

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 is NIDIS?
 - What does a successful Drought Early Warning System look like? – Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS
- 11:30am - 11:40pm **NRCC Update**
- 11:40am – 12:00pm **Working Lunch served**
- 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**

DRAFT

- Reporting Outcomes from Meetings
 - Ellen Mecray, NOAA
- 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