

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)  
Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2025

Meeting agenda:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/27544>

Drought Conditions Handout:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2025/250109-idw-handout---december-2024-conditions-report.pdf>

Meeting Video:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250109\\_IDW\\_Meeting\\_Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/250109_IDW_Meeting_Recording.mp4)

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

DEEP: Doug Hoskins\*, Melissa Fahnestock,  
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki\*, Bob Kenny, Josh Cingranelli, Ken Dumais  
DoAg: Simon Levesque\*, Eileen Underwood  
DPH: Eric Lindquist\*, Ryan Tetreault  
OPM: Martin Heft\*, Rebecca Dahl^, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Maria Szul\*

**Other State Agency Representatives**

None

**Federal Agency representatives:**

NWS/NOAA: Rob Megnia  
USGS: None  
NE DEWS/NIDIS/NOAA: Sylvia Reeves

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

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DoAg – Simon Levesque; DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DEMHS – Doug Glowacki; DPH – Eric Lindquist; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul.

**2. Minutes – [December 5, 2024](#)**

**A motion was made by Simon Levesque and seconded by Maria Szul to approve the 12/5/2024 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.**

### 3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl provided a brief overview of conditions, as described in the provided December 2024 Conditions Report.

She shared maps of the U.S. Drought Monitor from the month of December and January 7<sup>th</sup>, indicating drought status improvements since early December. She also shared streamflow maps demonstrating a return to normal conditions overall, attributed to the 3-4” of rain towards the end of December.

She noted that groundwater conditions tend to lag behind streamflow conditions, offering a longer-term look at drought conditions. Groundwater conditions were largely below-normal and at-normal, with some wells demonstrating much-below-normal conditions. She also shared USGS’ groundwater summary from November and December, noting the increase in the percentage of wells below normal.

Becca Dahl shared the drought triggers tables from November and December, noting that drought triggers for Stage 2 have mostly improved since November, except for groundwater levels. She also mentioned that movement out of drought stages is “clunky” in the current plan, and while there are signs of improvement, **she recommended keeping the entire state into a Stage 2 Drought.**

Rob Megnia also noted that at this point we have not had substantial rainfall in January and outlooks are indicative of a drier month. Doug Glowacki agreed with this outlook, stating he’s tracking similar trends.

Ryan Tetreault followed up regarding well permit applications – DPH saw three permits issued regarding dry wells – two to replace dry wells, and one to deepen an existing well, from December to the current date. He noted that this is also indicative of lower groundwater levels.

Sylvia Reeves shared the [Northeast Regional Climate Center’s snow-water equivalent maps](#) for the winter season. This will continue to be monitored for the winter season.

Doug Hoskins mentioned that UConn has lifted their Stage 1A Conservation Alert, based on restoration of streamflow near their wellfield, which also reflects the increased streamflow conditions.

Martin Heft agreed with the recommendation to maintain Stage 2 Drought and opened the discussion up to IDW Voting Members. There was no further discussion.

### 4. Business

Martin Heft brought up the topic of county equivalents and the potential shift of federal partners reporting data based on county equivalents instead of geographic counties. The IDW will want to consider and further discuss a potential shift in reporting structure. This will be carried forth in future agendas.

Becca Dahl noted no significant updates regarding state agency staff planning for an

upcoming drought tabletop exercise.

## **5. Other Business**

Eric Lindquist asked if restrictions on diversion permits are still applicable with a Stage 2 drought level. Doug Hoskins responded that the permit conditions will stay in effect at Stage 2 levels, which is a 10% reduction in their authorized withdrawal level and stated that no permit holders have expressed concern about this.

Eric Lindquist suggested that a lift on drought levels in the eastern part of state could take place if there were further concerns.

Bob Kenny added that DEMHS initiated an update of the Municipal Drought Liaisons on November 7 and have received information from 119 towns and will continue to get updates.

## **6. Public comment**

There were no public comments.

## **7. Next Meeting – February 6, 2025**

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be February 6, 2025 and that staff will continue to monitor conditions, and the group is permitted to call a meeting if needed.

## **8. Adjourn**

**The meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm, moved by Doug Hoskins and seconded by Doug Glowacki.**