

State Drought Task Force meeting

Date: October 28, 2021

Opening remarks

MNDNR Ecological and Water Resources Division Director Katie Smith opened the meeting and thanked attendees.

Current drought situation update

DNR Conservation Assistance and Regulation Section Manager Randall Doneen, on behalf of State Climatologist Luigi Romolo, shared;

- Precipitation in the last 90 days, including departure from normal levels.
- Current drought map.
- Streamflow maps – seeing improvement, arrowhead region of Minnesota still has low flows.
- Fire danger – low to moderate level, consistently lower over the past few weeks.
- Lake levels – some areas that are high or low, depending on location.
- Precipitation forecast for the next five days.
- Climate Prediction Center – the arrowhead region is predicted to have above normal monthly precipitation.

Drought response discussion questions

Katie Smith led a review of the Drought Task Force (Task Force) with questions for reflection on the processes and substance of the State Drought Task Force and the Statewide Drought Plan (Plan). Members provided feedback indicating the Task Force has been an effective and beneficial way for responding agencies to share information. Coordination was enhanced in many cases. Several member agencies are reviewing and updating their preparedness and mitigation plans to incorporate what was learned through the Task Force. A couple ideas were shared regarding ideas for changes to the Plan. The DNR will form a subgroup of Task Force members to explore ways to improve drought response. Members will also receive a detailed survey to gather information about what worked well and what might be improved.

Closing remarks

Katie Smith

- We don't see a need to meet again this year. Future Task Force meeting holds are removed.
- The MNDNR will organize a subgroup of Task Force members to explore ways to improve drought response.
- Members will also receive a detailed survey to gather information about what worked well and what might be improved.
- Thanks to all members.