



**County of Prince Edward
Board of Supervisors
Agenda Summary**

Meeting Date: September 11, 2012
Item No.: 17-d
Department: County Administrator
Staff Contact: W.W. Bartlett
Issue: County Administrator’s Report - Drought Watch Update

Summary:

On August 1, 2012 the Board of Supervisors declared a Drought Watch.

Per the Drought Response and Contingency Plan triggers for the declaration of a “Drought Watch” would be when at least two of the indicators meet the follow conditions:

- Precipitation levels are at or below normal precipitation;
- Stream flows fall between the 10th and 25th percentile;
- Ground water levels fall between the 10th and 25th percentile; and
- Sandy River Reservoir level is between 75% and 85% of total usable volume.

Precipitation through August is now 6.27 inches below normal for the year; it had been over 10 inches below normal through July. From September 1 – 4th 1.58 inches of rain was recorded which is almost one-half the total normal precipitation for September. With the forecast for more rain it appears rainfall will be greater than normal for September which will reduce the deficit even more. On September 5, 2012 streamflow in the Appomattox was at 106cfs, which exceeds the 25th percentile of 55cfs. Ground water levels as measured at the state monitoring well in Buckingham County is at 28.71 which is below the 25th percentile of 23.71. The Sandy River Reservoir is approximately 11.5 inches below normal which means the reservoir is holding approximately 93.4% of its total usable volume.

Attachments:

Recommendation: Two of the triggers still meet the measurements to enact a drought watch; however, it appears that the rainfall totals are on the rise and the flow Appomattox River is well over the 25th percentile. The Board may wish to evaluate if it wishes to lift the drought watch.

Motion _____
 Second _____

Campbell _____
 Gantt _____
 Simpson _____

Cooper-Jones _____
 Jones _____
 Wilck _____

Fore _____
 McKay _____