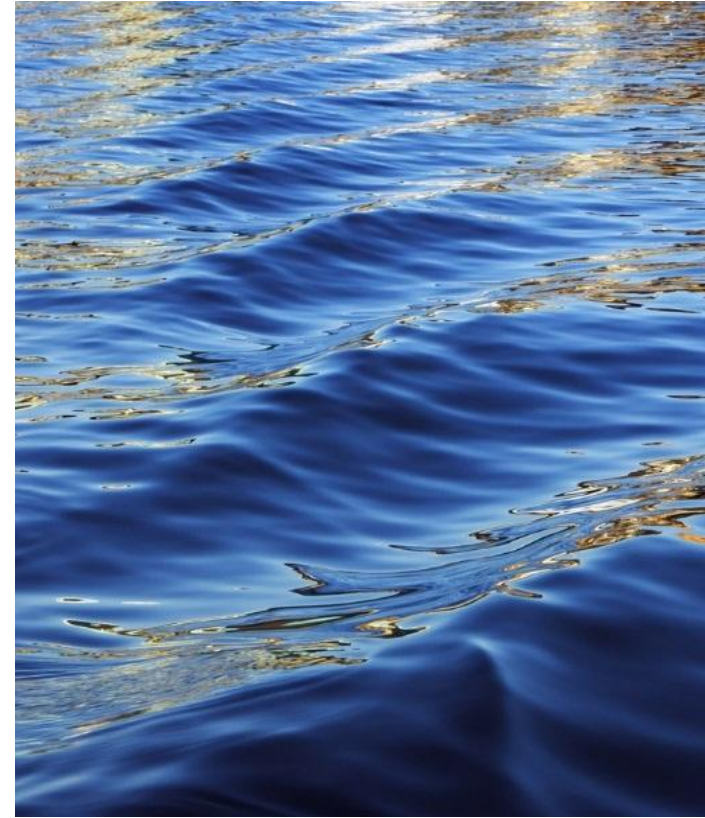




DRWPP

Drought Management Working Group

Update for August 10, 2026 DRWPP Meeting



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Drought Management Working Group Recommendations

In-Process since November 2025 Interim-Recommendations

- **Revise the Duck River Regional Drought Management Plan**

The Duck River Development Agency is in the process of revising the Regional Drought Management Plan to include a public communications strategy; mandatory and voluntary water use restrictions based on determined drought levels; monitoring for river flows; management plans and conservation practices.

A draft is due by August 31, 2026 for Stakeholder review and comments.

- **Develop a Duck River Dashboard**

The Duck River Development Agency is in the process of finalizing a website that has all currently known data in a central location. Initial recommended was to work with stakeholders to determine what data should be compiled on the site.

This was assigned to the Information Resources Working Group to lead and implement.

Drought Management Working Group Recommendations

Short Term Recommendations

- **Incorporate Comprehensive Drought Monitoring Analysis**

TDEC should evaluate where to locate additional data collection on the Duck River for more comprehensive monitoring and management. This should include partnerships with academia, USGS, conservation groups and include installing streamflow gages, groundwater gauges, and/or water quality monitoring on the mainstem of the Duck River and/or its tributaries.

- **Interim Tennessee Water Monitoring and Management Council**

The TDEC Commissioner should appoint a technical advisory committee titled the Interim Tennessee Water Monitoring & Management Council (TWMMC). The TWMMC would be charged with monitoring, coordinating response to drought and flood conditions, and work to advance model policies, utility planning, and public education. The Interim TWMMC would also work with the state to develop a permanent TWMMC.

Drought Management Working Group Recommendations

Long Term Recommendations

- **Create a Tennessee Water Monitoring and Management Council**

Tennessee should consider comparative models both from neighboring states and industry leading examples to create a Tennessee Water Monitoring & Management Council. It is recommended that for this to be successful long term, the state should determine where a program would best fit for statewide watershed monitoring and management, with full time staff to support. The TNMWCC would be responsible for statewide drought and flood monitoring, designation, coordination, and education mandates.

The TNWMMC should work closely with impacted stakeholders, and it should be comprised of members from TDEC, TWRA, TEMA, TDA, and the Tennessee Climate Office. The state should coordinate with federal partners such as the National Guard, FEMA, NWS, USGS, USACE, and TVA as well as representatives from the following interest groups: public water systems, forestry, agriculture, local government, conservation, and academia.