



Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

*Chairman's Report
Spring Hill Police Department
Spring Hill, Tennessee
July 13, 2026*

Agenda

10a	Call to Order <i>Welcome from Spring Hill Mayor Matt Fitterer</i>	Chuck Yoest, TDEC
10:05	Chairman's Report	Commissioner Salyers
10:15	WRDA Update	Val McCormack, PhD
10:30	Studies Work Group	Chris White
10:45	Drought Management <i>* TEMA Statewide Mesonet</i>	Amanda Turk Megan Schargorodski
11	Water Loss Reduction	David Money
11:15	Information Resources & Decision Support Tools	David Money
11:30	Resource Conservation & Recreation	Prof. Justin Murdock
11:45	Community Outreach & Education	Marie Campbell
12n	Lunch	
1p	"Ready for Action" Recommendations <i>* Duck River Water Loss Control Initiative</i> <i>* Utility Infrastructure Investments</i>	
1:45p	Next Steps • Next Meetings	Commissioner Salyers
2p	Public Input Period	Chuck Yoest, TDEC
2:30p	Adjourn	Commissioner Salyers

Leadership Change at CPWS

The Daily Herald.

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NEWS

Columbia Power & Water CEO Hardin to resign, Baxter to helm utility

Staff reports Columbia Daily Herald

July 3, 2026, 5:01 a.m. CT



Jonathan Hardin has resigned as CEO of Columbia Power & Water Systems for personal reasons, according to a recent news release.

COO Jack Baxter, who has 35 years of experience in Middle Tennessee utilities, will take over as interim CEO, pending approval from the Columbia Board of Public Utilities.

Hardin led significant progress on CPWS's Long-Term Water Supply Project, according to the



Appreciate **Jonathan Hardin's** service on the DRWPP

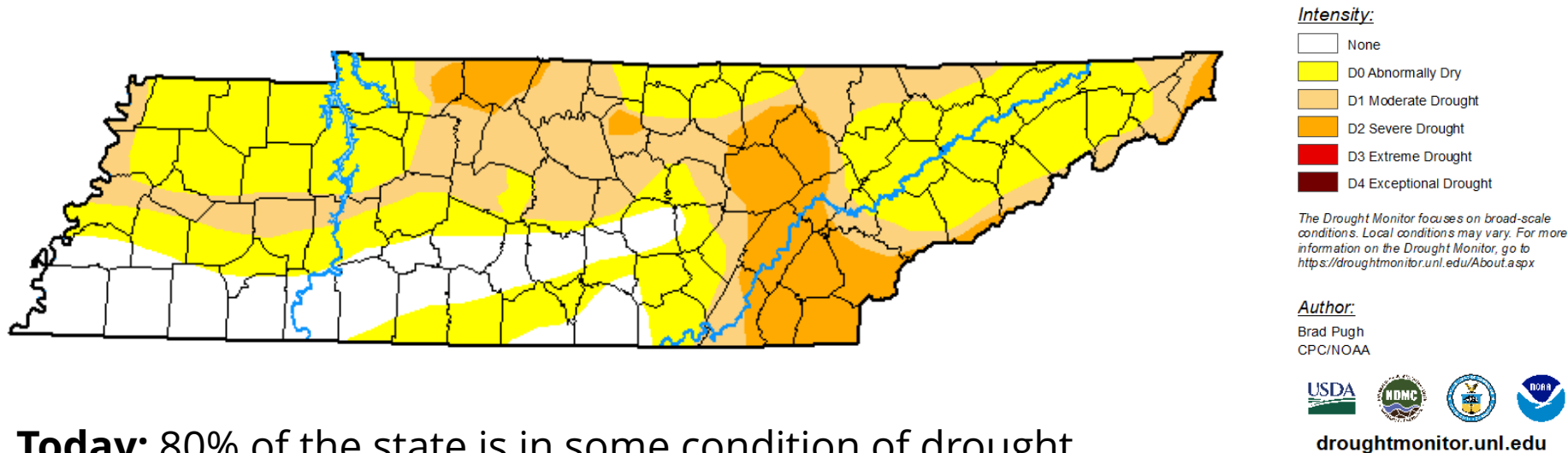
Already working with **Jack Baxter**, CPWS Interim CEO, on DRWPP issues

Work Groups

Work Groups Underway

- **Studies Work Group** – *Chris White, Chair; Pat Marsh, Vice Chair*
- **Drought Management** – *Amanda Turk, Chair*
- **Water Loss (utility) + Education** – *David Money/Peter Murrey*
- **Information Resources & Decision Support Tools** – *David Money, Chair*
- **Resource Conservation & Recreation** – *Prof. Justin Murdock, Chair*
- **Community Outreach, Education** – *Grace Stranch, Chair*
 - *Ryan Jackwood, PhD, Water Science Director, Harpeth Conservancy*
 - *Marie Campbell, Community Engagement Director, Harpeth Conservancy*

TN Drought Monitor – 07/09/26



Today: 80% of the state is in some condition of drought

2.8 million: Estimated Tennessee population currently in drought conditions

3 Months Ago: 100% of the state was in some condition of drought

1 Year Ago: 2% of the state was in drought conditions

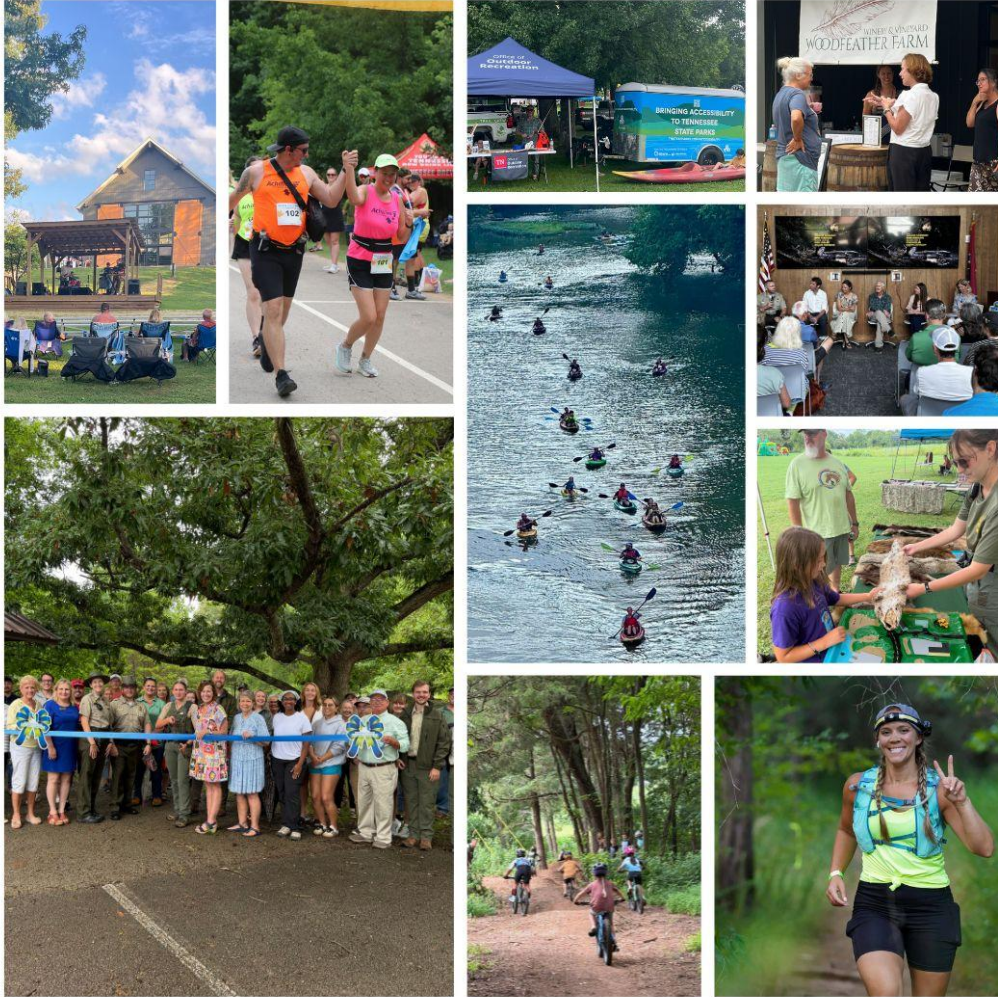
www.tn.gov/tnwildlandfire/resources/predictive-services/intelligence/drought-monitor.html

Low Head Dam Removal in Waverly



65-year-old low-head dam on Trace Creek in Waverly (Humphreys County) was removed in June. Led by the West Tennessee River Basin Authority and funded by a \$712,000 TDEC ARP grant, the project will reduce flood risk, stabilize the stream bank, improve public safety, and restore aquatic habitat by reconnecting the Trace Creek and Duck River systems.

3rd Annual Duck River Outdoor Expo – July 10-12



- Opened new Learning & Literacy Area which features an outdoor classroom, 14 wayside educational panels about the Duck River, and a lending library.
- Special screening of *Down the Duck* hosted by Harpeth Conservancy, with special guest John Guider.
- The Run-Duck-Run 10k duathlon with 110 participants
- The Mad Mallard Nighttime Trail Race with 106 runners
- The Hammer Drop Mountain Bike Race with over 120 riders of all ages.

Overall, 13,000 visitors came to HHSP throughout the weekend!

Remembering Jim Tracy (10/9/56 – 7/3/26)



State Senator for 14th District: 2004 -2017; served as Senate Speaker Pro Temp
USDA Rural Development State Director: 2017- 2021
Senior advisor for Department of Commerce & Insurance: 2021-2025
High school basketball coach and teacher at Columbia Academy
Small businessman; basketball referee at the high school and collegiate levels.

Duck River

Watershed Planning Partnership



**Where water,
community, and
conservation meet.**

Ready for Action Recommendations

- **Duck River Water Loss Control Initiative**
- **Utility Infrastructure Investments**
 - *Duck River Utility Commission Lower Intake at Normandy Dam*
 - *Pure Water Spring Hill*
 - *CPWS Long-term Water Supply Plan*
 - *Maury County Water System Interconnection to HB&TS*

Evaluating whether they fit, advance the Partnership's purpose/goals under EO 108:

- Developing comprehensive watershed management recommendations that balance the needs of water users and economic growth against the need to protect the environmental integrity of the Duck River;
- Advancing policies and actions to promote the sustainable use and conservation of water resources in the Duck River Watershed;
- Identifying opportunities for water system regionalization, drought resilience, habitat conservation, and water loss reduction; and
- Engaging with local communities, utilities, industries, and conservation organizations to ensure broad participation in watershed planning efforts.

Looking Ahead: Final Report & Recommendations

Based on our progress and capabilities, the DRWPP is looking forward to concluding our research, studies, and analysis portion of our work by August.

Goal is to have Partnership recommendations for *DRWPP Final Report & Recommendation* ready for consideration by **Oct. 6, 2026 meeting**.

DRWPP Final Report & Recommendations will be delivered to Gov. Lee, Speaker Sexton and Lt. Gov. McNally.

Executive Order 108 directed the *DRWPP Final Report & Recommendations* to be delivered by **Nov. 20, 2026** – we are aiming to produce final document earlier.

The Planning Partnership will continue to exist until its sunset date of **Dec. 31, 2026**.

Next Steps

Work Groups Continue Meeting

Next In-Person Planning Partnership Meeting

Monday, August 10, 10a-2p (Location TBD)

Studies consultants will present key findings; work groups will present final recommendations; Partnership will listen, discuss and have initial deliberation. Goal is to have draft final recommendations and direction from Partnership ready for evaluation and determination at early Oct meeting.

Final In-Person Partnership Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10a-2p (Location TBD)

Partnership to deliberate and decide on final recommendations to enable compilation and production of the Final Report for delivery to Gov's Office, Speaker and Lt. Gov.

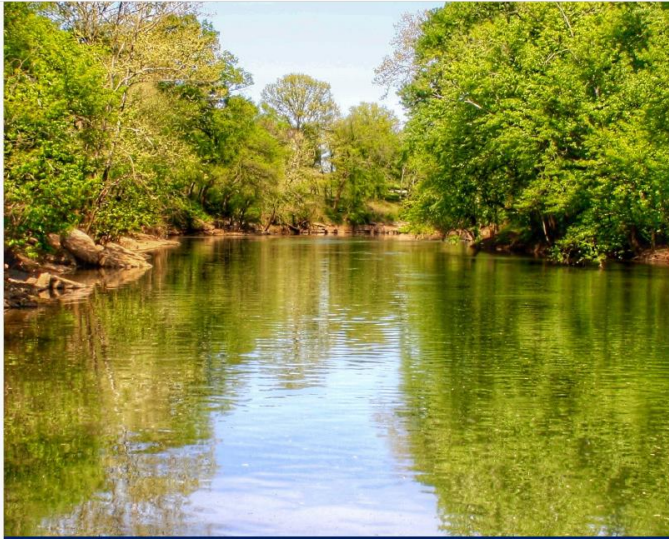
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Interim Report & Recommendations



Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership Initial Report

November 20, 2025

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

18 Initial Recommendations:

- Enhancing interagency coordination and organization to enhance planning, readiness and responsiveness in drought conditions
- Moving expeditiously on feasibility studies and design analyses for identified priority opportunities, including organization/governance forms and engineered solutions
- Accelerating deployment of information resources and decision support tools for leaders, citizens, and stakeholders in the region.
- Implementing effective water loss reduction strategies and water conservation practices, including leveraging community outreach, education channels and trusted source messaging.

Studies

Chris White, Chair; Pat Marsh, Vice Chair

- Regionalization Feasibility Study (TDEC-April G.) – **Mayor Butt, lead**
- Water Demand/Needs Analysis (TDEC-A. Grippo)
- Ask TVA to Evaluate Raising Normandy Dam (will need GO approval)
- Ask TDEC to Evaluate Pipeline to TN River (will need GO approval)
- Ask TDEC to Evaluate Other Interbasin or Off-Stream Reservoir Alternatives
- **Chris White, Bedford County; Chair**
- **Rep. Pat Marsh; Vice Chair**
- **Mayor Sheila Butt, Lead for Regionalization Study**
- **Jimmy West, TNECD**
- **Sen. Joey Hensley**

Drought Management

Amanda Turk, Chair

- Develop statewide Water Management Council
 - Drought Management Plan, including DRA
 - TDEC should update its statewide drought management plan rules to require utilities to have water shortage response plans — including water withdrawal and water use reductions — that are activated during periods of drought or low river flow.
 - Consider installing more gauges to measure flow, groundwater and water quality, potentially in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey to better understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water during low-flow periods.
 - Create off-stream storage ponds near water treatment plants to capture and store water during high-flow periods, providing an alternative supply during droughts.
- **Amanda Turk, TVA, Chair**
 - **Valerie McCormack, USACE**
 - **George Nolan, SELC**
 - **Andy Holt, TDA**

Water Loss

Water Loss (utility) + Education (individual, community)

Jonathan Hardin, Chair

- Establish Water Loss Reduction Plan
 - Develop a water use efficiency plan to evaluate, promote and track efficiency practices.
 - Promote water-efficient fixtures, smart irrigation, industrial reuse, green infrastructure, and other initiatives to reduce water use and demand.
- **Jonathan Hardin, CPWS, Chair**
 - **Randal Braker, DRUC**
 - **David Money/Angie Brown, DRA**

Information Resources & Decision Support Tools

David Money, Chair

- Duck River Dashboard (DRA - David M/Angie B)
- TDEC Integrated Water Quality Monitor and Modeling (TDEC - April G)
- South Central TN Development District Duck River Watershed GIS Planning & Decision Making Center Pilot (SCTDD and TDEC)
 - **David Money, DRA, Chair**
 - **Valerie McCormack, USACE**
 - **Amanda Turk, TVA**

Community Outreach/Education

Grace Stranch, Harpeth Conservancy, Chair

- Create and promote educational materials about the Duck River and watershed protection for multiple audiences, including recreational users, nonprofits, farmers and utilities.
- Create and promote a ready-to-use tool kit linking watershed issues like drought and land use to education and actionable steps.
- PPT for Partnership members for presentations, talks,
- Online Resources
- Event Presence
 - **Grace Stranch, Harpeth Conservancy, Chair**
 - **Horace Tipton, TWF**

Natural Resource Conservation & Recreation

Prof. Justin Murdock TN Tech, Chair

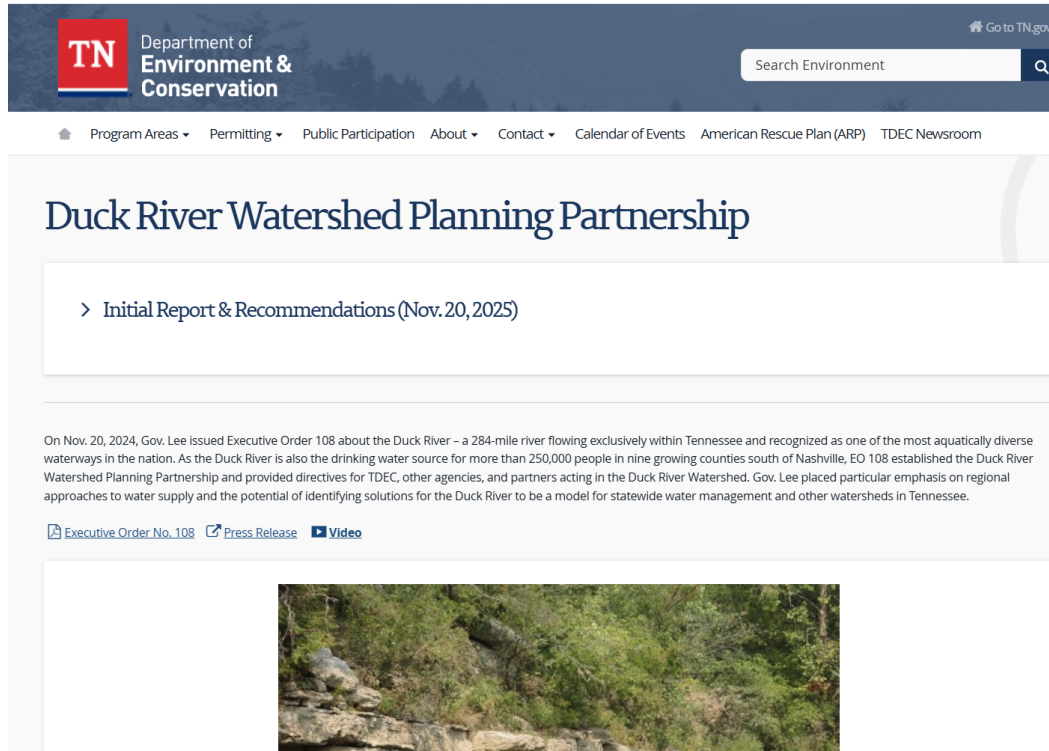
- Provide incentives to private landowners who pursue conservation easements and/or practice sustainable agriculture that protects the river's habitat and water quality.
- Invest in groundwater recharge, green infrastructure and rainwater harvesting projects.
- Create a wetland restoration fund to restore and expand wetlands in the Duck River watershed.
- Encourage local governments to consider adopting overlays creating permanent development buffer zones on each riverbank.
- Develop a watershed-wide growth plan.
 - **Prof. Justin Murdock TN Tech, Chair**
 - **Josh Campbell, TWRA**
 - **Dan Elbert, USFWS**
 - **Grace Stranch/Brian Alford, Harpeth Conservancy**
 - **Mark Thurman, TNC**

Looking Forward

- **Building out strong set of initial recommendations**
- **Evaluating Conveyance/Pipeline & Storage Alternatives**
- **TDEC's Comprehensive Water Withdrawal Permitting Pilot Project continues**
- **We're realizing real time benefits from activities now underway**
 - **TVA Normandy Dam Optimization is operational**
 - **DRUC installing a lower intake in Normandy**
- **Developing 1) updated water needs projections and 2) Regionalization Study in the next 8 months**
- **Continued development of a Habitat Conservation Plan**
- **Community engagement and watershed protection education.**

Touchpoints

Online Presence



tn.gov/environment/duckriverpartnership

Email at DuckRiver.Partnership@tn.gov

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