

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)
Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2024

Meeting agenda:
<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/23390>

Drought Conditions Handout:
November 2023 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2024/24-01-04-idw-handout--november-2023.pdf>

December 2023 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2024/240104-drought-conditions---idw-handout---december-2023.pdf>

Meeting Video:
https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/Interagency_Drought_Work_Group-20240104_130049-Meeting_Recording.mp4

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

DEEP: Doug Hoskins*, Olney Knight
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki*
DoAg: Eileen Underwood*
DPH: Steve Harkey, Eric Lindquist, Lori Mathieu*
OPM: Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft*, Justine Phillips-Gallucci, Bruce Wittchen
PURA: Maria Szul*

Other State Agency Representatives

None

Federal Agency representatives:

NWS/NOAA: Joe Dellicarpini
USGS: None

Other participants:

None

1. Call to order & Seating of voting members

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:01 and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DEMHS – Doug Glowacki; DoAg – Eileen Underwood; DPH – Lori Mathieu; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul.

2. Minutes – August 3, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [11/2/2023](#) meeting minutes and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl mentioned that she had distributed summaries of November and December data and provided a brief overview of conditions, which generally range from normal to wetter than normal.

4. Business

Becca described the recent meeting of some IDW agency staff with counterparts in MA and MA's reconsideration of drought stage parameters. Becca, Doug Glowacki, and Bruce Wittchen provided further details about the meeting, including that only staff of DEMHS and OPM had participated from CT. Lori Mathieu said DPH requires 45-day notice for staff to attend such a meeting and requested advance notice of future meetings.

There was a discussion of the currently dry conditions MA is experiencing on the Cape and Islands and of how MA addresses drought issues there and elsewhere. Becca said MA and CT agency staff will continue to meet and there was a discussion of the possibility of also including NY and RI. Becca also provided an update regarding the planning underway for a drought tabletop exercise in CT in 2024.

5. Public comment

There were no public comments.

6. Next Meeting – February 8, 2024

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be February 8, 2024.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:26.