

Drought Task Force Meeting

July 6, 2023

MassDEP-Water Management Program Update

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WMA Permits

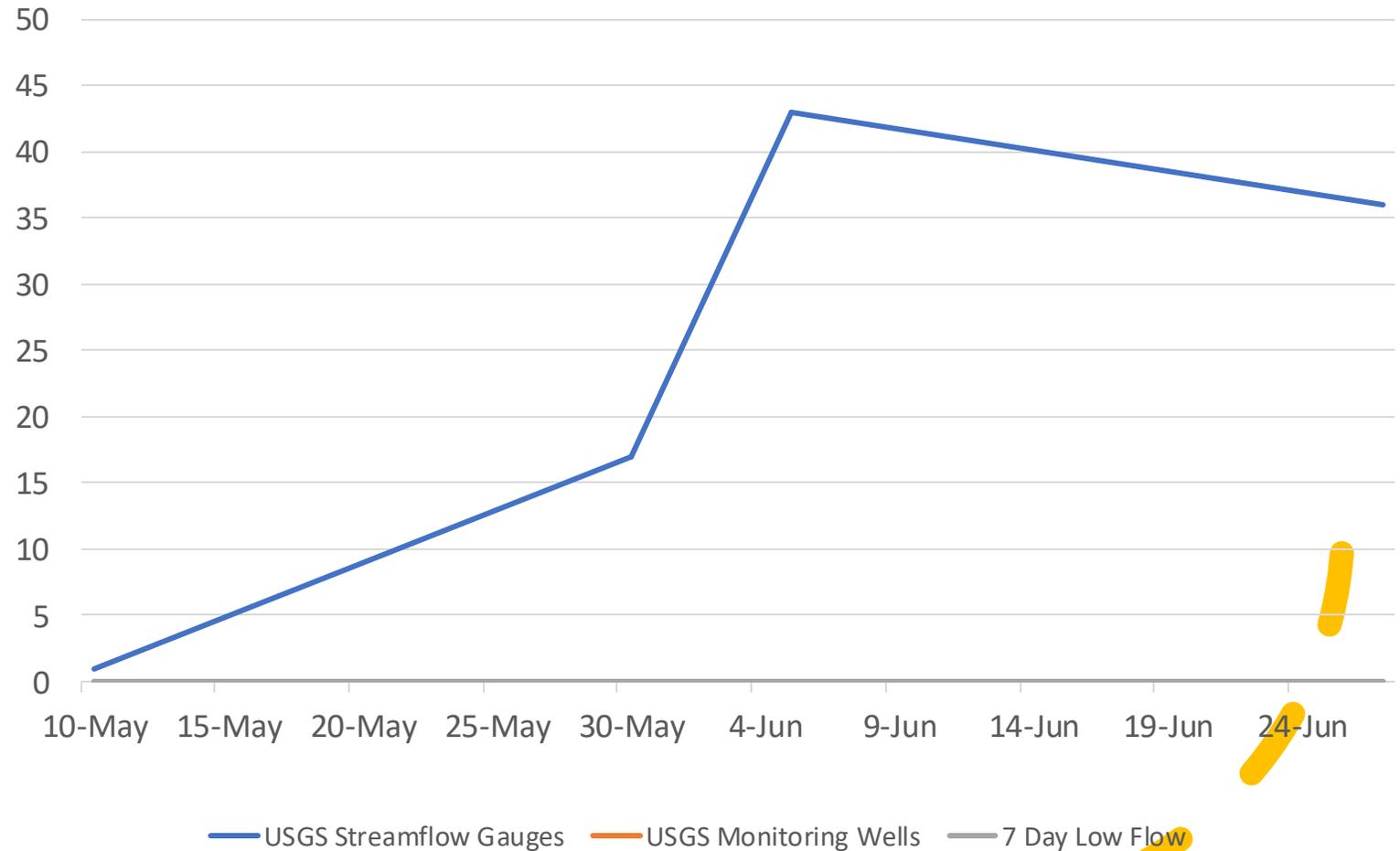
- Most WMA Permits require reductions in nonessential water uses when one or more of the following are triggered from 5/1 - 9/30:
 - Specific streamflow triggers generally include
 - June ABF is the May-June trigger
 - August ABF is the July –September trigger
 - Groundwater elevations on Cape, Islands and parts of Southeastern MA
 - Triggers are the period of record monthly 25th percentile depth to water level values, as determined and published by the USGS.
 - Drought Declaration or 7-Day Low Flow

WMA Registrations

- WMA Registrations for PWS and Golf Courses now require reductions in nonessential outdoor water use when the Secretary declares a drought for the region, county, or watershed where the withdrawals are located.
 - Level 1 (Mild Drought): Nonessential outdoor water use is restricted to no more than one day per week, from 5 pm to 9 am, except watering of ornamentals and gardens with drip irrigation, hand-held hose or watering cans may be permitted.
 - Level 2 (Significant Drought): Nonessential outdoor water use is banned, except watering of ornamentals and gardens with drip irrigation, hand-held hose or watering cans may be permitted.
 - Level 3 (Critical Drought) or Level 4 (Drought Emergency): All nonessential outdoor water uses are banned.

USGS Streamflow Gages and Monitoring Wells Below Trigger Value on 6/27

USGS Gages and Wells Below Trigger Value



USGS
Streamflow
Gages Above
Trigger Value
on 6/29

Streamflow Gages (12 out of 48)

- Blackstone at Millbury (CE)
- Deerfield at West Deerfield (CT)
- Ipswich at Ipswich (NE)
- Ipswich at South Middleton (NE)
- Merrimack at Lowell (NE)
- Nashua River at East Pepperill (NE)
- North Nashua at Fitchburg (CE)
- Otter River at Otter River (CE)
- Parker River at Byfield (NE)
- Segreganset River near Dighton (SE)
- Shawsheen at Wilmington (NE)
- Ten Mile R. E.Providence, RI (SE)

USGS
Monitoring
Wells Above
Trigger Value
on 6/29

Monitoring Wells (6 of 6)

- PWW-22 (Plymouth)
- BMW-22R (Brewster)
- TSW-89 (Truro)
- ENW-52 (Edgartown)
- NBW-228 (Nantucket)
- BHW-198 (Bourne)



Restriction Numbers

- 05/10:
 - 0 Voluntary restrictions
 - 37 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 25 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
- 05/30:
 - 1 Voluntary restrictions
 - 45 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 30 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
- 06/27:
 - 2 Voluntary Restrictions
 - 52 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
 - 43 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less



The Maps

