

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)
Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2025

Meeting agenda:
<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/27554>

Drought Conditions Handout:
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2025/251106-idw-handout---october-conditions-report.pdf>

Video Link:
https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/251106_Interagency_Drought_Workgroup_Meeting_Recording.mp4

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

DEEP: Melissa Fahnestock*, Shalyn Zappulla
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki*
DoAg: none
DPH: Eric Lindquist*, Ryan Tetreault
OPM: Martin Heft*, Rebecca Dahl^, Justine Phillips-Gallucci, Bruce Wittchen
PURA: Maria Szul*

Federal Agency representatives:

NWS/NOAA: Rob Megnia

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 – Eric Lindquist; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – none.

2. Minutes – October 6, 2025

A motion was made by Doug Glowack and seconded by Melissa Fahnestock to approve the 10/6/2025 meeting minutes. Eric Lindquist and Maria Szul abstained. The minutes were approved with an amendment to note that Maria Szul was not in attendance at 10/6/25 meeting.

3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl provided a brief overview of conditions, as described in the October Conditions Reports provided. She reminded the workgroup that Fairfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties are currently under a Stage 2 Drought Advisory per the State Drought Plan.

She noted that the US Drought Monitor (USDM) showed increasingly dry conditions throughout the month, with some fluctuations. The most recent USDM map from 11/6/25 was shared, noting considerable improvements throughout the state, bringing 2/3's of the state out of any drought status, and degradations from D1 to D0.

Becca discussed the recent precipitation event that occurred at the end of October, bringing relief throughout the state, specifically in the southern counties that are currently under drought advisory. She also noted that there are still some long-term precipitation deficits in this region, specifically in Bridgeport and New Haven.

She expressed challenges in determining the extent of recovery this precipitation event provided, due to the lack of streamflow and groundwater data from USGS because of the federal government shutdown. Real-time streamflow maps were shared, demonstrating improvements and movement towards normal levels. For groundwater, only 9 of the 66 wells maintained throughout the state are continuous wells – and therefore only a few wells were available to examine further. Becca noted that this sample size is insufficient.

She also shared temperature and precipitation outlook maps from NWS, notably the 8-14 day outlook shows below normal precipitation expected. Additionally, she reviewed the State 2 Drought Trigger Summary tables, which showed some improvements from September to October, noting once again insufficient data for streamflow and groundwater impacts.

Becca shared that her recommendation was difficult to make this month and suggested two potential routes for discussion – remaining status quo by keeping Fairfield, New Haven and Middlesex counties in a Stage 2 Drought Advisory or considering making improvements in these counties, based on the precipitation received.

Doug Glowacki added that the long-range precipitation forecast shows 4-5 opportunities for precipitation for the next 14 days.

Martin Heft recommended remaining status quo for the next month, especially considering the lack of sufficient data available to make improvements. He also noted that there did not appear to be any indications for moving to a Stage 3 Drought.

Doug Glowacki noted that he concurred with Martin's recommendation, especially considering the seasonal conditions and potential for forest fire.

Martin noted that no motion was needed to remain status quo and the group will proceed with that recommendation. He also noted that conditions will continue to be monitored over the next month and changes can be made as necessary.

4. Business

a. 2024-2025 Drought After-Action Report

Martin Heft noted that this After-Action Report is in process and that this will be included as part of the Water Planning Council's Annual Report. The After-Action Report will be available for review at the December meeting.

b.

5. Other Business:

There was no other business.

6. Public comment

There were no public comments.

7. Next Meeting – December 4, 2025

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be December 4th, 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 1:21 pm, moved by Doug Glowacki and seconded by Eric Lindquist.