

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)  
Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2023

Meeting agenda:  
<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/18651>

Drought Conditions Handout:  
Not prepared this month

Meeting Video:  
[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-02-02\\_IDW\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2023-02-02_IDW_Video.mp4)

**CT Agency representatives (\* - denotes voting member):**

DEEP: Kim Czapla, Bill Foreman, Doug Hoskins\*  
DEMHS: none  
DoAg: Simon Levesque\*  
DPH: Steve Harkey, Eric Lindquist, Lori Mathieu\*  
OPM: Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft\*, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Maria Szul\*

**Federal Agency representatives:**

NWS/NOAA: Rob Megnia, Sylvia Reeves  
USGS: John Mullaney, Tim Sargent

**Other participants:**

**1. Call to order**

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:012pm.

**2. Seating of voting members**

Martin Heft confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DoAg – Simon Levesque; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul. DPH’s Lori Mathieu joined later and DEMHS was not represented.

**3. Minutes – January 5, 2022**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [1/5/2023](#) meeting minutes and was approved unanimously.

**4. Business**

a. Post Drought Actions

Martin Heft read the initial paragraph of Post-Drought Actions on pg 33 of the [State Drought Plan](#) and noted that it is followed by a list of specific tasks. He mentioned the

listing of OPM tasks included in the email distributing this meeting's agenda and highlighted the overlap between the needed post-drought actions and the drought plan review already under way. Martin also outlined OPM's role in drought communications.

Martin said OPM's review is at an initial stage and asked about the status of review at other agencies, all of whom are beyond an initial stage. Bruce Wittchen recommended convening agency staff as in the past to work on this and there was general agreement to do so. He will contact previous participants.

b. [Drought Plan](#)

i. Agency reports - [Priority level review](#)

Martin Heft said he had forwarded the list to the WPC for consideration at its meeting next week. He explained the color-coded list of agency responsibilities in the linked spreadsheet and outlined what OPM is doing. He highlighted the need to document what is done and Doug Hoskins said he has created a timeline for the 2022 drought and will share that.

c. Review of hydrologic conditions

Rob Megnia showed precipitation data, which were largely above normal and John Mullaney said ground water levels and stream flows were largely normal or above. Bruce Wittchen noted that the United States Drought Monitor removed the last of the abnormally dry area from CT and Steve Harkey added that reservoirs look better every week.

Steve Harkey pointed out that Bristol still reports being at its 2<sup>nd</sup> drought stage but DPH will contact them; it might be a clerical error. Sylvia Reeves pointed out that the snowfall deficit could become a problem in the spring and there was a discussion of the unusually high stream flows resulting from precipitation falling as rain but that ground water is being recharged through the generally unfrozen ground. John Mullaney said the ground water recharge might be too soon and there was further discussion of the potential for shortfall in coming months.

d. Drought stage recommendations – VOTE

There was no vote.

e. Next Meeting – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

f. Other Business

Martin Heft said the group can continue the required post drought work and there was a brief discussion of the need to designate a drought coordinator, as required in last year's update to the drought plan.

**5. Public comment**

There were no public comments.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32.

DRAFT