

Study says Boone in crisis, Town waits to react

Written by

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A study released yesterday in the News & Observer lists Boone as one of the seventeen North Carolina water systems nearing a crisis point.

According to the Drought Management Advisory Council's report, Boone will have water for less than 100 days under current conditions. State officials say that means the town of Boone might have to find an alternate water source. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller says he wasn't contacted by the state- and is waiting to verify the state's numbers before taking action, a process that, as he told Aisling Broadcasting yesterday, will likely take a few days.

Miller is in Raleigh today meeting with state officials to discuss the issue.

In the meantime, nothing has changed for Boone. The town is still in Stage 1 water shortage conditions- but, if there's something to the study, Miller says mandatory restrictions like those in Blowing Rock may have to be implemented.

According to Miller, the rain has refilled Boone's reservoirs and greatly replenished the water supply.

Rain or no rain, however, Miller recommends taking the governor's advice.

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Earlier this week, Governor Mike Easley urged citizens statewide to cut water usage by 50 percent between now and Halloween. That way, state officials can fully gauge the situation. Boone Mayor Loretta Clawson and Blowing Rock Mayor J.B. Lawrence responded by urging their respective communities to rise to the occasion.

For tips on how to conserve, visit goblueridge.net.

Calls to Drought Management Advisory Council Chair Woody Yonts have not been returned.