

**WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
INTER-OFFICE MEMO**

To: Public Drinking Water Protection Committee  
From: Beverly O'Keefe, Supervising Planner  
Date: July 20, 2005  
**Subject: Drought Update: Current Water Conditions**

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**BACKGROUND:** Pursuant to State Guide Plan Element 724: The Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, the Water Resources Board is required to assess water conditions monthly. Staff has assembled climate information from a variety of sources to monitor the potential for drought conditions in Rhode Island.

Showers and thunderstorms have brought variable amounts of precipitation to Rhode Island. Precipitation so far this month is higher than what was previously anticipated on the high end (personal communication with N. Belk, NOAA National Weather Service). July precipitation through the 14<sup>th</sup> shows Woonsocket already close to normal precipitation for the month (up-to-date report to be distributed at meeting). Specific state region figures through July 14, 2005 include:

Woonsocket	3.49"
Providence	0.83" -0.57 inch from normal
Newport	0.87" -0.45 inch from normal
Westerly	1.87 "
Lincoln	1.66"

The **USGS Water Conditions Statement** reports groundwater conditions throughout Rhode Island ending June was generally **normal** (Attachment B). The U.S. Geological Survey June 2005 Water Conditions Statement marked one new high ground water level in Rhode Island (Burrillville 396). Surface water flows through June 2005 were generally normal for Rhode Island. The Scituate Reservoir on July 20, 2005 was measured at 281.44 FEET (92.4 % of capacity).

The **NOAA Drought Severity Index and Crop Moisture Index** values for Rhode Island through July 20, 2005 is near normal. (Attachment C).

## **DISCUSSION**

Water conditions for Rhode Island were generally normal during the month of June. Anecdotally, the increase in daily temperatures through the month of July has maintained the increased demand for water. Some water suppliers have imposed water restrictions, and this information can be obtained from the Water Resources Board website, <http://www.wrb.state.ri.us/wdata/waterrestr.html>.

**RECOMMENDATIONS :** Information only.

**ATTACHMENT A: NOAA NWS RI Precipitation Report June 2005**  
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/fcsts/BOSCLIPVD.html>

**ATTACHMENT B: USGS Water Conditions Statement – June 2005**  
[http://ma.water.usgs.gov/water\\_const/water\\_conditions\\_200505.htm](http://ma.water.usgs.gov/water_const/water_conditions_200505.htm)  
[http://ma.water.usgs.gov/current\\_cond/cwrc\\_gw.htm](http://ma.water.usgs.gov/current_cond/cwrc_gw.htm)  
[http://ma.water.usgs.gov/water/water\\_s.htm](http://ma.water.usgs.gov/water/water_s.htm)

**ATTACHMENT C: NOAA NCEP Palmer Drought Severity & Crop Moisture Index - June 2005**  
[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/regional\\_monitoring/palmer.gif](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif)