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**Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

July 23, 2020, 2:00 PM Teleconference

Audio recording available at:

Need new link: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2020/Interagency\\_Drought\\_2020-07-09.mp3](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2020/Interagency_Drought_2020-07-09.mp3)

**CT Agency representatives:**

DEEP: William Foreman, Kevin Grady, Douglas Hoskins, Jen Perry  
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki, Bob Kenny  
DoAg: Stephen Anderson  
DPH: Mike Hage, Steven Harkey, Lori Mathieu, Ryan Tetreault  
OPM: Martin Heft, Eric Lindquist, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Maria Szul

**Federal Agency representatives:**

USGS: John Mullaney, Tim Sargent  
NWS: Nicole Belk, Nancy Furbush

**NOTE: Someone with the initials CP was on the call and, if you know who it was, please let me know so I can include the person as an attendee. Thanks.**

**1. Call to order**

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

**2. Approval of minutes: 7/9/2020**

Steve Harkey described some changes he had requested in the draft minutes and a motion was made and seconded to approve the draft 7/9/2020 minutes with those changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Update on municipal water coordinators**

Bob Kenny provided an update on DEMHS's progress region by region, noting issues that have slowed progress in some. To date, coordinators have been identified for 59 municipalities and the effort will continue.

**4. Discussion of changes in conditions since previous meetings and weather outlook**

Martin Heft referred to the update circulated earlier in the day and asked if anyone has any additions, questions, or comments.

Nicole Belk said that, according to current data, Fairfield County has on average already received enough precipitation to avoid triggering the two or three-month drought triggers as of the end of the month. New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Winham Counties need

another 0.5” by the end of the month, which is plausible based on current projections, but Middlesex County needs 2” and Hartford County needs 2.8”. She also noted that Hartford is on track to have its 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest July and Bridgeport is on track for its 5<sup>th</sup> warmest.

- **DEEP suggestion: maintain regular (weekly or bi-weekly) condition status reports by reporting agencies during a declared drought regardless of whether the workgroup meets**

There was a discussion of compiling regular conditions updates and Doug Hoskins said there is a heightened interest in the work of this group. He mentioned that a topical subgroup created by the Water Planning Council is reviewing how the drought plan was implemented in the previous drought.

There was a consensus to issue updates biweekly and meet as appropriate. Lori Mathieu recommended the group also work on the format of the information to be circulated. John Mullaney highlighted that some information is only available monthly and there was further discussion of the timing and formatting of information and the associated workload.

There was a discussion of the drought stage infographic created by DEEP’s Ali Hibbard:



Lori Mathieu said here eyes were immediately drawn to the red color of Stage 5 and recommended adding a highlighted border around the current stage and muting the colors of the others. Eric Lindquist will work with DEEP to revise the graphic and add agency logos as well. There was a discussion about how to differentiate between regions at different drought stages.

## 5. Review of State Drought Plan and recommended course of action

Martin Heft suggested maintaining status quo at this time and asked for other opinions. Lori Mathieu agreed and recommended the group meet again in two weeks. Steve Anderson also

agreed and there was general agreement. There was a brief discussion of the formatting of a 2-week report.

Steve Harkey said the group should keep an eye on the northwest corner of the state, which might be the first area we will have to react to. Lori Mathieu mentioned that the Southington Water Dept. is at its 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, which is demand driven, and said the water dept. has asked about testing its interconnection with the Regional Water Authority. Lori added that Greenwich is at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage and asked Steve to share DPH's map.

Steve showed DPH's *Distribution of Conservation* map and noted that one New London reservoir has been drained for repair. They had indicated that the system was approaching its 1<sup>st</sup> drought stage, but they no longer are indicating that. There was a discussion of the New London – East Lyme interconnection and Bruce Wittchen asked if East Lyme must be at the same level of water use restriction as New London and it does. Martin Heft asked about the information submitted by PURA and there was a discussion of the information regulated water companies provide to PURA.

- **DEEP presentation of potential drought infographics**

This was covered previously.

## **6. Items for next meeting and schedule**

Eric Lindquist pointed out that he did not use Doodle to schedule this meeting and said he chose a time that seemed to generally be available for people. After further discussion, it was decided that the group will schedule meetings at 2:00 on every other Thursday.

## **7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*