

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2025

Meeting Agenda:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/27555>

Drought Conditions Handout:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/water/drought/2025/251204-idw-handout---november-conditions-report.pdf>

Meeting Recording:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/251204 Interagency Drought Workgroup Meeting Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/251204_Interagency_Drought_Workgroup_Meeting_Recording.mp4)

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

DEEP: Melissa Fahnestock*, Olney Knight, Shalyn Zappula
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki*
DoAg: Simon Levesque*
DPH: Steve Harkey*, Ryan Tetreault
OPM: Martin Heft*, Rebecca Dahl^, Bruce Wittchen
PURA: Maria Szul*
DAS: Doug Moore

Federal Agency representatives:

USGS: Dee-Ann Crozier
Maria Skarzynski

NWS/NOAA: Joe Dellicarpini
Deanna Marks

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 – Simon Levesque; DEEP – Melissa Fahnestock; DEMHS – Doug Glowacki; DPH – Steve Harkey; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul.

2. Minutes – [November 6, 2025](#)

A motion was made by Maria Szul and seconded by Melissa Fahnestock to approve the 11/6/2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. State Drought Coordinator Report

Becca Dahl provided a brief overview of conditions, as described in the November 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 substantial improvements towards the end of October and early November. With a bit more precipitation, we saw more improvements. The drought status in the eastern part of the state got eliminated and we are still holding on to some abnormally dry conditions in the lower halves of Middlesex, New Haven and portions of Fairfield and Litchfield counties. Not a whole lot has changed, remaining status quo on the map with about 16% of the state in DO.

The state did not receive the expected amount of precipitation. The one-month lookback range from 48% of normal to 66% of normal. The three- and six-month percentages of normal precipitation were reviewed.

She reported that we are thankful to have our partners at the USGS back online. The last data reviewed was in September. November's totals show that Middlesex is 100% below normal of the groundwater wells being measured. For the past two or three months the patterns are holding.

Streamflow summary was reviewed, with improvements in most counties except for Fairfield.

DPH provided surface water capacity/reservoir data. Some reservoirs go below 80% normal, which is the Stage Two drought trigger. Steve Harkey added updated information received this morning from Waterbury. He noted two Norwalk systems are in drought status. He also noted we are in winter months so it is the non-watering time of year. This helps lower demand and potentially recharge. DPH continues to monitor.

Becca Dahl reviewed the trigger summaries noting that we did not have sufficient data for groundwater and stream flow and had to navigate the gaps. Current data shows improvement in many of the triggers, but some partially met Stage Two triggers (groundwater and streamflow) remain.

She recommended holding onto the current drought status, maintaining Stage Two for Fairfield, Middlesex and New Haven counties.

Members discussed the recommendation. Martin Heft, Doug Glowacki, and Steve Harkey noted no opposition to leaving as is. Conditions are borderline/teetering for the trigger levels.

Martin Heft stated that drought status statewide will remain status quo. He also noted that conditions will continue to be monitored.

4. Business

a. 2024-2025 Drought After-Action Report

Martin Heft thanked the group for developing the After-Action Report. Two minor edits were presented, and the process for approval and next steps were

discussed. **A motion was made by Doug Glowacki and seconded by Maria Szul to adopt the 2024-25 Drought After-Action Report. The motion passed unanimously.** The report will be finalized, posted and sent to the Water Planning Council.

b. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Martin Heft presented the 2026 meeting schedule, which changes the monthly regular meetings to the second Wednesday of the month, at 9:00 AM. The change provides extra time to collect the previous month's data as well as avoid afternoon meeting conflicts. There was discussion on the time. **A motion was made by Simon Levesque and seconded by Maria Szul to accept the proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Other Business:

There was no other business.

6. Public comment

There were no public comments.

7. Next Meeting – January 14, 2026

Martin Heft noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be January 14, 2026 at 9 am. Staff will continue to monitor conditions, and the group is permitted to call a meeting if needed.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 PM by Douglas Glowacki and seconded by Melissa Fahnestock. The motion passed unanimously.