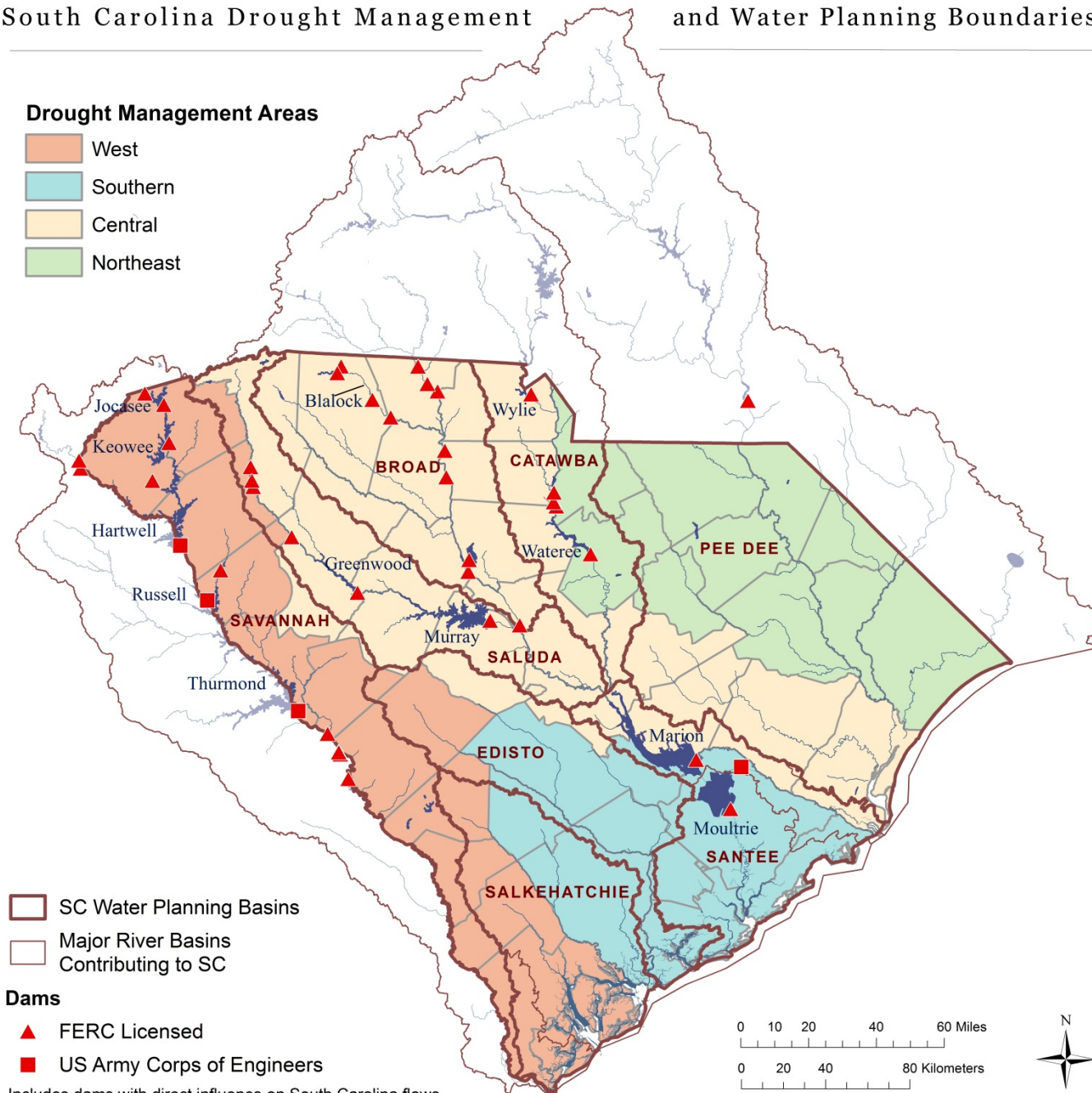
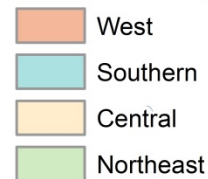
2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- Drought Response Committee (DRC) vacancies
- Mismatch between SC drought map and US Drought Monitor
- Plans
 - Who has a plan? Is it up-to-date?
 - Who is doing what and when?
- Process
 - Curtailing nonessential water use, during severe and extreme drought
 - Transition to state level operations and coordination, Governor involvement

Overlapping Boundaries and Jurisdictions

South Carolina Drought Management and Water Planning Boundaries

Drought Management Areas



Credit: Tanner Arrington, SCDNR

2017 Tabletop Exercise Identified Challenges



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

Plans and Procedures

- DRC vacancies
- EMD and Governor's Office involved too late
- Outdated local-level plans

Communications

- Lack of consistent messaging about drought conditions and water conservation, particularly at the local level

Education and Awareness

- Many agencies unaware of the drought response process and their role in, and responsibilities for drought response

Data and Information

- Lack of information (water system interconnections, economic effects) that would be helpful for planning and mitigation

2017 Action Items

- Projects and progress from 2017 recommendations
 - New appointments to the Drought Response Committee
 - Education and awareness
 - 2-pager, report, publication, and presentations about the 2017 exercise
 - 2019 Tabletop Exercise, based on recommendation for regular drought exercises
 - Communications
 - scdrought.com website
 - Ongoing CISA projects
 - Working with the State Climate Office to update local planning guidance and with the SC Emergency Management Division to develop Informational resources for emergency managers

2019 Preliminary Takeaways



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- Needs: communications, education, awareness
 - Earlier and more frequent/regular communications
 - Enhanced coordination
 - Communications to the public about impacts, response actions
 - Better understanding of what different sectors are experiencing and doing at different drought levels
- ? - recommendations for SCO, DNR to consider
- ? - recommendations for the River Basin Councils to consider

2019 Preliminary Takeaways



2019 South Carolina
Drought Tabletop Exercise

- Needs: plans and procedures
 - Earlier response; more consistency in response
 - Managing transitions between drought levels
 - Who is/was not represented?
 - Industry, business, small water systems, professional news media, elected officials, insurance, more diverse representation from other sectors
- ? - Recommendations to consider regarding revisions to the SC Drought Response Act, Regulations, Plan
- ? – Recommendations for the River Basin Councils to consider



Comments or Questions?

Information about the 2019 Drought Tabletop Exercise is available on
<http://www.scdrought.com/planning.html>