

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)
Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023

Meeting agenda:
<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/17223>

Drought Conditions Handout:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2023/IDW_2023-01-05_Handout.pdf

Meeting Video:
https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-01-05_IDW_Video.mp4

CT Agency representatives:

DEEP: Bill Foreman, Doug Hoskins*, Liz McAuliffe
DEMHS: Ken Dumais*, Doug Glowacki
DoAg: Simon Levesque*
DPH: Steve Harkey, Lori Mathieu*, Ryan Tetreault
OPM: Rebecca Augur, Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft*
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 1:01 pm.

2. Seating of voting members

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

3. Minutes – November 7, 2022

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [11/7/2022](#) meeting minutes and was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

4. Business

a. Review of hydrologic conditions

Martin Heft mentioned the data circulated in advance of the meeting. Steve Harkey described the improvement experienced by water companies whose reservoir levels had been a key concern a month ago. Rob Megnia said additional precipitation data that have become available since he submitted his December update show that Middlesex County also had above normal precipitation that month. John Mullaney noted that stream flows and ground water levels tend to be normal or above, but a handful of ground water levels are below normal, primarily in the eastern side of the state. Martin invited any further input or questions; there were none..

b. Drought stage recommendations

Martin Heft said his recommendation is to remove the Stage 1 status from the remaining counties. Lori Mathieu agreed and noted that DPH will continue to monitor systems with or without a drought declaration and recommended that Stage 1 be removed from those counties and the motion was seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

c. [Drought Plan](#)

- i. [Priority level review](#)
- ii. Items for Water Planning Council

Martin Heft said this group's recommendations were brought up at this month's WPC meeting on Tuesday, noting that they required policy decisions. He said each of those items will be reviewed by the WPC at its meetings in the coming months and added that he offered to provide a 1-pg fact sheet for each item.

Martin also mentioned the chart this group developed for other action items, noting that it identifies the agency or agencies that have the lead for each. He requested that the agencies review those in the coming month and report back as to what they consider to be priorities and what they might need from this group or the WPC. There was general agreement that the agencies will proceed in that manner.

5. Public comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:17.