

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)
Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2024

Meeting agenda:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/23397>

Drought Conditions Handout:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2024/240711-idw-conditions-report---june-2024.pdf>

Meeting Video:

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/Interagency_Drought_Work_Group-20240711_130205-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Members and Agency Staff | * - denotes Voting Member | ^ - denotes Drought Coordinator

DEEP: Bill Foreman, Melissa Fahnestock, Doug Hoskins*, Olney Knight
DEMHS: Ken Dumais*
DoAg: Eileen Underwood*
DPH: Reni Axelrod, Eric Lindquist*
OPM: Martin Heft*, Rebecca Dahl^, Bruce Wittchen, Justine Phillips-Gallucci
PURA: Maria Szul*

Other State Agency Representatives

None

Federal Agency representatives:

NWS/NOAA: Joe Dellicarpini, Deanna Marks
USGS: Dee-Ann McCarthy, John Mullaney, Tim Sargent

Other participants:

State of Rhode Island: Hector Barreras

1. Call to order & Seating of voting members

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DPH – Eric Lindquist; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul. Voting Members Eileen Underwood (DoAg) and Ken Dumais (DEMHS) joined later in the call.

2. Minutes – June 6, 2024

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [6/6/2023](#) meeting minutes and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl provided a brief overview of conditions, as described in the provided June 2024 Conditions Report. She highlighted that 2% of the state, in the Northwest Corner is ranked Do in the U.S. Drought Monitor and the inclusion of the Evaporative Demand Drought Index in the report. She noted that precipitation was lower in June, but has remained normal in the long-term outlook, and that all reservoirs were mostly normal. She invited any further updates and Joe Dellicarpini agreed with the precipitation outlook. Eric Lindquist expanded to note that only 5 water systems are below 100%. No drought stages were recommended.

4. Business

Becca Dahl provided an update regarding state agency staff planning for an upcoming drought tabletop exercise: she will meet with the National Drought Mitigation Center the week of 7/29. She will have more information for the August meeting and will re-convene agency staff on this topic.

Martin Heft noted that the Water Planning Council Outreach and Education Workgroup is working on a drought information sheet.

5. Public comment

There were no public comments.

6. Next Meeting – August 8, 2024

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

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.