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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
February 1, 2022, beginning at 1:36 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN,
and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

3 **JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN (PURA)**

4 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

5 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

6 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

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

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

10 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

11 **MARGARET MINER**

12 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

13 **KAREN BURNASKA**

14 **DAVID KUZMINSKI**

15 **CORINNE FITTING**

16 **DAN LAWRENCE**

17 **RICHARD HANRATTY**

18
19 **Staff:**

20 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

21
22
23
24
25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll call the Water Planning
2 Council meeting for February 1st to order.
3 Welcome. Happy lunar new year to everyone.

4 I hope everybody is here -- and the first
5 order of business will be to accept the January
6 4th transcript. Do I have a motion?

7 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Seconded.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions on the motion?

10
11 (No response.)

12
13 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
14 saying, aye.

15 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved.

17 Correspondence received, I have nothing in
18 front of me.

19 Let's go right to the -- I do have some
20 announcements, but I can make that later on -- go
21 right to the implementation workgroup.

22 Virginia?

23 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Good afternoon, everybody. I
24 want to first comment on the topical subgroup
25 that's looking at outreach and education.

1 As you know, they are planning a panel
2 discussion for tomorrow and I am very excited to
3 let you know that they have 106 registrants for
4 that session. And so we're -- well, it's at noon
5 tomorrow. We'll all be looking forward to it.

6 In terms of the topical group working on the
7 reporting and tracking, their past meeting they
8 heard a very informative presentation by people
9 from the Long Island Sound Study, which is an EPA
10 program.

11 And the Long Island Sound Study has a very
12 complete monitoring system where they are tracking
13 all the implementation that they're doing on the
14 Long Island Sound management plan.

15 One of the challenges that we will have is
16 that they're tracking much more concrete and data
17 driven items than are we. For instance, how many
18 acres -- how many fewer acres of hypoxia are there
19 in Long Island Sound? So it's much harder data
20 than some of the more philosophical things that we
21 would be tracking for the state water plan.

22 But they were -- it was an impressive
23 presentation and they said that they would be
24 available for any questions. They also had a
25 period of time where they were doing more informal

1 tracking before their tracking system was up and
2 running. So I think we can learn a lot from them,
3 and the communications will be continuing.

4 The other the workgroup that we have -- as I
5 think you all are aware, is looking at coming up
6 with roles and responsibilities for a water
7 planning chief. As I've mentioned before, we've
8 been pulling from a lot of different documents,
9 some of them were ideas that were in the state
10 water plan itself, other position descriptions and
11 the expertise of people in the group.

12 And we have pulled together an initial draft
13 that lists the roles and responsibilities and the
14 skills that might be appropriate for such a
15 position. That was shared with the topical group
16 this morning and at our meeting on Friday --
17 hopefully we'll get buy-in from the group as to
18 that. And then we will send it to the full
19 implementation workgroup as well as the advisory
20 group for their input.

21 And we are still aiming to have that document
22 to you later on this month, I know in the last
23 Water Planning Council meeting you were saying
24 that you would like to have a very aggressive
25 schedule, and hopefully be able to bring somebody

1 on the beginning of the fiscal year in July.
2 That's still what we're working towards, getting
3 you something as soon as possible so that you can
4 do that.

5 The last thing that we are discussing is the
6 membership on the implementation workgroup. The
7 terms go from spring to spring. I'm purposely
8 being a little bit vague about exactly when in the
9 spring, because it has not been precise.

10 But there are several positions that are
11 either vacant -- well, that are vacant that we
12 don't think people will be re-upping for. So at
13 our meeting next week we'll be asking people if
14 they are willing and able to stay on in their
15 current position.

16 And if not, we'll be looking for replacements
17 for those positions and hopefully get a slate to
18 you for at least no later than your April meeting.

19 Dave, is there anything that you want to add?

20 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** The only thing I would add is that
21 with us, you know, sort of fast track this water
22 planning chief sub topical workgroup.

23 And as Virginia said, by the end of this
24 month we should be done. That should be all
25 wrapped up and presented to you. And then

1 obviously if you have additional work on it you
2 would like us to do, we will of course take that
3 up.

4 But we'll be wrapping that up, as I say. And
5 so we will have the opportunity, if you so wish,
6 to take on another topic. So when you're down,
7 you're talking about your priorities and
8 re-prioritization or things you would like us to
9 take up, we'd love for you to identify one or more
10 things that we can start to develop proposals for
11 workgroup formation for with your approval at,
12 hopefully the next meeting after that.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** That's excellent, Dave and Virginia. I
14 mean, I know a lot of work has going into this
15 water czar coordinator position and I think it's
16 really a key to moving this, moving this plan
17 forward.

18 So I thank everybody for the work that
19 they've done on this.

20 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** I do want to say that we've had a
21 fabulous workgroup, very dedicated people with a
22 lot of creative ideas. And it's been great fun
23 having Maureen Westbrook participate in this
24 group.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Maybe she'll be a candidate for it.

1 Now what about the tracking group, Virginia?

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: As I said, they had a presentation
3 from the Long Island Sound study in their past
4 meeting, which was last week. And so they are
5 working on both gleaning ideas from other tracking
6 systems as well as moving through the questions
7 and the brainstorming ideas that we did back last
8 fall.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Which is also a very good group.

10 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Virginia, I see Corinne. Corinne is
11 here, I think.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I was just going to ask if she was
13 here, and if she wanted to add to that.

14 DAVID KUZMINSKI: The main thing she might have is by
15 way of update for when they think they may be in a
16 position to prepare a report and recommendation.
17 There she is.

18 CORINNE FITTING: Hi.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Hi, Corinne.

20 CORINNE FITTING: We are plugging along. I'm not
21 really sure -- in the next few we don't anticipate
22 going for a long, long term, but I think we're
23 struggling a little bit with how to frame this,
24 and I think it will be a few more months before
25 we're ready to come back with some

1 recommendations.

2 You know, the presentation by the Long Island
3 Sound study folks this last week was excellent.
4 It gives us something to sort of shoot for. But I
5 think that level of sophistication is a little
6 ways off for us. So we're trying to figure out
7 how we move things forward in the interim until we
8 can sort of set up for a good tracking system. So
9 it will be a few months, yeah.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, and the group for all the
11 work you're doing. And it's a very, very
12 important component of the state water plan for
13 sure.

14 Any questions for Corinne or Virginia or
15 Dave, from the Council.

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, thank you very much. We'll move
20 onto the Water Planning Council advisory group
21 report.

22 Alecia, is the heat off in your office?

23 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** It is. There's a frozen pipe.

24 They're working on it. I'm so glad I wore my
25 parka into the office today.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: You look very cold -- well, you look
2 warm.

3 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, my landlord brought up some
4 space heaters. So at least my fingers and nose
5 aren't frozen anymore.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry about that.

7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No. No, it's quite all right. I
8 just wanted to say that, you know, if Maureen
9 Westbrook became our water czar we would probably
10 have all our problems solved in about two years.

11 And I don't think if we went back to
12 in-person meetings you can find a transcriber that
13 was willing to work with her at the Water Planning
14 Council meetings, because she talks so fast.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: You should see her in the hearing room.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I've witnessed it. It's impressive,
17 very impressive.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: She's great, though.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah, she's fantastic. She has
20 really made those, the water chief meetings a lot
21 of fun for sure.

22 So other than the updates that, you know,
23 we'll be getting here at the Water Planning
24 Council we are reinitiating work and reaching out
25 to folks on the source water protection white

1 paper. And we have also -- the group that's
2 meeting on our work on the steps for solar
3 development has met. And what we're doing
4 currently is working on a letter to DEP with the
5 recommendations that the advisory group and the
6 Water Planning Council had given their blessing to
7 just in anticipation of the steps process starting
8 up again.

9 So in hopes that, you know, it's something
10 that can be considered as the process moves
11 forward specifically in the recommendations that
12 were put forward to protect drinking water sources
13 from inappropriate solar, solar development.

14 So we will run that by you guys after we run
15 it by the advisory group. It's in draft right
16 now, but just trying to be proactive at this point
17 in putting those very specific recommendations
18 forward.

19 Is there anything I'm forgetting Dan?

20 DAN LAWRENCE: Well, we continue to try to move. I
21 think there's been enough time between -- and we
22 talked about this, the state water plan when it
23 was written to now. And that was, we had our
24 conversation in our last meeting and how, do we
25 all remember what's in it? And what the

1 priorities were.

2 And the executive summary is like the
3 greatest document ever written for that. It's got
4 a good 17 pages and very well defined. So we
5 distributed that back out to the group just to
6 remind everybody why we're here.

7 So I thought that would be good just to kind
8 of think about priorities again, what's been
9 accomplished as well. But just getting --
10 reminding people what's in the state water plan.
11 It's important.

12 We also talked a little bit about, there's a
13 lot of things going on in the WUCC as well and
14 having some of those particular presentations
15 related to the CPCN, and developers and how that's
16 going to work -- brought over and we presented
17 that to the Water Planning Council advisory group,
18 so the groups can work together as well as where
19 we are with interconnections and things like that.

20 So the groups can be more collaborative in
21 nature and feel like no one's hiding anything for
22 sure -- because no one is.

23 But so I think it's going well. I think it's
24 trying to, you know, as we always say, get some
25 driving and going on, instead of just sitting

1 around. So you know, move that forward, so.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent. Questions? I think it's a
3 great idea. I mean, it's what? 2014, 2015 and
4 new -- it's going on eight years. So it's good to
5 keep the impression on everybody's mind, so -- and
6 you're right about the executive summary. It's
7 excellent.

8 Margaret Miner, did you have a question?

9 **MARGARET MINER:** No, I don't. Thank you.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay, I saw you -- I saw you light up.

11 So sometimes when that happens you think a person
12 has a question.

13 **MARGARET MINER:** No, Alecia presented on the steps very
14 well.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

16 Okay. Watershed lands group update, Karen
17 Burnaska.

18 **KAREN BURNASKA:** Just to let you know, basically there
19 we have many members of the watershed lands
20 workgroup who are participating in the source
21 water protection white paper and also in the
22 review of the Step, the solar siting on water
23 company land and water class one and class
24 two-like land. So that's basically where our
25 efforts are now.

1 And the group, the watershed lands workgroup
2 is really not scheduled to meet until March 11th.
3 It's a Friday at 9 a.m. via zoom. So right now
4 most of our energies are involved with the solar
5 siting update on the Step program. So that's
6 where we are.

7 And I'll ask Margaret if she's got anything
8 else to add, because I give her the last word.

9 MARGARET MINER: No, that is where we are.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: And Karen, maybe you want to tell people
11 what we're doing in terms of the land trust
12 reports. I know we were going to have --
13 unfortunately you can't be with us. We're having
14 a follow-up meeting tomorrow.

15 KAREN BURNASKA: Yeah. What has come out of the MOA
16 between the Connecticut Water Company and Save the
17 Sound is a great, great program to help protect
18 watershed -- water company land that they don't
19 need anymore, class three land and protect it.

20 And what we're dealing with now working with
21 PURA and hoping to get up-to-date information from
22 land trusts who, according to statutes, need to be
23 advised of the sale of water company land. So
24 we're working on a process and there is
25 unfortunately a call tomorrow morning at nine that

1 I won't be able to be on, but we can update you at
2 the next meeting.

3 But we're working with them to make certain
4 that PURA and the water companies have up-to-date
5 information on who the contact people are on the
6 various land trusts across the state and
7 (unintelligible).

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And don't feel bad. Sometimes we say,
9 like -- Cat is going to be there tomorrow which is
10 fine, but it was set up -- it's less than 24-hour
11 notice we gave you, so please.

12 But sometimes I have to work with our staff
13 to do something. I just want to keep it moving
14 because we're very close to getting a procedure in
15 place here.

16 KAREN BURNASKA: And we appreciate that. And as I
17 said, we're at the very end -- is that we are
18 working also with the Connecticut Land
19 Conservation Council, the Executive Director Amy
20 Paterson to make certain that land trusts are
21 aware of the process and the correct information
22 is in the hands of both PURA and the water
23 companies.

24 And thank you for putting together the
25 meeting right away.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, could I ask a question? Is that
3 possible?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

5 LORI MATHIEU: So Karen, the land trusts definition and
6 the requirement to notify on the sale of class
7 three land, is there a statute that's referenced?

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Yeah.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Do you know what the statute is?

10 KAREN BURNASKA: Not off the top of my head, but I can
11 get it to you.

12 LORI MATHIEU: If you can get it for me offline. I
13 just -- I'm thinking about that, you know, because
14 there's language in one of our statutes that's
15 similar. And I think it's also referenced in a 16
16 title as well.

17 So I'm just curious.

18 RICHARD HANRATTY: This is Rich from Connecticut Water.
19 I have an email I got yesterday with that
20 statutory cite. I'll find it and I'll send it.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

22 KAREN BURNASKA: Lori, what I can find really quickly
23 is 16-50C(b).

24 THE CHAIRMAN: That actually has the dates. It's
25 actually that -- it was an education for me. It's

1 February 1st, but in terms of the dates it's
2 supposed to -- I believe February 1st. Wasn't it,
3 Karen?

4 KAREN BURNASKA: Yeah.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So --

6 KAREN BURNASKA: It was annually that they were
7 supposed to --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Annually.

9 KAREN BURNASKA: The information was supposed to be
10 received and PURA was going to update the list.
11 And for whatever the reason is, is they had -- the
12 list of contact people of the land trust have not
13 been updated.

14 And we're just trying to figure out, you know
15 how. How best they can do it, because of the, you
16 know, some of the land trust, it was kind of
17 difficult to kind of hone out who exactly was the
18 contact person of the land trust to be contacted
19 with the Connecticut -- when the Connecticut Water
20 Company put their land up for sale.

21 But I believe that's the correct -- it's
22 notify the water company sales as per Section
23 16-50C(b).

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

25 Any questions? More questions?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: And we'll move on to other business.

4 WUCC update, Lori?

5 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Is Eric McPhee on? He might not
6 be, because I gave him a few assignments for this
7 afternoon. So I know there's an upcoming meeting
8 and we can get that information.

9 Dan, you may have more information than I do
10 on the WUCC upcoming meeting, Dan Lawrence.

11 I don't know if Dan is still there -- but I
12 can get information on when the next meeting is.
13 I know that Rich Iozzo, who works at DPH, sends an
14 invite out to everybody with the agenda.

15 We have been working on agenda items, as Dan
16 had mentioned. Interconnections has been a big
17 item for everyone to be knowledgeable about as
18 well as the interplay with the sale of excess
19 water permitting process we've been -- the WUCC
20 has been working on. And they're looking for
21 items for implementation for other items.

22 One thing that has been coming up within our
23 agency is having a clear vision of future
24 potential sources of supply in the land that is
25 associated with those. So that is one thing that

1 you'll probably here on a WUCC agenda coming up,
2 because one of the items that we want to make sure
3 that we have is a clean list statewide, and it
4 should be within the WUCC plans.

5 But we want to make sure that we have, you
6 know, to Dan's point about plans get old fast;
7 that we want to have a clean up-to-date list of
8 future potential sources and emergency sources
9 statewide and regionally so that that is shareable
10 and that everybody is knowledgeable about those as
11 well as the property that is owned that is
12 associated with those sources.

13 So you'll probably hear more about that. It
14 does -- you know to Dan's point, it does
15 crisscross into some of the things we just heard
16 Karen talk about as well as Margaret and the
17 concern of source water protection and the white
18 paper as well as future potential development for
19 whatever project it happens to be.

20 You know protection of those watersheds,
21 identification of those watersheds is an important
22 aspect of the WUCC planning process. So attend
23 the WUCC meetings if you can.

24 Dan -- I see Dan has his camera on. Maybe he
25 has the agenda and knows when the date is.

1 DAN LAWRENCE: What do you -- about the next WUCC
2 meeting?

3 LORI MATHIEU: Next WUCC meeting?

4 DAN LAWRENCE: It is the 16th, I believe.

5 LORI MATHIEU: Of February?

6 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah, that's our next implementation
7 group meeting.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Very good.

9 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. Eric and Rich and I have been
10 bantering a bit because we're kind of winding down
11 with some things -- and that need final review.
12 You have to go out to the three plugs, and then
13 being circulated.

14 Like where interconnections are, Corinne has
15 been helping and Doug as well from DEEP. And then
16 we've been working on that, as you know, the CPCN
17 developer, DPH, DEP. Like, how much can you add
18 in there? That story board.

19 So we're going -- those are kind of, I won't
20 say, to be done, but close enough where I think
21 we'll start another group. So if that's, you
22 know, I only want to do really -- that will be two
23 and a half, if you will. I don't think the group
24 can handle much more than that. So we're trying
25 to do it sort of in a strategic point where we

1 picked the most important thing.

2 The one that was coming up, Lori, was the one
3 about developer non-community systems and
4 community systems being built, you know, 600 feet
5 from an existing water -- how do we get that
6 resolved, too, I think? So --

7 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, or 202 feet away.

8 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah exactly. All very close. All very
9 close and doable. How do you make that work? So
10 that was going to be my next priority, but if
11 there's something in front of that I'm obviously
12 very open for that thought as well.

13 LORI MATHIEU: You know one of the things I think we've
14 talked a little bit of during these meetings is
15 what happens when there is sewer and not water in
16 an area, or vice versa. Right?

17 And so you know the pressure that towns feel
18 to move a sewer line out ahead of public water,
19 and the pressure that comes to different town
20 offices, local health departments to approve a
21 well for a new business becomes a new
22 non-community system, a regulated system.

23 And literally the only place to put that well
24 is in the center of their parking lot. And if
25 anyone knows Brookfield like you know Brookfield,

1 Dan --

2 DAN LAWRENCE: I do.

3 LORI MATHIEU: In some towns we're building new
4 Brookfields. We're allowing that to happen again.

5 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah.

6 LORI MATHIEU: And we've got a plan together. You know
7 Graham and I talk a lot about this, about water
8 and sewer at the same time. I know it's not
9 coordinated perfectly, but that's something like
10 real big picture we need to be looking at where
11 this is happening.

12 And where towns, I mean, you know, there
13 they're taking advantage of the waters there, but
14 the sewer is not -- the sewer is there, but the
15 water is not. And developers want to move forward
16 with projects, you know, blame them.

17 It's one thing that we need to think more
18 about.

19 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. Lori, one of the comments that we
20 usually get, like it's about economic development
21 from the first selectman or the mayor, you know,
22 and it becomes a very difficult conversation as
23 you're aware.

24 LORI MATHIEU: It is. It is.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Nobody wants to pay for. Nobody wants

1 to pay for it.

2 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. But you know, it's hard for us to
3 say, oh, no, or something because they can't
4 afford it. This, this is such an important part
5 of our community. Right? That becomes a
6 conversation that we can't really be involved in
7 because it has nothing to do with water, so.

8 LORI MATHIEU: And the interesting part is that the
9 towns are doing a really good job, town planners
10 doing a very good job with their own town
11 municipal C and D plans.

12 And so a lot of towns will have the plan of
13 where they want to put future development along
14 major state roadways. And those are the types of
15 things that you know the council of governments,
16 the town planners and the WUCC should be talking
17 about, and to coordinate the best that we can, to
18 have an understanding of exclusive service areas
19 for the waterside.

20 You know, where is the sewer? Where is the
21 public water? What's your plan? What are your
22 local plans? Times have definitely changed from
23 30 years ago when local plans of development were
24 way out of date and, you know, needed to be
25 updated -- were 30 years old. I think times are

1 definitely different now.

2 So that's one thing that you know Eric and I
3 talk a lot about, because he is constantly on the
4 forefront of having to review and approve these
5 types of wells that are in the center of a parking
6 lot in a pit, and that's unfortunate.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

8 Lori, you want to do private well updates,
9 anything?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Well, the legislative session is the 9th
11 of February. More to come. I don't have anything
12 to say.

13 But you know I hope that we can -- in March
14 at our March meeting, Jack, that we can provide
15 more information.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Understood.

17 And Martin, I know you've got a crazy
18 schedule today, but would you like to talk about
19 the interagency drought workgroup.

20 MARTIN HEFT: Good afternoon, everybody. I apologize
21 for not being on video. As Lori just mentioned,
22 with the session coming up next week I'm quite
23 inundated at the moment.

24 But on the interagency drought workgroup, we
25 do have a meeting this Thursday at two o'clock

1 which will be going over all of the
2 recommendations and our final format for this, and
3 obviously reviewing any condition changes that
4 we've been doing. So that's basically it.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. And thank you for your
6 continued work on that. Thank you very much.
7 Appreciate it.

8 Any questions?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Before we get to the priorities of the
13 Council, I want to call on Denise Savageau to give
14 us a little update in terms of World Wetlands Day
15 and the 50th anniversary of the Inland Wetlands
16 Commission. It's going to be tomorrow.

17 We're going to have at high noon tomorrow.

18 Correct, Denise?

19 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Tomorrow. So we've had really good
20 response. As virginia reported, 106 people
21 registered. We're going to start -- Jack's going
22 to kick us off with a welcome and a brief little
23 intro to what the Water Planning Council and state
24 water plan is.

25 I will give a brief history of the Inland

1 Wetlands and Watercourses Act and set up for the
2 panel. And that will be the highlight, is the
3 panel that will have, you know, focus on a
4 discussion on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
5 Act and relationship to the state water plan.

6 As you know, there's many -- when the state
7 water plan was developed it referenced many plans
8 and many programs of the State, and the Inland
9 Wetlands and Watercourses Act was one of them. So
10 we're looking forward to that.

11 And I think just on a bigger scale we're
12 working with DEP, the wetlands unit as well as
13 CACIWC, which is the Connecticut Association of
14 Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions as
15 well as a host of other groups, the conservation
16 districts and Rivers Alliance, and some other
17 groups that are all looking at the 50th
18 anniversary of the Inland Wetlands and
19 Watercourses Act this year.

20 And I think we've got a great workgroup put
21 together that -- so this will be the kickoff and I
22 think, you know, stay tuned. You're going to see
23 a lot of programming throughout the year on inland
24 wetlands and watercourses.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Denise. It's an exciting

1 kickoff and I'm glad to be a part of it. Thank
2 you for the work you do. And any questions for
3 Denise?

4
5 (No response.)

6
7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I asked Denise to do something
8 yesterday, and it was done immediately. Thanks.
9 Thank you for the quick response from yesterday,
10 Denise, very much.

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** You're welcome.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I appreciate it.

13 Okay.

14 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** And I just want to reiterate my -- I
15 just want to say, thank you, Denise, for putting
16 this together and also for mentioning the upcoming
17 events and programming. Looking forward to a big
18 year for water. Here we go.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** 2022, the year of water. Yeah, thumbs
20 up.

21 Okay. I'm not going to talk again about the
22 waters czar. We talked about that already but we
23 did -- we have a spot on the agenda as we are
24 going to every meeting for -- oh, I'm sorry. I
25 missed something here. The water efficiency

1 standards. We had a meeting a few weeks back with
2 Brenda Watson and individuals from Operation Fuel.

3 We tried to get this meeting going since
4 before Christmas and we finally got it going a few
5 weeks back. And it was very, very productive.
6 Lori was there and that was a very, very, very
7 productive meeting. And just lots of enthusiasm
8 in terms of how we're going to continue to promote
9 water efficiency and conservation, and how it fits
10 into the whole mission, if you will, of Operation
11 Fuel.

12 And I thank Brenda. I just got something
13 today. I'm going to have another meeting coming
14 up -- but leaving in March. We're trying to get a
15 date together.

16 Lori, I don't know if you want to add to that
17 but I was very impressed with the time we spent
18 together for sure.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Jack, I agree. A very good group,
20 great discussion and look forward to the next
21 meeting. There's a lot of interest in this and I
22 think this is one of the ways forward for water
23 efficiency.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any questions on that?
25

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So last month we discussed the
4 water planning priorities and I don't -- Alecia,
5 were you going to go back and look at their
6 priorities as well?

7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: For the advisory group?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah, we have started that process.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's what I thought. So I
11 don't know if you want to proceed, how you want to
12 proceed on this, Graham and Lori, Martin?

13 The last time we actually went down the list,
14 kind of looked at where we were at, it kind of
15 just ties into what Dave Radka had asked for in
16 terms of what we ought to be looking at I think
17 for the next assignment, for the implementation
18 group once the water position is dealt with.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, one thing -- I know on the water
20 position, I know I've shared my thoughts with you
21 all, with the three of you. It's to sort of
22 clarify a few points here and there.

23 But you know, I'll wait for the group to give
24 us, as Virginia mentioned at the beginning of the
25 meeting, you know, get us their information and go

1 from there. But you know, for future topics, you
2 know I like where we're going with water
3 efficiency very much. There's probably always
4 more that we could do.

5 One thing that we were chatting about -- and
6 I know with Martin, you have been talking
7 internally about a lot of things with drought and
8 making sure that we have ourselves, you know, we
9 were looking at our to-do's within DPH, and Steve
10 Harkey and I were talking about this.

11 And there's a lot for us to do on that list.
12 And it's so funny, Jack, because you'll know this.
13 Right? It's Dave LeVasseur who we were chatting
14 about yesterday, by the way. Right? So Dave
15 LeVasseur had the effort to produce an ordinance
16 for towns to adopt when there is a time of a
17 drought.

18 You know we have the operational rules, but
19 then I think along with the operational rules, you
20 know it's important to have a town have authority
21 or feel that they have authority, a place to go to
22 tell people that, you know, okay. It's the first
23 stage of a drought. You, you with private wells
24 and you with public water, you know, in our town,
25 it might be split up between some service by

1 Aquarion, some service by a number of smaller
2 public water systems and some, a whole host of
3 private wells. And we're in a drought.

4 And you know, the State saying if this is at
5 a certain level -- and then how does a town
6 implement at the town level? And I think we've
7 always sort of run into that. And that's one of
8 our to-dos.

9 And I wanted to bring this forward here
10 because I still think it's really important, but I
11 think we're going to need some help. I think it's
12 on our list, Martin, for us to do something
13 definitely about and for us -- maybe DPH to take
14 the lead.

15 But I'm just thinking that, you know, I
16 wanted to put on the table here, because we're
17 going to need assistance to think about that
18 because it's now -- I think that model ordinance
19 that we have is good, but it hasn't been adopted
20 by many towns, if not maybe one or two.

21 I know that the town of -- I know when Len
22 DeJong was here, he was working --

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think Southbury. Wasn't it, Lori?

24 **LORI MATHIEU:** Southbury or Woodbury. I can't remember
25 which one of the 'Burys -- right? Was working to

1 adopt it, and I don't know if it ever made it.
2 But we know that Simsbury recently adopted an
3 ordinance. We know that Hebron was looking at
4 one. We know that the City of Norwalk has a very
5 good ordinance and often invokes it during
6 droughts.

7 But I think we need a group. I know that
8 it's a focus area that I'd love to bring forward.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Is this something we should task the
10 implementation group with, perhaps?

11 LORI MATHIEU: I'm thinking. I'm thinking, yeah.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I mean, I'm not saying we do it
13 today, but this is the -- I think -- I can tell
14 Virginia can't wait. I can just tell by looking
15 at her. She can't wait to do something like this.

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: This is something that we probably a
17 year or more ago we proposed looking at, because
18 the existing ordinance was originally based, I
19 believe, on Greenwich's.

20 But as Denise has mentioned many, many times,
21 each town has a very different combination and
22 different flavor of their water resources. And
23 one of the things that we considered was to
24 perhaps put together a menu that if you had
25 groundwater sources, this might apply.

1 If they were domestic groundwater sources,
2 this might apply. If you had another type -- and
3 that towns could then take, you know, one
4 paragraph from column A and two paragraphs from
5 column B, and cobble together something that was
6 unique to their town, but be given enough
7 information to make that process fairly
8 straightforward rather than overwhelming.

9 Where do we start?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Alecia just reminded me that this was --
11 maybe you saw. I think she was chatting with
12 everybody that this was a recommendation from the
13 PCAG drought subgroups.

14 Denise, you want to weigh in since you work
15 down in Greenwich?

16 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Yeah, and we dealt with this in
17 Greenwich and I ended up being the lead for water
18 supply. We actually had a water supply team that
19 included our department of public health as well
20 as our fire department and the first selectman's.

21 And so we determined which department should
22 take the lead, but more departments are involved
23 just like here. We kind of had our own little
24 mini water planning council.

25 But there are some challenges. But we have

1 the ordinance, but because we knew we had
2 groundwater issues, you know, Aquarion serves a
3 certain percentage of the town, but there's a
4 large portion of the town that had their own
5 wells.

6 So we needed an ordinance that covered
7 everything, and that's, you know, how we did it.
8 And when we talk about this at the drought
9 group -- I think that Virginia explained it
10 perfectly. We're looking at that there's not one
11 ordinance fits all. The ordinance that was
12 drafted is good language and works if you're on a
13 public water supply system, but not if you have
14 multiple water supplies, whatever.

15 And it also doesn't -- the Town needs to
16 adopt it, but I think there's also a piece.
17 There's like, it really needs to define the role
18 of the water utility with the Town, whatever. And
19 we need to look at that, because you know if you
20 have a water utility that steps up to the plate
21 and does what Aquarian did in Greenwich in this
22 last drought that, you know -- the last couple of
23 droughts, I should say when I was there, they just
24 stepped up and did a unbelievable job.

25 But until that drought all the water

1 utilities were saying, we don't have jurisdiction.
2 And it was the Town that was taking jurisdiction
3 for enforcement of the drought -- so prior, prior
4 to that drought in 2016 or 2017, whatever it was.

5 So we need to put that into perspective and
6 then the town still does have some authority if
7 the water utility -- and understanding that they
8 don't all have the capabilities that Aquarian has,
9 if it becomes the town that's the enforcement
10 agency for that and how you deal with that. So
11 there's a lot to take into consideration.

12 I actually have a permitting process for
13 people how to irrigate their lawns, you know,
14 during the drought.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So Margaret just chatted that Southbury
16 did not adopt --

17 **LORI MATHIEU:** Did not. Did not do it. Right?

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** -- it was talked about. So I mean,
19 we've got a lot of work with this. This is a big,
20 big topic and we might need some legislative
21 relief or direction, or enabling legislation -- or
22 something, but I'm just throwing that out.

23 So hold on.

24 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** The other big challenge is that
25 water is, as we all know, doesn't follow town

1 boundaries. And because the Pomperaug is in four
2 different towns, even if the Town of Southbury was
3 supporting it, some of their neighboring towns --
4 and I believe it was Oxford that did not support
5 it and did not want to be bound by something that
6 was not from their town itself.

7 So you've heard me say before, I think the
8 legislature needs to redraw the town boundaries
9 around the watershed boundaries and that would
10 solve all our problems.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: That -- Alecia likes that. Okay.

12 LORI MATHIEU: So Jack, I brought that up because I
13 think it is one of the most important items that
14 tasked for DPH to start working on in Martin's,
15 you know, Martin's big work plan to address for
16 the drought plan, so.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: You came up with two big topics. We'll
18 look at the priorities, the water efficiency, the
19 droughts and the ordinances to deal with droughts.
20 I mean, that's a lot of work right in there.

21 LORI MATHIEU: It is.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: So when we get to next month we'll be
23 making some assignments to the implementation
24 workgroup. Do you want to weigh in, Martin?

25 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you. Yeah, that's what happens

1 when I have the screen off and then pop it on.

2 You know that I wanted to say something.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

4 **MARTIN HEFT:** Thanks. Another thing I just want to
5 mention that we should also look at as, not only
6 looking at all the recommendations, you know, and
7 seeing where we're at with them within the current
8 plan.

9 And it was mentioned before, but just to make
10 sure it's still on the list is Executive Order
11 21-3, you know, regarding the climate change and
12 everything to see what things may pertain to our
13 water plan that we either have to change or adapt
14 accordingly.

15 So we should definitely keep that in mind as
16 we're reviewing all this, that we need to review
17 that document as well.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes, I know Lori is always -- Lori is on
19 some of those groups, some of those subcommittees.

20 **LORI MATHIEU:** I would agree, Martin. There's a lot
21 there.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think we have a lot. Between those
23 four I think we've got quite a bit there. So
24 anything else? Graham, do you have anything?

25 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Nothing right this second, Jack.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: And again, we'll keep on doing this
2 every month.

3 Any other new business?

4
5 (No response.)
6

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to open up the public comment.

8 Any public comment? Anybody else have
9 anything else to say -- besides tomorrow I hope
10 everybody tunes in for the 50th anniversary of the
11 passage of the inland wetland legislation.

12 I guess it was said by Denise, that there's
13 over a hundred people signed up. So it should be
14 very good.
15

16 (No response.)
17

18 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, our next meeting is March 1st.

19 Okay. Motion to adjourn?

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, before we adjourn just one thing
21 on the priorities? You know, I think that the
22 first time that we talked through the priorities,
23 you know, I think we got about halfway through the
24 list.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: And I think that was that was helpful.
2 Maybe, you know, for the next meeting we could try
3 to finish out for the discussion just going
4 sequentially.

5 And DEEP, at DEEP we've put together, like
6 you know, our opinions on what we think is both a
7 long-term priority and a short-term priority for
8 the agency, and kind of also highlighted areas
9 where we think there might be priorities that are
10 generally priorities of the Water Planning
11 Council, although we only represent a fraction of
12 that council.

13 So maybe after we get through the list, I'd
14 be happy to share, you know. And I think, you
15 know, we are thinking at DEEP, just to, you know,
16 put that out in the conversation ether. And then
17 obviously it would be interesting to hear what
18 other agencies think about our priorities as well.

19 I don't know if that makes sense.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: No, it does make sense. And I have the
21 list in front of me. And right. We get it down,
22 part of it. So I want to clean up this list and
23 then before the next meeting we'll reach out to
24 our respective members' agencies to look at what
25 we would like to discuss and reprioritize at the

1 next meeting, if that's acceptable to everyone.

2 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Hey Jack, this is Dave. Hey, I just
3 want to thank you guys for coming out and doing
4 the podcast yesterday about the Water Planning
5 Council.

6 So that was really -- we're going to get that
7 up and get that post processed -- and since we
8 recorded one almost two years ago, so we'll see if
9 we can get back on track. So thank you so much.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We appreciate that. And
11 that ties into our education outreach very much,
12 so we'll get another one. So thank you.

13 LORI MATHIEU: And Jack, do we want to mention that to
14 Dave's point that -- I don't know if we've
15 actually put this out there before, but the idea
16 to do this on a consistent basis maybe every other
17 month or so.

18 We were trying to get this on track right
19 before COVID. We had one right before COVID, so
20 it was two years ago, and we just recorded one
21 yesterday. But we wanted, you know, to do this on
22 some sort of consistent cadence to share the word,
23 the good word of the state water plan.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: And it goes without saying that Martin
25 and Graham are both welcome. Martin certainly can

1 get -- I want to talk about drought. Once the
2 whole revision of the drought standards is set
3 forth they could do a whole podcast on drought.

4 And Graham always has lots to say from the
5 DEEP perspective, so lots going on.

6 And I forgot -- I think everybody knows. And
7 I should have said this. Betsey Wingfield has
8 retired and last week was her last week with DEEP
9 after 34 years, five days and five weeks and
10 five -- she had it right down to the science.

11 But we thank Betsey on behalf of the Council
12 for her passion for water and the work that she's
13 done. And for the work that she's done -- and I
14 want to at some point recognize her on behalf of
15 the Water Planning Council.

16 So we, as you know, I believe pre-pandemic we
17 had our first -- I think Margaret Miner was our
18 first Water Champion. I believe that's what we
19 call the award, the Water Champion Award.

20 Alecia, is that what we did?

21 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I can find the documents, but I
22 believe that's what it was called.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: You know what? It would be very helpful
24 if you could find the documents and e-mail them to
25 me. So I was thinking of doing something similar

1 for Betsey. So I think it would be very
2 appropriate.

3 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I will dig that up and send it on.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So we wish Betsey well.

5 And with that on a positive note, anything
6 else to come before us today?

7
8 (No response.)
9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Now I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

11 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

12 MARTIN HEFT: Second.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor.

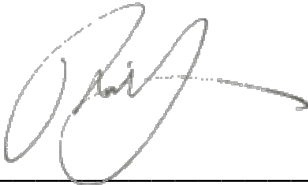
14 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: But be safe, everyone.
16

17 (End: 2:24 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 42 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 February 1, 2022.



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