



**Recap: August 24, 2017 Meeting  
Charlotte Green Team Meeting  
Charlotte, NC**

***“Where Does Our Water Come From & Will We Have Enough?”***

If you were at the Charlotte Green Team meeting August 24, you know the answers to those questions. Barry Gullet, the Director of Charlotte Water was with us and gave an extensive review of where our water comes from. It's the Catawba River Basin, a chain of 11 lakes and dams starting up in Western North Carolina with Lake James and ending south of us just above Lake Wateree. This entire chain, the Catawba River Basin and Lake Wateree, is managed by a quasi-governmental, multi-jurisdictional group, the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG), which Barry Gullet serves on. This group is made up of Duke Energy (which has “hands-on” management of these water resources under a federal licensing agreement) and 18 municipal water utilities in 2 states that draw their water from this resource. Specifically, Charlotte/Mecklenburg's water is drawn from Mountain Island Lake, located between Lake Norman and Lake Wylie.

As Mr. Gullet explained, the challenge is “balancing” and controlling the amount of water in one lake with all of the others. The lakes act as “buckets” to capture, contain and control the water that flows into the entire chain from rain water and stream runoff. They each have their own capacities. Lake James and Lake Norman are the largest 2, and in both cases, if they're “full to capacity,” they can't just “dump” most of their water into the 2 lakes below them because the capacity of those 2 lakes is so much smaller and there would be flooding in those areas. The other side of this challenge is, if the water level in any of these lakes gets too low, water out-take pipes for municipalities, nuclear power plants and industrial sites will drop below their out-take pipes. The CWWMG has done significant work in establishing high water, low water and optimum water target levels for each lake. And as they say, “...we have enough water for now.”

But what about the future? With all of the development and growth just here in the local areas of Mecklenburg, Gaston and York counties, it makes one wonder. But it's good to know that the CWWMG is watching and planning now for the future. There will be challenges, but no one is panicking because there are things being done.

Duke Energy is implementing planned programs to reduce their out-take for energy needs. Municipal utilities are doing the same to better manage, distribute and return water to the lakes and streams. New construction is actually working in our favor because the designs of houses, apartments and businesses are more energy efficient, not just in energy use, but specifically water use: new low-flow toilets; energy efficient water heaters, etc.

If you want to know more, CWWMG is hosting a water summit, called “Water for All” on October 10, 2017 from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Join civic and utility leaders from across the

country for a conversation on how cultivating a sustainable water supply is critical to maintaining growth and economic success in our rural and urban areas. Learn how cities have dealt with water scarcity, infrastructure needs and how proactive planning can lead to long term solutions. There is a small registration fee that covers lunch and you can register at <http://www.catawbawatereewmg.org/index.php/annual-summit>.

Attendees at the Green Team meeting are now “up-to-speed” with our water resource needs and plans for the future. Are you “up-to-speed” with other water, solid waste, green/sustainability initiatives in the region that you need to be knowledgeable about, or can implement on your own? Then stay tuned to the Charlotte Green Team and upcoming meetings and events....and attend!



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**The Charlotte Green Team is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) and the Charlotte Area Hotel Association (CAHA)**

