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5 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
6 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
8 PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
9

10 STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL
11

12 Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
13 January 4, 2022, beginning at 1:34 p.m.
14

15 H e l d B e f o r e :

16 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN,
17 and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN
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1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

3 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)***

4 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

5 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

6 **DAN MORLEY *(Alternate)**

7
8 **ALSO PRESENT (on record):**

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

10 **DAVID KUZMINSKI**

11 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

12 **ERIC McPHEE**

13 **DAN LAWRENCE**

14 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI**

15
16 **Staff:**

17 **LAURA LUPOLI**

18 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Happy
2 new year. Thank you for joining us this
3 afternoon. We'll call the first meeting of the
4 Water Planning Council of 2022 to order.

5 The first order of business will be the
6 approval of both the December 7th meeting
7 transcript and the December 22, 2021, special
8 meeting transcript.

9 And thank you, Rob, for getting those to us.

10 Do I have a motion to that effect?

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, do you want to second that motion?

13 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, I will second for both.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Motion made that we accept
15 the transcript. Any questions?

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 THE CHAIRMAN: If not all those in favor signify by
20 saying, aye.

21 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

23 Just for those that have joined us today, we
24 have with us from the Office of Policy and
25 Management -- many of you know Dan Morley is

1 joining, representing Martin today. We welcome
2 him.

3 Any public comment? Any public comment?

4 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: Is this a public comment in
5 general, or related to the transcript?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: This is public comment in general.

7 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: So I have a general public
8 comment. I looked at the top items for focusing
9 prioritizing in the Excel sheet, and I'm really
10 interested in more spelling out pollution
11 prevention.

12 And I see that there is conservation, but I
13 would like to see more spelled out, specifically
14 phasing out of fossil fuels. I know PFAS has a
15 whole committee in Connecticut -- but also the
16 pesticides and herbicides; we all know that
17 they're not good -- yeah, my cat has its own
18 opinion -- they're not good. And still we don't
19 have any concrete policy to phase them out, or not
20 that I know of.

21 And I'm a board member of the New Haven
22 Advisory Council, Environmental Advisory Council.
23 We're trying to ban pesticides and herbicides, and
24 now the leaf blowers. And we feel that we don't
25 have support from the State.

1 And I don't say a ban from today to tomorrow,
2 but just to talk about it, and maybe have some
3 policy. And this is aligned with climate change;
4 whatever we're polluting goes into the air, into
5 the water -- and I'm just looking for more support
6 around that.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. I appreciate that. Very valid
8 points.

9 Lori, or Graham? Dan?

10 **LORI MATHIEU:** Jack if I could?

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Sure.

12 **LORI MATHIEU:** One thing I believe I brought up last
13 time is quality and quantity of our drinking water
14 supplies. And in many parts and pieces within the
15 state water plan these are mentioned.

16 And due to the work, the great work of DEEP
17 and Commissioner Dykes and Rebecca French for
18 climate change there is an emphasis there for
19 review of safe daily yield of our drinking water
20 supplies as part of the Governor's report.

21 But along with quantity goes quality hand in
22 hand and pollution prevention, Iris, as part of
23 that. You know there's a finite number of
24 drinking water supplies in our state, and to
25 protect them the raw water quality is a big part

1 of the state water plan, and the use of
2 high-quality sources for drinking water for raw
3 water was a lot of the conversations that we had.

4 So I thank you for your comment, and I
5 believe it is critically important in the drinking
6 water supply side and public health protection
7 that we understand and protect our drinking water
8 supplies. So thank you for that.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham?

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: I would second Lori's thanks. Iris,
11 yeah. I mean, it's important that we talk about
12 this.

13 And I'm not sure if you were able to attend
14 the lunchtime seminar that DEEP hosted on
15 Executive Order 21-3, which is a broad-ranging
16 Executive Order dealing with climate-related
17 issues, and implements many of the
18 recommendations, of the phase-one recommendations
19 of the GC3.

20 So I think it might be helpful if you
21 reviewed the document. That might be helpful in
22 your local discussions to see where the State is
23 going with respect to many issues that you raised.

24 And with respect to PFAS I think that the
25 agencies, DPH and DEEP and DESP have been working

1 diligently to remove one of the largest risks to
2 drinking water resources, which is the use of
3 firefighting foam that contains PFAS.

4 And there was a ban that went into effect
5 October 1st, and I think that is going to go a
6 long way to protecting our drinking water
7 resources that we believe PFAS's release to the
8 environment, the greatest concentrations; and in
9 areas where there isn't the time to really
10 consider drinking water resources when that foam
11 is deployed.

12 So I mean, we're proud of that. We know
13 there's a lot more work to do. And we have an
14 entire spill response and pollution prevention
15 division which deals with exactly what you've
16 brought up, reducing the risk of releases into the
17 environment.

18 And certainly pesticides, we understand your
19 concern there. And I know there's been a lot of
20 discussion on that at the legislative level for
21 the past several sessions as well. So I imagine
22 that will continue, but thank you for your efforts
23 on the local level.

24 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: Thank you. I really appreciate
25 your work. And I'll review the document, but it

1 just feels like in the city level, at the local
2 level that we have to fight with our neighbors.

3 And it will be better -- it will be helpful
4 if we have guidance, but I will review the
5 document and I really appreciate the work that
6 you're all doing. I really appreciate it.

7 So thank you.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Likewise.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham.

10 Thank you, Iris.

11 Any other public comment this afternoon?

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I would just like to just piggyback
13 on that just a moment -- and just another reminder
14 that the state water plan isn't only a drinking
15 water plan. It is also a plan for all of our
16 water.

17 And if we keep all of our water clean and our
18 ecology healthy, then we will have clean drinking
19 water.

20 But you know, I think that there was a large
21 focusing on quantity when we were developing the
22 state water plan. And in some ways quality was
23 not -- not a huge focus, but as Iris mentions,
24 emerging contaminants in general are a big
25 problem.

1 PFAS is the big problem now, but who knows
2 what it's going to be in another year? And you
3 know being able to respond to that sort of threat
4 is extremely important, but the fact that, you
5 know, a lot of these decisions and a lot of the
6 ways we keep our water clean is made at the local
7 level in general. It can be somewhat problematic
8 to keep our water clean across the board.

9 So just my two cents there.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Just a quick comment as a followup
11 to what Alecia just said.

12 The focus of the state water plan on quantity
13 rather than quality was a very conscious decision
14 that was approved by the Water Planning Council
15 because at the time there were more
16 statutes/regulations concerning water quality in
17 the State than there were about water quantity.

18 And the feeling was that that issue was
19 better covered than was quantity in existing laws
20 and regulations.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other public comment?

22 Any other public comment? And we'll have
23 another opportunity at the end.

24
25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move on to the
2 implementation workgroup update.

3 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. So as you know we have
4 several workgroups going. One is the
5 implementation tracking and reporting group that
6 is chaired by Dan and Corinne. They met in early
7 December and continued the discussions that were
8 based on some of the information that came out of
9 the brainstorming session that we had back in
10 September. The meeting was scheduled early
11 because of the holidays, so they are ongoing.

12 The outreach and education topical sub
13 workgroup, as you know, was focusing on wetlands
14 this year. And they plan to have a virtual panel
15 or webinar on World Wetlands Day, which is
16 February 2nd. It will also be commemorating the
17 50th anniversary of the Inland Wetlands and
18 Watercourses Act. And some of what they'll be
19 focusing on in that session is the history of that
20 act and also how it intersects with the state
21 water plan.

22 They hope to be able to review the website
23 annually to make sure that it is up to date, and
24 yet they commented that the State and the agencies
25 on the Water Planning Council put a lot of

1 resources, both time and money into the
2 development of the state water plan. And the
3 group felt that it was really the Water
4 Planning -- or the agencies' responsibilities to
5 make sure the website was maintained, and that the
6 funding was available to do it. So they were
7 willing to take on that responsibility, but felt
8 that the true responsibility laid with the
9 agencies.

10 We also are going to have a workgroup looking
11 at the potential of having a water director, and
12 the group has started meeting. They're planning
13 to meet twice a month for a short period of time
14 and the goal is to have a draft (unintelligible)
15 to the Water Planning Council advisory group for
16 review by the end of February, and then the Water
17 Planning Council would be reviewing it in March.
18 So that's the goal.

19 The primary focus is on what the
20 responsibilities and duties of the job would be
21 and also looking at some possible funding
22 opportunities.

23 The other related issue was that the terms of
24 the implementation workgroup members is spring;
25 April is when the new group is -- typically would

1 stay, would either stay or be replaced. And you
2 folks approved the current makeup of the
3 implementation workgroup through spring of this
4 year.

5 So that is a brief summary. If there are any
6 questions we can certainly consider them.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Dave, do you have
8 anything to add.

9 DAVID KUZMINSKI: I just want to throw out the dates of
10 these meetings, because when we do mention them to
11 the broader audience that's usually on this call
12 we sometimes get greater participation.

13 And so as Virginia said, the implementation
14 tracking workgroup, their next meeting is
15 January 25th -- anyone who's interested.

16 The outreach and education are meeting on the
17 first Thursdays of the month going forward. And
18 the water director; we had a meeting on the 7th of
19 this month, the 21st, and February 4th.

20 So anyone who's interested in any of those
21 topics I don't have the exact times in front of
22 me, but certainly reach out and we'll get you the
23 appropriate information.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dave.

25 Any questions for Dave or Virginia?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Then we'll move on to the Water Planning
4 Council advisory group. Alecia?

5 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Everybody, happy new year. First I
6 would like to acknowledge that Dan Lawrence is now
7 our cochair at the water planning advisory group.

8 Dan do you have a speech prepared?

9 DAN LAWRENCE: No speeches today, but thank you Alecia.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Congratulations, Dan.

11 DAN LAWRENCE: Thank you. I'm glad to be here. Thank
12 you.

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So hold on. Let me get back to my
14 notes here. I apologize.

15 We had a bit of a discussion about the water
16 planning advisory group's own prioritization
17 exercise that we had done about the same time the
18 Water Planning Council did. And so I reintroduced
19 that prioritization exercise to the advisory group
20 at the last meeting, because there are actually
21 some folks that hadn't seen those, those items and
22 our thought process and in our own prioritization.

23 So we were curious to see how the Water
24 Planning Council was going to carry out that same
25 exercise -- and you guys met the day after we did.

1 So we planned to discuss this at our next meeting
2 because people had brought forward a couple of
3 other different ways of looking at the items. So
4 we're going to discuss that at our next meeting.

5 And we've been getting fairly -- we've had
6 the hydrilla on our agenda lately just getting
7 updates on what's going on with how the State is
8 going to be addressing the hydrilla issue in the
9 Connecticut River.

10 And there was some funding, federal funding
11 allocated that will allow the Army Corps of
12 Engineers to do some studies on the hydrilla in
13 the Connecticut River. It wasn't the full funding
14 package that Blumenthal, Senator Blumenthal had
15 put forward, but it's going to be helpful in
16 getting sort of a better idea.

17 And there is a group that's been meeting,
18 regularly put together by the Connecticut River
19 Conservancy. And we've been getting -- the DEP
20 has been involved as well as the Army Corps of
21 Engineers, DEC in New York because they have a lot
22 of experience with hydrilla. So that, that is
23 ongoing.

24 And also I'm going to give the report for the
25 watershed lands group, because Karen couldn't be

1 here. And what she wanted me to let you all know
2 is that they will have quarterly meetings. The
3 dates for this year are March 11th, June 10th,
4 September 9th, December 9th; from 9 to 10:30. And
5 I'll put that into the chat so everybody has it,
6 and that will be on Zoom.

7 So if you haven't seen information going
8 around about watershed lands meetings, you might
9 want to contact Bruce to get on that mailing list.

10 And that's all I have -- unless I forgot
11 anything, Dan?

12 DAN LAWRENCE: No, that's pretty much what we started
13 talking about.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia and Dan.

15 Any questions for Alecia or Dan?

16 LORI MATHIEU: Actually I do, Jack, if I might?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

18 LORI MATHIEU: For the Connecticut River, Alecia, what
19 is being done upriver? Are other states
20 Massachusetts Vermont New Hampshire taking action?
21 Do they work with the Army Corps? Is there money
22 already being spent upriver?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So Hydrilla is not present past
24 Agawam at this point, but the other states,
25 Vermont, Massachusetts, they have been very much

1 engaged in this because they don't want to see it
2 come upriver.

3 Vermont has actually been extremely helpful
4 in giving, you know, advice and making the
5 connections. So yes, very much engaged.

6 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for Alecia?

8
9 (No response.)

10
11 THE CHAIRMAN: So Alecia, we don't have a water lands
12 group work update?

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No, I just gave it.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: That's what I thought. Okay. Thank
15 you.

16 Okay. So WUCC update, Lori. Anything?

17 LORI MATHIEU: Eric McPhee should be on. Eric?

18 ERIC MCPHEE: I am here.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Awesome.

20 ERIC MCPHEE: So for WUCC implementation we're meeting
21 quarterly. So we haven't met since the last time
22 I spoke at the Water Planning Council meeting.

23 So the last meeting was on November 17th.
24 Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 16th,
25 at one o'clock. All are welcome.

1 As I mentioned last time, topically we're
2 looking at municipal outreach and environmental
3 outreach with some of the recommendations of the
4 WUCC coordinated plans, notably
5 project notifications that happened in drinking
6 water watershed protection areas, and also help
7 municipalities with the certificate of public
8 needs and the necessary process.

9 We're also trying to create an interconnected
10 roadmap as a separate guidance and a separate
11 workgroup to look at how to make smart decisions
12 about water utilities being able to interconnect
13 with each other for redundancy and resiliency.

14 The next topic, you know, we're looking at
15 maybe water conservation from the perspective of
16 water utilities and COGs.

17 And I will mention as part of our outreach we
18 did present to the Water Planning Council advisory
19 group watershed lands workgroup on December 10th
20 to talk about some of these initiatives and talk
21 about how we're trying to spread the word and get
22 all, you know, the stakeholders involved in some
23 of the WUCC implementation recommendation efforts.

24 Thank you.

25 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori. And thank you very
2 much, Eric.

3 Any followup for that, Lori?

4 LORI MATHIEU: I do think that one thing for the WUCC
5 process, we received quite a few questions about
6 the infrastructure law known as the BIL, the
7 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

8 And through the WUCC process we will be
9 presenting -- probably in the February meeting we
10 will be presenting information; also in our
11 webinar series which has been the first Thursday
12 of every month. We postponed it for December, but
13 we're restarting those webinars starting the
14 second week of January, and then getting back to
15 the first week in February.

16 So there's a lot of interest in
17 infrastructure law and the funding for drinking
18 water and how that's programmed, how it's planned
19 to be used. So more information to come up on
20 that -- and how it will roll over in the next five
21 years and how this all will be forward.

22 So anyway, more to come on that information
23 as well.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

25 And private well update?

1 LORI MATHIEU: More to come. As our proposed
2 initiative moves forward for private wells I hope
3 at our meeting next month I will be able to speak
4 more specifically on what our proposal is on
5 behalf of our department.

6 And so at this moment given the current
7 status it is still a draft proposal.

8 So more to come on that.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Lori.

10 And I know the water conservation fixtures,
11 we have that in small print there, Martin. And I
12 know Mary Ann sent me an e-mail asking if she
13 should attend the meeting today.

14 And I said, no.

15 I don't know if you have -- it's so crazy and
16 chaotic out there -- anything to report from DAS
17 or consumer protection?

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: I can provide, I guess, almost the
19 same update as last month, although I did have --
20 I did send a note to Darren Hobbs who's in the
21 office of State Building inspector here in
22 the State. And the (unintelligible) or BIL does
23 have some funding in it for some state building
24 code work including some water conservation
25 aspects.

1 Obviously, like all of the other items in the
2 infrastructure bill we are waiting for some
3 guidance, but there may be an opportunity for
4 Connecticut to apply for some funding with respect
5 to the building code and how it relates to water
6 conservation.

7 So I'm going to connect with Darren hopefully
8 in the next week or so, so that we can look into
9 that a little bit further.

10 And also again, I'll mention the Executive
11 Order does speak to state adoption of the 2021
12 version of the International Building Code, which
13 I believe is scheduled to be hopefully adopted in
14 October of 2022.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So it sounds like there could very well
16 be some movement in the 2022 legislative session
17 with this. Correct?

18 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I certainly would hope that would be
19 the case. Yes. I mean, I'm not sure if it's
20 going to be legislation per se, but at least
21 during that, that period of time with respect to
22 the state building code adoption -- which will be
23 fairly impactful for the State.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you, Graham.

25 Any questions for Graham?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have with us from OPM today
4 Mr. Dan Morley who's going to give us a little bit
5 of an update on the interagency drought working
6 group. Dan?

7 DAN MORLEY: Thanks, Jack.

8 Martin just wanted me to pass along news that
9 the interagency drought workgroup is going to be
10 meeting this coming Thursday at two o'clock for
11 their next monthly meeting.

12 And during that time they will continue to
13 review the recommendations of the group that was
14 set up to look at the 2017 drought response
15 and continue that dialogue.

16 That's all I have at this point.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

18 Any questions for Dan?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So what we've decided was that at
23 this meeting and all future meetings we will have
24 a segment on the agenda to talk about the state
25 water plan priorities.

1 We did have our special meeting the 22nd of
2 December which we thought was a good day. And I
3 don't know if anybody would like to bring anything
4 up today, any ideas, suggestions?

5 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Directed at the Councilors, Jack?

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** This is directed at the Water Planning
7 Council. Correct.

8 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** So from DEEP's perspective we have
9 been talking about this for several months
10 internally trying to look at what is a priority in
11 today, in the moment now.

12 I think there's been a lot of great progress
13 on some of the past priorities and they seem to be
14 moving in a fairly consistent -- moving fairly
15 consistently and without any significant obstacles
16 in front of them.

17 And really the way we're looking at these, at
18 this prioritization is, what needs more attention
19 and what may be something that we have to focus
20 our efforts on collectively, more so -- not that
21 we haven't been.

22 And I think it came up in the last meeting or
23 special meeting, but certainly climate change is
24 obviously front of many people's minds. And
25 climate change and its relationship to water is

1 critical, as is the issue of environmental health
2 and equity issues which I think might be a good
3 lens for -- having these two lenses to look at
4 everything we prioritize, it might be a good thing
5 for the Water Planning Council to do.

6 And so that's what we're doing as an agency.
7 We're going through these priorities and seeing
8 which really serve to deal with the effects of and
9 to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well
10 as how do we tackle issues of environmental equity
11 and health equity in the State when we're trying
12 to prioritize actions within the state water plan?

13 You know we have some ideas of what we think
14 are important for the agency and what we think are
15 important for the Water Planning Council, but I
16 think it really, you know, back to you, Jack, with
17 respect to how you want to go through this.

18 I know the last time we were going down the
19 list I might have sidetracked us. My apologies,
20 but, you know I'm happy to continue to go down the
21 list and keep talking about those one at a time.

22 And then once we get through that list we
23 could maybe dedicate each meeting to one agency's
24 priorities or ideas, what their top priorities
25 are.

1 I don't know if, Lori, you have any thoughts
2 on that?

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Graham.

4 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, to take up on what Graham was
5 saying. So last time -- so as a department, and
6 the Department of Public Health, and what I had
7 mentioned previously, and sort of listening to
8 what Iris had put out there about her concerns for
9 quality.

10 We are -- our department has primacy over the
11 Safe Drinking Water Act. We oversee quality and
12 quantity. It's in the state law. That's what my
13 commissioner is responsible for. So within that
14 scope, that's our concern. Within the state water
15 plan it is sprinkled throughout.

16 And as Graham, the EO, that I was just on the
17 briefing at noon -- everyone should listen to that
18 briefing, by the way. It was very, very well done
19 by Commissioner Dykes and Rebecca French for
20 leading the charge with climate change in that new
21 executive order right before Christmas.

22 So within that Executive Order there is
23 Section 16 that speaks to the development of a new
24 office within the Department of Public Health,
25 within my branch, the Branch of Environmental

1 Health and Drinking Water which is the climate --
2 the Office of Climate and Public Health.

3 Within that office in the executive order we
4 are mandated to look at all of the items in the
5 Governor's climate change report from January of
6 last year, January 2021. Within those
7 recommendations it speaks to this concern of
8 resilient drinking water supplies, and sources
9 that are resilient have good quality, have good
10 quantity and are well understood about the impacts
11 of climate change.

12 And so our surface -- I think I said this the
13 last time, but our surface water supplies' safe
14 daily yield need to be updated. And in our mind
15 that quality, the quantity goes hand-in-hand and
16 we have to make sure that we have sustainable
17 supplies for the future.

18 All -- all the agencies on the Water Planning
19 Council are part of the water supply planning
20 process. You know we all receive these water
21 supply plans that the big utilities produce; we
22 review, we comment and we move along. That
23 process has been around since the 'eighties, and
24 the WUCC process that we now are implementing is
25 part of that.

1 You know the legislation that came along
2 after the '80/'81 drought is being implemented.
3 And so to me it all comes together under the hat
4 of quality and quantity for our drinking water
5 supplies. Are they sustainable? Are they
6 resilient? And we should start back -- and
7 looking carefully because of the impacts of
8 climate, and the most recent executive order
9 really dictates to us that we better carefully
10 review the resiliency of our State's drinking
11 water supply.

12 So within that office we're going to start to
13 emphasize that. And my Deputy Commissioner,
14 Commissioner's office have basically told me,
15 that's the beginning and the end for our
16 priorities within our department. Safe daily
17 yield of our drinking water supplies, are they
18 resilient? Are they sustainable? Is the quality
19 there?

20 And then it sort of lends into PURA. Are
21 they sustainable in the way of cost? If you have
22 a source that is so badly polluted, the cost to
23 treat all of that to the customers, is that
24 sustainable?

25 You know affordability is an issue, and it's

1 wrapped up into that as well. So that's something
2 we have to take very seriously, because that is a
3 health equity issue -- and Graham, as you
4 mentioned. Are we pricing ourselves out of
5 drinking water supplies? Are they sustainable
6 enough to keep at an affordable level?

7 So that's where we're at, at the Department
8 of Public Health.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I want to, just for the
10 Councilors to talk about the water planning chief.
11 It seems like it's going to be a while before we
12 come up with a final draft from the subgroup.

13 And I'm wondering our goal -- I just wanted
14 to just throw this out for discussion -- would be
15 to get this person in place by the beginning of
16 the next fiscal July 1. Is that what we're
17 thinking in the back of our mind?

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, that would be nice. So I
19 think -- if I heard correctly, having, like,
20 duties and responsibilities back to the Water
21 Planning Council as the anticipated date was
22 March. So I would presume we would -- if we act
23 upon that.

24 Is that correct, David? Would you say March?

25 DAVID KUZMINSKI: That is our target date. We want to

1 try to wrap things up in early February, get the
2 review. We'll send it to other groups and get it
3 to you prior to your March meeting, yes.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: Great. So I mean, if we act in March
5 we could potentially look to start recruitment in
6 April, May. Yeah.

7 I mean, that's possible, Jack.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You want to keep it moving forward --

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Keep it moving.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: -- how we're to pay for this, which I
11 think we can do.

12 LORI MATHIEU: We should decide whether or not -- on
13 the financial side of this we should have probably
14 an executive session about funding for this
15 individual.

16 And also, you know, I had my thoughts about
17 what I've seen so far. I think one thing, one
18 area of caution is the -- for this person; number
19 one, this person would report to the Council,
20 first and foremost in my mind. Why does this
21 person exist?

22 This person would work essentially, Jack, for
23 you as the Chair and then on behalf of the
24 Council. You're the leader of the group; works
25 for you as well as the Council. So the Council

1 directs the work of this individual, clearly.

2 Second, I don't believe that this person
3 would serve as a legislative liaison for the Water
4 Planning Council. I don't believe that that's
5 appropriate.

6 We all, all of our agencies have legislative
7 liaisons. I think we have to be careful in the
8 way that that's worded and how we direct this
9 individual to represent us in front of
10 legislators.

11 I don't ever really foresee the time as this
12 person representing the Water Planning Council,
13 and then having legislative liaisons from other --
14 our agencies with that -- I find that a little bit
15 maybe sort of disjointed.

16 And we have to think about that more, because
17 the more I think about it the more I think it's
18 not a wise idea to do, but I would love to have
19 more of a conversation about that as I think that
20 through.

21 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Lori, thank you. Because as you
22 noted, we're trying to do this fairly fast
23 tracked. So any input from any of the councilors
24 is very helpful as we need it -- but if I may?

25 At least from my perspective as we were

1 developing --

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, David -- a point of order, please?

3 I'm speaking with Jack, Graham, and Dan. I'm
4 sorry to be a pain in the neck about that.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So Lori -- and it's a respected point of
6 order.

7 So David, the way we've set it up now we had
8 the public comment. So at the end you'll have an
9 opportunity again to weigh in. Thank you.

10 LORI MATHIEU: And Dave, no disrespect, but I really --
11 this is our time to talk to each other as the four
12 of us.

13 And I've really taken a very close look at
14 what's been drafted, and I've sat back and thought
15 about it. And I just don't see this person as us
16 directing them individually to be representing us
17 in front of the Legislature when we have
18 legislative liaisons that do that on behalf of our
19 agencies.

20 And we're very careful on how, you know, that
21 person does their work. It represents DPH and
22 every other agency has the same thing. So I would
23 hate to have an interference come about because of
24 what we're trying to do here with this person. So
25 there's so much more work to do. There's so much

1 more work to do to help and participate with every
2 single group and workgroup.

3 You know, I like that. I think we definitely
4 desperately need -- sort of like the work that Dan
5 Aubin is doing for us, and I'm glad that he has
6 some time. And we've carved out some time in his
7 schedule to participate and to help, and to
8 lead -- but I see this person being our eyes and
9 ears at every single meeting, every single
10 meeting.

11 Every meeting, every sub meeting they go,
12 they represent the four of us under your
13 leadership, Jack, to represent, bring back, report
14 back; provide input back through this person to
15 each one of these groups and be like our
16 spokesperson, our person who's going to speak up
17 on our behalf and really work hard on tracking and
18 implementation.

19 You know we need somebody desperately to do
20 that work. I find it that we're sort of all
21 struggling with pulling away people from all their
22 other duties like Dan, like Corinne, like Alley.
23 You know we're just pulling people away from a
24 hundred percent of their other work to, sort of,
25 oh, hey. Sit in and do this and do that. I think

1 that's unfair.

2 So I really see this person being integral to
3 the work of all of the workgroups and really
4 representing us as our voice. And I think that
5 was the discussion at the time, that if you
6 remember the very tail end of the creation of the
7 state water plan, we started coming up with this
8 idea.

9 And I don't know if we fully fleshed it out
10 to tell you the truth at the very end, because we
11 were running out of time -- you remember. So just
12 my thoughts and I've given you my -- Hi, Martin.

13 I've given you my written comments just this
14 morning. So I don't know if you've had a
15 chance -- Jack, Graham and Martin, if you've had a
16 chance to look at them, but those are my thoughts
17 initially.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Great. Thank you, Lori.

19 Martin, welcome.

20 **MARTIN HEFT:** Good afternoon. Sorry I'm late. And
21 thank you, Dan, for filling in.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Dan did a great job filling in. And
23 we're just looking -- on the part of the agenda
24 we're looking at state water plan priorities, and
25 obviously you can tell we're talking about the

1 water planning chief position. I don't know if
2 you were on the line when I indicated that we're
3 looking towards hopefully getting this ready to
4 implement July 1 of this year.

5 Hopefully we'll get something back from the
6 subgroup by the March meeting so we can both look
7 at it -- and Lori has sent out some draft comments
8 for us to take a look at, so.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: And from my perspective -- Jack, and
10 Lori, thank you for your in-depth analysis of the
11 proposal that the working group has put together
12 thus far.

13 You know I certainly will commit to trying to
14 get my comments Incorporated before the meeting.
15 I think we're set for 1/7 so that the working
16 group can continue to move forward.

17 And from my review of your comments, Lori,
18 and the document, I think that we're all, you
19 know, I think we're fairly close to the issue of
20 how we fund it and at what levels we fund this
21 position, and what type of position this is, or
22 whether it's a contract or what have you.

23 I think that is something that we need to be
24 working on a parallel track to resolve, but I
25 think I just want to say to the working group that

1 was working on that document, I think it's in a
2 pretty good state and hopefully we'll make --
3 hopefully we'll beat that March date and beat
4 Jack's date of -- was it June or was in July,
5 Jack?

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** July 1, the beginning of the fiscal
7 year.

8 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Well, there you go. I mean, I think
9 we're in a pretty good --

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think we are.

11 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I think we all know what we need. We
12 need somebody who, like Lori said, who knows the
13 issues and goes to the meetings, stays current;
14 who reports to the Water Planning Council
15 directly, acts on our behalf at our direction, and
16 you know is understanding of the way that the
17 agencies operate in their normal spheres that they
18 operate within.

19 And it's supplemental to the agencies'
20 operations and it relates really to the Water
21 Planning Council and implementation of the state
22 water plan.

23 So I think it's -- you know when we get this
24 resource it's going to be a great day for water in
25 Connecticut.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

2 LORI MATHIEU: Martin -- I think, Jack, one thing was
3 important for Martin to -- and I don't know when
4 you came on, Martin. I was talking about the idea
5 is right now is this person as the water chief
6 would serve as a liaison to legislators. And to
7 me, I don't think that that's appropriate.

8 We all have legislative liaisons and we can't
9 have another person in there that sort of is a
10 quasi-representative of our -- I just find that a
11 little bit difficult. And I've had a conversation
12 with my leadership, and they agree that it
13 probably shouldn't be one of the work duties.

14 There's plenty to do with, as Graham said,
15 implementing the state water plan. Plenty to do.
16 There's a lot of work ahead of us. So I don't
17 think that representing us in front of the
18 Legislature makes sense to me, to have this
19 person.

20 So I know, Martin, you had just come on when
21 we had finished the discussion, so.

22 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you. Thank you, Lori, for that.
23 Because I did highlight that saying, it's like,
24 okay. And I knew it was in the water plan
25 recommendations there.

1 That, I think it makes sense, because we have
2 talked about as four separate agencies here that
3 we can't make a legislative proposal as a group
4 because we're four separate agencies. So I think
5 you know that clarifies what you've just stated in
6 there.

7 Obviously, that Water Planning Council as a
8 whole we could -- you know we've got to go back to
9 our individual agencies in order to take, you
10 know, figure out what we're going to do if we're
11 going to support a legislative action, which is
12 why we've had that in the past, and done that. So
13 I think it makes sense kind of taking it off the
14 role of this position.

15 I will get you back some notes. I just want
16 to also just reference to be careful of not doing
17 too much over e-mail just because of FOI, you
18 know, back-and-forth documents, at least with the
19 majority of the Council members just to keep us on
20 the up and up for FOI.

21 But a couple of comments is, I would really
22 look at this and making sure rather than possibly
23 labeling it as a job description -- because this
24 isn't a document that we would use as a job
25 description. It's more of the job duties and

1 responsibilities. One of the things -- and just
2 having gone through the hiring process for the
3 geographical information officer -- the State of
4 Connecticut DAS does not want to add any other job
5 descriptions into their realm of things.

6 So it's going to be finding something that is
7 equivalent in current job descriptions that we
8 would be hiring, and then obviously here's the
9 list of duties and responsibilities that go with
10 that.

11 So that's just a thing to keep in mind
12 whether it be a policy development coordinator
13 type position, or you know we'll have to look
14 through that entire list. That's something we'll
15 have to do, because they're not going to put --
16 DAS is not going to go through and say, okay.
17 We're going to put in a job description for water
18 planning chief. That's just not their mentality
19 right now, and we've found that out going through
20 looking at a couple of different options.

21 So we can avoid that step by not presenting
22 it that way. So I think we've just got to keep
23 that in mind, that we will have to find a current
24 job description that fits the majority of it,
25 obviously.

1 Then you tailor it to, here are the duties
2 and responsibilities, and we look at that list in
3 that sense -- I think will help aid us along with
4 that.

5 One of the questions I had just looking at
6 this and Lori some of your notes where it says
7 attend and facilitate meetings. Well, what
8 meetings are they facilitating? Because they're
9 not the chair or anything else. So I'm just
10 looking. You know you don't have to have answers,
11 but just clarification and I'll get these back to
12 you in notes as well.

13 LORI MATHIEU: I was thinking -- yeah, that's a good
14 point. I was sort of thinking on that we have
15 this implementation group and we have the two
16 chairs now. And I would look at this person as
17 really facilitating the implementation team, and
18 that they would be in charge of that. That would
19 be one of their core missions.

20 The other groups -- you're right but for
21 implementation I think the reason why we're hiring
22 this person is to work on implementation, and they
23 should be the lead and lead responsible person.
24 That that was what I was thinking, not to lead the
25 other groups. The other groups already have

1 leaders.

2 **MARTIN HEFT:** Right. Okay. No. That's good. Just
3 clarification. So that will help me that I can
4 maybe help redraft some wording to just make sure
5 it reads and fills in that way.

6 And I suppose that ties into access support
7 staff for IWG on that, and since we have other
8 workgroups everything -- other -- is there, you
9 know, is the plan to have this person work with
10 any of the other workgroups or subcommittees and
11 everything else? That's another piece.

12 Rather than just limiting it to IWG, do we
13 just say, acts as support staff to workgroups
14 established by WPC? Leaving it more broad I think
15 protects us as well as not limiting it, as well.

16 Because then if we don't have them doing
17 that, because they're going to be under the
18 direction of the WPC -- we could do that. So that
19 was just one of the thoughts there, minor things.
20 The other stuff is just stuff I'll go through and
21 just kind of do my wordsmithing that I do, but
22 conceptually it all looks good.

23 Thank you for doing that.

24 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** And Martin, you had great comments.

25 Just one thing that I was thinking -- and I

1 totally agree with you with respect to the job
2 description.

3 There's a possibility that we could bring
4 this person on through a contract, through an RFP,
5 and do that in that manner. So that might be the
6 easier route these days, particularly in light of
7 your comments with respect to, what's the title
8 and does it fit within the roles and
9 responsibilities we want this person to take on?

10 MARTIN HEFT: All right. Because I think we could, as
11 you said, Graham, we could look at it as a
12 durational employee. We could look at it as a
13 consultant that's hired. There's a couple of
14 options that could be done. Right?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: When we did this -- I mean, those of you
16 who have been around remember we did this some
17 years ago when we had Sharon Mann -- we all put a
18 little money on the table.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And she was essentially a consultant for
21 the Water Planning Council and it worked out
22 pretty well. So we have some precedent with that.
23 So that's probably -- to Martin's point, we don't
24 want to get DAS all cranked up about the new
25 position.

1 So we'll have to have some creativity how
2 we're going to actually -- what we'll actually
3 call this. But I think in terms of it taps
4 responsibility, I think that Lori did a good job
5 taking a look at that.

6 So Anything else on the this, on the water
7 planning position?

8 LORI MATHIEU: Martin, I don't know if you were on --
9 the finances, as Jack just mentioned. We had in
10 the past -- Sharon Mann, I think we had cobbled
11 together money.

12 I think, Jack, did we have an MOU?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we had an MOU. Yes.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. MOUs are not fast, and they're
15 not quick. But for me, I'm wondering if it's
16 appropriate to have an executive session to talk
17 about the financial aspect.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: We could do that. We could do that at
19 the next meeting.

20 LORI MATHIEU: Because I have some ideas. I just think
21 that among our agencies that that should be a
22 conversation and just sort of brainstorm how we
23 can do this.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I have to defer to my FOI parliamentary
25 expert, Mr. Heft, to see if we can put that on the

1 agenda for the next meeting.

2 I think he did some homework, and I think we
3 can do that.

4 MARTIN HEFT: Bear with me one second as I try to find
5 my -- I have documents someplace, but I'll find
6 the right category in that and we'll have to label
7 it as an order to do for that.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I'll make sure. I'll make sure before
9 we put the next agenda out we get the right
10 language.

11 MARTIN HEFT: So we have it labeled correctly.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Good. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Martin. Thank you, Lori.

15 Okay. Anything else?

16 So we have on here, again there's a regular
17 item on the agenda, the plan. I would suggest
18 that given the fact that we've met just -- what?
19 20 seconds, that we again go back, as Martin said,
20 to our respective agencies of the roles and
21 responsibilities of the plan.

22 And then at the next meeting we can discuss
23 further progress reports, if that's okay? At our
24 next thing we can come back with some more
25 concrete recommendations for moving the plan

1 forward.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Just to clarify, Jack, you're talking
3 about the priorities? Or the water chief?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, Lori.

5 I'm talking about the priorities.

6 LORI MATHIEU: The priorities? Okay.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm off the water chief, yes.

8 My phone was ringing. My phone was ringing
9 and I was getting distracted. So, yes. So that's
10 acceptable to the Water Planning Councilors.

11 Is that okay, Graham with you, and Martin?

12 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So are we talking about just
13 utilizing the Excel spreadsheet document? Or also
14 going back to section six of the report which has
15 all the near term goals and recommendations and
16 everything as well?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I think before you got there we were
18 going to continue with the -- and correct me,
19 Graham, or Lori, if I'm wrong -- continue with the
20 Excel spreadsheet to begin with.

21 MARTIN HEFT: Okay.

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I think I had suggested, Martin,
23 maybe we run through it as a group once and then
24 we can start talking about each individual agency
25 priorities and what the agencies feel that the

1 Water Planning Council's priorities should be,
2 because I think they're two distinct priorities.

3 LORI MATHIEU: And the point because of COVID, it feels
4 like the state water plan ended twelve years ago.
5 Right? It just seems like such a long time ago,
6 and so much has happened because of COVID.

7 And we're all -- look what we're doing, you
8 know, and what we're dealing with these days. And
9 then as Graham mentioned, what has gone on under
10 climate change I think is very impactful to what
11 the state water plan is today.

12 And I think one thing -- and I think I noted
13 in my comments on the water chief is that we need
14 to seek some grants and update the state water
15 plan. Right?

16 It is already out of date and we all knew
17 that. You know? I think at one of our last
18 meetings where we're finalizing the plan and
19 moving to implementation, we all knew that as soon
20 as we ended it, it was out of date and that it
21 needed constant help and updating. So I think
22 that's a big challenge for this water chief.

23 Another big duty is go out there and be
24 aggressive and find some funding so that we can
25 hire some help to get this plan. Keep it up to

1 date, keep the implementation items fresh because
2 so much has changed I think because of climate
3 change and the efforts that DEEP has put forward.
4 And I know in our minds at the health department,
5 resilient sources of supply, resilient systems,
6 public water systems are first and foremost and
7 that's all over what is part of the executive
8 order and a part of climate and public health.

9 So not to say that section six is old -- but
10 it is. It is. You know it's not that long ago,
11 but times have definitely changed.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. But for the next meeting, you're
13 okay to continue with what we started with?

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. As long as for the spreadsheet,
15 it is what it is. But you know for us, you know
16 we have a more narrow look.

17 But I will go back to what Iris said. You
18 know beyond the Department of Public Health's
19 vision of sources of supply for drinking water,
20 you know the bigger picture of pollution just in
21 general, and looking at that again I think is
22 worthwhile. And you know town by town it can
23 definitely be a struggle.

24 Within your own borders, within your own city
25 it's a struggle if you don't have other cities

1 that are around you on the same page.

2 So you know I can see that and that's worth
3 some discussion, I think. And I'd be more than
4 willing to talk that through more. And frankly, I
5 don't know how much is in the water state water
6 plan about that in particular.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. I think the point is very valid.
8 I mean, the whole idea of going through this
9 process is to constantly look at it's a working
10 document, so there's going to be changes.

11 And as executive orders come out or
12 legislation comes out on the state and federal
13 level, we're going to have to plan and react
14 accordingly to make sure the plans are consistent
15 with that. So I think you're making a very, very
16 valid point.

17 Okay. So we will continue this next month,
18 and I want to open up for public comment again,
19 because David was ready to chime in there before.

20 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Sure. I just very quickly -- Lori, I
21 heard what you were saying. It made a lot of
22 sense to me when you were talking about the chief
23 and the legislative role, or a liaison role.

24 And I wanted to say, at least from my
25 perspective when we talked about liaison, I don't

1 think we were intending it to be in the classic
2 legislative sense, that they would be there
3 speaking on behalf of specific legislation.
4 That's clearly each agency's purview.

5 I think the intent was the liaison in a
6 different sense and that was more, you know, if
7 the Legislature had comments; if they wanted to
8 know what's the status of the plan and things of
9 that sort. So they would be more as keeping them
10 informed in a conduit, as opposed to a legislative
11 liaison as you described.

12 So what you said made perfect sense, to me at
13 least, and we'll keep that in mind as we move
14 forward.

15 The other thing, Lori, I also wanted to
16 comment very quickly on the resiliency discussion.
17 It makes perfect sense to me.

18 Also I think safe yield does probably need to
19 be updated. Before I left Connecticut Water we
20 had updated at three of our resources. These were
21 done really -- the driver was to comply with the
22 in-stream flow requirements, but it obviously was
23 apparent that when you're using the current
24 regulation to calculate safe yield, you're sort of
25 locked into this concept of it's stationary; that

1 the dataset we use assumes that it doesn't change.

2 So historical data is used to project forward
3 as far as stream flow, or rainfall,
4 evapotranspiration and so on.

5 So my recommendation would be that this be
6 looked at as to whether or not those regulations
7 should change to take into account climate change.
8 And I would suggest that you engage the Water
9 Resources Committee. I don't know what form
10 they're in. Obviously, I stepped down as chair,
11 so I'm no longer involved with that -- but we've
12 worked with your department in the past in a
13 number of critical areas.

14 And again, I would say reach out to the Water
15 Resources Committee to see if you can put a
16 workgroup together to look at how the regulations
17 should be treated.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

19 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Yeah.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, David.

21 Any other public comment?

22 Any other public comment?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I do.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia.

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I really appreciate, Lori, you saying

1 that it's time for an update, because it most
2 certainly is.

3 And I just also wanted to point out in terms
4 of resilience and adaptation, there are some
5 things we were never able to come to consensus on
6 in the state water plan that we really need to
7 come to consensus on in order to be more resilient
8 and be in a better position to adapt to climate
9 change. Particularly in the quantity realm, and
10 again with emergent contaminants which we really
11 need to address.

12 So thank you for saying that -- and that that
13 needs to be a big part moving forward as well, is
14 to -- it's going to be hard work. I mean, think
15 about how long it took to get to consensus on a
16 lot of the recommendations we have. And there are
17 a lot of them, and we're doing a great job
18 implementing them, but you know we really need to
19 work on the things we couldn't get to in the last
20 version of the state water plan.

21 Thank you.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Alecia. I appreciate that.

23 It's a good point. I mean, I've been in
24 government for a long time and so has Lori, and
25 many times you have these plans and they sit there

1 on the shelf and they collect dust, nothing ever
2 comes.

3 I mean, at least we have a working document
4 and thanks to all of you out there that support
5 us, my colleagues on the Council, but particularly
6 the implementation group and the advisory group
7 and the subgroups.

8 I mean, you're all working. You know you're
9 really the interests behind all this. So --

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: One other thing I have. I just
11 encourage the agencies to remember that when
12 you're thinking about the job description or the
13 sort of tasks the water chief -- waters czar,
14 whatever -- I want you to remember that and also
15 consider how that role can support us because
16 we're volunteers.

17 You know I appreciate that the agencies have
18 to put time into this, but we're putting time into
19 it, too. And a lot of us are doing it, you know,
20 on our own time with no compensation. So please
21 keep that in mind as you're considering, you know,
22 the role of the water chief and how that person
23 can support us as volunteers and people who care
24 and want to carry forth the missions of all of
25 your agencies and have water (unintelligible)

1 efficient (unintelligible) 50 years from now and
2 beyond.

3 So please take that into consideration.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Alecia.

5 Any other public comment? Any other public
6 comment?

7
8 (No response.)
9

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, you have all the dates and we'll
11 make sure you get dates for the implementation
12 group and the workgroup, and all the subgroups.

13 And our next meeting is going to be on
14 February 1st.

15 And if there's nothing else to come before us
16 this afternoon, I would entertain a motion to
17 adjourn?

18 **LORI MATHIEU:** So moved.

19 **MARTIN HEFT:** Second.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** All those in favor signify by saying,
21 aye.

22 **THE COUNCIL:** Aye.

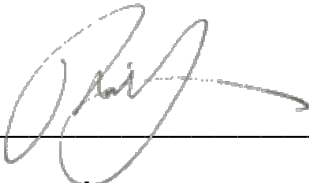
23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** The motion is carried. Thank you all
24 very much. Be safe. Stay safe, and wear masks.
25 Be careful out there.

(End: 2:39 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 52 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting of the WATER PLANNING COUNCIL, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN, via teleconference, on January 4, 2022.



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1 INDEX

2
3 VOTES TAKEN
(Unanimous Approval)

4 Description Page
5 12/7/'21 & 12/22/'21 Transcripts Approval 3
6 Adjournment 51

7
8
9
10 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
11 DESCRIPTION PAGE(s)
12 Public Comment:
13 I. H. Kaminski: Chem bans, clean water 4
Mathieu/Stevens discussion 5-7
14 A. Charamut, V. del Lima: 8-9
15 V. del Lima: Implementation workgroup update 10-12
16 A. Charamut: WPCAG update 12-15
Discussion: L. Mathieu, CT River Hydrilla 15-16
17 E. McPhee: WUCC update 16-18
18 G. Stevens: Building codes 19-20
19 D. Morley (OPM): Workgroup meeting 1/6, 2pm 21
20 Water Plan Priorities
21 G. Stevens: Climate change, health equity 22
L. Mathieu: Safe daily yield update 24-27
22 Chair: Water chief discussion 27-42
Water priorities 42-46
23 Public Comment:
24 D. Kuzminski: Liaison, reg changes 46-48
A. Charamut: Reg update 48-50
25