



Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)

Strategic Planning Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

9:00am – 3:30pm EDT

Catonsville, MD

Meeting Location

USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center, 5522 Research Park Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228

Meeting Website

<https://cpaess.ucar.edu/meetings/mid-atlantic-dews-strategic-planning>

Meeting Goals

- Review National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and the network of regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS) across the U.S.
- Review past and current drought conditions in the Mid-Atlantic region
- Review and add to needs/gaps in water-related information and services in the region
- Learn about new and innovative drought information resources applicable to the Mid-Atlantic
- Explore emerging drought issues in the region and potential opportunities to address these issues as a regional network
- Identify collaborative paths forward to advance drought early warning and preparedness, in support of a Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System Strategic Plan

Suggested Read-Ahead Materials

- 2024-2025 Mid-Atlantic Drought Assessment ([link](#))
- Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System Strategic Plan Outline ([link](#))

Agenda

8:30am – 9:00am Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 9:20am **Welcome Remarks and Introductions**

- Elizabeth Ossowski, NOAA/NIDIS
- Art DeGaetano, Director, Northeast Regional Climate Center
- Nancy Wallace, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA



- John Hammond, U.S. Geological Survey MD-DE-DC Water Science Center
- John Balay, Susquehanna River Basin Commission

9:20am – 9:25am	Goals & Objectives for the Meeting
9:25am – 9:35am	Overview of Current Conditions and Outlooks in the Mid-Atlantic Region (Art Degaetano, Northeast Regional Climate Center)
9:35am - 9:45am	Lessons Learned from the 2024-2025 Mid-Atlantic Drought Assessment (Natalie Umphlett, Northeast Regional Climate Center)
9:45am – 10:30am	Setting the Context for Water Management in the Region <ul style="list-style-type: none">● State and Local Drought Plans and Drought Response Activities● Regional Water Governance Perspectives on Drought from Mid-Atlantic Basin Commissions● Mid-Atlantic Industry Perspectives
10:30am - 10:45am	Break
10:45am - 11:00am	Discussion: Unique Regional Features and Considerations to Inform a Regional Drought Early Warning System in the Mid-Atlantic
11:00am - 11:15am	Introduction to Regional DEWS and Strategic Plans, Structure of a Mid-Atlantic DEWS Strategic Plan
11:15am - 11:30am	Strategies and Lessons Learned from the Northeast DEWS (Rebecca Dahl, State Drought Coordinator, State of Connecticut)
11:30am - 12:15pm	Working Lunch
12:15pm - 12:55pm	Lightning Round: Tools for Enhancing Drought Early Warning Capacity and Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Northeast DEWS Dashboard (<i>Northeast Regional Climate Center</i>)○ USGS Streamflow Drought Assessment and Forecasting Tool (<i>John Hammond, Research Hydrologist, USGS</i>)○ USGS Flow Photo Explorer (<i>Phillip Goodling, Hydrologist, USGS</i>)○ National Drought Mitigation Center Drought Tools (<i>Mark Svoboda, Executive Director, National Drought Mitigation Center</i>)
12:55pm - 1:00pm	Review Breakout Process
1:00pm - 1:30pm	<u>Breakout Group Discussions: Defining Strategic Vision</u> <p>Small groups (~7 people, pre-assigned) provide individual consultation on a high-level vision for the Mid-Atlantic DEWS’s impact over the 2026-2030 period.</p>
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Break



1:45pm - 2:15pm

Report out on Breakout Group Discussions

2:15pm - 2:45pm

Breakout Group Discussions: Getting to Specifics - Identifying Actions

Small groups (~7 people, pre-assigned) provide individual consultation on moving from strategic vision to implementation, building upon existing programs and partnerships.

2:45pm - 3:15pm

Report out on Breakout Group Discussions

3:15pm - 3:30pm

Synthesis and Next Steps/Adjourn