Examining Trends in Temperature, Precipitation and Flood Frequency in the Northeast; A Tale of Extremes

> David R. Vallee Hydrologist-in-Charge NOAA/NWS Northeast River <u>Forecast Center</u>

Maria

Providence Street – West Warwick, RI at 1030 am Wednesday 3/31/10

# Outline

- From a "Practitioner's Perspective"
- How may a changing climate be impacting storm behavior in the Northeast?
- Substantial warming trend
- Big Rainstorms & Increased River Flooding
- Intense short-term droughts
- What does this all mean?

## **River Forecast Center Responsibilities**

24597.

21994

19590

8pm Sat

Calibrate and implement a variety of hydrologic and hydraulic models to provide:

- River flow and stage forecasts at 180 locations
- Guidance on the rainfall needed to produce Flash Flooding Ensemble streamflow predictions Ice Jam and Dam Break support Water Supply forecasts Partner with NOAA Line Offices to address issues relating to Hazard Resiliency, Water Resource Services, Ecosystem Health and Management, and Climate Change

Moderate flooding Connecticut River at Portland, <u>C</u>f.





Observed and Forecast River Conditions

Source: NOAA/NWS/Northeast RFC



## My "religious experience": Takes on a whole new meaning when it hits your hometown...

te in the

Providence Street – West Warwick, RI at 1030 am Wednesday 3/31/10

# It is happening throughout the Northeast!



Record flooding along the Fish and Saint John Rivers – northeast Maine, 4/30/2008



Warwick Mall – Warwick, RI at 2 pm, Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010



St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, Canada, 5/6/11 Photo: AP//Canadian Press, R. Remoirz



Home washed off its foundation along the Schoharie Creek, Prattsville, NY – Tropical Storm Irene

# Is there a common theme to recent ?Several:

- Slow moving weather systems a blocked up atmosphere
  Multiple events in close succession or 1 or 2 slow movers
- Resulted in saturated antecedent conditions
- Each fed by a "tropical connection"Plumes of deep moisture





## A warming planet and shrinking Arctic Sea ice

September Minimum Sea Ice Cover 1979-2016



This graph shows the average area covered by sea ice during September each year. Minimum sea ice extent has decreased 12% per decade since 1979. Data provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

#### 2016 Arctic Sea Ice Summer Minimum



Arctic sea ice concentration on the date of the 2016 minimum extent, September 10, 2016. NOAA Climate.gov image based on NOAA and NASA satellite data from NSIDC.

# Is there a plausible "Climate Hypothesis"?

Modest changes in air & sea temperatures = atmosphere can hold more moisture

New England is in close proximity to the Gulf & Atlantic moisture streams Affected by dual storm tracks and blocking high pressure over Greenland These ingredients offer us more "opportunities" to latch onto plumes Reduction of sea ice changes upper level wind flow Arctic Amplification Blocked up pattern induces slower moving storms or back-to-back-to back events



# The Changing Climate: Increasing extremes

Common themes across New England :

- Increasing annual precipitation
- Increasing frequency of heavy rains
- Warming annual temperatures
- Shift in precipitation frequency

#### For smaller (<800 sq. mi) basins

- Trend toward increased flood magnitude and/or frequency
  - Most pronounced where significant land use change and/or urbanization has occurred

#### The Dry side

- Intense periods of dry lasting months at a time
- "Flash Drought" behavior



Residents are rescued from their homes by boat along flooded Pawcatuck River, Westerly RI, on March 30, 2010. Photo: www.theday.com



Major flooding along Route 7 from the Housatonic River in New Milford, CT on March 11, 2011. Source: Ctcameraeye.com

### Trends in U.S. Temperature: Decadal trends and 1991-2012 relative to 1901-1960





Figure 2.7. The colors on the map show temperature changes over the past 22 years (1991-2012) compared to the 1901-1960 average, and compared to the 1951-1980 average for Alaska and Hawai'i. The bars on the graphs show the average temperature changes by decade for 1901-2012 (relative to the 1901-1960 average) for each region. The far right bar in each graph (2000s decade) includes 2011 and 2012. The period from 2001 to 2012 was warmer than any previous decade in every region. (Figure source: NOAA NCDC / CICS-NC).

#### A Look at Temperature Trends

http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag



## Impacts on Energy to Heat or Cool



## Impacts on Energy to Heat or Cool



#### Trends in U.S. Precipitation: Decadal trends and 1991-2012 relative to 1901-1960



**Figure 2.12.** The colors on the map show annual total precipitation changes for 1991-2012 compared to the 1901-1960 average, and show wetter conditions in most areas. The bars on the graphs show average precipitation differences by decade for 1901-2012 (relative to the 1901-1960 average) for each region. The far right bar in each graph is for 2001-2012. (Figure source: adapted from Peterson et al. 2013<sup>48</sup>).

#### A Look at Precipitation Trends

http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag



### **Change in Precipitation Patterns**

Intense precipitation events (the heaviest 1%) in the continental U.S. increased by 20% over the past century while total precipitation increased by 7% (1958-2012).



16



# Trends in Flood Frequency: Smaller watersheds feeling the effects first

- Changes in frequency/magnitude
- Part land use/urbanization
  - Compounded by encroachment in the floodplain
- Part changing climate
- Larger basins & those with flood control haven't seen as noticeable a shift
  - Greater capacity to handle more rain
  - Greater capacity to control releases
- Northern and western parts of the state are seeing the most dramatic increase in flooding
  - Same area where 100 year rainfall has shifted dramatically



Flooding along the Housatonic River following Lee, Sept 8, 2011. Photo: A. Driscoll, CT Post



Moderate flooding along Connecticut River , April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Photo: NBC Connecticut

## Instantaneous peak flows

#### Mathias Collins – NOAA NFMS

- Restoration center
  - 2009 study of 28 watersheds with minimal human influences Results indicate basins throughout much of New England have experienced increased peak annual flows
    - Strongest statistical trends noted by the large blue triangles



Spatial distribution of trend directions & magnitudes for based with minimal human influences. **Reference:** *M. Collins, Journal of The American Water Resources Association (JAWRA) April 2009.* 

## Increased low magnitude floods

Mathias Collins – NOAA NFMS – Restoration center

- 2011 study of 23 watersheds with minimal human influences
- Examined peaks over defined thresholds per water year (direct measure of flood frequency)
  More frequent flooding at 22 of
  - 23 locations
- Increasing flood magnitude at 17 of 23 locations

INCREASED FREQUENCY OF LOW-MAGNITUDE FLOODS IN NEW ENGLAND



Spatial Distribution of Flood Frequency – as measured by peaks over threshold per water year. Reference: W. Armstrong, M. Collins, and N. Snyder Journal of The American Water Resources Association (JAWRA) April 2011.



Location



Southern New England River Basin Normalized Number of Minor, Moderate, and Major Floods from 1970-2013 Data provided by





Location

CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

Southern New England River Basin Normalized Number of Minor, Moderate, and Major Floods Per Month Prior to 1970 (18 forecast locations)







Southern New England River Basin Normalized Number of Minor, Moderate, and Major Floods Per Month from 1970 - 2013 (18 forecast locations)













## The Dry side: Palmer Drought Severity Index

Floods kill people – Droughts kill civilizations



#### Accumulated Precipitation Departure from Normal

Green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



#### Accumulated Precipitation Departure from Normal

Green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



# Closer look at drought characteristics

USGS 01204000 POMPERAUG RIVER AT SOUTHBURY, CT (Drainage Area: 75.1 square miles, Length of Record: 83 years)



- Droughts of yesteryear:
  - 1964-66
- Prolonged record lows
  - Not as "record" as today's low minimum flows
  - But far longer in duration with little significant recharge



- \* 2014 and 2015
- Record daily flows
  - Exceeding minimums during the 1960s drought!
  - But...shorter duration with long periods of significant recharge if not flood volumes



# Summary

- The Northeast U.S. has become a "hot spot" for record floods & heavy rainfall in the past 10 years
- Noticeable trends include increased yearly rainfall and increased annual temperatures
  - Most pronounced shift in the 1% / 100 yr. 24 hour rain event ~ Litchfield Hills/northwest part of the state
- Smaller watersheds & those with significant urbanization and/or land use change are most vulnerable to increased river & stream flooding
  Droughts of long duration have become less frequent
  But noticing intense short term droughts increasing

Far reaching implications: *Protect, Adapt or Retreat???*Floodplain, land use, infrastructure, dam spillway requirements, drainage requirements, non-point source runoff, bridge clearances, "hardening" of critical facilities in the floodplain, property values etc...
Water supply: significant varying conditions season to





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Flooding along the Housatonic River following Lee, Sept 8, 2011.



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# Connecticut's MS4 Permit: What's New?

David Dickson, Chet Arnold, Mike Dietz, & Amanda Ryan NEMO Program Center for Land Use Education & Research University of Connecticut


#### UCONN | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

### **1.** Brief Intro to CLEAR

- 2. New Provisions
- **3.** NEMO's MS4 Support







- Approved by UConn Board of Trustees in 2002
- Dept. of Extension / Dept. of NRE / CT Sea Grant
- 8 9 core faculty/staff
- largely grant funded
- Mission:

...to provide information and assistance to land use decision makers and other audiences in support of better land use decisions, healthier natural resources, and more resilient communities.



# **CLEAR Program Areas**



Water



Land Use & Climate Resiliency



Geospatial Tools &

Training



Secondary School STEM

- Applied research
- Geospatial technology
- Extension outreach



### http://clear.uconn.edu

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)





#### Featured



**Connecticut MS4 Guide** 

CT NEMO is providing tools, training and other support to communities facing new stormwater rules under the MS4 general permit. Learn More



**CLEAR Story Map Gallery** 

Story Maps combine interactive maps with photos, videos, graphics and more. From bears to breakwaters, we've got something for you here. Check it out! View Story Maps



The State of LID in Connecticut: Policies, Drivers, and Barriers

CT NEMO conducted a study that looked at



Natural Resources Conservation Academy

High school students across the state are

#### Webinars

#### View Schedule

#### Online Now | View All

Road Salt Use in Connecticut: understanding the consequences of the quest for dry pavement | View

Getting Started on Your New MS4 Permit | View

Groundwater 101 | View

Connecticut's MS4 Permit: What's New? | View

The Bears Are Back: Research, Results and Ruminations About Connecticut's Bears | View

The State of Low Impact Development in Connecticut: Policies, Drivers, & Barriers | View

Living Shorelines in Connecticut: Design



# First, what is an MS4?

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### Who's Included?





# What's Required?

- Register with CT DEEP
- Stormwater Management Plan
  - 6 minimum control measures
- Implementation
  - Annual reports
- Water quality monitoring



# **Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination**

### •More detailed & focused

- Map ALL outfalls
- Expand local legal authority (including penalties)
- Citizen reporting program



#### CLEAR

# **Low Impact Development**

### •LID in Land Use Regulations

- Require consideration of low impact development 1<sup>st</sup>
- Review municipal regulations for obstacles to LID





# **Impervious Cover (IC)**

Determine amount of DCIA

### Disconnect 1% IC per year

### Require stormwater retention

- Site with DCIA > 40% retain first <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"
- Site with DCIA < 40% retain first 1"
- If can't  $\rightarrow$  pay fee or for mitigation project elsewhere





# **Municipal Operations**

- Fertilizer use
- Storage of sand / salt
- Leaf pickup
- Storm drain cleaning
- Street sweeping







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# Water Quality Monitoring



- Inventory all outfalls to
  impaired waters (rather
  than 6 across municipality)
- Screen for pollutants of concern



### **CLEAR/DEEP Partnership**





- 5 year MOA
- Provide multi-faceted support to MS4 towns
- Started last summer



### **MS4 Website**

	тісит	Q A-Z
Center for land use education and research & ct nemo Connecticut MS4 Guide		<b>NEMO</b>
Home Basics- SWM Plan- In	mplementation - Tools - Abo	out MS4 News FAQs NEMO CLEAR
<image/> <section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>	<image/> <section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header>	<image/> <section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header>

www.nemo.uconn.edu/MS4



# Thank you!

Amanda Ryan Municipal Stormwater Educator UConn CLEAR Amanda.ryan@uconn.edu

# Low Impact Development Practices: Overview for MS4





#### **UCONN** COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

#### Michael Dietz, Ph.D. UConn NEMO Program

Water: Too Much or Not Enough? Rockfall Foundation Symposium 3/31/17



Lodewick Visitors Center

Lot 9

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts William Benton Museum of Art

Google

OK Rd

Gurleyville

Mirro

Great Lawn

University of Connecticut

Panda Express

Gampel Pavilion





### Low Impact Development (LID) Site Planning and Design Concepts

- □ Originated in Maryland in 1990s
- □ The goal: To preserve pre-development

hydrology

- Runoff volume and rate
- Groundwater recharge
- □ Stream baseflow
- Runoff water quality



# Residential rain gardens



Photo courtesy of Steve Trinkaus



# First bioretention at UConn (2004)



# 2011 Laurel Hall Bioretention

# 2013

Rain Gardens & pervious asphalt parking stalls near Whetten Center.

# **Tree Filters**



# Pervious asphalt at CT State Capitol



# Pervious concrete at CT State Capitol



2009 UConn Pervious Asphalt Lot



1

### UConn Pervious Concrete (2009)





# 2009 Gant Plaza Green Roof

#### **Retained 51% of precipitation**

Gregoire, B., and J. Clausen. 2011. Effect of a modular extensive green roof on stormwater runoff and water quality. *Ecological Engineering*. Vol. 37, pp. 963-969.

2011 Laurel Hall Green Roof



### 2011 Permeable Pavers at UConn





and the second second second second second

# PICPs in action





2013 Hillside Rd Snow Shelf PICPs

# Storrs Hall Green Roof 2013



# Can LID help with a changing precipitation regime?

- LID systems are typically designed to treat the "Water Quality Volume", or the runoff from a 1" event
- Not typically designed to reduce flooding
- Recent modeling work for Flood Management Certification at UConn indicated a benefit from the multiple LID practices installed
# One small rain garden may not save the world...



# But...



# http://s.uconn.edu/virtualgsitour





#### Green Stormwater Infrastructure

#### Monitoring

- **GSI** Tour Request
- GSI Design Resources
- Tools
- Programs
- Internships
- Source Water Protection
- Traditional Infrastructure
- Waterways Restoration
- **Community Partnerships**

Waterways Assessment Research and Planning Policy and Regulations Documents and Data

#### **Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

Green stormwater infrastructure includes a range of soil-water-plant systems that intercept stormwater, infiltrate a portion of it into the ground, evaporate a portion of it into the air, and in some cases release a portion of it slowly back into the sewer system.



# In Conclusion

• Low Impact Development/Green Stormwater Infrastructure practices work!

• Proper installation and maintenance is critical

• These practices can help deal with changing precipitation regime

# **Project Partners**

- Center for Watershed Protection
- Horsley & Witten Group
- UConn Architectural & Engineering Services
- UConn Office of Environmental Policy
- CT DEEP TMDL & Nonpoint Source Programs
- Town of Mansfield





Funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant











# Questions?

michael.dietz@uconn.edu

<u>http://s.uconn.edu/virtualgsitour</u> <u>http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens</u>

# Impacts to Private Wells

### Ryan Tetreault, Supervising Environmental Analyst Connecticut Department of Public Health Private Well Program



# **Extreme Weather Events**

#### Impacts to private wells during heavy rain events



 Wells located in pits are subject to being submerged if the well pit is not watertight or properly drained.

# **Extreme Weather Events**

#### Flooding impacts to private wells:





#### Well caps are vented to atmosphere



- When a well is submerged contaminants can get into the well.
- After floodwaters have subsided, the well must be flushed, disinfected, and tested before using water for domestic use.

# Information for Private Well Owners

# www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells



#### <<< Previous Level ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Publications/ Reports Resources/Links Environmental Health in Schools What's New Contact Information DPH Main Menu

#### **Private Wells**

There are approximately 322,578 private residential wells in Connecticut that serve approximately 23% of the state's population of 3,574,097 persons (2010 census). About 822,575 people are served by their own private residential well. Private wells that supply residential houses for domestic use are not currently regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Private wells howers are responsible for testing the quality of their own drinking water and maintaining their own wells.



Local Health Departments and Districts have the authority over private wells in their respective towns. Private wells must be properly sited and approved before being constructed. For technical advice on well construction, maintenance, water quality or water treatment systems contact your Local Health Department/District or the Department of Public Health – Private Well Program at 860-509-7296.

#### \*\*What's New!\*\* TRNNConnecticu 2017 CT Private Well Conference H.I.P.A.A NOTICE March 23, 2017 **Publications and Fact Sheets** HealthCare Reform Goodwin College (The River Room) 195 Riverside Drive 2000 East Hartford, CT 06118 9am–3pm (Registration: 8:30-9:00) Water Testing Check the Calenda Cost to Attend: FREE Click here for more information Receive Updates Water Treatment Sign - Up for E-alerts DROUGHT CONDITIONS: On October 28, 2016 the Governor's Office issued a PRESS RELEASE advancing the drought declaration stage in six of the eight counties in CT to a Drought Watch. Two counties remain on a Well Construction Connecticut Drought Advisory that was declared in June 2016. For information on the current drought status for Connecticut, please visit the Connecticut Water Status website: www.ct.gov/waterstatus. Private well users looking for information regarding conservation measures, options for those experiencing a Well Maintenance reduced or loss of water supply and more, please refer to: Publication No. 36: Guidelines for Private Well Users in times of Drought or Low Precipitation Regulations of CT State Agencies **Contaminants** Well Owner's Checklist ccess health CT Publications and Fact Sheets \*UPDATE\* <u>Circular Letters</u> NETERNIS <u>CTDCP Registered Well Driller's Rosters (PDF Instructions) \*UPDATE\*</u> Well Disinfection Procedure Listing of Local Health Departments Well Siting, Construction and Permitting Requirements Connecticut Recovers • Disinfection Procedure for Private Wells (Publication #27) Private Well: Best Management Practice Checklist \*NEW\* **C**Alert Treatment, How to Get Started and Helpful Resources\*NEW\* WE CAN'T ALERT YOU The DPH's Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program (EOHA) provides information about F WE CAN'T REACH YOU how chemical contamination in your well can affect your health. FOHA sets health-based Action Levels for common groundwater contaminants that can impact private wells. EOHA also has fact sheets about health hazards for some chemicals commonly detected in private wells. Click here for EOHA health information about private well contaminants. RULESCT.OR

Vitälsians Private Well Testing

# What do I test my private well for?

#### PRIVATE DRINKING WATER IN CONNECTICUT

Publication Date: January 2017

#### Publication No. 24: Private Well Testing

Testing your well water provides you with information on the quality of your drinking water. Testing is the best way to ensure that your drinking water supply is safe from harmful chemicals. In addition, water testing can determine whether nuisance impurities, such as iron and manganese are present and at what levels. The purpose of this fact sheet is to assist private well owners in deciding how frequently to test their private well water and what to test for. It also provides homeowners with information about how to get their water tested, understanding their water test results and protecting their well from contamination.



#### Private Water Supplies

Homeowners with private wells are responsible for the quality of their own drinking water. They are generally not required to test their drinking water. However, testing is a good idea even if you do not suspect a problem because testing is the only way to be sure your water is safe to drink. An especially good time to test water quality is when buying a home so that you can make any contamination findings part of your home purchase decision. A good time of year to test is after a heavy period of rain, generally in the spring or fall. Even if your current water supply proves to be clean and safe to drink, regular testing is important because it establishes a record of water quality that may help identify and solve future problems.

In accordance with Section 19-13-B101 of the Public Health Code, testing is required for new wells. However, the required tests do not cover all contaminants. Water tests done during home purchases are usually required by the bank providing the mortgage. Contrary to common belief, such tests are not required by law. Water tests done for a home purchase do not necessarily cover all contaminants.

This publication provides general guidelines for private well water testing. However, these are just guidelines. Check with your Local Health Department to find out whether there are water quality problems specific to your area. It is also a good idea to ask your neighbors whether they have ever had water quality problems. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Private Well Program is also a resource for questions about private well testing. DPH's Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program is a resource for questions about safe limits of chemicals in water and health concerns. Contact information is provided at the end of this fact sheet.

#### W E en if m w v c c

#### What To Test For? How Frequently to Test?

Even if you do not suspect any well water problems, it is important to test your water to ensure that it is safe to drink. Table 1 lists the tests we recommend for all private wells even if you do not notice any problems with your water. Table 3 lists water quality issues you might encounter and what tests you should perform if you have a particular issue with your water. Whenever you notice a change in the taste, color, odor, or clarity of your water, contact your Local Health Department or the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH). Private Well Program for assistance.



Produced by The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Environmental Health Section, Private Well Program 450 Capitol Avenue, MS#51REC, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134 Phone: 860-509-7296 Fax: 860-509-7295



Page 1	of Publication	No. 24:	Private	Well Testing
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	Table 1. Recommended	Test for All Private W	ells
Type of Test	When?	W	hy?
Basic Indicators (See table 2 below)	Every Year Also test after repair or replacement of your well, pump or water pipes.	Provides a general indicat Required for all new wells. above their acceptable lim health concerns.	tion of water quality. Some basic indicators it are associated with
Lead (2 samples; a first draw sample and a flushed sample should be collected when testing for lead in drinking water)	At Least Once Also when planning a pregnancy or have a child under 6 years old in the home. If your water is considered corrosive, test every 3-5 years.	Lead can leach from your h faucets, valves, etc.) system lead more readily. Lead abo associated with health conce especially susceptible to har exposure.	ome's plumbing (pipes, . Corrosive water leaches ve the acceptable limit is erns. Young children are mful effects from lead
Arsenic, Uranium, Radon	At Least Once Ideally, repeat test every 5 years	Arsenic, uranium and radon in groundwater in some are: associated with health conce acceptable limit. Private we been found sporadically aro fluctuate.	are naturally occurring as of CT and are ems above their lls with high levels have und CT, and levels may
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	At Least Once More often if a problem is identified or suspected	Gasoline, oil, solvents or in spilled or leaked on the grou well water. VOCs above the associated with health conce	dustrial chemicals and could get into your ir acceptable limit are erns.
<u>Fluoride</u>	Every 5 years when a child under 12 is present	Fluoride can occur naturally A child's permanent teeth c from excess fluoride. Too li risk of tooth decay. Your ch you about the fluoride level	y in wells throughout CT. an become discolored ttle fluoride can increase ild's dentist will likely ask in your well water.
*Some drinking wate	er standards are based on	Table 2. Basi	c Indicators Test
esthetics and some water exceeds a drin	are based on health risk. If your king water standard, contact	Parameter	Applicable Drinking Water Standard*
our Local Health D	epartment or CT DPH for	Total Coliform Bacteria	None Present
lrinking water stand	ards hyperlinked below.	Nitrate-Nitrogen	10 milligrams/liter (mg/L)
DRINKING WATE	R STANDARD TVPFS-	Nitrite-Nitrogen	1 mg/L
CT DPH Action Lev	92 8 1 99 X 99 X 1 1 1 1 89 els	<u>pH</u>	6.4 - 8.5 standard units (SU)
US EPA Maximum	Contaminant Levels (MCLs)	Odor	Less than 2
US EPA Secondary	MCLs	Chloride	250 mg/L
For More Informat	ion Contact:	<u>Hardness</u>	150 mg/L
Health related: CT D	PH Environmental &	Apparent Color	Less than 15 SU
Occupational Health	Assessment Program,	Sulfate	250 mg/L
(860) 509-7740		Turbidity	Less than 5 SU
All other questions (	i.e., testing, treatment, etc.):	Iron	0.3 mg/L
CT DPH, Private We	ell Program, (860) 509-7296	Manganese	0.05 mg/L ( <u>Aesthetic</u> based) 0.5 mg/L ( <u>Health based</u> )

Page 2 of Publication No. 24: Private Well Testing

# **Drought Status In Connecticut**

Current Water Conditions: Drought Watch in Effect for Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland, Middlesex, New London, and Fairfield Counties

#### Drought Advisory in Effect for New London and Windham Counties



### Connecticut's Interagency Drought Workgroup

#### State Agency Representatives:











#### Technical assistance from:





### **Drought Information and Resources**

Connecticut

#### **Drought Preparedness and Response Plan**

August 4, 2003

Prepared by Interagency Drought Work Group as accepted by the Connecticut Water Planning Council

### www.ct.gov/waterstatus

	STATE OF CONNECTICUT WATER	L STATUS		
	Home About Us			
Data and Reports Related Links Water Conservation Interagency Drought Work Group	Windham & New London counties: All other counties: <u>Droug</u>	Drought Advisory ht Watch		
	Listed below are the environmental conditions that, as of December 2016, support the current drought declarations, pursuant to the Connecticut Drought Response and Preparedness Plan			
	Precipitation: three or more cumulative months below Groundwater: five or more consecutive months below Stream Flow: four out of five months below normal Drinking Water Reservoirs: September statewide ave Palmer Drought Severity Index: -3.0 to -4.0 or less (se Crop Moisture Index: criteria not triggered Fire Danger: High (can vary daily)	v 65% of normal w normal erage at 78.5% of normal evere to extreme drought)		
	Stream Flow - maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey USGS map of data streamfork - in major watersheds of the state, averaged across the most recent day USGS map of Z-day streamfork - in major watersheds of			

### Drought Advisory

#### **Drought Stage Criteria**

A decision to issue a Drought Advisory is based on assessing the current and forecasted conditions of surface waters, ground water, reservoirs, soils, and vegetation relative to normal conditions. Each measure and index serves only as a relative guide. Recommendations can be based on what the majority of the indicators show. The criteria for consideration are as follows:

Precipitation:	Two months cumulative below 65% of normal,
Ground Water:	Three consecutive months below normal,
Streamflow:	Two out of three months below normal,
Reservoirs:	Average levels less than 80% of normal.
Palmer Drought	
Severity Index:	-2.0 to -2.99
Crop Moisture Index:	-1.0 to -1.99 abnormally dry,
Fire Danger:	Moderate.

### **Drought Watch**

#### Drought Stage Criteria

A decision to issue a Drought Watch is based on assessing the current and forecasted condition of surface waters, ground waters, reservoirs, soils, and vegetations relative to normal conditions and shall be guided by the following criteria:

Precipitation: Ground Water: Streamflow: Reservoirs: Palmer Drought Severity Index: Crop Moisture Index: Fire Danger: Three months cumulative below 65% of normal, Four consecutive months below normal, Four out of five months below normal, Average levels less than 70% of normal.

-3.0 to -3.99 -2.0 to -2.99 excessively dry, High.





Much Above

Normal

Ranked

Measurements

Above

Normal

Normal

Much Below

Normal

Below

Normal

#### **Connecticut Real-Time Groundwater Level Network**

# Groundwater Monitoring Well Data



413535072253701 - CT-MB 32 MARLBOROUGH, CT

Plot created 03/28/17 17:19

# Water Conservation

Activity	Normal	Gallons	<b>Conservation Measure</b>	Gallons	Savings of:
Shower	Water running	25	Wet Down, Soap up, Rinse	9	16 gallons
Brushing Teeth	Tap Running	10	Wet Brush, Rinse Briefly	1/2	9 ½ gallons
Bath	Full	35	Minimal (1/4 full)	10-12	25-27 gallons
Shaving	Tap Running	20	Partially Fill Sink Basin	1	19 gallons
Washing Dishes	Tap Running	30	Wash & Rinse in Partially Filled Sink Basin	5	25 gallons
Dishwasher	Full Cycle	16	Short Cycle	7	9 gallons
Washing Hands	Water running	2	Fill Sink Basin (or just to wet & rinse)	1	1 gallon
Toilet Flushing	Average	5-7	With tank displacement New toilet	3-6 2-3	1-2 gallons 3-4 gallons
Washing Machine	Full cycle, top water level	60	Short Cycle, Minimal Water	27	33 gallons
Outdoor Watering	Per minute	10	Hand Watering		
Leaky Faucet	1/32" leak	170/24 hrs.	Fix Leak	0	170/24 hrs.

In a 6 inch diameter well, for every feet of casing there is about 1.5 gallons of water. Water conservation efforts will maintain storage in the well for a longer period of time.

# Well Completion Reports



### Valuable information:

- Diameter of well
- Completed depth of well
- Static water level
- Well yield

# **Questions?**



"Well, we needed the rain."

# Water: Too Much or Not Enough?

### Ensuring Adequate, Clean Public & Private Drinking Water Supplies in the Face of a Changing Climate

ecticut Department

David Radka, Director of Water Resources & Planning The Connecticut Water Company



Ryan Tetreault, Supervising Environmental Analyst CT Department of Public Health

Rockfall Foundation March 31, 2017

# "The Times They Are a-Changin"..."

*"Climate change is projected to continue to follow already observable trends. Temperature rise, shifts in precipitation patterns and timing, and altered hydrologic cycles can be expected." (US EPA, 2015)* 

- Extreme Weather Events
- Drought
- Flooding
- Coastal Storm Intensity
   & Sea Level Rise
- Variability
   & Seasonality



# Temperature & Drought

- Higher temperatures, especially in summer
  - Avg and extreme heat days
- Longer heat waves and increased evaporation
- Changes in Runoff and Loss of Snowpack
- Decline in summer precipitation
- Increased Drought Frequency & Duration
  - Short-term droughts as frequently as each summer



# Rain Bombs & Flooding



- Increase in precipitation: + 5"
- Extreme Precipitation (heaviest 1% of all daily events) up 74%
   More 2+ inch storms
- Winter precipitation as rain
- More development, paved areas
- Increase in frequency of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes
- Fewer buffering marshes and estuaries
- Sea Level Rise 1 to 4'



# Water Supply Challenges

"The biggest challenges for water utilities are forecasting demand from a growing population, planning for extreme weather events and updating aging infrastructure. At the same time, the industry has to deliver consistent and clean water to its users at an affordable rate." (Barclays and the Columbia Water Center, 2017)

- Physical Infrastructure
- Water Quality Degradation
- Safe Yield & Available Supply
- Managing Uncertainty



# Challenges – Infrastructure

### **Physical Infrastructure**

- Flooding, Hurricane/Coastal Storm Impact, Sea Level Rise
- Dam Safety
- Supply, Treatment & Distribution System Integrity
  - ✓ Failure, Flooding, Power Loss
- Drainage infrastructure overwhelmed during heavy precipitation and high runoff events
- Wastewater treatment plant failure



# Challenges – Water Quality

### Water Quality Degradation

- Flooding: erosion, sedimentation, nitrogen, herbicides, pesticides, turbidity and pathogens
- Watersheds and natural ecosystems degraded
- Salt-Water infiltration and impacts to freshwater systems
- Thermal stratification of reservoirs increasing
  - Mixing may be eliminated in shallow lakes, decreasing dissolved oxygen and releasing excess nutrients, metals, etc.
- Reservoirs less likely to freeze
  - ✓ Algae blooms increase
- Tap water temperature challenges
  - Disinfection byproducts



# **Challenges – Ability to Meet Demand**

### Safe Yield & Available Supply

- Lower Res Levels
- Reduced GW Recharge

### Water Demand

- Increased Seasonal Demand
- Environmental Pressures





# **Mitigating Risk**

- Supply & Demand Management
- Redundancy
  - Critical Infrastructure
  - ✓ Interconnections
- Emergency Response Planning
  - ✓ ECPs
  - ✓ CT WARN
- Managing Uncertainty
  - ✓ Adaptive Management



"Water agencies have always faced uncertainty when planning for the future. Traditional planning methods are based on the assumption of hydrologic stationarity—that future hydrologic conditions will be statistically similar to those recorded in the recent historical record... Scientific evidence is mounting, however, that future climate and hydrologic conditions will be significantly different from those in the past." (Water Research Foundation, 2014)



# Looking Ahead

"Generally, the past decade has seen considerable interest by the water utility community in exploring the potential impacts of climate change. This period has been referred to ... as an era of assessment, as there are very few examples of water utility actions or adaptations directly linked to "climate change". The next era will be one of action, as water utilities grapple with large infrastructure investment decisions, and include climate change in their risk management and decision processes." (Water Research Foundation, 2014)



# SMALL FARM VS. BIG DROUGHT

IAN GIBSON, MANAGER

WELLSTONE FARM, HIGGANUM CT

# A TOUGH 48 MONTHS.....



 DROUGHT HAS A SYSTEMIC IMPACT OF ALL FACETS OF AGRICULTURE – REGARDLESS OF SCALE

 ONLY POSITIVE – A MILD DROUGHT IS A BETTER FATE THAT A TORRENTIALLY RAINY SUMMER.

# IN AGRICULTURE, DROUGHT = STRESS

- STRESS TO CROPS
- STRESS TO THE FARMERS AND LABOR
- STRESS TO FARM WATER RESOURCES
- STRESS TO EQUIPMENT AND
   INFRASTRUCTURE


### WATER: A PRIMARY LIMITING (BIOLOGICAL) RESOURCE

• PHOTOSYNTHESIS

TRANSPIRATION

SUPPORT

NUTRIENT TRANSPORT











#### POTATO CULTURE: MOISTURE IS THE DIFFERENCE



### IMPACTS OF INCREASED DROUGHT CONDITIONS

#### BLOSSOM END ROT (CALCIUM DEF.)







### IMPACTS OF INCREASED DROUGHT CONDITIONS

#### INCREASED ALTERNARIA BLIGHT (EARLY BLIGHT)

#### INCREASED NUTRIENT DEFICIENCY





### **KEY FACTORS IN DROUGHT MITIGATION**

#### WATER RETENTION

- DRIP IRRIGATION
- MULCHES (PLASTIC AND ORGANIC)
- APPLIED BARRIERS
- DROUGHT RESISTANT
   CULTIVARS







- WELLS
- SURFACE WATER
- RAINWATER CATCHMENT
- DRY FARMING
- WATER HAULING



#### WATER AVAILABILITY AT WELLSTONE FARM – YE OLDE HOUSE WELL





### DRIP IRRIGATION: HIGHLY EFFICIENT WATER USE



### PLASTICULTURE: WATER RETENTION & WEED MGMT.







#### WOVEN LANDSCAPE FABRIC: LONG-TERM USE



# SHADE NETTING: HEAT AND EVAPORATION REDUCTION



#### KAOLIN CLAY (SURROUND WP): DECREASES HEAT & TRANSPLANT STRESS







# Mosquito Control from Drought to Deluge

Water: Too Much or Not Enough Symposium presented by Rockfall Foundation and UConn Climate Adaptation Academy March 31, 2017

### Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection





#### Roger Wolfe (roger.wolfe@ct.gov)

### Wetland Restoration/Mosquito Management Coordinator

#### CT DEEP Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management Program (WHAMM)



#### **Connecticut Mosquito Management Program**

- Mosquito surveillance CAES
- Domestic bird and animal DoAg, UCONN
- Human surveillance DPH/LHD
- Mosquito control/tech assistance DEEP
- Communication and public awareness DPH/DEEP/CAES

### Mosquitoes

- •53 species in CT (~3000 worldwide, >200 in US)
- •Only female bites (irritation and disease transmission)
- •Floodwater vs. stagnant surface
- •Univoltine vs. multivoltine (>risk)
- •Overwintering strategies



•Specific vs. general feeding (>risk)









# Natural Mosquito Habitats



# Artificial mosquito habitats



### Created Wetlands/Stormwater BMP's: *"If you build it they will come." (?)*





Recommendations
1:3 or 1:4 side slopes
Veg/beaver management
<72 hrs. detention</li>
maintenance!



# **IPM for Mosquito Control**

- Monitoring and Surveillance
- Education
- Source Reduction
- Personal Protection
- Biological control
- Chemical control

   Larvaciding
   Adulticiding



### Mosquito-Borne Disease

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
- West Nile virus (WNV)
- St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)
- LaCrosse virus (LAC)
- malaria
- dengue (DHF)
- chikungunya
- Zika
- Powassan
- Canine heartworm (filariasis)



### WNV 2000-2016: 131 human cases





### Source reduction

#### Eliminate standing water around home and workplace.



Once a week: flush bird baths, wading pools, planters, toys, trash containers. Rain barrels: cover with wire mesh smaller than a mosquito.

# Exotic species

### Aedes albopictus



### Aedes japonicus



### Personal Protection Measures to Prevent Mosquito Bites

- Minimize outdoors activities at dawn and dusk.
- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Long sleeves, pants.
- Repair holes or replace screens.
- Use A/C.
- Avoid camping near swampy areas. Use netting on tents.
- Consider using a repellant.

Personal Protection Measures to Prevent Mosquito Bites: Repellants

- DEET (<30-40%), picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or para-menthane-diol applied on clothes or skin; permethrin products on clothes only.
- Have an adult apply repellants to children.
   <10% DEET on children not around eyes/nose/mouth.
- Reapply as needed (e.g., after swimming)
- Wash off when you come indoors.

### Larvacides

Products applied to larval habitats that kill mosquito larvae. Some can be applied as a pre-emergent.

- Biologicals (Bti, Bs, spinosad)
- IGR's\* (methoprene)
- oils\* (MMF, alcohols, esthers)
- chemical\* (temephos)

(\*permit required)

### Larvaciding backpack application


# Adulticiding ("spraying")

# Ultra Low Volume (ULV) adulticiding



# Barrier spray



Elements of a Municipal Mosquito Control Program

- Educate your constituents (sources of mosquitoes).
- Clean up yards/neighborhoods. Stress source reduction/personal protection.
- Enforce public health regs: e.g., abandoned pools
- If contracting with private company, use only DEEP licensed applicators (Cat. 7f)
- Consider catch basin larvaciding. Coordinate with DPW clean outs. Also parks, schools (check regs).
- Judicious use of adulticides is OK.

# **Open Marsh Water Mangement (OMWM) source reduction and habitat enhancement**





# Want to know more?

CT Mosq. Mgt Program: www.ct.gov/mosquito Amer. Mosq. Control Assoc: www.mosquito.org Nat'l Cent. Disease Contr. and Prev: <u>www.cdc.gov</u> Rutgers Cntr for Vect Bio: vectorbio.rutgers.edu/outreach





# Timing of application for Culex control

Mean Gravid Trap Collections - Connecticut, 2015



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

#### OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD



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ANNE LACOUTURE PENNIMAN, ASLA

#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Permeable Surfaces Irregular/unsmooth planted surfaces Collect/Channelize Percolate/Infiltrate





#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Harness the wisdom of the forest





#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Harness the wisdom of the forest

Work with existing soil character





#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Harness the wisdom of the forest

Work with existing soil character

Employ multiple strategies





#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Harness the wisdom of the forest

Work with existing soil character

Employ multiple strategies

Careful attention to the ground plane



**Central Park** 



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Allow for infiltration however and whenever possible

Harness the wisdom of the forest

Work with existing soil character

Create opportunities for infiltration

Careful attention to the ground plane

Belt and suspenders





#### Connecticut River Compound CTASLA HONOR AWARD, 2017







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#### New Haven Residence

























#### TOO MUCH WATER NOT ENOUGH WATER



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Observe nature





#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Observe nature

Plant natives



Rhododendron periclyminoides - Pinxter Azalea



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Observe nature

Plant natives

Right plant/Right place



Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia Creeper



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Observe nature

**Plant natives** 

Right plant/Right place

Draw inspiration from resilient plant communities



Myrica, Viburnum, & Amelanchier



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Observe nature

Plant natives

Right plant/Right place

Draw inspiration from resilient plant communities



Myrica, Viburnum, & Amelanchier



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER



Missioni Iadan Compass Precupite Badh Prairie Big Dise Pade Goldenned Grass Plant Grass Aster Cord Grass Sees. Parple Soldage Septement Append Store Julior Sporting Ashroppen massestering masse between stores encoder pertaints paradits pertaints

Side Osto Fake Gramma Beneset Rinterimit Kalmie Grast Parriage

Proposed Sporobolat Grass

Prairie Clover

Keninsky Letd Blue Grass Plant Pise descriptor



#### NOT ENOUGH WATER

Use Water WISELY

Monitor and irrigate new plantings as necessary

Understand that new plantings need approximately 1" rain/water per week

Use drip irrigation judiciously

Do not water established plants, but monitor them during drought periods


### TOO MUCH WATER

### NOT ENOUGH WATER





### FARM GARDEN LAB

Find ways to celebrate water as an artful, aesthetic, and necessary feature of the landscape.





### FARM GARDEN LAB



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### FARM GARDEN LAB



ANNE PENNIMAN ASSOCIATES LLC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

# Thank you!

### ap@annepenniman.com





The Connecticut Water Planning Council

State Water Plan CONNECTICUT

March 2017 Kirk Westphal, PE

### **Connecticut State Water Plan Update**









PURA



MILONE & MACBROOM®

## **Topics to Discuss**

- State Water Plan Goals
- Review of the planning process
- Major components of the Plan:
  - Technical
  - Policy
  - Next Steps
- Upcoming opportunities to stay involved





## Goals of the Plan



# Goals of the Plan

### The Plan is Aimed at:

- Building on work to date of Committees and Advisory Group
- Addressing each of the 17 Primary Goals outlined in the Statute, as a minimum
  - Consensus Policy Recommendation
  - Pathway Forward
  - Acknowledgment of Evaluation Elsewhere
- Identifying a balance: The right quantity and quality for each need.

### The Plan is NOT Aimed at:

Solving all of Connecticut's Water Issues





# Summary of High-Level Plan Objectives

### Synopsis

 Provide balanced water use for all needs.

### "Soundbites" (Not prioritized)

- Provide reliable and resilient supply for all uses
- Promote public health and quality of life with high quality water
- Protect the environment
- Manage water cost-effectively for all users
- Develop an implementable plan
- Prepare for uncertain future climate
- Use science and data to recommend action
- Involve Connecticut citizens in water management



Make Progress on Each Identified Water Management Option or Challenge

Plan can include **pathways forward and decision processes** for issues that cannot be resolved within the 1-year planning process Plan can include **policy recommendations** for well developed options with general consensus Plan can acknowledge that certain options are being addressed elsewhere

Plan will include technical information on current and future water needs for human health, environmental health, industry, agriculture, and energy



# **Roles of the Working Committees**

Review policy white papers Help pre-screen options for consensus Draft policy language for consensus-based options



Help develop local implementation guidelines Consider process for rapid approval of Draft Plan in 2017



## Phasing of Plan Development



#### PHASE I

Plan objectives and processes Assessment of current conditions Evaluation of future conditions **Framework for Phase II:** (Goals and Options)

#### PHASE II

Consensus on policy recommendations Pathways toward resolution Decision framework

Other Statewide Planning Processes (WUCC, Blue Plan)



REPORT

# Stakeholder Workshops and Public Meetings





## Key Elements of the Plan



#### Recommendations

 Recommended Policies as guiding principles for future laws and regulations based on stakeholder consensus

#### "Pathways Forward":

- Data Needs
- Partnerships
- Consensus Building

#### Implementation

- Outreach
- Funding
- Priorities



# **Background White Papers**

- Current Water Management Structure
- Land Conservation and Economic Development
- Future Water Management Options
- Future Water Management Challenges

 All are available at: <u>http://www.ct.gov/water</u>





### **Technical Information**











### **Forthcoming Technical Information**

How could climate change and water conservation change these maps?



How can an improved understanding of ecological flow needs affect these maps?



Are there other indicators of potential basin stress?



#### Can models of basins help?





# **Policy Recommendations**

- 1. Land Use Practices and Protection Related to Water
- 2. Water Quality Impacts of Land Use
- 3. Water Conservation
- 4. Consistency with Existing State Plans
- 5. Monitoring for Plan Implementation
- 6. Agricultural Practices
- 7. Unused Registered Water Diversions
- 8. Implementation of Minimum Stream Flow Regulations
- 9. Outreach, Education and Public Engagement
- 10. Regionalization of Water Systems
- 11. Class B Water for Non-Potable Uses Only
- 12. Data Needs
- 13. Coordination with Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs)

- Each of these contains many specific recommendations.
- The Policy Committee is prioritizing the Top Ten policies



## Pathways Forward:

### Next Steps for Issues that Cannot be fully resolved now

- Conservation
- Regionalization/Interconnections
- Unused Registered Water Diversions
- Aging Infrastructure
- Economic Impacts
- Funding for Implementation
- Future Class B Water for Non-potable Uses
- Statewide Drought Planning
- Wastewater and Water Reuse
- Water Use Accounting
- Overcoming Future Challenges
- Technology Issues

- Some of these issues have agreeable aspects and have policy recommendations.
- Next Steps include:
  - Data Neets
  - Partnerships
  - Outreach



# **Upcoming Workshops and Public Meetings**

Workshop #6

Thursday, April 20, 2017 1-5PM - *PURA* 

### **Final Public Meeting**

Thursday, April 13, 2017 1-3PM - PURA ??

Documents Posted to Date at <a href="http://www.ct.gov/water">http://www.ct.gov/water</a>:

- Background white papers
- Phase I Interim Report
- Workshop and meeting presentations and summaries



## THANK YOU

**Rockfall Foundation** 

### **Connecticut State Water Plan Update**











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