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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
April 5, 2022, beginning at 1:34 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 **DAN LAWRENCE**

16 **ERIC McPHEE**

17
18 **Staff:**

19 **LAURA LUPOLI**

20 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Before we begin if you're joining us
2 today, unless you're speaking please put yourself
3 on mute. Thank you.

4 We'll call the meeting of the Water Planning
5 Council of April 5th to order. The first order of
6 business will be the approval of the March 1st
7 meeting transcript.

8 Do I have such a motion?

9 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

10 MARTIN HEFT: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that the March
12 1st transcript be approved.

13 Any questions on the motion?

14
15 (No response.)
16

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

19 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

21 The second order business is my Chairman's
22 remarks. I just wanted to thank all the
23 organizers of the World Water Day whose theme this
24 year was groundwater, making the invisible
25 visible.

1 It was really excellent. Save the Sound,
2 Nature Conservancy, Rivers Alliance, Clean Water
3 Action, the Connecticut River Conservancy,
4 Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Connecticut
5 League of Conservation Voters, Citizens Campaign
6 for the Environment and others -- really did a
7 great job.

8 I was honored to give the opening remarks
9 along with the Governor, and we had a great panel
10 discussion. Holly from the Nature Conservancy
11 talked about 50 years with the Water Act and
12 Virginia did an excellent job with groundwater
13 101, as she always does. And then we had
14 panelists from a great panel moderated by Alecia.

15 So kudos and congratulations. You can never
16 get enough publicity when it comes to talking
17 about water, for sure.

18 Is Karen on the line, Karen Burnaska?

19 **KAREN BURNASKA:** I sure am.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Would you like to add anything to that
21 Karen, since you were the coordinator?

22 **KAREN BURNASKA:** The only thing I would like to add is
23 all of the group's thank you to you, Jack. If
24 people have not seen your opening remarks from
25 your tape, it was excellent.

1 And the wrap-up meeting afterwards, you got
2 raves. So you did the Water Planning Council
3 proud, and a great job. So thank you all.

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

5 I have to give credit to some of the good
6 people at Aquarion for helping me put that video
7 together. They did a really -- I mean, I wrote
8 it, but they did everything around it.

9 So thank you.

10 **DAN LAWRENCE:** You're welcome Jack. I had nothing to
11 do with it, but you're welcome.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Oh, Dan --

13 **DAN LAWRENCE:** I know who did and they're very good,
14 so.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Oh, my God. I can't afford it, but I'd
16 like to hire them.

17 **DAN LAWRENCE:** Yeah, Jeff is really good.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yeah, fantastic. So thank you.

19 Alecia, do you have any comments? You were a
20 big part of it.

21 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** I think you've done a good job of
22 summarizing it.

23 And thanks to Karen. Karen does a lot of cat
24 herding for this event. And she really deserves a
25 huge pat on the back. So thank you, Karen.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, she really does. And she has a
2 nice way of prodding things, getting things moving
3 as so. Thank you, Karen.

4 Okay. So moving on to public comment. Any
5 public comment on any of the agenda items today?
6 Any public comment? We have another opportunity
7 at the end.

8
9 (No response.)

10
11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move right onto
12 correspondence. We've all received an e-mail from
13 Commissioner Dykes last Friday, I believe it was
14 in the late afternoon Friday, relative to the
15 Climate change and Executive Order Number 3.

16 And perhaps, Graham, can you comment a little
17 bit on this? It looks like we have to fill out a
18 survey and they want this survey in by April 29th,
19 five o'clock.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I'm happy to, Jack, and make
21 sure this is -- so this is a survey that was sent
22 to the four Water Planning Council members. You
23 know, the Chairman, Lori, Martin, myself.

24 And I think you'll remember that Rebecca
25 French came and spoke with us -- geez, I'd say,

1 eight months ago to talk about Executive Order 3
2 that really looks at, you know, each agency's
3 actions and how it relates to climate change,
4 adaptation and resilience. And particularly, you
5 know, specific attention paid to other plans
6 within the state and how they align, you know,
7 with the State's mission with respect to climate
8 change adaptation and resilience. And she spoke
9 with us about that briefly.

10 And obviously we're talking about the state
11 water plan in this case and essentially -- I
12 haven't taken the survey yet. I was thinking
13 about taking it in advance so I could talk about
14 it, but I wanted to make sure that I was, you
15 know, aligned with the other councilors with
16 respect to, you know, when we were going to take
17 it.

18 Obviously will take it before five o'clock,
19 you know, 5:01 on the 29th maybe --

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So Graham, excuse me. Do we all fill
21 this out separately? I mean, don't you think they
22 want it from the Council?

23 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I mean certainly we could set up -- we
24 could talk about that now. I mean, you know, it
25 seems like it was sent to the four of us -- but

1 obviously we're the Water Planning Council. We
2 are one council comprised of four agencies. And
3 you know, we could either take it together and
4 designate a member to take it on our behalf, or
5 take it independently. I think they would they
6 would receive it in any manner in which we choose.

7 Other plans are a little bit clearer, you
8 know, whether it be the wildlife action plan or
9 the state plan of conservation and development
10 where there's really a clear single point as far
11 as the lead agency.

12 So I'm open to hearing what other members of
13 the Council think. I think my initial response
14 was, you know, I was assuming we -- all four would
15 take it, but that may create some difficulties;
16 not having seen the survey for those that will be,
17 you know, assembling the information.

18 I don't know, Martin, if you have taken this
19 survey already for other plans. If there's
20 anything that you can add about the content that
21 might help us?

22 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sure. Well thanks, Graham. Good
23 afternoon, all. So yeah. I looked through
24 briefly just on the state plan of conservation and
25 development because that would be the one that OPM

1 would be, you know, replying to and we're, you
2 know, kind of going through that process, looking
3 how it, you know, on there.

4 And the questions are the same for each plan.
5 So it's not like they're done differently for each
6 of the different plans. It's the same questions
7 for all the plans out there of gathering this
8 information.

9 I mean, I would recommend that we add --

10 (Interruption.)

11 That we would do one response on behalf of
12 the plan itself rather than separate responses,
13 you know, on that and whether that just gets
14 coordinated, you know, by one of the agencies, you
15 know, to get all the responses, you know, to the
16 questions. And then, you know, do one submission
17 on behalf of the plan -- seems to be the logical
18 way to go about it.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin, say that once again? I was
20 distracted by Nick Neeley talking about --

21 MARTIN HEFT: I'm sorry, no problem.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Nick Neeley was talking about playing
23 golf.

24 MARTIN HEFT: So I was just saying that I think it
25 would be best to do one response on behalf of the

1 state water plan, you know, and from all of us
2 that as long as it, you know, be coordinated by
3 someone we can all either add input to the
4 questions on it. That way that would seem to, you
5 know, the best way to do it rather than submitting
6 four separate individual ones, you know, on it.
7 That doesn't seem to be the way that we want it
8 to, you know, submit.

9 I will let you know like on a state plan of
10 conservation and development, because that the new
11 one hasn't been adopted, most of our, like, in the
12 G3 stuff doesn't even apply -- because it was all
13 done so long ago we're not even addressing any of
14 that in there.

15 So we're kind of, you know, in a holding
16 pattern on some of that. Hopefully legislation is
17 approving that plan this session and then we can,
18 you know, more address some of that. So some of
19 the questions in there -- there may not be
20 something that our state water plan addresses even
21 at this point and that may be, you know, triggers
22 that we need to update, you know, and take a look
23 at.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori?

25 **LORI MATHIEU:** One thought given the conversation is

1 that, what we could do is assign it to one person
2 who could draft responses on our behalf and then
3 we could discuss this. Maybe we need a special
4 meeting so that we can review and approve it so
5 that it can move forward.

6 And I would agree. I don't think we should
7 do four different -- I agree with Martin. You
8 know, we should do a combined effort and make an
9 assignment to one or two people to be able to
10 draft some responses.

11 If you remember, there is a lot of
12 information about climate change in our state
13 water plan. So someone has to spend some time
14 making sure that it is well represented, that we
15 do have information and there was time spent on
16 climate change.

17 So that's my suggestion, Jack.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think it's a great suggestion because
19 we're always talking about us being a cohesive
20 body, even though we all represent different
21 agencies. The fact that we would submit this
22 questionnaire in the survey as one planning
23 council group, I think it's a good one.

24 And I think we just have to figure out who
25 we're going to assign, and have a special meeting

1 before the 29th.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that -- Graham, does sound okay
4 to you?

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, that's sounds great to me and
6 I'm happy to volunteer to, A, you know, ask for
7 this survey just because of the way the survey is.
8 You select an answer and then you hit next. So
9 it's not like you can copy and paste it.

10 I could try to get that survey like, you
11 know, in a Word document. And you know, Lori, if
12 you wanted to work with me, maybe we could take a
13 crack at --

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yes.

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- drafting a unified response, if
16 that's okay with you, Chairman and Martin?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine with me.

18 MARTIN HEFT: Sounds good.

19 LORI MATHIEU: That works for me.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: And I mean, procedurally could we vote
21 now to, you know, send this? I'm just trying to
22 think maybe we would need a special meeting.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know if we --

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: If you draft a response -- as long as
25 it's via e-mail. I mean, the thing is that we

1 would then have to maybe --

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. Just thinking about it, I think
3 it would be important enough for us to talk about
4 it before we just let it go. You know? And I'd
5 love to have the conversation, and our meeting
6 could just be that one point.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: It could a quick meeting, but I'll have
8 Ali ask you for some dates that we can do it.
9 Okay? It would probably be like the last week in
10 April, the beginning. The beginning of that last
11 week -- if that works with people?

12 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, that works for me.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Ali? Okay, Ali?

14 Thank you. Ali gave me a thumbs up. Okay.

15 Thank you, Lori and Graham.

16 Martin, are you okay?

17 MARTIN HEFT: Yes, good.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, very good. We also received
19 correspondence from -- and maybe, Lori, you're
20 going to talk about this later on relative to
21 what's going on with the language you got from
22 Bruce relative to the WUCCs, and there's some
23 language coming out.

24 LORI MATHIEU: Language for what?

25 MARTIN HEFT: General permitting.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think it was the general permit for
2 the interconnections.

3 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, that's not WUCC related.

4 General permitting for diversion permitting.
5 Right?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. It says, in collaboration with
7 the water utility coordinating council, the
8 implementation workgroup, interconnection group;
9 DEEP has developed a proposed emergency
10 interconnection general permit category.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. So is this on our agenda?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: It's correspondence.

13 LORI MATHIEU: I see one of our WUCC people is actually
14 here, Mr. Lawrence -- and possibly Mr. McPhee is
15 on as well.

16 DAN LAWRENCE: Yes.

17 LORI MATHIEU: So maybe you're going to tell us more?

18 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah, so we are trying to bring --

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. Alecia has texted me that
20 she's going to talk about this during the WPCAG
21 report.

22 DAN LAWRENCE: Do you want to wait, or do you want to
23 address it now?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't we wait for her report?

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I mean, we can address it now.

1 Sorry. I was typing before they called on you,
2 Dan.

3 But if you guys want to talk about it now,
4 that's fine.

5 DAN LAWRENCE: Preference?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: We can talk now, Dan.

7 DAN LAWRENCE: Okay. So we're trying to bring things
8 that are going on, as I said last time, from the
9 WUCC to the Water Planning Council advisory group.
10 One of the things we've been working on obviously
11 is interconnections, emergency interconnections
12 within the WUCC.

13 And we've been having conversations with DEEP
14 about how do you make that work for emergency
15 interconnections? So Doug Hoskins -- and Corinne
16 when she was around -- worked with DEP internally
17 to develop a scenario for emergency
18 interconnections.

19 That is going to be presented at the Water
20 Planning Council advisory group so that everyone
21 is aware what that permit might look like. And so
22 we're trying to be transparent with what's going
23 on at the WUCC as we want to work together with
24 what the state water plan proposed, obviously.

25 So that's what's going on. It's not on your

1 agenda. It's just something that's going on at
2 our planning council advisory group.

3 So does that make sense?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, it makes sense. I just want to
5 make sure my colleagues know about it and --

6 DAN LAWRENCE: Right. So we're trying to get
7 presentations. We had one last -- we have another
8 one and then we have one after that as well. So
9 on the three major things we're working on.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. That's all the
11 correspondence that I have. I'm trying to stay
12 within parliamentary procedure. Martin Heft keeps
13 me in line to make sure I'm doing things
14 FOI-able -- or non-FOI-able at all times.

15 So let's move onto the implementation
16 workgroup update. Virginia?

17 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Thank you, Jack. The most
18 important thing coming out of the workgroup is
19 that we have put together a slate of candidates.
20 My apologies that it came out so late, but it was
21 only finalized yesterday.

22 And if you look at the e-mail that I sent to
23 you, the attachment had a chart in it. We have
24 two cohorts, if you will.

25 Half -- so half of the group gets elected

1 every year. And so we need to approve those
2 people whose terms have expired and they are
3 starting a new two-year term. The group is almost
4 the same as what it has been. The difference
5 being that Chris Bellucci is on as the DEEP
6 Representative replacing Corinne.

7 So those are the people whose terms have
8 expired and they are going to be, with your
9 approval, re-upped. In addition Lou Burch has
10 resigned because he has taken a different job.
11 And so we had a vacancy in the group whose term is
12 not up.

13 And that vacancy is being filled by Anne
14 Hulick from Clean Water Action. And I think I'll
15 ask Alecia to tell us a little bit more about her
16 so that you all know who you might be voting on.

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Sure. Anne Hulick is with clean
18 water action here in Connecticut. Anne was really
19 pivotal in moving forward on legislation on PFAS.
20 She has been very involved in the water advocacy
21 community for many years. She is previously a
22 nurse, so she also has a public health interest as
23 well as a perspective on environmental issues.

24 So she's very, very focused on things like
25 emerging contaminants, but is also, again very

1 connected with environmental issues here in
2 Connecticut at a broader level on water.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia.

4 Any questions for Alecia?

5
6 (No response.)

7
8 THE CHAIRMAN: So Virginia, I looked. So when we
9 had -- this proposed first slate was in 2020 and
10 then we had group one, two, three and four. The
11 way I'm looking at it here, this looks like it's
12 group three that we're reappointing -- or you
13 appoint?

14 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Well, there there's two groups. And
15 so it's group A one year. Group B the next. Then
16 group A and then group B, back and forth like
17 that.

18 And so those are the -- on the list to be
19 approved today, have completed our two-year terms.
20 And this would be setting us up for another
21 two-year term.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I got it. Any questions?

23 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Could I ask, could we share?

24 Since we just received this yesterday could we
25 share this on the screen? Is that even a

1 possibility from anyone?

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: I could share it on the screen, Lori,
3 if someone gives me authority.

4 LORI MATHIEU: So we could see -- everyone could, what
5 we're talking about.

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Certainly.

7 Go ahead, Graham. If you can't do it, I can.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, if that's okay?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes, this is the column of those who
11 are continuing. This is the column for a new
12 term, and this is a vacancy column, Anne Hulick
13 that we just discussed.

14 And then these are the categories, agency
15 representatives, out of stream, in stream, Water
16 Planning Council advisory committee, subject
17 matter experts.

18 MARTIN HEFT: And if I may, Mr. Chair?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

20 MARTIN HEFT: I would like dates, their start term and
21 end dates of each of these as well as the vacancy,
22 because they should be two separate motions.

23 One for those that -- for the new term with
24 their start date and end date, so we have that in
25 the record. And the vacancy with a start date and

1 end date of filling the vacancy.

2 So do we have those dates, Virginia?

3 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Certainly, yes. The new term would
4 be April 2022 through March 2024. And the filling
5 the vacancy would be April 2022 through March
6 2023.

7 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Virginia, this is David. I believe
8 Anne will be taking over for Lou. So I believe
9 she would be up for renewal next year.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Correct.

11 DAVID KUZMINSKI: 'Twenty-one through 2022.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Correct. Isn't that what I said?

13 DAVID KUZMINSKI: I don't believe so.

14 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, you had said current until ending
15 March of '23.

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: So Anne would be a one-year term,
17 and the rest of them would be a two-year term.

18 MARTIN HEFT: And then just additionally, can we get a
19 full listing of everybody with their terms?

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. If you put in the continuing
21 column, their term is April 2021 through March
22 2023. So they are in the middle of their term.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: A lot of stress to have people see my
25 keyboarding skills, considering I've got to see

1 my --

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I was pretty impressed there, Graham. I
3 was impressed. Better than mine.

4 Lori, do you have any questions?

5 **LORI MATHIEU:** I think I just want to comment on the
6 addition of Anne Hulick. I think she's an
7 excellent addition, and I'm glad that she's
8 available to volunteer.

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** And I must say what I like most is
10 that she was very enthusiastic about joining the
11 group.

12 **LORI MATHIEU:** That's a good thing.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Where's Lou going?

14 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** He's left the industry. He's taken on
15 a position outside of water resources.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, I'll bring it up later, because I
17 would like to -- perhaps I can send a letter to
18 him on behalf of the Council just thanking him
19 because he's certainly been --

20 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** We should.

21 **THE CHAIRMAN:** He certainly has been very involved and
22 very helpful and very productive. So I'll bring
23 that up later on.

24 **LORI MATHIEU:** Agreed.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. I love these chats because if you

1 ask a question then it just pops up. The answer
2 just pops up. So thank you.

3 I'll entertain a motion to approve this.

4 MARTIN HEFT: So I will make a motion first to fill the
5 vacancy for April '22, to March of '23, with Anne
6 Hulick.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that we fill
9 the vacancy from April 2022 to March 2023 with
10 Anne Hulick.

11 Any questions on the motion?

12
13 (No response.)

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

17 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion carries.

23 Next motion?

24 MARTIN HEFT: And I'll make a motion that for the April
25 '22 through March of '24, that we appoint those

1 that are listed there, Chris Bellucci, Bruce
2 Wittchen, Janice Ehle Meyer, Denise Savageau,
3 Virginia de Lima and Steve Groupar. I apologize
4 for mispronouncing names.

5 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Second.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Motion made and seconded that the
7 aforementioned individuals be appointed to the
8 implementation workgroup. Any questions on the
9 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:** Opposed?

17
18 (No response.)

19
20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** The motion carries.

21 Okay. All right. Thank you, Virginia. I
22 know that's a lot of coordination there. We
23 appreciate yours, and Dave's and the group's
24 efforts -- and what else do we have going on?

25 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** And I want to thank you all for

1 approving that slate. We can all now be official.
2 So I appreciate that.

3 In terms of our workgroups, as you know, we
4 have a workgroup that's been looking at
5 implementation tracking and reporting, they have
6 come up with their recommendations. They are
7 polishing those and hope to be able to get those
8 to the implementation group and the Water Planning
9 Council advisory group in the next several weeks.

10 So that should get to you for your June
11 meeting, is what we anticipate. So that's very
12 exciting, that they're putting that together.

13 They are looking at having an interim process
14 that can be implemented in the near term while
15 they work out the details of the more robust,
16 permanent long-term tracking and reporting
17 process. So that's moving along nicely.

18 The outreach and education group, as you
19 mentioned earlier, they had a fabulous webinar on
20 groundwater and they are planning two additional
21 ones that will be on May 11th and June 8th, both
22 from twelve to one o'clock, and they are
23 finalizing the speakers for those. Mike Dietz
24 will be moderating the May session, and the others
25 are still in progress.

1 You should have gotten to save-the-date
2 notice on those two. So they're doing a fabulous
3 job of putting together some very important and
4 very informative workshops. Also they are working
5 with graphics people at DEEP to come up with a
6 logo system for the Water Planning Council and the
7 state water plan.

8 So are there any questions on either of those
9 issues?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Martin, do you want to share with
11 Virginia what we learned about logos?

12 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sure. So just regarding logos,
13 Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-51 is seals
14 for state departments. And each state department,
15 commission, board, institution shall provide for
16 its use an official seal of the uniform general
17 design approved by the secretary of the state.

18 So if we're going to have any new logo,
19 anything, as we are a, you know, state agency per
20 se as the Connecticut Water Planning Council, we
21 would need to have any logos approved by Secretary
22 of State's office under Connecticut General
23 Statutes 4-51.

24 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** I wonder if using the term "logo" is
25 making it too official.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Well, I would recommend we just funnel it
2 through the system, you know, as it is by statute
3 and let them determine that. You know, if we're
4 saying this is what we're looking for -- we are
5 using it as kind of the seal, if you will, even
6 though we've got, you know, a generic stock
7 picture up there now, like on the Water Planning
8 Council site on it -- but you know, any of the
9 other logos, you know, that any agency uses, you
10 know, should follow that procedure.

11 If they send it back to us and say, no, it's
12 not, you know, required, then at least where
13 you've made sure that we've complied.

14 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay.

15 So Denise, I look to you to follow up on
16 that, unless you request that we handle it in a
17 different manner.

18 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, we're going to be doing what we
19 need to do. I know that Graham graciously offered
20 to have DEP do some work. We've got some
21 information on that.

22 I didn't know if Graham was going to share or
23 if he wanted it to come to our committee first,
24 but certainly I think what Martin brought up is
25 important, and I don't think that that's a

1 hindrance at all in terms of what we need to do.
2 As again, you asked us to do two things. One was
3 to look at the Water Planning Council. We were
4 looking at just branding the program, which is a
5 very different thing than branding an agency.

6 So I think that he's correct with the agency
7 there, but I'll defer to Graham on what we need to
8 do.

9 And I just want to -- one thing for
10 clarification was the groundwater workshop was
11 actually handled by Karen and a whole host of
12 organizations. So would have loved to take credit
13 for it, but that one wasn't. We did one in
14 February that we think came out pretty good, but I
15 just wanted to for clarification say that, that
16 the groundwater workshop was not with the outreach
17 and education group.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And then lastly -- thank you,
19 Denise.

20 And then lastly, you all have the
21 recommendation from the implementation workgroup
22 for the water planning chief. And I see that that
23 is on the agenda at a later place.

24 Dave, anything that I missed?

25 DAVID KUZMINSKI: That was good. I would just like to

1 say as cochair how much I appreciated having
2 Corinne and Lou as members. Both of them really
3 participated consistently, contributed a lot.
4 I'll miss both of them.

5 I'm thrilled that Nan is stepping up. I
6 don't know her personally, but heard good things
7 about her, and the review said she's very excited
8 to join. That's always a good sign.

9 And I'm also excited to have Chris. I've
10 worked with Chris on a number of things
11 collaboratively over the years, and really I'm
12 looking forward to working with them. Thank you
13 to everyone who participates.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Dave.

15 Does that conclude the report, Virginia?

16 Thank you, and thank your group very much.

17 Water Planning Council advisory group,
18 Alecia.

19 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** So I'll let Dan talk about the
20 presentations, the ones we have and the ones
21 coming up from the WUCC.

22 But just to address the general permit for
23 the interconnections, you know, I thought it was
24 important that that information came to the
25 broader stakeholder group of the water planning

1 advisory group because it is the interconnections,
2 the emergency inter, and short term
3 interconnections were a consensus recommendation
4 in the state water plan. And of course that, that
5 just those discussions were had in WUCC
6 implementation -- but I know that there are a lot
7 of folks in the advisory group that would like to
8 see where this is going.

9 So that's the reason why I had advocated for
10 bringing that to the water planning advisory
11 group. So just a note, Jeff Puglisi, who was the
12 representative for business and industry has had
13 to step back because he's leaving his position
14 with the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. So we
15 will be again seeking a representative from
16 business and industry. So that will be a to-do
17 going forward, and hopefully we'll get it resolved
18 faster than the last time.

19 And also I realized today that we approved a
20 workgroup that needs to get sent up to you all for
21 approval. And I did not send it, so you will be
22 seeing that next month. So my apologies. I did
23 have a recent family emergency, so if there's
24 anybody out there waiting on stuff for me, just
25 remind me because I'm playing catch up this week.

1 But I will let Dan talk about the WUCC
2 presentations we have had and we have coming up.

3 And just an FYI we've also reached out to the
4 Green Bank because they have some infrastructure
5 funding that they're looking about putting
6 together and they're doing a listening session.
7 And they're coming around to water soon. So we
8 extended that invitation because they're also
9 seeking feedback. And this, the stakeholder group
10 for the advisory group I think would be a good
11 group for them to hear from.

12 So without further ado I will let Dan take
13 the stage and then we'll have Karen give a report
14 from the watershed lands group.

15 **DAN LAWRENCE:** All right. So again, I'll just repeat
16 this for everybody's sake. We're trying to bring
17 things that are going on in the WUCC in front of
18 the Water Planning Council advisory because a lot
19 of things overlap. So in March we had one of
20 three presentations from WUCC members and others.

21 Aaron Budris from the Naugatuck Valley
22 Council of Governments, some people from my office
23 and peoples from DPH and others, as well as other
24 WUCC members have been working on a source water
25 protection story map.

1 So I talked a little. Aaron did all the
2 presentation; he did all the hard work in that
3 regard. Received some feedback, all trying to
4 help planners, developers and everyone understand
5 why source water protection is important and how
6 we can do it.

7 Had a lot of good conversations during the
8 meeting in March, and so that's what March was
9 about. So that was one of the topics that was
10 coming out of the WUCC implementation side. And
11 bringing that across and getting feedback from
12 others has been great.

13 Again we talked about -- so the April meeting
14 will have the interconnection discussion. We
15 won't be discussing any -- Margaret asked me this
16 question -- any specific interconnections, and
17 DEEP has drafted something to consider. And
18 they're going to present that consideration that
19 they presented to the WUCC also to the Water
20 Planning Council advisory group on what parameters
21 there will be, and a bunch of other requirements
22 if this went forward.

23 So that is scheduled for April and then the
24 third piece we're working on right now -- and Eric
25 McPhee and DPH and Lasette have a lot of going on

1 as well with this as well as a few others -- is
2 really how to help the development community, the
3 planners within organizations and towns to know
4 what to do when a new water system shows up. So
5 you want to develop a new noncommunity system or a
6 new community system in the middle of nowhere or
7 next to an existing utility, how do you do that?
8 And so trying to provide guidance.

9 And so Lasette has been great. Eric has been
10 great, and Rich, as well as others helping work
11 through this because you start to realize how much
12 of a tangled web it really is, and how many
13 agencies need to be involved depending and what
14 you're doing. And so there's a story map and a
15 whole process, and working on that.

16 So that would be presented in May to the
17 Water Planning Council advisory group and we're
18 looking, as we just discussed, of having the Green
19 Bank come in maybe in June or so. So we're trying
20 to get these things that the WUCC is working on
21 and that really have a lot of, I will say,
22 important pieces that everyone wants to know
23 about.

24 But the nice thing with that last one that
25 will be in May, we're trying to sort through, one,

1 how does it affect developers; make sure that
2 people know what they're supposed to do. If
3 they're going to exceed 50,000 gallons per day
4 they need a diversion, permit, what process that
5 looks like.

6 What water system are you next to? Who do
7 you call? Who's the SA holder? All those things
8 that -- questions that have, you know, I think I
9 get more phonecalls because I'm the one who knows
10 more than maybe Eric. And two of us get all the
11 phone calls.

12 You know, him -- if they can't get Eric, I
13 think they call me, but so hopefully -- and then
14 that's been good. So we're trying to get feedback
15 on these documents and eventually get them
16 published and be useful for the industry to help
17 people -- but I think it's both.

18 All these things are good things and bring
19 things forward. So any questions?

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Dan. Any questions?

21 Margaret Miner has got her hand raised.

22 **MARGARET MINER:** Yeah. Hi, Dan.

23 **DAN LAWRENCE:** Hey, Margaret.

24 **MARGARET MINER:** I love your program. But how do we
25 address -- I think it's three or four emergent

1 scoping notices for three or four emergency
2 interconnections, and posted on the environmental
3 monitoring.

4 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah, I just looked those up when you
5 sent me that -- saw the note.

6 MARGARET MINER: How do you suggest we address those
7 interconnections vis-a-vis the discussions we're
8 going to be having, and the policy? I'm not sure
9 quite what we should be doing.

10 DAN LAWRENCE: So what's going to be presented at the
11 Water Planning Council advisory group is not in
12 place right now. So we can't use that in any way
13 for emergency interconnections. So that would
14 have to go through the normal process with DEEP
15 and any other process with DPH as needed depending
16 what they're doing.

17 So they have an existing process. They'll
18 have to follow that. The idea was to make it more
19 readily available and easier when you need to.
20 There is a reporting piece that DEEP wanted, but
21 again that won't affect anything in play right
22 now. We don't have an approved process. This is
23 for discussion and information right now.

24 MARGARET MINER: Okay. So if we want to comment on the
25 posted scoping notice interconnections we should

1 speak to the applicant, but maybe also check in
2 with kind of the WUCC position, or what you're
3 working on?

4 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. We have not commented on or taken
5 up any specific interconnections. We're still
6 trying to keep it at a high level and make sure it
7 works for the entire industry.

8 Nothing works for the entire industry.
9 Right? But if someone had to -- and some of the
10 examples were, do maintenance on a treatment plant
11 or a water storage tank, if there was an
12 interconnection, that person could provide -- or
13 that organization or water company could provide
14 water across the boundary and not have to go
15 through a very lengthy emergency process, but
16 rather have something improved easily.

17 And there's limitations on what you can do
18 and, and Doug is intended to describe all that.
19 So that's what that's intended for. I mean, for
20 drought as well, but you know there's a venture of
21 good important rules.

22 I think DEP saw some value in trying to make
23 it. And I think for us in the industry, speaking
24 for Aquarion only at this point is, you've got to
25 have value to invest the dollars to make

1 interconnections. So that's what we're trying to
2 encourage as an industry to get more
3 interconnections. So if the system is in trouble
4 we can work with that.

5 A lot of other things going on with that, but
6 that's -- hopefully that answers your question.

7 MARGARET MINER: Okay. So I remember we all agreed to
8 that in principle about four or five years ago.
9 So it's back on the table again. Okay. And then
10 we should look at the ones that are posted that
11 are in play now individually.

12 DAN LAWRENCE: Correct.

13 MARGARET MINER: As if --

14 DAN LAWRENCE: As if what I said didn't matter.

15 MARGARET MINER: Okay. Thank you. Thanks a lot -- but
16 that can't be true. I'll have it in my mind
17 anyway, Dan.

18 DAN LAWRENCE: Okay.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And to be clear what's being
20 considered in the WUCC right now only applies to
21 emergency interconnections. Correct, Dan, 30-day?

22 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. It's only emergency
23 interconnections and there's some pretty
24 significant limitations.

25 MARGARET MINER: I think at least two of the ones on

1 the environmental monitor -- I just looked at them
2 this morning -- are in fact emergency connections.
3 And of course, that's the sensitive area. How
4 long does the emergency last? Will anyone
5 disconnect? You know, that kind of question.

6 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. So that's actually in the
7 document that DEEP put forward -- Doug mostly, I
8 think then Corinne who's retired.

9 MARGARET MINER: Right.

10 DAN LAWRENCE: We worked through a number of members
11 with the WUCC, but in talking through kind of
12 what -- and you can't -- this is not going to have
13 a never-ending emergency interconnection. There's
14 going to be a some pretty good parameters that
15 it's really supposed to be short term.

16 If you have to go longer than that you have
17 to go through the other process. So that's the
18 way it's proposed right now.

19 MARGARET MINER: Okay. Well, I hope that works out.

20 LORI MATHIEU: And one thing -- I if I could, Jack?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

22 LORI MATHIEU: Just the way in on all of this
23 interconnection discussion, one thing never to
24 forget about is water quality and the impact on
25 water quality and all of the Safe Drinking Water

1 Act rules including the lead and copper rule.

2 So sometimes water quality is not compatible
3 and you may interfere with water chemistry, and
4 therefore you may interfere with the given
5 approved water sampling points.

6 And so there's one thing that, you know, a
7 lot of -- probably a lot of people are not aware
8 of is what just goes on behind the scenes, is our
9 enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and all
10 of its lovely, very complicated rules that go
11 along with it.

12 So you might think, well, using an emergency
13 connection for 30 days is a pretty simple ordeal,
14 but it's not. And so our department's oversight,
15 statutory water quality, water quantity oversight
16 is really a very important consideration when it
17 comes to all of this business. Again, when you
18 think about what happened in Flint, Michigan, it
19 happened because they took water from another
20 source. They were not paying attention to the
21 fundamentals of water quality.

22 So we're paying close attention to that as
23 the lead and copper rule starts to slowly roll
24 out. Right? We just saw 400 pages of a new rule
25 in December which we're just digesting, all of us.

1 And then there will be another piece of that, and
2 we believe that the lead and copper rule will
3 become more stringent.

4 So it's just something to be mindful when
5 we're talking about all of these things. You
6 know, a simple interconnect where you say, well,
7 you can just, you know, connect and run that over
8 there. It's not that simple.

9 So it's just something to be mindful of and
10 there are many laws that this impacts. So there's
11 a bigger discussion that needs to happen at the
12 commissioner level.

13 DAVID KUZMINSKI: I would agree, Lori.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Any other comments?

15 We'll move on to --

16 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Actually, can I say something? And
17 maybe this will help Margaret. This is David.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

19 DAVID KUZMINSKI: As I was reading the emergency
20 interconnection scoping notice for Sprague and
21 Norwich, I believe it was. The way to look at it
22 is this is not seeking to authorize the actual
23 transfer of water between systems.

24 It's merely for the installation of the
25 infrastructure to potentially do so in the future

1 event of the need due to an emergency. And it's
2 going through the scoping process because there
3 are DWSR funds involved. And so in the future if
4 this is in place and Sprague needs that emergency
5 transfer of water, they would then need to go and
6 use some other authorization such as this
7 potential general permit that's being discussed in
8 this potential on the table.

9 MARGARET MINER: I'm not sure if that makes me feel
10 better. You're putting in the infrastructure
11 ahead of the need. You're anticipating a need,
12 but you'll have it in there even if there is an
13 emergency, perhaps some lesser level of need.

14 It will be available and be very tempting to
15 use it, of course, but you're saying it would have
16 to go through a new permitting -- it would have to
17 go through a permitting process at that point?

18 DAVID KUZMINSKI: That's my understanding. It would
19 need approval at some point were they to actually
20 affect the transfer of more than 50,000 gallons
21 per day.

22 MARGARET MINER: Okay. But you're investing a fair
23 amount of money in the infrastructure ahead of
24 time?

25 DAVID KUZMINSKI: And I think anyone who knows

1 Sprague's water system would say that's a good
2 investment.

3 MARGARET MINER: It may be. Okay. Thanks.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion on this topic?

5 LORI MATHIEU: Well, maybe at some point just thinking
6 about Sprague and, you know, it just begs the
7 discussion. And maybe we can put it on the agenda
8 about why interconnections are so important. And,
9 you know, there's a lot that we talk about here
10 that goes on behind the scenes with small systems.

11 And anyone who has visited a small -- when I
12 talk small, I'm talking 26 people. Right? That
13 are struggling to maintain their little system
14 with all of those 17 complicated Safe Drinking
15 Water Act rules that we administer within our
16 department along with all the other stuff that we
17 do.

18 So these small systems need a lot of help,
19 and I know looking at Jack, you know, we do a lot
20 of work to try to get these small systems into a
21 place where to make sure they have safe drinking
22 water. So maybe at some point we could put on the
23 agenda and have a conversation about that.

24 And you know, there should never be a
25 surprise like why a system like Sprague needs an

1 interconnection for the time of an emergency. You
2 know, there's so much coming our way. There's
3 PFAS. There's a lead and copper rule. There's --
4 who knows about climate change? Who knows about
5 the storms that we're yet to face?

6 So there's things about the resiliency and
7 durability of water systems that we need to talk
8 about, I think. So, Jack, maybe a time?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: You and I could do -- we could do
10 several case studies. I mean, we've had cases
11 that go on, you know, one going on right now --

12 We're getting almost to the end after what?
13 Four years.

14 LORI MATHIEU: A long time, yeah.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: And you know people on this call know
16 that all of the sudden these smaller water systems
17 who have been run by volunteers are getting older,
18 or moving, or whatever.

19 And they call Lori, or they me, or they call
20 their Legislator and say they don't want to be in
21 business anymore. And we're stuck, particularly
22 DEEP, DPH and ourselves to figure out what we're
23 going to do. And everything -- and usually it's
24 going to cost a lot of money.

25 And the next call is going to be the

1 Legislator who's -- why is this costing so much
2 money?

3 So it's something that I think we -- I made a
4 note that we should put an the agenda for future
5 discussion, absolutely.

6 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, Karen. You're up.

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Okay. Thank you. Just a couple
9 updates on what's been going on since the last
10 watershed lands workgroup meeting.

11 At that meeting a couple of pieces of
12 legislation were positively talked about and
13 received by all the members. One is the use of
14 road salt and the other was the testing of private
15 wells. And I'm happy to say as we speak right
16 now, that they're both moving forward. So I think
17 they were, both those bills were kind of almost
18 unanimously -- the agreement was that people
19 supported them.

20 Following the meeting, there also has been
21 additional discussion on how or what more can be
22 done to protect AA waters that are not currently
23 connected to a drinking water source. And I think
24 those discussions will continue. There have been
25 discussions between Margaret and Dan and John

1 Hudak, but that is another topic that will come up
2 again.

3 And the final thing that's been continuing is
4 that the watershed lands group had spent a lot of
5 time as well, as you all know, on the sighting of
6 solar projects on watershed land. And I think
7 that discussion is going to continue whether it be
8 through the advisory groups, comments to the DEEP
9 STEPS program and other discussions. So there's
10 still a lot going on and we'll have, I'm certain,
11 a good meeting in June, June 10th after the
12 legislative session is over.

13 And now that Margaret is on -- I cannot give
14 up the floor before I turn it over to Margaret to
15 see if she has anything else to say.

16 MARGARET MINER: Well, I think that we may be getting
17 some Conveyance Act action at GAE. So -- or Karen
18 and I, and everybody else will be watching that
19 closely to see if our efforts at reform are
20 implemented.

21 I just wanted to add, Jack and Dan -- Dave,
22 in connection with interconnections I think the
23 term "emergency" may be misleading me, and there
24 may be some better term for interconnections that
25 are not just for an emergency -- and it's

1 anticipated that they come down after the
2 emergency, but a permanent sort of as-needed
3 interconnection.

4 I think maybe the term was causing me to
5 question what I might not otherwise question. So
6 I wanted to add that. And I have no more on water
7 except we'll be watching CGA -- well, we will be
8 watching for conveyance bills.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Margaret. Karen, you're all
10 set?

11 KAREN BURNASKA: Yeah, all set. Thanks Jack.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

13 So moving on to other business. Lori, WUCC
14 update?

15 LORI MATHIEU: So I believe my colleague Eric McPhee is
16 on.

17 ERIC MCPHEE: Thanks, Lori. So, yeah. I had a
18 bulleted list here of things to talk about, and as
19 Dan was talking I crossed out most of them. So
20 thank you, Dan. It was a good update.

21 We do not have a date for the next WUCC
22 implementation meeting. There was a conflict for
23 the planned date. So we're looking at something
24 May 17th, 18th or 19th. We're going to firm up
25 that date soon, and then we'll post it.

1 And then the only other thing that Dan didn't
2 mention is that we've compiled all of the
3 submissions for the high quality source list
4 changes. We're going to review that internally at
5 DPH and then we'll share that with the WUCC,
6 because that's an important sort of planning tool
7 integrated with regional planning. So we're going
8 to review that, sit through it and then make some
9 updates to the list. Thanks.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric.

11 Any questions for Eric?

12
13 (No response.)
14

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much, Eric.

16 Private well update. Lori, that's yours as
17 well.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Just to follow along what Karen
19 mentioned, Bill 54-84 for private wells, I hope
20 that you have all been able to take a look at. It
21 was an agency bill by our department. It mirrored
22 exactly the white paper and the groups and the sub
23 groups led by Dr. Mike Dietz.

24 I want to thank everyone for that
25 information. It was the backbone -- it is the

1 backbone. Along with the USGS study on uranium
2 and arsenic -- is the backbone of the Bill 54-84.
3 Now there is some negative testimony there. It
4 did get voted out of committee in the Public
5 Health Committee. So there it's something to just
6 keep an eye on and keep watching. We hope that
7 it's successful moving its way through the
8 process.

9 I guess that's all I have to say at this
10 point.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much, Lori.

12 Interagency drought working group update.

13 Martin?

14 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Can I ask a question quick question
15 of Lori?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Sure.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Can you share with us what the
19 nature of the negative testimony was?

20 LORI MATHIEU: It's all published. It's up online.
21 Realtors Association, you might want to just check
22 it out. It's nothing we haven't heard before, you
23 know, historically.

24 I guess the concern is on, you know, at the
25 time of the sale of a home, it may harm the sale.

1 So you can check it out online. Maybe someone
2 could add it to the chat or add a link to it so
3 you could see it.

4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: It's ironic that the real estate
5 industry was invited several times to join the
6 workgroup and did not.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: They absolutely were and -- Graham just
8 put something up there.

9 LORI MATHIEU: There's Graham. He's on it. He's just
10 on it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: But you know, it's interesting. Real
12 estate, they'll be the same ones complaining if
13 they sell a house that has a well that comes back
14 in the future that has issues, and they end up
15 getting sued, or the previous homeowner. I don't
16 get it.

17 Okay. Anything else for Lori?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIRMAN: Now we move on to Martin and the drought
22 workgroup update.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. So no major
24 updates. The meeting for this Thursday is going
25 to be canceled. Just you know, notice might be in

1 your e-mail box, or it's going out today.

2 We do continue monitoring, you know, the
3 drought conditions and we are in the process of
4 drafting up revisions to the plan. As we've gone
5 through all of the recommendations we're starting
6 to look at some of the easy ones, if you will,
7 that can be implemented automatically.

8 Starting to go through, we've asked each of
9 the, you know, participating agencies to do the
10 same. So we've started in that process and we'll
11 be getting a draft out to all the members. And I
12 think it's actually going to be included with the
13 cancelation notice to continue working on that,
14 and then meet again in May.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Very good. Any questions for Martin?

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. The water planning chief position
20 update. Martin, do you have all our money for us
21 from OPM?

22 **MARTIN HEFT:** We have no money.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** The State is flush with cash.

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** I have to see. Well, hopefully if so
25 someone got into appropriations budget, which is

1 supposed to come out on Thursday.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Is that in the appropriations budget?

3 **MARTIN HEFT:** No. I'm not aware it is. I said, unless
4 somebody got it in.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Oh, unless somebody puts it into the
6 appropriations budget?

7 **MARTIN HEFT:** Right. There's been no set plan, no
8 dollar amount. So there's no way it would be in
9 any budget proposal that I'm aware of, because
10 there's not been any, you know, assertion of
11 dollar amounts or anything else, or budget-ized
12 numbers -- or anything that I've seen, anyways.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** You know, I'm just thinking out loud,
14 and then open it for discussion. I mean, the
15 issue we have discussing the past, you know I
16 think we're pretty set on the role and
17 responsibilities of the Water Planning Council
18 coordinator, czar, whatever you want to call it.

19 But the question is how we're going to pay
20 for it. And we talked about what we've done in
21 the past, we've looked at the agencies coming up
22 with an MOU. Maybe we could put something in an
23 implementer bill. I don't know. I'm open for
24 suggestions here.

25 **MARTIN HEFT:** Well, personally I think we're not to

1 that point yet of coming up with a budget,
2 everything. I mean, we haven't even fully
3 discussed the position, you know, as a council,
4 you know, as the four of us. I'm here to kind of
5 go through, look at funding, where it's going to
6 be housed.

7 I mean, we need to have a full plan before
8 I'm even willing to move it forward to even
9 suggest to even, you know, on the budget side for
10 OPM. I need to have a full plan in place of, you
11 know, who's going to be supervising the position?
12 What's the salary? What other costs are
13 associated?

14 I mean, we need a full plan before we, you
15 know, just throw it out there, if you will.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham, Lori?

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. No, I agree with Martin in
18 having a full plan in place is going to be
19 incredibly important to getting the funding. You
20 need to know what you're asking for.

21 And you know, I think just to reiterate my
22 point, particularly as we launch this I think the
23 easiest way to launch this would be through a
24 contracted resource. And then that way you can --
25 you have a lot more control over, you know,

1 satisfying that contract if the contract is not
2 something that's working out for the State. And
3 we write a decent contract, and we can terminate
4 that agreement.

5 That will give us some flexibility to ensure
6 that, you know, what we're getting out of this
7 resource meets the needs of the Council. It will
8 also help us maybe gain some experience with, you
9 know, adding a chief or executive director type
10 person to this organization.

11 And you know, maybe in the future, you know,
12 this person or office could be added to the state
13 side of the ledger. But I think in, you know, for
14 the next several years until we really understand
15 exactly what we need and how we want that person
16 to operate, or people to operate, you know, doing
17 this as a contracted resource would be -- A, it
18 would potentially be cheaper, because I don't know
19 that we need someone working, you know, 40-plus
20 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

21 You know, I'm thinking more like 25 hours,
22 you know, per week, 50 weeks per year. You know,
23 how much we're going to need, we may need to test
24 the market for that to even, you know, ask for
25 those funds whether they be, you know, like Martin

1 was alluding to, if they're appropriated we're
2 certainly going to need, you know, to add that
3 into the discussions.

4 I'm not sure at this point given where we are
5 with the position or the amount of money we would
6 need that we're going to get into a midterm budget
7 adjustment negotiation and be successful. My hope
8 and goal is that we put this together in a
9 comprehensive manner, taking the great information
10 we've been provided and align this with the next
11 biennial budget, you know, unless we can find
12 unappropriated funds in the interim that would
13 suffice to cover our needs.

14 So that's, you know, that's my feeling I
15 think in trying to bring on, you know, a state
16 employee to serve in this capacity given the four
17 agencies, where that person would sit, who their
18 supervisor would be -- like Martin said, does make
19 it a lot more difficult than bringing in a
20 contracted resource who would have the expertise
21 we needed on day one.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori?

23 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, I agree. I agree. I think, you
24 know, to Martin's point we would need to develop a
25 detailed budget, detailed work plans. And to me

1 it makes sense to put that together now over the
2 next couple months and try to move forward with
3 requesting some funding.

4 And again, not a state -- anyone trying to
5 hire state employees these days, it's become
6 incredibly difficult to hire in state government.
7 So contracting out makes a lot of sense to me.

8 You know, Graham, I would disagree. I think
9 this position would need to be 35 hours a week.
10 There's so much to do here. There's so much work,
11 there's so many subcommittees.

12 It's a full -- this is a full-time job. You
13 know, and I would hope that we could find maybe a
14 way in to find some funding support, because it is
15 so much. I mean, just looking at us aligning to
16 the GC3 is important for us to do and it's going
17 to take some time to make sure that we fill out
18 that survey correctly. And then we need to
19 realign the state water plan.

20 So you know, another piece of this is, maybe
21 what we should ask for is a little bit of funding
22 so that we can update the state water plan. You
23 know, because right now it's becoming irrelevant,
24 irrelevant very quickly. It's getting old very
25 fast.

1 And you know, just the GC3 alone is going to
2 push us, you know, into the next timeframe where
3 we're going to look at this plan and say, yeah. A
4 lot of pieces and parts need to be updated.

5 So I'd be willing to work on a budget, as
6 Martin had described.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, I'm not going to retreat from my
8 comments last meeting. I'd like to get this
9 person up and running by July 1st of this year.
10 And maybe I'm overly optimistic, but the
11 implementation workgroup spent a lot of time and
12 effort working on this plan.

13 And I worked for the State for many, many
14 years. And where there's a will there's a way,
15 and we have consultants working for us, all of our
16 agencies. Somehow we managed to do it. And I
17 think that somehow we can do this.

18 And I do agree with what everybody's saying
19 in terms of, not an employee, but let's start
20 putting an RFP out for a consultant, at least to
21 start up with. And you know we have statutory
22 authority, as you know, at our shop to assess it.
23 I mean, we do -- you know we do assessments on
24 utilities.

25 I mean, we're not talking a whole lot of

1 money if we want to have the water companies all
2 be assessed a little bit towards this. I'm sure
3 that most of them would not be opposed to that.
4 So I think that there's possibility.

5 Now what I'm suggesting is that we meet later
6 this month to discuss the survey response, that we
7 devote part of that, that meeting to coming up
8 with the budget for this position in time. And
9 then we can move this forward at the May meeting.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

11 MARTIN HEFT: If I may, Mr. chairman, add a couple of
12 pieces?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

14 MARTIN HEFT: As we're going to discuss this later, a
15 couple of notes that I made here just so we make
16 sure we, you know, are in compliance and review
17 everything that we need to review.

18 One is, as Lori had mentioned about, you
19 know, even seeking funding for, you know, periodic
20 updates. Everything statutorily, we are supposed
21 to be doing that and submitting a report to a
22 legislative body every January 1st. I'm not aware
23 if that's been done or not.

24 Obviously, that's all part of, you know, one
25 of our roles, that on or before January 1st we're

1 supposed to submit a report to the General
2 Assembly about, you know, where we are with the
3 water plan implementation and everything else on
4 it. Obviously we know that that's just talked
5 about, you know, within this position about making
6 sure that that's done.

7 Some of the questions, you know, that we're
8 also going to need to address is statutorily do we
9 have the authority to contract or hire with
10 somebody. Reading through the statutes that
11 enable us, I'm not sure if we as a water planning
12 council do -- but I'm not an attorney.

13 I don't see anything in there that says we
14 can establish a working group, but it doesn't say
15 anything about, you know, having staff or anything
16 else in the statutes. And that may be fine, but
17 you know, obviously we should make sure that
18 that's reviewed, that there is not a problem, you
19 know, in that sense regarding the statutes that
20 make up the Water Planning Council.

21 Additionally, I know in the report that came
22 back on the planning chief -- as we're talking a
23 budget, there was an additional part-time
24 assistant for clerical type duties. That was the
25 first I read about it once it was in there. I

1 mean, that's all part of a budget and everything
2 else that we have to look at -- but that was the
3 first.

4 I was kind of shocked when I saw that because
5 that was never discussed when we were discussing
6 this position. You know, that -- oh. Now we're
7 looking at two people, and only one person. So
8 there was some new information in there.

9 Then additionally, since this has been, you
10 know, the plan was finally adopted I know in, you
11 know, June 5th of 2019, the state water plan --
12 even though it was submitted back, you know, a
13 couple of times in '18 and had difficulty getting
14 through, you know, with two and a half years since
15 the adoption, why has this not been requested
16 prior?

17 These are just questions. I'm not looking
18 for answers now, you know, on it, but these are
19 things that I look at that are going to be asked
20 of us, you know, presenting this that we're going
21 to have to have answers for and responses for all
22 of this because they're going to -- this is where
23 it's, you know, how they analyze things, whether
24 it be for funding or if legislative approval, or
25 anything else that's needed.

1 So I just started jotting down some of the
2 notes that I think we may be asked that we should
3 also address at our next meeting.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Virginia, I see your hand. Is your hand
5 raised?

6 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Yes. Just a clarification point
7 with the administrative support. As we went in
8 developing that plan, as we went through all the
9 duties there were a lot that were administrative
10 in nature. And we felt very strongly that the
11 position itself should be a high level position
12 and that the person should not be spending most of
13 their time doing that.

14 Ideally it would be a separate person. But
15 we recognize that that potentially causes
16 budgetary problems. And that role could be filled
17 by existing agency staff being assigned to support
18 that individual, as Sharon Mann did in the past.

19 So that was the intent, that it's not
20 necessarily a new hire, but rather that the
21 position will need administrative support.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Lori, anything further?

23 **LORI MATHIEU:** I think to Martin's point, it's well
24 taken. We have to make sure that we're upholding
25 our responsibilities. You know, one of the first

1 things that's right out of the gate of the state
2 water plan was -- I think the second item was hire
3 a water chief. You know, and let's never forget.
4 Right? The last two years have been COVID hell.

5 Right?

6 So some people, you know, you've got to
7 remember, you know, right when we finished all of
8 this and we wanted to get rolling, things changed
9 in all of our lives.

10 One thing, though, I want to get back on
11 track. Because I think that, you know, finding
12 the funding, getting the budget ready, hiring a
13 staff person, having the administrative support is
14 important, but also updating this plan.

15 And I think that we can't do our work without
16 money. Right?

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Right. And you're absolutely right,
18 Lori. And that, you're reading my mind, because
19 I'm thinking we not only have to look at this, but
20 we have to look at the consultant to upgrade --
21 update the plan, but also to coordinate the plans.
22 So I mean, we might have to do it all at once. We
23 have to come up with a budget for both.

24 So again at that, at a special meeting we'll
25 discuss this more. Hopefully maybe some of us --

1 two of us, Lori, you and I -- or we can offline
2 come up with some numbers.

3 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, I think we should. We've got to
4 keep the plan rolling.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, absolutely. Okay. Any other
6 comments on this?

7
8 (No response.)
9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, we're going to talk about the
11 priorities. Graham?

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, Jack. I wanted to just mention
13 something to folks.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: So with respect to the priorities, you
16 know I think that we had some good discussions. I
17 think our first go around with respect to the
18 priorities in trying to see, you know, what each
19 agencies' priorities are, and thoughts are on each
20 individual priority, or priority of the state
21 water plan of which there are many.

22 And one thing that I was thinking about
23 particularly in light of, you know, Lori's
24 comments that, hey. This plan needs to be
25 updated, whether that be through different

1 additional data analysis or ensuring that we are
2 addressing all of the items that we should be with
3 respect to health equity, equity in general and
4 climate change resilience and adaptation.

5 So maybe one of the better ways -- maybe a
6 better way to do this as a first step is for each
7 agency to really have an in-depth conversation in
8 house and come back to the Water Planning Council
9 and just, you know, go through some of our top
10 priorities -- right?

11 Because I think that there's not really
12 things or priorities that are in the state water
13 plan that are not priorities -- but what are our
14 top priorities which will help us set our goals
15 particularly with this water chief coming on for
16 the next two or three years? Right?

17 So I look at it more like, you know, what are
18 our priority actions over the next few years?
19 What's going to guide us as a council in what we
20 do over the next few years? So maybe in lieu of
21 what we have been doing in the past as going down
22 item by item, we could postpone the discussion on
23 this topic other than maybe what I'm suggesting
24 and see if folks agree.

25 And then come back and maybe each agency

1 representative could do a bit of a presentation on
2 the top priorities for that agency and what its
3 various roles with respect to the state water plan
4 would be over the next several years.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's a great idea. And
6 perhaps at our main meeting we can come up with --
7 have the quick reports from the workgroups, of
8 today's group and the Water Planning Council and
9 devote the whole meeting to this.

10 And you know at that point we might
11 hopefully -- I'm being optimistic. We'll just
12 talk about the money for the budget, for the czar
13 and for a contract to come and help us update the
14 plan, but mostly which is all tied in the
15 priorities of the Council as well.

16 So yes, I think that's a great idea.

17 Virginia, is your hand raised again?

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes, it is. The last go round the
19 implementation workgroup took on the
20 responsibility of collating the priorities that
21 came from each of the agencies and summarized
22 those to look at where the overlap was.

23 And we would be willing to do that again if
24 you would like us to.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Would we like them to?

1 LORI MATHIEU: I think what Graham came up with was
2 really very good, because of what we have to do I
3 think as agencies -- what I have to do.

4 I'm just looking at my -- this little list
5 that I sent you in July of 2018. Right? And so
6 what is it? Drought planning, aging
7 infrastructure, sufficient high quality sources,
8 water conservation, health equity, consistency
9 with existing state plans and private wells, those
10 seven points.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Just resubmit. Just resubmit that.

12 LORI MATHIEU: I'm going to resubmit -- but that some
13 of them are moving, which is really very cool.
14 Right? So private wells, right? Drought; Martin
15 has done an excellent job. Like, all of us have
16 worked so hard in the drought plan.

17 You know the times have changed. Aging
18 infrastructure, the infrastructure money is here
19 and how we invest that is important. So you know
20 high quality sources are never going to be
21 something we're going to drop off of our list.
22 And what Eric mentioned about having that list
23 updated is important to us.

24 So -- and water conservation. I hear from
25 our friend and colleague Mary Ann Dickinson how

1 disappointed she is that we haven't moved forward
2 with those efforts, you know, for fixtures in
3 Connecticut.

4 So you know that those are still going to be
5 my, you know, the Health Department's items. I'll
6 go back and circle back with my new commissioner,
7 you know, and see where we're at.

8 But Health equity, I think Graham mentioned,
9 you know, was -- remember? If you remember one of
10 our last meetings when we, you know, Jack, when we
11 were talking about the state water plan, Section 7
12 in particular. Like, we were running out of time.

13 And Commissioner Pino at the time said, you
14 know, we need to put health equity within the
15 state water plan. And there's a little -- tiny
16 little mention in there right now.

17 But I think that that has become so prevalent
18 during COVID and the use of the social
19 vulnerability index under CDC, you know, that
20 needs to start to get thought about. You know,
21 inequities, disadvantaged communities, how the
22 infrastructure money is going to push us in a
23 direction to help the people that need the help
24 the most with this funding.

25 So times are changing and we have to evolve

1 with where we're headed. So I would absolutely
2 agree with Graham. I think we should step back,
3 talk to our leadership, but then, you know, bring
4 it forward next time and have a conversation.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Martin?

6 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, I'm in agreement with that process.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Sounds good. Okay. Before we go to
8 public comment I just wanted to bring up once
9 again that I'd like to acknowledge -- Corinne, has
10 Corinne retired?

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Sadly Corinne Fitting has retired from
12 the state service.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: At the end of March?

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. I told her it wasn't allowed,
15 but she laughed at me.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: She's fantastic. So I'd like to send
17 both she and Lou acknowledgment on behalf of
18 council for their efforts and all the work they
19 did.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Fantastic, Jack.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Sounds good.

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: I couldn't support that more.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: I'll do that. I'll write something, and
24 if you trust me to write it. I'll copy you and --
25 I'm going to sign it from all of you so you'll get

1 a copy of it.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, please.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: Sounds good. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else under
5 business?

6
7 (No response.)

8
9 THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to set up a meeting at the
10 end of the month again to discuss the survey,
11 discuss the position, and the budgeting position
12 and perhaps they consultant moving forward as
13 well.

14 Any public comment?

15 MARGARET MINER: Jack, this is Margaret. I do have two
16 comments.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please?

18 MARGARET MINER: Okay. I do support and hope it will
19 work out your idea of having at least something
20 ready for the budget implementer. And the
21 language of those implementers is not always
22 terribly precise.

23 I'm not sure we have to work out every detail
24 in order to get something useful into the
25 implementer, or one of the implementers. So I

1 just wanted to support you on that point.

2 Second, I may have zoomed -- I may have told
3 the whole group -- I'm not sure. I was concerned
4 about partly the budget implementation group. And
5 I don't know if I'm looking at the right group.
6 It's the one that starts very nicely with Chris
7 Bellucci and Denise Savageau, but also sort of the
8 trend of the planning.

9 We worked hard to get into the water plan
10 equal attention to health of upland waters,
11 headwaters, mountain streams, high wetlands,
12 habitat for high quality -- for wildlife, and high
13 quality ecological water resources, including
14 groundwater, whether -- even if there's no plan to
15 use them for drinking water sources, and perhaps
16 especially if there's no plan.

17 And glancing quickly -- and I think I texted
18 Alecia, but when I was looking at that group and I
19 wasn't sure I was looking at the right group, I
20 thought, well, Chris really knows the science and
21 Denise really knows the policy and the science --
22 but where do we go from there?

23 Do we have enough people who are paying
24 attention to the green infrastructure and the
25 resource that isn't for public consumption in the

1 very near future?

2 And then listening as the discussion went on,
3 and I'm very interested in interconnections and
4 how they can be used, but there seems to be very
5 little attention to the natural waters mission
6 that is incorporated in the state water plan. And
7 I do feel we might be losing sight of that.

8 I'm not sure that the group I was looking
9 at -- if I named it correctly, but as I went
10 quickly down through it I thought, how are our
11 brook trout going to do in this, in these
12 discussions? And I wanted to express that
13 concern. That's really it.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Margaret.

15 Any other public comments?

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, our next meeting -- well, we're
20 going to have a special meeting, but our next
21 regular scheduled meeting will be on May -- I
22 think it's May 3rd.

23 And if there's no other business to come
24 before us, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 **LORI MATHIEU:** So moved.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Second.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made, and a seconded.

3 All those in favor signify by saying, aye?

4 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you all very much. Thank you,
6 Councilors. Thank all the stakeholders, all the
7 people that support the Council.

8 Appreciate it very much.

9

10 (End: 2:58 p.m.)

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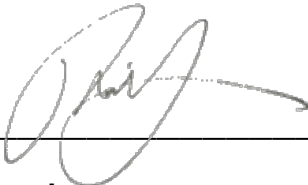
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 70 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 April 4, 2022.



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