Water and RDOs: Opportunities and Obstacles

October 16, 2012
National Association of Development Organizations
Annual Training Conference
Mirage Hotel - Las Vegas, NV

Presented by:
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About NWMORCOG

- 19 Regional Planning Commissions

- Our Commission Serves:
  - Five Counties
  - 40 Cities
  - 42,876 People
2012 Drought

Extreme Drought (D3) - Major crop/pasture losses; extreme fire danger; widespread water shortages or restrictions.

Drought Monitor:
Based on Oct. 2nd Conditions

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional
2012 Drought

Drought Monitor:
May 15th through October 2nd

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for October 4 - December 31, 2012
Released October 4, 2012

KEY:
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events such as individual storms cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications such as crops that can be affected by such events.

"Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.
Impacts

• **Agricultural**
  – Significant Crop Damage
  – Inflated Cost of Inputs (energy, feedstock)
  – Decreased Herd Sizes

• **Drinking Water**
  – Drought is one factor (also aging infrastructure, shrinking tax base, increasing regulations)
Impacts

- Starting to see stress on small public water systems
- Some municipalities that rely on shallow groundwater wells are reporting critical well-depths
- Increasing number of assistance requests
Strategy – Short Term

• **Interconnections with nearby water systems**
  – Primarily Public Water Supply Districts
  – Well digging can be unreliable; new catchment reservoirs are time-intensive

• **Seek public funding assistance**
  – Community Development Block Grant
  – USDA-Rural Development
  – State Revolving Loan Fund
Strategy – Long Term

• **Regionalization is KEY**
  – Small communities (especially in rural areas) can benefit from Economy of Scale

• **Many funding agencies encouraging some form of regionalization if possible**
  – Shrinking federal dollars warrant will require creative solutions to water issues
Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission

• In 2005, regional leaders named water supply as one of the top economic development and sustainability concerns for Northwest Missouri.

• This led to the formation of:

[Logos and images related to water supply and commission]
Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission

- Grassroots effort of many partners to plan for the water future of northwest Missouri

- 12 Counties
- MDNR
- Three Missouri RPCs
- EPA
- USDA
- Engineering Firms
- NWMSU
- University Extension
- U.S. Corps of Engineers
- MRWA
- Private Water Systems
The ultimate mission of the GNWWC is to safeguard the ability of every water producer in northwest Missouri to provide abundant drinking water to its citizens.
Proactive, Regional Planning & Implementation
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