

1st Southeast Drought Early Warning System (SE DEWS) Partners Dialogue

Atlanta, Georgia | August 9 - 10, 2022

Location: Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Harry West conference room.
229 Peachtree Street NE. International Tower, Suite 100. Directions [here](#).

Day 1 - Tuesday, August 9th DROUGHT MONITORING AND PLANNING	
Remote Participation Link: https://meet.google.com/tuu-vqwh-sok . Or dial: (US) +1 612-351-0051 PIN: 801 656 700#	
8:30	Continental Breakfast and Conversation (<i>provided</i>)
Welcome and Context Setting <i>Moderator: Meredith Muth, Southeast DEWS Coordinator, National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)</i>	
9:00	Meeting Overview
9:10	Setting the stage: Drought in the Southeast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A historical perspective of drought in the Southeast. <i>Pam Knox, University of Georgia</i> ● Exploring the 2019 drought in Georgia. <i>Bill Murphey, Georgia State Climatologist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources</i> ● A local perspective from Atlanta: Actions taken in previous droughts, impacts on water supply, and looking to the future. <i>Katherine Zitsch, Managing Director of Natural Resources at Atlanta Regional Commission and Director of Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District</i>
9:45	Review Agenda
10:00	Break (<i>beverages and snacks provided</i>)
Session 1: Today’s Drought: Monitoring and Response This session includes an overview of approaches and lessons used by states to regularly assess current drought conditions, how this monitoring informs decisions and response at the state level, and a discussion of opportunities to improve state and regional monitoring. <i>Moderator: Andrew Joyner, Tennessee State Climatologist, ETSU</i>	

10:30	<p>Approaches to monitoring, including how states contribute to and use the USDM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of State approaches: Who does what, what works well and why, where there may be opportunities for improvement. <i>Kirsten Lackstrom, University of South Carolina</i> • North Carolina approach. <i>Klaus Albertin, North Carolina Division of Water Resources</i> • Coordinating the process: Tennessee Weekly Drought Summary. <i>William Tollefson, Tennessee Climate Office at ETSU</i> • USDM Author Perspectives. <i>Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center; David Simeral, Desert Research Institute; Adam Hartman, NWS Climate Prediction Center</i> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
11:15	<p>Linking monitoring to decisions and response at the state and local level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama approach. <i>Tom Littlepage, Alabama Office of Water Resources</i> • Georgia approach. <i>Wei Zeng, Georgia Environmental Protection Division</i> • Florida approach. <i>Mark Elsner, South Florida Water Management District</i> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
12:20	Lunch on-site (<i>provided</i>)
<p>Session 2: Tomorrow’s Drought: Planning and Preparedness</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of approaches utilized by different states and watersheds on formal drought and water planning, highlight specific activities from each state that have supported drought planning and response efforts, and identify opportunities to strengthen drought planning in a Southeast multi-hazard context as states update their existing plans.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Chris Manganiello, Water Policy Director, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper</i></p>	
1:15	<p>Long-term Drought Planning Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Assessment of State Approaches, Planning Needs and Gaps, Constraints, and Opportunities. <i>Kirsten Lackstrom, University of South Carolina</i> <p>Preparing for the Next Drought: Incorporating drought into watershed-based planning and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catawba Wateree Water Management Group: A collaborative and collective approach to water planning and drought management. <i>Jimmy Bagley, City of Rock Hill, South Carolina</i> • Virginia’s approach to water planning and incorporating climate change scenarios into state, basin, and local level planning processes. <i>Ryan Green, Office of Water Supply, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</i> • Alabama’s Irrigation Watershed Planning Project: Supporting sustainable irrigation expansion through a proactive planning process. <i>Lee Ellenberg, Alabama Office of the State Climatologist, the University of Alabama in</i>

	<p><i>Huntsville</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Carolina’s water planning process: Blending top-down and bottom-up perspectives into River Basin Plans. <i>Elliot Wickham, South Carolina State Climatology Office, SC Department of Natural Resources</i> <p>Keeping Drought Plans Relevant and Useful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Carolina Drought Tabletop and Scenario Exercises. <i>Elliot Wickham, South Carolina State Climatology Office, SC Department of Natural Resources</i> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
2:45	Break (<i>beverages and snacks provided</i>)
<p>Session 3: New Developments in Drought Monitoring and Prediction</p> <p>This session will highlight key takeaways from the 2022 SE DEWS March Technical Workshops on flash drought and soil moisture, along with other notable recent developments that can be utilized to support drought monitoring and early warning. <i>Moderators: Victor Murphy, National Weather Service Southern Region</i></p>	
3:15	<p>What we learned from the 2012 drought and what more is needed. <i>John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist, the University of Alabama in Huntsville</i></p> <p>Drought and Streamflow Prediction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPC Drought Forecast Tools. <i>Adam Hartman, NWS Climate Prediction Center</i> Hydrologic Forecasting Tools. <i>Todd Hamill, Southeast River Forecast Center.</i> Drought.gov and Climate Engine. <i>Meredith Muth, NIDIS</i> <p>Outcomes from the 2022 SE DEWS Technical Workshops and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview. <i>Meredith Muth, NIDIS</i> Soil Moisture. <i>Lee Ellenburg, Alabama Office of the State Climatologist, the University of Alabama in Huntsville</i> Flash Drought. <i>Kyle Lesinger, Auburn University</i> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
<p>Day 1 Wrap Up: Addressing regional challenges and identifying opportunities to improve drought monitoring, planning, and management <i>Moderator: Meredith Muth, NIDIS</i></p>	
4:45	Future opportunities for the Southeast DEWS
5:00	End Day 1
5:30	Networking social at local bar/restaurant (<i>will be announced at meeting</i>)

Day 2 - Wednesday, August 10th
DROUGHT COMMUNICATION AND IMPACT REPORTING

Remote Participation Link: <https://meet.google.com/wwr-ceco-ygt>. Or dial:
 561-570-6013 PIN: 620 306 386#

8:00 Continental Breakfast and Conversations (*provided*)

Session 4: Drought Messaging and Communication

This session will share effective practices and lessons learned for communicating drought conditions and risk (current and future) and highlight new approaches and tools that can be utilized to improve drought messaging and early warning in the region.

Moderators: Nyasha Dunkley, Georgia EPD and State Climate Office; Katherine Zitsch, Atlanta Regional Commission

8:30 **Best practices for experts to translate drought information and reach a broader audience**

- North Carolina's experience at improving drought communication. *Corey Davis, State Climate Office of North Carolina*
- Cross-State Perspective: ACF Drought and Water Dashboard. *Mark Masters, Albany State University*
- National Perspective: Drought.gov. *Sylvia Reeves, NIDIS*
- National Perspective: National Weather Service. *Maggie Hurwitz, NWS Climate Services Branch*
- Local Perspective: National Weather Service. *Laura Belanger, NWS Weather Forecast Office Peachtree City, GA*
- Water Conservation Perspective. *Jon Becker, EPA Water Division, Region 4*

Discussion and Q&A

9:30 **Media Panel: How drought experts can help the media better communicate and tell the story of drought**

- Molly Samuel, WABE, NPR and PBS affiliate for the Metro Atlanta Area
- Drew Kann, Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- Terah Boyd, WSB-TV | Cox Media Group

10:30 Break (*beverages and snacks provided*)

Session 5: Drought Impact Reporting

This session will highlight current practices for documenting drought impacts, and how to best utilize this information for monitoring drought conditions and informing drought response decisions.

Moderators: Michael Gavazzi, USDA SE Climate Hub; Kelly Smith, National Drought Mitigation Center

11:00 **Current status of Drought Impact Reporting in the Southeast**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Carolina’s journey for Drought Impact Reporting. <i>Elliot Wickham, SC State Climatology Office, SC Department of Natural Resources</i> ● An Assessment of Different Approaches, Barriers, and Opportunities in the Southeast: Drought Impact Reporting Processes for the Agricultural Sector. <i>Elijah Worley, USDA Southeast Climate Hub</i> ● NDMC Drought Impact Toolkit, including Condition Monitoring Observer Reports. <i>Kelly Smith, National Drought Mitigation Center</i> ● Georgia’s 2022 experience with drought impact reporting. <i>Pam Knox, University of Georgia</i>
11:40	<p>State-Level Efforts to Expand Agricultural Extension Engagement and Reporting at the State Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Dakota. <i>Elijah Worley, USDA SE Climate Hub, on behalf of ND</i> ● Kentucky. <i>Chip Zimmer, Kentucky Division of Water</i> ● Mississippi. <i>Michael Brown, MS State Climatologist, MS State University</i> ● Alabama. <i>Kent Stanford and Rachel McGuire, Auburn University</i>
12:00	Discussion and Q&A
<p>Session 6: Forum Wrap Up and Next Steps Moderator: <i>Meredith Muth, NIDIS</i></p>	
12:30	<p>Facilitated Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review key themes identified over the past two days ● Identify specific topics that can be further explored as a regional network ● Identify tangible activities over the next two years
1:00	Forum Ends - Safe travels!