

faInteragency Drought Workgroup (IDW)  
Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022

Meeting agenda:  
<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/16309>

Drought Conditions Handout:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2022/CT-Drought-Conditions-Report---2022-11-03.pdf>  
[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2022/CT\\_Drought\\_Conditions-Report\\_2022-11-07\\_NWS.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2022/CT_Drought_Conditions-Report_2022-11-07_NWS.pdf)

Meeting Video:  
[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2022-11-07\\_IDW\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2022-11-07_IDW_Video.mp4)

**CT Agency representatives:**

DAS: Shane Mallory, Doug Moore  
DEEP: Kim Czapl, Bill Foreman, Doug Hoskins\*  
DEMHS: Ken Dumais\*, Doug Glowacki  
DoAg: Simon Levesque\*  
DPH: Steve Harkey, Lori Mathieu\*, Ryan Tetreault  
OPM: Rebecca Augur, Chris Collibee, Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft\*, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Maria Szul\*

\* - denotes voting member

**Federal Agency representatives:**

NWS/NOAA: Rob Megnia  
USGS: Dee-Ann McCarthy, John Mullaney, Tim Sargent

**Other participants:**

**1. Call to order**

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**2. Seating of voting members**

Martin Heft confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; PURA – Maria Szul; DEMHS – Ken Dumais; DoAg – Simon Levesque; DPH – Lori Mathieu; and OPM – Martin Heft.

**3. Minutes – September 8, 2022**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [10/06/2022](#) meeting minutes and was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

**4. Business**

a. Review of hydrologic conditions

Martin Heft provided an overview of the Stage 2 trigger chart in the first handout, highlighting that very few criteria remain at the trigger levels for the current statewide Stage 2 status. He noted the group held off on reducing any areas below Stage 2 a month ago and said he believes the group should remove the Stage 2 but with a reminder to conserve.

Rob Megnia referenced the updated Middlesex County precipitation data and said the county is in great shape. Steve Harkey pointed out that a number of water supply reservoirs remain below normal and the statewide average is 88% of normal, but slowly increasing. Ryan Tetreault said his program was notified of six drought-related private well permits in October, which is a small number. Lori Mathieu said DPH will continue to monitor public and private water supply data.

John Mullaney said some ground water monitoring points remain below normal or at the low end of the normal range. He added that low levels might result from the geologic setting of individual wells or might indicate wells that already were low coming out of spring. He showed a graph of the slow recovery of the [Marlborough well](#), which he said is constructed similar to many private wells. Lori Mathieu asked how ground water measurements compare with the same time during the drought in 2016 and John said he will compile the data and send that later. Doug Glowacki noted that an active storm pattern is developing and added that a tropical system might arrive in the coming weekend.

b. Drought stage recommendations

There was a discussion which drought stage would be appropriate at this time considering the improvements observed but also that quite a few water utilities remain in one of the drought stages of their individual drought plan. It was agreed that the announcement should not contradict individual utility pronouncements and that Lori Mathieu said DPH will help with that.

A motion was made and seconded to improve all counties to Stage 1, with messaging regarding conservation and also saying that this group will continue monitoring conditions. There was a discussion of the relevance of Stage 1, which was designed to provide early awareness of potentially developing drought to utilities and governments authorities, and Martin Heft highlighted that plan does not specify any public messaging at that stage. It was decided that public messaging requesting conservation would be appropriate. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Next regular meeting – December 8, 2022

Martin Heft said the next meeting will pick up where the previous meeting left off regarding the drought plan update items included on previous agendas.

**5. Public comment**

There were no public comments.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:28.

DRAFT