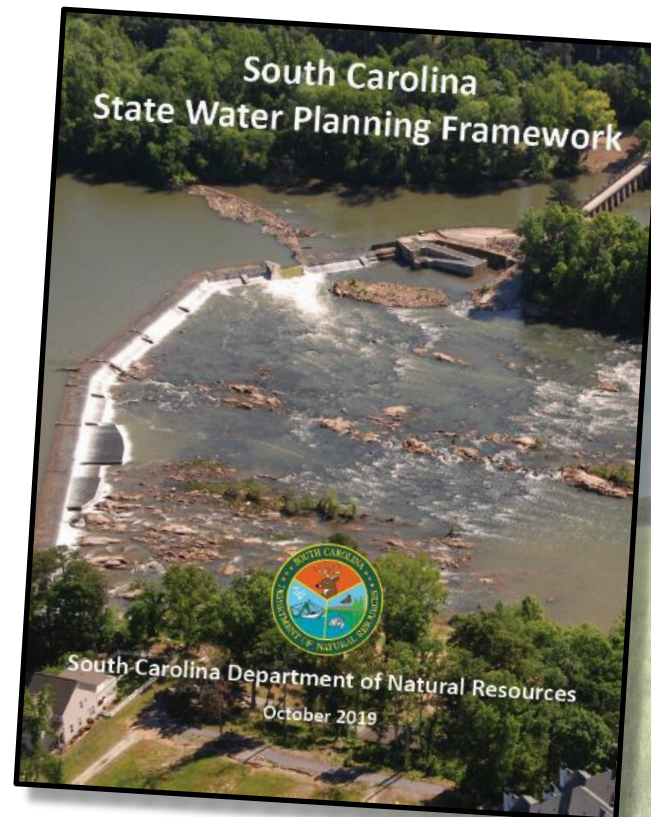


# Drought Management Plans and Development of Chapter 8

## Pee Dee River Basin Council

October 24, 2023

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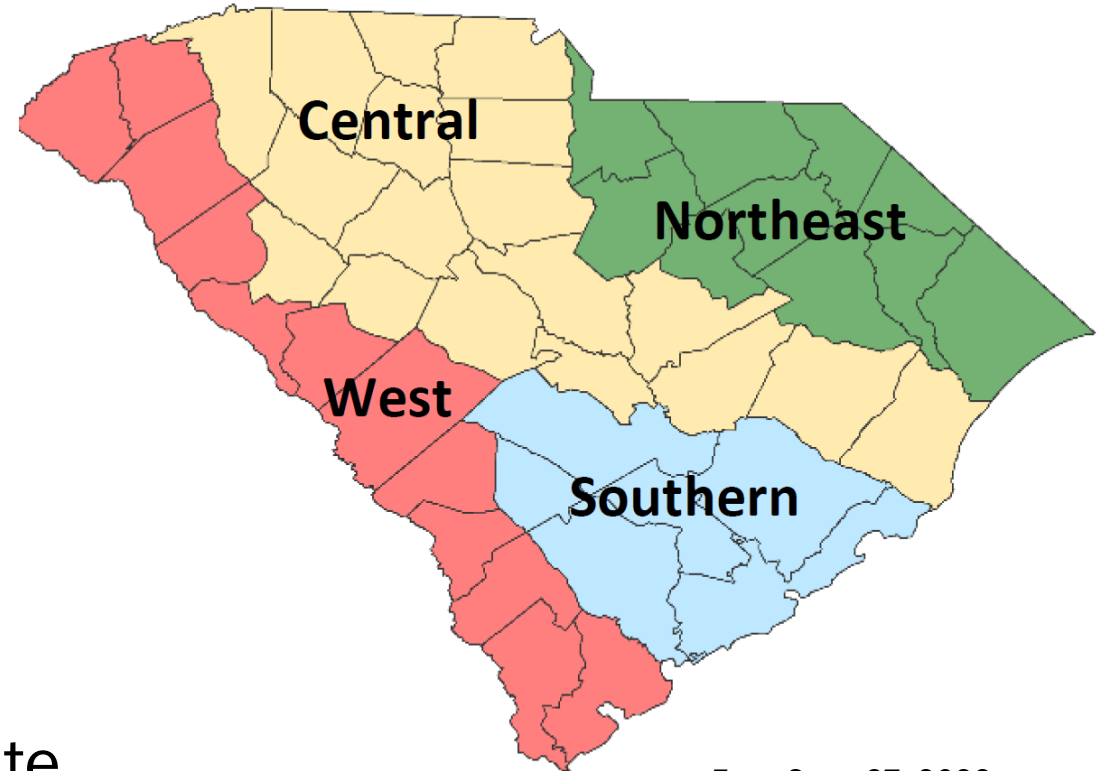
# Chapter Content

## 8

- Existing Drought Management Plans and Drought Management Advisory Groups
- RBC Drought Response
  - Roles/Responsibilities
  - Communication Plan
  - Drought Mgmt Recommendations

# South Carolina Drought Response Program

- Consists of legislation, regulations, and procedures that establish recommended and required response
- The South Carolina Drought Response Act (2000) and the supporting regulations formally establish and describe the responsibilities of the South Carolina State Climatology Office and the South Carolina Drought Response Committee, the major drought decision-making entities in the State.



*From Sept. 27, 2022  
Pee Dee RBC presentation*

# Drought Severity Levels

## Incipient

- Drier than normal
- Soil moisture declines
- Water demand increases

## Moderate

- Water levels decrease
- Crops and plants wither
- Irrigation increases

## Severe

- Water levels continue to drop
- Number of wildfires increase
- Poor grazing and agricultural conditions

## Extreme

- Widespread impacts to agriculture, forestry, water utilities, and water dependent businesses

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# What are Drought Management Plans?

- Tool for water utilities to document drought indicators and address and mitigate droughts
- Objectives
  - Have clear triggers to identify drought conditions
  - Document actions utilities can take at each phase
- Drought Response ordinance is included
  - Provides authority to impose voluntary and mandatory restrictions
  - Curb specific water uses
  - Enforcement mechanism

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# Content of Drought Management Plans

- **Water System Overview**

- System layout, sources, capacities, connections, yields
- Responsible representative for implementing plan

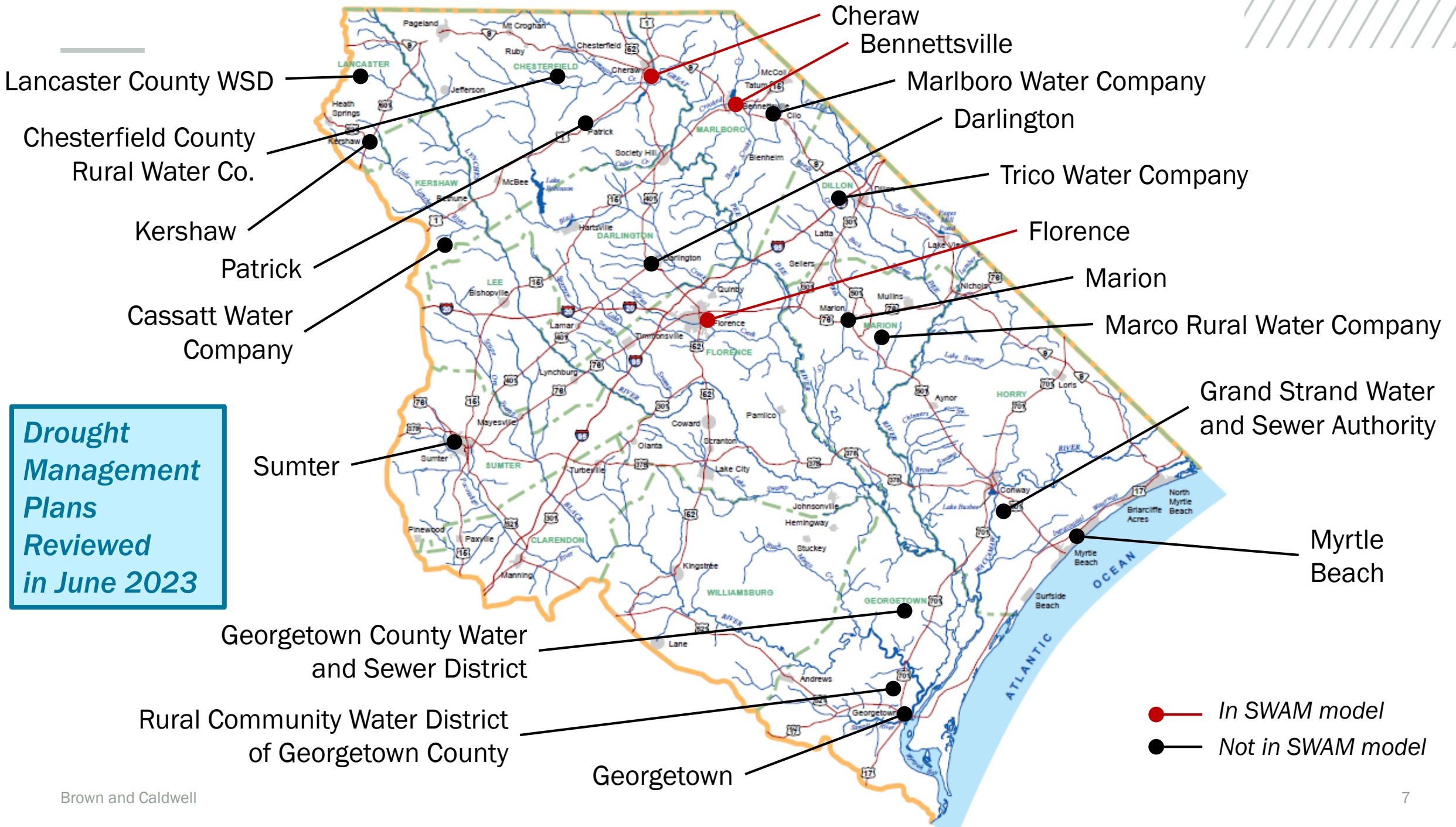
- **Drought indicators**

- Conditions or triggers that describe drought phases

- **Mitigation measures**

- Drought mitigation measures, cooperative agreements and alternative sources, pre-drought planning efforts

- **Drought Response Ordinance**



**Drought Management Plans Reviewed in June 2023**

# Additional Water Providers with Drought Mgmt Plans

City of Bishopville	Town of Lamar
Town of Andrews	Town of Latta
Bethune Rural Water Company	Little River Water and Sewer
City of Conway	City of Manning
Bucksport Water System	City of Mullins
High Hills Rural Water Company	City of North Myrtle Beach
City of Hartsville	Town of Olanta
Town of Heath Springs	Town of Pageland
Town of Hemingway	Town of Pamplico
Town of Jefferson	Town of Timmonsville
City of Johnsonville	Town of Turbeville
Town of Kingstree	Wallace Water Company
Barrineau Public Utilities	Darlington County Water and Sewer District
City of Lake City	Coward Water System



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# RBC Drought Response

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Collect and evaluate local drought information
- Provide information to the Drought Response Committee
- Communicate drought conditions to RBC, stakeholders, and public
- Encourage coordinated responses to drought
- Coordinate with other drought management groups.

## **Communication Plan**

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# RBC Drought Response

## **Draft Recommendations for RBC Consideration**

1. Update drought management plans
2. Encourage water users to submit drought impact observations through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports

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# RBC Drought Response

## Draft Recommendations for RBC Consideration

3. Form a Drought Management Advisory function within the RBC
  - a. Facilitate consistent drought response actions among neighboring utilities
  - b. Coordinate drought messaging among all basin sectors
  - c. Perform added value collaboration, such as
    - Review drought plans to identify commonalities or vulnerabilities
    - Study surcharges on water use during severe/extreme drought

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# Thank you.

Questions?

**Brown** AND **Caldwell** :

