

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Spring 2026 NIDIS Executive Council Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026

9:00am - 3:30pm EDT

Purpose of the NIDIS Executive Council: NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Executive Council provides the NIDIS Program Office with an opportunity to engage in individual consultation with senior resource officials from NIDIS's Federal partners, as well as leaders from state and local government, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

Goals of the Meeting:

- To hear from Federal agency leadership, as well as non-Federal partners, on their drought-related priorities and how meeting participants can stay engaged and involved.
- To introduce opportunities for partnership around next generation drought planning and monitoring resources, and to discuss how these resources can be best informed, communicated, and incorporated into decision-making across sectors.
- To recognize NIDIS's 20th anniversary and review the NIDIS 2027-2031 Strategic Plan outline.

Read-Ahead Materials:

- [Outline for NIDIS 2027-2031 Strategic Plan](#)

AGENDA

9:00–9:20am:

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Co-chairs provide welcome remarks and introductions of new Council members and attendees
- Review meeting objectives and outcomes
- WSWC Priorities and Strategic Plan

9:20–10:00am:

NIDIS at 20: Looking Back and Ahead

- Highlights of NIDIS accomplishments and impact
- Opportunities for communicating the value of NIDIS across the partnership

- Council reflections on future opportunities for advances in drought early warning and response

10:00–10:30am: **Executive Council Member Round-Robin: Updates Relevant to Water, Drought, Fire, Extreme Weather Events**

- Mayor Belinda Constant, Gretna, LA, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI)
- Round-Robin on shared priorities for the coming year and discussion of cross-agency collaboration and partnership opportunities

10:30–10:45am: **Break**

10:45–11:30am: **Northern Great Plains Regional Incubator for Drought Resilience**

- NIDIS-MCO Partnership in the Missouri River Basin DEWS
- Building a next-generation regional drought assessment and early warning framework for the Northern Great Plains, serving as a regional pilot for a national approach
- Discussion: What capabilities, partnerships, or activities would be most important to include to ensure it delivers value for drought decision-makers?

11:30–12:30pm: **Integrating Data and Planning: A New Generative AI Drought Planning Platform in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**

- Overview of the Platform
- Opportunities to support drought planning across the Western U.S.
- Discussion: Opportunities for interagency collaboration and priorities to guide development of the platform and related decision-support tools

12:30–1:30pm: **Working Lunch**

1:30–2:00pm: **NIDIS Strategic Plan Overview**

- Review the current Strategic Plan outline
- Planning and Timelines, Opportunities for the next Strategic Plan

- 2:00–2:30pm: **Federal Agency Water and Drought Priorities, Q&A: Dr. Tim Petty, NOAA Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere**
- 2:30–3:00pm **NIDIS Strategic Plan: Discussion**
- Proposed Approach and Next Steps for partners in the new planning cycle
- 3:00–3:15pm: **Public Comment**
- 3:15–3:30pm: **Looking Ahead to Fall 2026 Meeting, Adjourn**