

Northeast Drought Assessment and Building Drought Early Warning Capacity

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

9:30am – 3:00pm

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Richard Cronin Building, Room 108 and Room 110
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

9:30am - 10:00am

Continental Breakfast

10:00am - 10:05am

Welcoming Remarks

10:05am - 11:05am

Recap - Drought Conditions and Outlook for 2017

- NRCC: How did we get here?
 - Samantha Borisoff, NRCC
- Weather Service: Where we are now, Looking Forward
 - Alan Dunham, WFO/BOX
- USGS: Groundwater and Surface Water Conditions
 - Gardner Bent, USGS New England Water Science Center
- Drought Monitor overview
 - Deb Bathke, National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
- Longer Range forecast Products: 8-14 day, 3-4 week, one month, seasonal
 - Dan Collins, CPC
- Overview of Agriculture Impacts
 - UMASS Extension - Katie Campbell Nelson, NRCS (invited)

11:05am

Critical elements of a Drought Early Warning System, Drought Preparedness, and Drought Resilience

- What does a successful Drought Early Warning System looks like? – Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS

11:30am - 12:00pm

Working Lunch

12:00pm - 12:15pm

Results of the Registration Page Question: What was the biggest information gap you experienced during the 2016 drought? – Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS

12:15pm - 2:15pm

Break Out Group Discussions

- Short panel, decision makers and timelines (Ellen Mecray, NOAA)
 - MA task force (Vandana Rao)

- CT task force (David LeVasseur)
- Breakout Discussions

Questions to discuss:

- How should information flow from sectors?
- How is information provided, and what works well? (ex., Drought Monitor)
- Indicators of drought, and when to set a warning?
- Timeline for Drought Early Warning decision-making (e.g., fire risks in the spring for summer resourcing, etc) When does it matter for you?

Determine next steps, recommendations

2:15pm - 3:00pm

Recap of main points, Report out, Synthesize Break Outs

- Lightning Round of top bullets
- Gaps in Partners and Outreach- who is missing?
- Collection of Impacts, Information Providers, Impact Observers, guidance on report outline and content, key recommendations

Take-Away Open Discussion: Impressions

3:00pm

Adjourn