Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)

Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2025

Meeting agenda: https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/27550

Drought Conditions Handout:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2025/250703-idw-handout---june-conditions-report.pdf

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

DEEP: Melissa Fahnestock*
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki*

DoAg: None

DPH: Steve Harkey*, Ryan Tetreault

OPM: Martin Heft*, Rebecca Dahl^, Bruce Wittchen

PURA: Ally Ayotte, Maria Szul*

Other State Agency Representatives:

None

Federal Agency representatives:

NWS/NOAA: Rob Megnia

USGS: Dee-Ann Crozier Maria Skarzynski

1. Call to order & Seating of voting members

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DoAg – none; DEEP – Melissa Fahnestock; DEMHS – Doug Glowacki; DPH – Steve Harkey; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul.

2. Minutes – June 5, 2025

A motion was made by Doug Glowacki and seconded by Maria Szul to approve the 6/5/2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl provided a brief overview of conditions, as described in the June 2025 Conditions Report provided.

She noted that the US Drought Monitor (USDM) remained mostly unchanged throughout the month of June, with just a portion of the southwest portion of the state (<2% of the state) in Do, and that "status quo" is largely what the conditions are showing this month.

She also showed maps of the streamflow and groundwater gauges, noting mostly normal conditions throughout the state. For precipitation she made note of the data from CoCoRaHS and a departure of approx. 2 inches throughout the state for the month, noting wetter conditions in May and early June.

Doug Glowacki added that 3-4" of rain is expected over the next couple of weeks, and that rainfall looks to be about normal.

Steve Harkey noted that reservoirs are generally trending downward, which is not unexpected given the time of year, but overall look to be normal for the timeframe.

4. Business

a. Sylvia Reeves Retirement

Becca Dahl shared and acknowledged that Sylvia Reeves, who served as the Northeast DEWS Coordinator for NOAA/NIDIS, has retired. She also shared that Crystal Stiles of NOAA/NIDIS will be filling in Sylvia's role. Becca thanked Sylvia for her time, energy and support over the years and for being a champion for Connecticut.

b. 2024-2025 Drought After-Action Report

Becca Dahl noted that per the State Drought Plan, the IDW will be required to develop an After-Action Report on the recently 'closed' drought. She will begin a draft of this report and work with staff of the IDW to develop a final report.

Martin Heft noted that this will also serve the dual-purpose of providing updates for the Water Planning Council Annual Report.

5. Public comment

There were no public comments.

6. Next Meeting – August 7, 2025

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be August 7, 2025 and that staff will continue to monitor conditions, and the group is permitted to call a meeting if needed.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm, moved by Doug Glowack and seconded by Steve Harkey.