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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
May 3, 2022, beginning at 1:30 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 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

10 **MARGARET MINER**

11 **KAREN BURNASKA**

12 **DAVID RADKA**

13 **DAN LAWRENCE**

14 **ERIC McPHEE**

15
16 **Staff:**

17 **LAURA LUPOLI**

18 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
2 the Water Planning Council meeting from May 3,
3 2022. I call this meeting to order.

4 The first order of minutes will be to accept
5 the April 5, 2022, transcript. Do I have a motion
6 to accept?

7 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Motion made and seconded that the
10 3/5/'22 transcript be accepted.

11 Any questions?

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: The motion carries.

19 Public comment -- I'm going to call on Lori
20 to wish everyone a happy, happy drinking water,
21 state drinking water week.

22 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. So thank you, Jack. It is
23 drinking water week. Typically the Health
24 Department, to celebrate the national drinking
25 water week, we typically prior to COVID were

1 working on a number of different initiatives to
2 present awards to operators and to water systems
3 across our state that had essentially achievement
4 awards and are doing good work to sustain their
5 systems -- or water systems, and operators that
6 are doing great work over their career.

7 This is now the third year that we have
8 suspended that because of COVID. We hope to be
9 able to kick start that up again next year and be
10 able to get that moving forward again.

11 To celebrate, what Jack and I have decided to
12 do is to is to initiate -- and we've talked about
13 this before with Dave Kuzminski. We, Jack and I
14 recently -- well, probably six weeks ago or so
15 ago -- Jack, we did a podcast.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Uh-huh.

17 **LORI MATHIEU:** But we're going to do -- Dave has asked
18 us again to go back as part, to represent the
19 Water Planning Council and to kick off maybe a
20 series of podcasts on behalf of the Water Planning
21 Council. Jack and I are looking for a date for
22 next week or the week after to talk about our
23 initiatives and priorities moving forward to
24 update the state water plan and our budget, and
25 the water chief, and everything that we've been

1 talking about.

2 So I know that's not the best of all
3 celebrations and not what we're used to, but COVID
4 has certainly interrupted what we have typically
5 done. But we want to say to celebrate this
6 week -- it's important to celebrate all of your
7 work out there, all of your volunteers, and to
8 celebrate all of us in the work that we've been
9 working so hard to do.

10 Not even five years ago we didn't have a
11 state water plan. So all of our efforts are
12 moving in the right direction. So
13 congratulations. Thank you, Jack.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Now I want to put Alecia
15 Charamut on the spot, and ask how her rowing went
16 last week. How did your rowing -- which I thought
17 was a really novel approach you had to raising
18 money and I'm curious how it went?

19 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** Well, I decided to torture myself to
20 celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Inland
21 Wetlands and Watercourses Act as well as Rivers
22 Alliance's 30th anniversary over the two days of
23 Connecticut community foundations Give Local.

24 So on my rowing machine, my erg, I rowed 50K
25 on the first day, and 30K on the second day -- not

1 all at once, in pieces.

2 I actually only needed a day of alternating
3 between Tylenol and Motrin, and that by Friday I
4 no longer needed that. But it was not as bad as I
5 thought -- and it was effective, and it was fun.
6 It was really fun.

7 So thanks. Thanks, Jack for --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, well done. And she donated part
9 of that whole effort to the inception of the state
10 water plan, and we thank her for that. So we
11 appreciate that.

12 I got tired just reading what you were doing.
13 I said, oh, my goodness. So well done.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And podcasts, listened to a lot of
15 podcasts.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I'm sure. Any other public comment
17 or correspondence before we move on?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIRMAN: So let's get right to the implementation
22 workgroup. David or Virginia?

23 DAVID RADKA: I don't believe Virginia is available, so
24 I'll do it quick --

25 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think she's with us today.

1 DAVID RADKA: Okay. We last met in April. We had all
2 of our members present, both continuing and newly
3 appointed. So we just want to thank you for doing
4 so at the last regular meeting.

5 I think you're fairly familiar with the
6 ongoing work of the outreach and education topical
7 sub workgroup, but to quickly recap for everyone
8 else, they've been planning two webinars.

9 The first is on -- the next upcoming one is
10 on May 11th. So a little over a week from today.
11 We'll be on wetlands and climate change
12 resiliency, and registration is now open. I think
13 Laura sent out a link to that.

14 I believe as of yesterday there were 40
15 registrations, which is good for online
16 registration. The next webinar will be June 8th
17 on rivers and watercourses, and it's still being
18 finalized. They're also working on a story board
19 developing that around historic wetland protection
20 work up to and including the state water plan
21 adoption and some implementation efforts.

22 Joe Cunningham from DEEP did create some
23 branding design concepts for both the state water
24 plan and the Planning Council. I think those have
25 been forwarded to you -- but we did review those

1 at our last meeting. And we took a bit of a straw
2 poll, I guess. And overwhelmingly all liked
3 the -- I guess it was number two of the two.

4 I don't have those in front of me, but I do
5 believe that you have copies of those.

6 Finally, I guess the workgroup will be
7 looking at a state website, because they've been
8 trying to work on with outreach and education on
9 fixes to what they see as their problems. So
10 they're going to develop, like, a one-pager on
11 what those problems are and what they see as --
12 would like to see those fixes, which I think will
13 flow nicely into hopefully some water chief
14 responsibilities.

15 And for anyone who's interested, their next
16 meeting is on May 5th, 9:30 in the morning.

17 The implementation tracking reporting
18 workgroup has completed their draft report. This
19 has been forwarded to both the implementation
20 workgroup and the advisory group, and both of
21 those we'll do at our respective meetings and
22 provide comments back to the workgroup.

23 At this point I anticipate we would be
24 getting you the final report with recommendations
25 in maybe a month or so.

1 And I guess lastly I would say one thing the
2 implementation workgroup does do at our monthly
3 meetings is we do spend time discussing and
4 updating members who don't really sit in on these
5 meetings in the status of what some of our prior
6 recommendations are such as, you know, OPM's work
7 to update the drought plan processes, DPH efforts
8 to move domestic well language forward, the water
9 planning chief position, things like that.

10 And I just want to say members really
11 appreciate seeing how the work that we do is being
12 moved forward, and it's being acted on by the
13 Council. So it's really, you know, on behalf of
14 all of us it's very gratifying and in some ways
15 very energizing to see that move forward. So
16 thank you for that.

17 So our next meeting is next week at one
18 o'clock for anyone that's interested.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And thank you, Dave. Any questions for
20 Dave? I know Virginia sent out the information
21 for the meeting on the 10th already.

22
23 (No response.)

24
25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and Virginia, and the group

1 for your continuing support and efforts on behalf
2 of Water Planning Council. We appreciate that.

3 Moving on to Water Planning Council advisory
4 group update. Dan or Alecia?

5 DAN LAWRENCE: Hey, Jack. It's Dan. I just got in --
6 so give me two seconds.

7 So we had a meeting and a good one. We've
8 been continuing to talk through things that have
9 come through the WUCC. And so we focused on this
10 past meeting the emergency interconnections and
11 interconnections.

12 So we had a presentation that Sam did around
13 the interconnection roadmap in the WUCC, what the
14 WUCC was working on, talked about that a bit.
15 Much of the conversation revolved around a
16 proposal from Connecticut DEEP on a general permit
17 category for emergency interconnections; lots of
18 questions.

19 Doug Hodgkins presented, and I thought he did
20 a nice job laying out what the permit would allow
21 someone to do, and what it would not allow someone
22 to do. And then he left with a handful of
23 questions to think about from the group, but it
24 was a lengthy conversation. And I didn't jot down
25 everyone's particular questions, but a lot of them

1 had to do with, you know, which sources can be
2 used, timing of, you know, getting approvals and
3 those kind of things.

4 So I did see Lori Mathieu sent over a letter
5 supporting it, so I appreciate that. And then we
6 did some general business overall, and that's kind
7 of how we ended -- is that was a pretty lengthy
8 session overall.

9 Any questions on that?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dan.

11 DAN LAWRENCE: You're welcome.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for Dan from Councilmembers?
13

14 (No response.)
15

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Karen Burnaska, watershed lands group
17 update.

18 KAREN BURNASKA: Sure. And I will start and the
19 cleanup will be Margaret, who generally has more
20 information than I do. One update I'd like to
21 give the Water Planning Council today is in your
22 support and our support of the supplement to the
23 GAE land conveyance questionnaire.

24 It was used this year. It was sent out with
25 the questionnaire in the supplement that had

1 information, requested information on
2 environmental issues regarding the parcel of land.

3 Both the questionnaire and the supplement
4 were posted on the CGA's website, however I am not
5 sure and never received an answer if the
6 information was up prior to the deadline to submit
7 written testimony for the public hearing.

8 I will say that when I questioned the GAE
9 clerk, she did tell me that testimony can be
10 submitted after the public hearing if we wanted,
11 but I don't know if that information was up prior
12 to having to submit the written testimony.

13 While that was all good and we appreciate
14 their help, we still have concerns about the
15 specificity of the information -- or really, the
16 lack of information that is included in the GAE
17 conveyance bills. It does not always have the use
18 of the land. A lot of the information that we
19 felt -- that we feel is very important is not
20 included in the bill.

21 So we will be continuing our discussion of
22 this at the watershed lands workgroup meeting on
23 June 10th. We did have specific concerns over one
24 particular conveyance, and that was a very small
25 parcel of land. It was a small parcel of land

1 that was taken from the state forest, and it was
2 conveyed.

3 And that was approved by both the GAE
4 committee and with the bare minimum Of votes, two
5 thirds votes needed from the Senate -- however, it
6 is still moving forward. But I think Margaret has
7 been doing a lot of reconnaissance on some of
8 these bills, and I'm going to turn the floor over
9 to her.

10 Margaret?

11 MARGARET MINER: Oh. Hi, Karen. "E" is on 491. One
12 thing I think we learned. We did appreciate that
13 GAE responded to our request for an enhanced
14 questionnaire. That's true, but we learned that
15 if the questionnaire -- if the information in the
16 questionnaire doesn't appear in the bill, its
17 usefulness is somewhat limited.

18 With 491 it was one of those -- it comes
19 under the constitutional amendment because it
20 involved conservation land, Housatonic Meadows
21 State Park, which has been in the news quite a
22 lot, anyway. And it was a small piece, under an
23 acre with some dispute as to how small. DEEP came
24 up with a different measurement than the
25 applicant.

1 No use was described in the bill, but in the
2 application form, which was from Craig Miner, it
3 was specified that the current use is open space
4 and the future use is open space. There was no
5 reverter clause.

6 It is one of those little pieces that will
7 make a presently nonconforming lot owned by
8 St. Brigid's Church into a conforming lot -- and
9 we're told that the church has some interest in
10 selling that piece.

11 So we're not -- it's impossible to tell at
12 this point what would eventually appear on the
13 sole conforming lot whether, you know, how you
14 calculate open space is, you know, it varies. But
15 the designation "open space" isn't even in the
16 bill. So it's basically a blank check.

17 Now it passed with exactly two thirds
18 majority in the Senate -- which I congratulate
19 leadership on their counting skills. And Karen is
20 right, it's now in the House and where people are
21 trying to draw attention to it, I think
22 successfully.

23 It certainly highlights that if we want to
24 talk about -- if we want to succeed in having true
25 scrutiny of conveyances of land designed to

1 protect natural resources, we are not there yet.
2 So that's something, as Karen said, we'll be
3 talking about.

4 Some other issues that came up this session
5 that we'll be taking up in the group, I believe we
6 want to be sure we understand the underlying law.
7 We want to be sure DPH is always the DPH we know.

8 And I would like to thank Dan; the discussion
9 on interconnections which sometimes becomes
10 relevant to watershed lands has been extremely
11 helpful. So this session so far has given us some
12 important questions to go back to and discuss
13 again.

14 That's it.

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

16 Any questions for Margaret?

17
18 (No response.)
19

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Karen, does that conclude your report?

21 **MARGARET MINER:** Oh, wait. Let me add one thing. In
22 the GAE vote there was no testimony in favor of
23 giving away any part of Housatonic Meadows lands.
24 All the testimony including Connecticut Forests
25 And Parks, Connecticut Land Conservation Council,

1 Rivers Alliance was against it.

2 The committee had no questions of Connecticut
3 Forest and park Association, no discussion of the
4 act or of doing it -- maybe amending the bill. It
5 passed unanimously in about four seconds.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Government at its best.

7 Right, Margaret?

8 MARGARET MINER: I will say that some of the members of
9 GAE voted against it in the house -- I mean, in
10 the Senate when they had a chance to look at it.
11 And if I haven't mixed up the votes, originally it
12 was unanimous. Is that right, Karen?

13 And then in the Senate they were ten votes
14 against. And we wrote and thanked all those
15 people who went out on a limb and voted, voted
16 against the conveyance.

17 KAREN BURNASKA: My only other comment, Jack -- not on
18 this, but on another piece of legislation that I
19 hope Lori will bring up is that the watershed
20 lands group was following the DPH recommendation
21 on the testing of private wells. I believe there
22 was a change, there was a strike-all amendment
23 last Friday, last Friday afternoon.

24 I don't exactly know where it stands right
25 now. I don't know if, you know, Lori has any more

1 information on it, but that was a bill that the
2 watershed lands group was interested in, as was
3 the use of road salt bill, which I believe is
4 moving forward also.

5 So that's it, Jack. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. That's a nice
7 segue actually into other businesses. We're going
8 to hear a WUCC update, and private well update.

9 Lori?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack. Yes. So I hope my
11 colleague Eric McPhee is on to talk about the
12 WUCC.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: He is.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Eric?

15 ERIC MCPHEE: I am here. I've got my scribbles here.
16 So just a quick update. We are in full swing with
17 meetings. The eastern WUCC has a meeting on May
18 18th at one o'clock, on Zoom. That will be on the
19 website, and an e-mail will go out to the
20 interested party list. If you're not on that
21 list, we can certainly add you -- but it will post
22 on our website.

23 And then WUCC implementation continues its
24 discussion on May 19th at one o'clock. That will
25 be on Teams. And again, please spread the word.

1 We can put anyone on that list. And it's an open
2 discussion, not just for WUCC members. The more
3 the merrier, and hoping to have a continued
4 discussion on some of our outreach efforts both
5 for municipalities for interconnections.

6 I forgot to mention one of the things on the
7 Eastern WUCC agenda is elections. We continue to
8 struggle with leadership roles in the WUCCs and
9 also getting younger people involved. So you
10 know, the idea would be to bring a younger person
11 along with you to these meetings and let them
12 start to get involved and aware of the things that
13 we talk about and sort of these bigger picture
14 issues that are important for the state.

15 And then, finally -- I think Dan mentioned
16 this already -- is we're going to continue our
17 discussion with Water Planning Council advisory
18 group on May 17th at one o'clock to talk about our
19 municipal outreach efforts.

20 That's it for me. Thank you.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric. And as we'd like to
22 say versus younger people -- newer people to
23 meetings. And a point well taken; in the eastern
24 WUCC we're struggling to replace the people that
25 have left and have retired, the leadership there.

1 And we want -- there is still chairs,
2 correct? In the Eastern WUCC, Eric?

3 ERIC McPHEE: The eastern WUCC is fine. The central
4 WUCC -- as I look at Mr. Radka, the central WUCC
5 is struggling with finding new faces for --
6 there's one potential, but obviously we have to go
7 through the standard electric process. We
8 probably need two additional positions that no one
9 has stepped up for in the central WUCC.

10 Western WUCC is fine.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Western WUCC is what?

12 ERIC McPHEE: Fine, we have no issues.

13 LORI MATHIEU: It's fine?

14 ERIC McPHEE: Yes.

15 LORI MATHIEU: So the eastern WUCC is fine?

16 ERIC McPHEE: Currently it is. It is, yeah, but
17 they're going through the election process at the
18 next meeting.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

20 ERIC McPHEE: The place that we're struggling most is
21 in central.

22 LORI MATHIEU: Is central?

23 ERIC McPHEE: Yeah.

24 LORI MATHIEU: All right. And again, Eric -- what Eric
25 could do, we could -- Chair Betkoski, if you'd

1 like, maybe take this e-mail list of everyone
2 who's on this e-mail list, which is extensive, and
3 invite everyone to the WUCC meetings -- if you're
4 okay with that?

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think that's great. You kind of
6 reading my mind. So give us a little bit of a
7 refresher on who's on the WUCC committee?

8 I mean, I know you kind of --

9 **LORI MATHIEU:** Well, the WUCC is by statute there, the
10 membership are public water systems and the
11 council of governments. So there's three areas.
12 Right? You've got the central core and then you
13 have the east and the west, and they are aligned
14 with the nine council of governments.

15 So in the east you have -- what the eastern
16 is made up of is the northeast and the southeast
17 COG. Right? Essentially that's the boundary.

18 In the central core there's three council of
19 governments, and in the central part of
20 Connecticut -- and in the West it's made up of the
21 four council of governments.

22 You know you've got the Northwest Hills and
23 in the west, and then you've got the Bridgeport --
24 I'm forgetting the other one.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Naugatuck Valley?

1 LORI MATHIEU: Right, the one that you live in, Jack.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Don't forget the Naugatuck Valley now.

3 LORI MATHIEU: Sorry. Sorry. Naugatuck Valley. So
4 those are the boundaries. So you have the
5 members -- but everyone is welcome. It's open to
6 the public. We publicize the information.

7 People are allowed to come and speak, but we
8 have an agenda. We have the agenda set. What
9 Eric is tasked with doing within our team is to
10 implement the WUCC plans. The WUCC plans were
11 signed off on and approved by Commissioner Pino
12 back in -- I want to say the Year '18 -- if that's
13 correct, Eric?

14 You can update me on the date -- but at the
15 tail end of the Year '18 I think Commissioner Pino
16 had signed off.

17 January of '18?

18 ERIC McPHEE: January of 2019.

19 LORI MATHIEU: 2019. January of 2019 Commissioner Pino
20 signed off and approved all three WUCC plans.
21 What we're doing now is implementing. So we're
22 highlighting priorities, which is within each one
23 of the structured WUCC meetings.

24 And we need leadership. Right? We need
25 chairs. We need cochairs. We need people to

1 attend and to talk in those regions about the
2 regional issues and tee up those items that are
3 important.

4 Interconnections, emergency interconnections
5 has been a prevalent discussion and there's a lot
6 of great work that's ongoing there. So --

7 ERIC MCPHEE: Am I permitted to add something? Can I
8 add something to that?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, absolutely.

10 ERIC MCPHEE: Just for people that aren't super
11 familiar with the WUCCs. You know, most of the
12 effort now is focused on WUCC implementation and
13 taking the recommendations from the coordinated
14 plans, you know, and implementing them.

15 The three regional WUCCs for the most part
16 these days are doing the day-to-day work that the
17 WUCCs are tasked with, approving a new water
18 system or doing regional work to, you know, assess
19 how a need is met in terms of water supply needs,
20 and things like that.

21 So you know, sort of the nuts and bolts of
22 the regions are still done by the individual WUCC.
23 Part of the reason we're having difficulty with
24 leadership is that so much of the effort is
25 focused on the WUCC implementation, which is a

1 statewide effort.

2 So in effect, there's four, four entities.
3 There's the three regional WUCCs and then the
4 broader WUCC implementation group that has a lot
5 more involvement with implementation.

6 LORI MATHIEU: That implementation group is something
7 where at the tail end of the WUCC process we
8 wanted to tee up a summary document that
9 summarized everything. Because for a lot of
10 people, those documents are literally this thick,
11 like, eight inches thick. Right? So no one in
12 their right mind is going to read all that.

13 So we produced -- with a consultant we
14 produced a nice ten-page summary document and then
15 a two-pager which describes the process. So if
16 anyone is interested, Eric could maybe throw it
17 into the Zoom's chat here to show these documents.
18 So if you're interested in knowing more about the
19 WUCC, you could read the two-page or the ten-pager
20 which does a great job of summarizing the process.

21 And again, if you want involvement in any one
22 of these processes, please, you're more than
23 welcome to attend.

24 And Jack, if you're okay with it, Eric can
25 utilize this e-mail, all this, this bundle of

1 e-mails that we have here for all the people that
2 are part of this team and share the information
3 and send the invites?

4 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Absolutely. And Eric and Lori, thank
5 you. I mean, the WUCC is a very important
6 component of what we do in the water business.
7 And we've had issues over the years, as Lori
8 knows, in Southeastern Connecticut where the WUCC
9 was very much a decision maker, if you will, when
10 it was like a water war down in that part of the
11 state.

12 And it was -- I remember it was one of the
13 first WUCC meetings I went to. It was rather
14 contentious.

15 So they do have a lot of authority when it
16 comes to water supply in the state of Connecticut.
17 And Eric, thank you for spearheading that effort,
18 for sure.

19 So any other comments on WUCCs before we move
20 onto private well update?

21
22 (No response.)
23

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori? Karen talked a little bit about
25 that.

1 LORI MATHIEU: So next up is private wells.

2 So yes, House Bill 5500 -- as Karen
3 mentioned, there was a strike-all amendment.

4 Essentially, you know when you work in the
5 Legislature you don't always get what you would
6 like. So I can talk about this more once it
7 passes, because the language is still draft.

8 We hope that it passes as part of 5500.
9 House Bill 5500 is the various revisions bill on
10 behalf of the Department of Public Health.
11 There's been a lot of discussion with various
12 groups about the proposal for mandatory testing on
13 property transfer as came through Dr. Dietz's
14 workgroup and the white paper that was written --
15 and it came through all of us.

16 And we said, yes, this is a great idea on
17 property transfer to test. Make it a mandatory
18 test for private wells.

19 Well, it apparently is not working out in
20 getting everything that we wanted. It's now
21 speaking to this idea of on property transfer, or
22 potential property transfer, that educational
23 information would be provided to the potential
24 buyer.

25 And so again, it's language that we can work

1 with. It's not everything that we were moving
2 forward with, but it's language that we can work
3 with, that we can make work for us. And again,
4 it's not a mandatory test on property transfer.

5 The one -- another big effort as Karen
6 mentioned that tie in on the other efforts and the
7 concerns that many legislators have had with
8 private well contamination, and just coming to our
9 department, our local health departments about,
10 what are the issues? Where do you know the issues
11 are for private wells?

12 How many private wells -- the questions we
13 got, very prevalent questions -- how many wells
14 are contaminated with sodium chloride and where
15 are they? And what are the solutions to help them
16 out?

17 Right? What are the sources of
18 contamination? Where is it coming from? You know
19 our colleagues at DEEP -- and Graham will know as
20 we get involved and work together on all of these
21 issues. But the questions we get at the Health
22 Department is, give us the data system that tells
23 us where you're tracking all of this.

24 Well, we don't have it. Right? And there's
25 62 local health districts, and they have various

1 levels of information. So one of the big efforts
2 out of this, this change is to get support by a
3 staff person as well as a data system so that we
4 can start to gather the information.

5 One of the requirements would be that
6 information would start to come to us through
7 state certified laboratories. That's a big part
8 of the effort, is to educate people about using
9 state certified laboratories to do the tests when
10 you do a test. And that if that test is done,
11 that that information is shared with the
12 Department of Public Health electronically.

13 So it's an important effort. It's not ideal,
14 but again that is what is moving forward through
15 House Bill 5500.

16 That's all I have. And next, the next
17 meeting in June when all of this moves forward I
18 can talk about what has passed and be more
19 definitive on the details.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thanks, Lori.

21 Any questions for Lori or comments?

22 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Sorry, Jack. I had to just jump off
23 there for a second. I'm sure Lori covered it, but
24 did you mention, Lori, the sodium chloride bill,
25 the --

1 LORI MATHIEU: I did not, because we're not part of
2 that, Graham. So I just gave an update on private
3 wells.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: Quite strangely, you're not part of
5 that.

6 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, that is strange.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: But just for folks' general awareness,
8 there's a bill that deals with UConn's Green
9 SnowPro training, which is like an SFP process for
10 ensuring that there's not an over application of
11 salt to our roadways -- which can result in an
12 impact to private drinking water wells, which is
13 currently available for municipal public works
14 departments.

15 And as part of their process of complying
16 with the MS4 permit, as is the case for DOT's MS4
17 permits, there was an attempt to expand that to
18 private applicators which would result in some
19 liability relief if someone were to have an
20 accident that was potentially related to too
21 little of -- you know, not enough application of
22 salt to sidewalks and parking lots.

23 That bill did not make it through this
24 session, but pieces of it are incorporated into
25 the budget implementer.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

2 Any questions for Graham?

3
4 (No response.)

5
6 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, let's move onto the interagency
7 drink -- or agency drought working group well
8 update. I'm transposing my words here.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. Well, you know you can drink
10 because we're not in a drought.

11 So you can drink the water.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: That's a good thing.

13 MARTIN HEFT: Good afternoon, everyone. So we did --
14 it was mentioned at our last meeting we did not
15 have a meeting last month in April. We do have a
16 meeting this Thursday at two o'clock, which we
17 will review the conditions. And we'll also be
18 going over our first proposed language revisions
19 to the drought plan that we've been going through
20 over the past few months.

21 So we've got the whole document with a bunch
22 of revisions that's been sent out to all of the
23 members. We'll start reviewing that document and
24 going through those changes that we're
25 recommending as part of the entire review process.

1 And that's where we're at with the interagency
2 drought workgroup.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions?

4 Thank you, Martin. Any questions for Martin?

5
6 (No response.)

7
8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, we'll move onto state and
9 federal funding update. And Martin and I will
10 cover this. I want to again thank Martin and
11 Denise Savageau for really working quickly and
12 efficiently to get the application in to Senator
13 Murphy's office.

14 And you want to talk a little bit about that,
15 Martin.

16 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sure. So thank you.

17 And again, I just echo, Jack.

18 Denise, thank you very much for all your hard
19 work in getting the draft for us done.

20 And Graham, for your work as well, for some
21 of those additional pieces we needed at last
22 minute. And after three attempts of trying to put
23 it through to their portal system I finally got it
24 to go; a few little errors in that process, but we
25 did get it submitted on time.

1 So that we had asked for a grant of \$1.5
2 million to update the state water plan by hiring
3 consultants, a durational project manager to
4 oversee it. Part of that would be 300,000 that
5 would be in-kind services or cash from the State
6 for a total of 1.8 million for a total project
7 that we submitted in for that.

8 So that's pretty much it, and we're just now
9 waiting on appropriations from Murphy's office.
10 And any responses, we have not -- I have not heard
11 anything back if they needed any additional
12 information or anything at this time. So it's
13 kind of a sit-and-wait process as of now.

14 But Jack, I don't know if you have anything
15 else you want to add, or Graham?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: (Unintelligible.)

17 MARTIN HEFT: You were cutting in and out, Jack. So I
18 didn't catch that.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: (Unintelligible.)

20 THE REPORTER: This is the Reporter. I didn't get
21 that.

22 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. It looked like Jack was frozen up
23 on the screen. So it might be a connection issue.

24 I don't know if he's logging off and coming
25 back on.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: I just want to say, Martin, thanks.

2 Thanks for your effort on your planned vacation to
3 finish up that task for the benefit of the Water
4 Planning council and all of us -- if we are
5 successful in receiving those funds.

6 DAVID RADKA: This is David. May I ask a question
7 while we're waiting for Jack?

8 I was curious. Martin, is there a
9 possibility that funding would be a portion of
10 what you requested? Or is it an all or nothing?
11 Or is it, you know, 50 percent perhaps? Or a
12 portion?

13 GRAHAM STEVENS: It looks like Martin is also -- I
14 don't know.

15 I feel like Water Planning Councilors are
16 falling down left and -- oh, he's back.

17 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, I don't know. Yeah. All of Zoom
18 just cut out on me and then came back in.

19 GRAHAM STEVENS: David had asked the question, Martin,
20 about whether there's the likelihood that we -- is
21 it a yes or no for funding? Or is there a
22 potential that we could be provided with some
23 portion thereof?

24 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Thanks, Graham. So we did put in
25 that if we were unable to get the full funding,

1 they asked if there was any amount we could drop
2 down. And I think we did drop it down by, I
3 believe, 300,000. I don't have it here in front
4 of me -- where we took out some of the
5 administrative pieces and some of the printing
6 costs of it, but that we still need the majority
7 to do the work.

8 So that was the only provision asking if we
9 were awarded less, what would the minimum be? And
10 that was our response to that. So thank you.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** My apologies. I was just knocked off
12 here for a few seconds. So you're still talking
13 about the federal grant. Are you going to talk
14 about state monies yet? Or did you?

15 **MARTIN HEFT:** No, we did -- I did not. We're still
16 just answering one question that David had on it,
17 and so we just did that.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you. So any other
19 questions on the federal?

21 (No response.)

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not -- so Martin, why don't you give
24 a little update. So I should preface before
25 Martin talks, we talked about the possibility

1 maybe using WICA funds to -- at least we need some
2 money to get us through to July 1 of 2023.

3 Because what's going to happen, hopefully
4 we're going to be, just like the State of
5 Connecticut is now, flush with cash July 1st of
6 2023 when we will have an operating budget from
7 the State. We also get the federal funds then.

8 But in the meantime, by statute the Office of
9 Policy and Management -- and that's how it was
10 originally when we did the plan -- is responsible
11 for, is the state agency that's responsible for
12 getting funds into the development and
13 implementation of state water plan.

14 So Martin, why don't you, if you could,
15 please, just give a little update in terms of how
16 we originally got the grant and -- the bonding
17 money, I should say?

18 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. So just thanks, Jack.

19 Going back through some of the statutes when
20 this process all originally started to develop the
21 state water plan, everything; currently now it's
22 Section 22a-354 which was an appropriation of bond
23 proceeds, of 1,500,000 of bond proceeds to be used
24 at the discretion to do these previous sections --
25 which all those sections are the state water plan

1 for that.

2 I am inquiring to see if all those funds were
3 used. I'm assuming they were on it, but I am
4 checking with our bonding unit here at OPM budget
5 just to see if there was any funds left over from
6 that appropriation on there.

7 And obviously, the next steps would be as
8 would be for us to either look at making an
9 amendment to that appropriation of bond proceeds
10 to ask for other bonding funds to do this project
11 if we're not able to get federal funds; or the
12 second piece, as Jack alluded to, would be that
13 the Water Planning Council for the next biennium
14 budget actually submits a requested budget in as
15 an agency of the state for, whether it be for
16 administration, whether it be for updating the
17 state water plan, whether it be for positions for
18 that.

19 And we actually do that as per our purview,
20 because each year we're supposed to do our annual
21 report to the General Assembly. We're supposed
22 to, by statutes, set up and update the plan.
23 Obviously, this is all contingent upon available
24 funds. They are. So basically, if we're not
25 asking for any funds as a Water Planning Council,

1 obviously they're not going to even consider it or
2 give us any on that.

3 So the statutes are there to back us up for
4 the funding piece of it. We've just got to
5 develop a budget and go through the process as
6 every other agency does in submitting a request
7 with the appropriate backup. So that would be my
8 recommendation to do.

9 Regardless, even if we get the federal funds,
10 we should get something in budgetary purposes for
11 the Water Planning Council, especially as we know
12 we've kind of talked at one of our past special
13 meetings -- is looking at we should be doing an
14 update to the water plan probably every five
15 years.

16 And so we, you know -- or just minor pieces
17 to it. If not full -- maybe it's five years. In
18 ten years you do a full one, or whatever schedule
19 we come up with, but that means every year there
20 has to be funds in a budget and we need to
21 establish that.

22 So that would be, you know, kind of the State
23 way of looking at it versus the federal.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Martin.

25 Martin, so when it comes to if we wanted to

1 re-up the previous authorization on the bonding,
2 which was where the money came from for the
3 original plan, how would we go about doing that?

4 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So that's -- obviously, it's a
5 change. You have to have bond approval, which is
6 a legislative process. So I would have to go
7 through the next legislative session requesting a
8 change to that.

9 And then that's the only way the Bond
10 Commission can authorize funds, is once it's been
11 approved on the legislative side. So it would
12 have to be part of the bond package bill, if you
13 will. But they would amend that section as they
14 do with other ones for like -- such as town aid
15 road or local capital improvement.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Got it.

17 MARTIN HEFT: Each year they up the number and change
18 it to be able to allot more that way. It may be
19 something they may not want to do through bonding,
20 and they may want to just do it through general
21 funds. So I think we can present, here's a couple
22 of options.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So we're going to be -- I
24 mean, a year from July hopefully one of the three
25 is going to come through for us.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: So that's optimistic -- and I'm still
3 optimistic we're going to do something prior to
4 around July 1st of this year. I've got some
5 ideas. I'm just not at liberty to share at this
6 moment.

7 But any questions, Martin?

8 Again, thank you for all your efforts and
9 helping us. It's nice to have the Office of
10 Policy and Management part of this Council, for
11 sure.

12 Any questions for Martin?

13 And we did have a meeting -- especially last
14 Friday. And Rob very nicely got the 23 pages to
15 us. And at the end of it, he really does very
16 nicely kind of summarize what we did in terms of
17 the topics of discussion, and who said what.

18 And back to Martin, we're talking about the
19 whole, the update and the funding -- which really
20 when you think about it is kind of the foundation
21 of the whole funding aspect of the Water Planning
22 Council; where we're going to go is really one of
23 our priorities.

24 Lori talked about the our conservation
25 efforts and the fixtures. I want to get some

1 legislation passed around that next year
2 infrastructure funding and source protection.
3 Graham talked about strategic action moving
4 forward with source protection as well, and USGS
5 funding.

6 And Virginia had a question, about the
7 process question.

8 And Graham at one point, USGS funding. I
9 mean, there was dollars coming from DEEP to them.
10 Is that all gone now?

11 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** No, we continue to fund, gauging
12 around the state as part of our water quality and
13 quantity programs. And as you can imagine with
14 any item that requires operation and maintenance
15 and labor, the costs have continued to go up.

16 And it's something that that DEEP is very
17 interested in trying to find sustainable funding
18 sources for. Jack, as you know, we've brought
19 this up as an issue in certain rate cases and
20 mergers about the need for gauging of streams
21 where diversions are taking place.

22 And one of the things that DEEP is looking at
23 is trying to partner with USGS to upgrade, upgrade
24 of the gauging so that more of these stations can
25 be monitored remotely, as opposed to having to

1 send USGS folks from out of state around
2 Connecticut to collect this information. So that
3 you know, hopefully that will cut down on some of
4 the operational and human resources costs.

5 And also we have asked USGS for a draft
6 proposal to look at expanding water gauging and
7 monitoring statewide. That could really play into
8 a lot of the different functions that our agencies
9 take collectively as part of the state water plan.
10 That could be looking at drought with new
11 groundwater monitoring wells, some more monitoring
12 of surface water in Connecticut, whether those be
13 streams or lakes.

14 And obviously, we're also looking at
15 additional help with respect to the work that
16 we're doing within the Long Island Sound. So
17 there's a lot of need for funding both from the
18 capital side as well as just a funding source to
19 continue that monitoring going forward.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Any other comments about our
21 mini priority workshop from Lori or Martin from
22 last week?

23 **MARTIN HEFT:** No. I was just going to say, Jack, that
24 I think that captured a good overview of
25 priorities and everything from our workshop. And

1 I think we've got that, the good list there on our
2 notes that can help move us forward.

3 LORI MATHIEU: And Jack, I think I would add I didn't I
4 think I heard you say drinking water quality and
5 quantity. Obviously, it's critical and important
6 to the Department of Public Health.

7 And also health equity. That was an item
8 that at the very end of the conversations of the
9 state water plan and was added to section six and
10 into section seven, I believe, of the state water
11 plan.

12 And that was when Commissioner Pino was our
13 commissioner. He wanted to make sure that that
14 concept was at least noticed as an item that needs
15 to be discussed in more detail, and we look
16 forward to working on that in the revisions to the
17 state water plan.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori. And I think that what
19 we can do is kind of make these as a checkoff
20 point at most of our meetings to see, see where
21 we're at.

22 And I could talk to -- Dave, maybe you want
23 to talk to Virginia about some of these items that
24 we talked about. Your next meeting is coming up
25 on the 10th. I believe next Tuesday.

1 DAVID RADKA: That is correct, Jack. And we sent out
2 our agenda today. And we do have an agenda item
3 in discussion of what you've identified as your
4 priorities, either new or affirmation of older
5 priorities. And we will begin the process of
6 kicking around what we think we might propose to
7 you for topical sub workgroups to address some of
8 those.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Very good. Anything else on that
10 before we move onto public comments?

11 LORI MATHIEU: There is one more thing that you know,
12 Jack, you and I work on all the time -- are
13 smaller water systems, small community water
14 systems. How could we forget? Right?

15 I'd like to never forget -- and add that to
16 the list. There's quite the struggle. You know,
17 financial capacity is constantly a struggle and is
18 something that needs adjustment, that needs a lot
19 of focus.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

21 Any public comments? Any public comments
22 today?

23 I know it's a busy day for everyone for the
24 pre-session adjournment. So I know many of us are
25 busy watching the final hours of the legislature.

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: If there's no other comments or
4 business, our next meeting will be June 7th. And
5 with that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

6 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Second, Lori?

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Or second, Graham.

10 All those in favor.

11 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

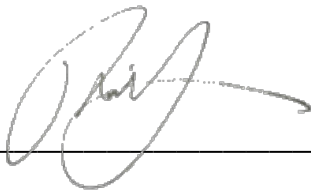
12 THE CHAIRMAN: We are adjourned. Thank you all very
13 much. Be safe and we'll talk to you all soon.

14 Thank you.

15
16 (End: 2:24 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 43 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 May 3, 2022.



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