

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)  
Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2023

Meeting agenda:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/18658>

Drought Conditions Handout:

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2023/IDW\\_2023-09-07\\_Handout.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2023/IDW_2023-09-07_Handout.pdf)

Meeting Video:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/IDW\\_2023-09-07\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/IDW_2023-09-07_Video.mp4)

**Members and Agency Staff** (\* - denotes voting member):

DEEP: Bill Foreman, Doug Hoskins\*, Olney Knight  
DEMHS: Ken Dumais\*, Doug Glowacki  
DoAg: Elaine Underwood\*  
DPH: Steve Harkey, Eric Lindquist, Lori Mathieu\*, Ryan Tetreault  
OPM: Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft\*, Justine Phillips-Gallucci, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Ally Ayotte\*, Maria Szul

**Other State Agency Representatives**

DAS Shane Mallory

**Federal Agency representatives:**

NWS/NOAA: Deanna Marks, Frank Nocera  
USGS: John Mullaney, Dee-Ann McCarthy

**Other participants:**

Melissa Fahnestock, Ethan Werstler

**1. Call to order & Seating of voting members**

Martin Heft called the meeting to order and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DEMHS – Ken Dumais; DoAg – Elaine Underwood; DPH – Lori Mathieu; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Ally Ayotte.

**2. Minutes – August 3, 2023**

Martin noted that the draft minutes incorrectly lists the July meeting date and a motion was made and seconded to approve the [8/3/2023](#) meeting minutes with the corrected date and the motion was approved unanimously.

**3. State Drought Coordinator Report**

Becca Dahl mentioned recent conditions detailed in this meeting's [handout](#) and invited further input. Frank Nocera said the long-term outlook is near-average but highlighted that even just one tropical storm can result in much higher precipitation.

Olney Knight explained that the combination of temperatures above 90F with relative humidity levels below 50% result in rapid drying and noted that fire danger has increased from low to moderate to high. He said New London and Middlesex counties are driest, followed by Hartford and Litchfield counties. Minor drought effects are expected today and tomorrow but the expected rain would end that.

Becca Dahl noted that the Aquarion system in Greenwich is in a drought stage and Steve Harkey said that is a result of the drought modeling used by Aquarion, which he described, and he added that the system is not currently experiencing any issues. Martin Heft invited any changes to the current situation with no drought stage declared in any county and no motion was made.

#### **4. Business**

Becca Dahl provided an overview of the previously circulated after-action report and noted that agency staff continue meeting for follow-up work. She highlighted that planning has begun for a tabletop exercise to test the drought plan, working with Sylvia Reeves of NOAA, and noted that there is background work to be done in preparation for that. Martin Heft asked if there were any comments or suggestions regarding the draft after-action report and, there being none, he invited a motion to approve the report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. There was a discussion of whether the WPC is expected to approve the report or two accept it and the expectation was that the WPC need only accept it. The motion was adopted unanimously.

There was no other business.

#### **5. Public comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **6. Next Meeting – October 5, 2023**

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting will be Oct. 5.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:23.