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

10 STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL
11

12 Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
13 June 7, 2022, beginning at 1:37 p.m.
14

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

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

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

4 **DAN MORLEY (OPM)(alternate)**

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 **DAN AUBIN**

15 **FRANCIS PICKERING**

16 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

17
18 **Staff:**

19 **LAURA LUPOLI**

20 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 (Begin: 1:37 p.m.)

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3 THE CHAIRMAN: So we just -- call to order?

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Boy, that was good timing.

6 All right. Approval of the May 3, 2022,
7 meeting transcript -- do I hear a motion?

8 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor signify by saying
12 aye.

13 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: And it's great to see Mr. Morley.

15 DAN MORLEY: Yes, hello.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Morley, who's sitting in for Martin
17 Heft today who's away at an in-service training
18 this week.

19 DAN MORLEY: Yes. How are you, Jack? And I just
20 wanted to abstain from that vote.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Fine. Nice to have you with us.

22 DAN MORLEY: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Public comment, agenda items. One of
24 the things I wanted to announce that, thanks to
25 Connecticut Water Company -- and Governor Lamont

1 has proclaimed July lakes appreciation month,
2 which is very nice. Tomorrow we're going to have
3 the continuing series highlighting water issues on
4 river watercourses and the importance of riparian
5 zones, and I'm sure we'll hear more about that
6 later on.

7 We did receive some correspondence that I
8 hope you got from Margaret Miner relative to
9 interconnections.

10 Is Margaret on the line?

11 MARGARET MINER: Yes, I am, Jack. I thought you might
12 want me to --

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You want to summarize that for us?

14 MARGARET MINER: Sure. Well, after the WUCC
15 presentation -- well, the presentation at the
16 integrated WUCC meeting and the presentation here
17 about interconnections, I had a number of old
18 comments -- because these are the same
19 conversations that we had a dozen years ago with
20 Denise Ruzicka on interconnections and emergency
21 interconnections, and temporary interconnections.

22 And I was going to present at the Western
23 WUCC this morning, but they had technical
24 difficulties. So that was postponed for a week.
25 Otherwise, Dan would already have heard my little

1 speech.

2 My concern, as I've said before, that there's
3 not a clear distinction being made between
4 emergency interconnections and temporary -- and
5 emergency interconnections and what I would call
6 backup interconnections; are accessory
7 interconnections for which the utility would
8 like -- it's a permanent installation, and the
9 utility would like to have the backup. A utility
10 would like to have the backup, and another utility
11 would like to sell it the water.

12 The question from back in the day and now is,
13 at what point was there an issue sometimes with
14 emergency connections sort of becoming permanent
15 connections, but we still have -- at this time we
16 have the issue where the phrase "emergency
17 connection" is being used for permanent
18 connections such that in the meeting I made note
19 of a sentence that said something like, when you
20 get an emergency ten-year permit -- you know?

21 An emergency interconnection permit for ten
22 years, and when I hear something like that I
23 think, wait a minute. No. We really need to have
24 these permit backup connections. There needs to
25 be a fair amount of transparency and probably

1 public input.

2 It's typically with -- and some water company
3 can correct me, but typically there will be an
4 agreement between donor and seller utility and the
5 recipient for a certain number of gallons per day,
6 perhaps at a certain time of year, or under some
7 kind of conditions.

8 I feel that in order to understand and assess
9 what water is available where, there really needs
10 to be -- those interconnections need to be
11 available on record. The public should probably
12 comment, and it should be part of your
13 understanding of the watershed and the water
14 system.

15 The utilities tend to feel -- for reasons
16 that I understand, that they do not feel that
17 these backup interconnections -- at least some
18 utilities say they should not affect their
19 assessments of available water. I'm saying, why
20 not?

21 If you have a commitment to sell or give away
22 a certain amount of water each year at least
23 during that period it is not available water. So
24 that should be reflected in your plans, and in the
25 information that's available to the public.

1 I had also questions. There are references
2 to excess water. And I say, I think we should
3 have a definition of that. If the concept is that
4 the utility that has, quote, excess water, wants,
5 you know, to apply to sell it and to have an
6 interconnection, we should have an understanding.

7 And there may be a definition somewhere, but
8 I would be looking for a definition of excess
9 water.

10 I question also why a ten-year permit? If
11 you look at the projections for demand from
12 different water company plans, they vary from
13 about five years in the integrated WUCC plan
14 projections where the guarantee from the water
15 company is pretty much -- they say, we know what
16 we've got for five years, but you know, we can't
17 be sure after that.

18 The permits for interconnections being
19 discussed now are ten years. My understanding is
20 that in the water supply plans a 20-year
21 projection is supposed to be pretty good, although
22 at least it certainly would be for capital
23 expenditures.

24 So I'm questioning the permit process here
25 and thinking it should be a more open process that

1 really does reflect what water is going where
2 when. And Connecticut has a special case because
3 under our exclusive service areas the water
4 utility has a heavy burden of, apparently when you
5 read it, applying water to whomever wants it
6 whenever they want it.

7 And I'm really not sure that's a burden that
8 can always be met, but certainly with that kind of
9 burden the question of selling water on a limited
10 basis becomes significant. And one can foresee a
11 clash between, let's say, an agreement to sell
12 water from a certain well field and an applicant
13 who wants to have a subdivision drawing from that
14 same well field. That's the sort of thing I was
15 wondering about.

16 So those are the questions that I posed
17 originally to Eric McPhee -- and in a long e-mail,
18 and then I tried to make it shorter. I don't
19 think I made it shorter -- maybe a little clearer,
20 but I submitted it to you all as comment on the
21 issue of interconnections and also for the WUCCs
22 to consider, and for DEEP to consider as they go
23 forward. So that was my communication.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Margaret. You just sent that
25 to us, because I did receive a chat from Iris

1 regarding she didn't receive the comments. You
2 just sent to the Council. Correct?

3 MARGARET MINER: I sent it to Laura.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I don't know if Laura -- it came
5 in yesterday around five o'clock, I think.

6 MARGARET MINER: And she did say she would -- Laura
7 always answers in, like, five minutes. She did
8 say she would circulate it, and a lot of people
9 have been having Internet trouble.

10 So I don't know about that. But yeah, I did
11 send it --

12 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll make sure. I know Laura is coming
13 to two meetings right now -- so I'll follow up
14 with her.

15 MARGARET MINER: Okay. She's terrific.

16 MS. LUPOLI: I sent it to the councilmembers.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So I guess we want to send it to
18 the Listservs as well?

19 MARGARET MINER: I don't know.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I think whoever gets the agenda.
21 Our parliamentarian is not here, but I believe
22 it's whoever receives the agenda should also
23 receive the correspondence.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sure Martin will tell us.

25 I would agree with Graham, whoever gets the

1 agenda should get that.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Absolutely.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, could I respond to a few of
4 these?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: So Margaret, I did read your comments.
7 And I know that they touch on both, you know, I'm
8 assuming they touch on DEEP's permitting process
9 as well as DPH's processes and the WUCC processes
10 and the water supply plan processes.

11 So there's a lot in there to unpack, but one
12 thing I just want to make clear for the Water
13 Planning Council and those participating. You
14 know, DEEP is in the process of generating a new
15 general permit for emergency interconnections, and
16 those are not for ten years. Okay? Those are for
17 30 days, 72 hours, 24 hours. Those are
18 emergencies.

19 But it doesn't mean that just because it's an
20 emergency you don't have an emergency plan, and
21 that is in the form of infrastructure to activate
22 that interconnection. We don't want -- and I'm
23 sure Lori, this is more of her territory. We
24 don't want to have to deal with, you know, pipes
25 being laid over ground, over roads for

1 emergencies. We want that to be something we can
2 turn on quickly.

3 And I think, you know, when folks hear from
4 us -- I know that we've gone to the WUCCs to talk
5 about this emergency interconnections GP. When we
6 come to the Water Planning Council I think you'll
7 hear that, you know, we've hardcoded in there some
8 aspects of that general permit which would be true
9 emergencies, or some, you know, planned, you know,
10 situations where it's not an emergency per se, but
11 it's part of an operational need that can't be
12 avoided.

13 So as far as our existing general permit,
14 that does go for up to a ten-year period which,
15 you know, you had said Denise Ruzicka had feelings
16 about this -- this was a permit that Denise had
17 set up in 2017. You know, that permit is not
18 being changed, and that's up to a million gallons
19 per day for an interconnection.

20 So we will be coming to the Water Planning
21 Council, hopefully soon, to give everyone a
22 presentation. And I'm not sure if there was a
23 slip-up in the speaking at one of the WUCC
24 meetings by DEEP or someone else. The new general
25 permit is not for ten-year emergencies. It is for

1 emergency emergencies.

2 MARGARET MINER: So just two questions -- one, to
3 answer your question. Yes, in the very
4 interesting meeting of the integrated WUCCs there
5 was -- the term "emergency" was still being used
6 for what I would call ten-year backup, you know,
7 permit, ten-year permits for backup connections.

8 And I even wrote down some quotes. So there
9 wasn't another word available or being used for
10 connections that would be supplemental or backup
11 as opposed to emergency.

12 Then I'm not sure what you meant by when you
13 said, operational difficulties that can't be
14 avoided.

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right.

16 MARGARET MINER: What was --

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: For instance if, say, you needed to
18 replace a well?

19 MARGARET MINER: Yeah?

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Or you needed to replace a pump.

21 MARGARET MINER: Right?

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: So that's more not an emergency
23 always, but it might be a planned event.

24 MARGARET MINER: Got it.

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: But it is a short term, a short-term

1 event.

2 MARGARET MINER: Yes.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: And the one thing -- even, you know,
4 if we're going to dip our into the other topic of
5 what we're not changing, which is the ten-year GP,
6 you know the one thing that -- just for other
7 people. I know, Margaret, this doesn't change the
8 underlying source's restrictions and rules.
9 Right?

10 So it's not like someone is pulling more
11 water than is previously authorized to ship it to
12 another utility. That's all operating under the
13 existing authorization.

14 MARGARET MINER: Yeah.

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: Because I know, but just for those who
16 may not be as tied in.

17 MARGARET MINER: Got it.

18 Thank you.

19 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, and hopefully we can have some
20 more of these conversations when we get on the
21 agenda, if the Chair so allows, to come back to
22 talk about our emergency GP protections.

23 MARGARET MINER: Oh, I hope so. Thanks.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other --

25 LORI MATHIEU: Jack?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Lori?

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, if I could just follow up on
3 Graham's point? I think that to address a lot of
4 what Margaret said -- which I think is really very
5 important. The work of the WUCC in this area has
6 been extensive. And I want to thank, you know,
7 the people that have been doing that work on an
8 ongoing basis, And really focused on this.

9 Because as Graham mentioned, him and I know
10 that -- and all of you who are water utilities
11 are, you know, failure is not an option. When
12 there's a problem it needs to be addressed, and
13 addressed quickly. And scrambling last minute
14 is -- in our business is not easy. Right?

15 We all have people to communicate with, and
16 so having a plan and having these in place and
17 having agreements; and making sure you meet all
18 the laws and the requirements, whether it's a
19 permit, whether it's permission, whether it's a
20 general permit, it all needs to be part of your
21 emergency plan.

22 And over my years of experience the ones that
23 are disasters are the ones that are not planned,
24 and that's when all four of us, all four agencies
25 have to scramble -- and that's irresponsible.

1 So all of us as responsible people in this
2 industry, right? That care deeply to make sure
3 that we're prepared for any emergency have been
4 working really hard the last year and a half on
5 getting this right.

6 So I really -- I praise the work of Graham
7 and his team about this general permit, and the
8 work of the implementation.

9 And I would ask that -- I think, Jack, one
10 thing would be really kind of cool to do, because
11 as Margaret said it can get very confusing.
12 Right? Is this temporary? Is it a 30-minute
13 connection? Is it a two-hour connection? Is it a
14 14-day connection? What is it? How do you define
15 it? What does it mean? What permission do you
16 need? Do you need a permit? Do you need this?
17 This? That?

18 Right? There's a ten-year window of time
19 within our permitting requirement and our state
20 law. Right? At DPH. So I think a coordinated
21 presentation together between DEEP and DPH on this
22 whole topic would be good, because I think there's
23 a lot to unpack and to explain.

24 So I would love to have that, like, Eric
25 McPhee come talk with and speak with and present

1 with -- I think Doug. You know Doug has been key
2 to this in your team, Graham. And that way they
3 can come and they can talk about it. They can
4 explain it, and then we'd all have a chance to
5 hear it and hear from the people who have been
6 working on it.

7 So that's my thought.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: That makes a lot of sense because it
9 is interconnected -- is that a good one? Our
10 work.

11 LORI MATHIEU: That's an awesome -- I love that.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: I figured I'd get a smile and a pat on
13 that one -- but maybe next time.

14 LORI MATHIEU: I know. He's like -- that's just like
15 really bad.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: Not today. Terrible jokes.

17 And just to respond to, you know, Alecia. So
18 we are adding additional categories to the
19 existing, you know, permits. So what we've talked
20 about at the WUCC is what I'm talking about now,
21 so our emergency interconnection GP for short.

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, I think that's what Margaret
23 was referring to as far as it being set for ten
24 years. The permit itself. Right? The general
25 permit.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Oh, I see.

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And so I think maybe there's a little
3 bit of confusion there and that was confusing me
4 as well, so.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay. So the permit term being for
6 ten years, but the permit would not authorize an
7 activity for ten years. It would authorize an
8 activity for, say, two weeks. I see. Okay.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Right.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, I mean, you know, all general
11 permits go through an extensive public notice and
12 comment period and would -- I really hope that
13 everyone who's engaged in the water industry and,
14 you know, whether, you know, you're in stream or
15 out of the stream, you know, folks have -- provide
16 comments. Right?

17 Because this is why we have the state water
18 plan. This is why we have the Water Planning
19 Council because we're trying to coordinate, be
20 interconnected, and make sure that we make
21 decisions as a State together. So we look forward
22 to coming to this meeting.

23 LORI MATHIEU: I would add to what Graham just said,
24 because to have a better coordinated approach
25 under a general permit concept. And the permit is

1 important because we would rather be prepared and
2 know where water can be drawn and should be drawn
3 at the time of an emergency, versus a haphazard
4 approach where you will have us issuing an
5 emergency authorization to step over anybody's
6 permit to take water from anywhere to alleviate an
7 emergency -- because that's where we go when we
8 have to.

9 We don't want to have to do that. We would
10 rather have a good approach to emergency response
11 that the public have reviewed and commented on,
12 versus the approach of we're going to take water
13 because we can't have the pipes go dry because
14 it's an absolute emergency and we're going to take
15 it, and we're going to allow it, and we're going
16 to step over everybody's permit -- which we can
17 do.

18 We don't like doing that, but the law allows
19 for it because you can't let the pipes go dry.
20 Right? That's the most dangerous thing in some of
21 our -- the worst thing that could happen is that
22 there is absolutely no water supply for people
23 that are on it. All right?

24 So just, I think it's really important,
25 Margaret, what you brought up. And it's important

1 to present on it so that we all could, you know,
2 hear from the people who've been working on it.
3 Thank you.

4 MARGARET MINER: Thanks, Lori.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Margaret?

6 MARGARET MINER: I just said thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I was going to say, to be continued.

8 And I only have one more item on the public
9 comment. I just wanted to say that on this past
10 Saturday evening I participated in the 2022
11 Environmental Champion Awards sponsored by
12 Aquarion Water Company. This is the 12th time
13 they did it.

14 It's always at Beardsley Zoo. It was on the
15 100th anniversary of the Beardsley Zoo actually.
16 And it had very great awardees, and one of them --
17 many of you know was Lynn Warner from the
18 Housatonic Valley Association won one of the
19 awards -- who as you know, it's amazing the work
20 that that organization does.

21 And you can go on their website and look at
22 all the winners. I don't want to take time right
23 now, but they were all just very -- it's
24 refreshing when you go to something like this and
25 you see people that are really committed to

1 preserving our environment from industry.

2 There was also a high school student there
3 from New Canaan, Izzy Kaufman who's just
4 fantastic, what she's doing in terms of she was
5 working the restaurant and decided to do something
6 with the solid waste coming out of there. So it
7 was a great event and I'm always happy to
8 participate.

9 Graham, did you have your hand up?

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: I did not. I was just doing the clap
11 for the HVA folks.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. If there's no other public
13 comment, we're going to move onto the state water
14 plan and implementation workgroup update.

15 David, I guess -- I don't see Virginia today.

16 DAVID RADKA: Nor do I. So I guess I'll give a quick
17 update. I know she always enjoys doing so.

18 Let's see. Starting off with implementation
19 tracking and reporting. I think as we discussed
20 before, they had compiled a draft report which
21 includes six recommendations. That report has
22 been reviewed by both the implementation workgroup
23 and the Water Planning Council advisory group.

24 They submitted comments. It's been
25 revised to, you know, count the various comments

1 recently received from Dan. My public final draft
2 report, we'll be reviewing that next week as the
3 implementation workgroup to look really for a
4 formal submission then to the planning council
5 thereafter. So expect that shortly.

6 The outreach and education --

7 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, can I ask a question on that?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Dan Aubin is on, and I would really love
10 for him to present on the work that he did as the
11 cochair with Corinne Fitting.

12 I know Corinne has retired -- but either at
13 this meeting or another meeting, if we could have
14 Dan come and present on his work? Because he's
15 been sharing with me all of what he's done, and I
16 think it would be really important for all of us
17 to hear from Dan indirectly.

18 DAVID RADKA: I think --

19 MS. LUPOLI: I'm sorry -- sorry, David. I'm asking
20 Jack where he thinks it's appropriate.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: We could do it. Do you want to do it
22 the next meeting?

23 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, I'm thinking the next --

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So he's prepared?

25 MS. LUPOLI: Yeah, because Dan has a lot of good stuff

1 that him and Corinne worked on. And it's really
2 great and I'd love for --

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** They did. They did a excellent job.

4 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, I'd really love for him to have a
5 chance to present. So maybe if we could put him
6 on the agenda, that would be awesome.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We will.

8 **LORI MATHIEU:** Thank you.

9 **DAVID RADKA:** Okay. Yeah, that was going to be my
10 recommendation only because we haven't formally
11 accepted it by the implementation workgroup. So I
12 anticipate, as I said, your next meeting would be
13 ideal for Dan and anyone else to present.

14 Outreach and education, as we've noted there
15 was a webinar held in May on wetlands, and part on
16 resiliency.

17 As Jack has noted, that one is tomorrow
18 focusing on riparian zone importance.

19 I think Denise is with us. Denise can jump
20 on. I have not heard an update on the number of
21 registrants.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I know CT-N is going -- which is
23 wonderful. CT-N is going to be there once again
24 to broadcast it, and which is great.

25 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** I don't have the latest, latest

1 numbers. Laura or Ally may, but as of a week ago
2 we had 68 registrations. Laura and Ally have been
3 great getting the information out there. And what
4 was resent on Monday, usually -- last time we had
5 about a hundred after we did the repost. We had
6 similar numbers the week before, around 68 and
7 then we went up to a hundred.

8 So we're expecting that we'll have, you know,
9 68, that's, you know, we probably are going to be
10 having close to a hundred registrations, I would
11 guess based on what we had last time. So very
12 excited about that, and we've got some really
13 great presenters.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Denise. Thanks for all your
15 efforts coordinating that.

16 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Yeah. So are you finished, David?
17 Or do you want me to jump in with the branding
18 stuff for the outreach education?

19 **DAVID RADKA:** You may, but I just also wanted to note
20 that the group is also looking at a very targeted
21 look at the website, state water plan website to
22 see exactly -- and they're going to do a short
23 writeup on this as to what's really available, and
24 what do they think should be available.

25 What would be important to have, and also,

1 you know, it goes without saying -- which is why
2 that would be important, why it's critical. So
3 they'll be working. They are working on that
4 also -- but then branding. Did you just want to
5 give an update on branding?

6 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thank you. And Laura just sent you
7 the numbers. We have 110 registered. So I
8 guess --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, that's fantastic.

10 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, we have 110 registered for the
11 workshop. And I have a link from -- Karl Honkonen
12 is with USDA Forest Service and he's been working
13 with me and Eric McPhee on the source water
14 protection program. He's the watershed
15 coordinator for all of New England from the U.S.
16 Forest Service.

17 And he posted this link that I just put in
18 the chat and it kind of gets into what we're going
19 to be talking about tomorrow. That's riparian
20 zones, but also the whole idea of the forest.

21 And there was a study conducted in the Great
22 Lakes area saying that we need the public to
23 understand the relationship between forests and
24 water supply, so that they understand why we're
25 doing land protection, why we need riparian zones.

1 So I think that's really an interesting study
2 and it kind of gets into the need for this kind of
3 a workshop. A lot of people who are attending the
4 workshop are, you know, folks who are in the water
5 industry like ourselves, you know, whether they be
6 government agencies or water utilities, but also a
7 lot of the municipal officials, the inland
8 wetlands, watercourses agency, conservation
9 commissions -- but other folks as well.

10 But I think it reinforces the need for the
11 stuff we're doing this, this late. So I just
12 wanted to share that with you, because Karl had
13 put that out there, and I thought it was a really
14 interesting discussion on -- that there's this
15 need for the public to understand how we protect
16 source water, and forests are so critical there.
17 So I wanted to put that out there as well.

18 So I'll get right into then the branding --
19 and we did have this on the agenda as well I see.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

21 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** The branding was part of what we're
22 working on. When we're doing these workshops one
23 of the things that keeps happening, and as you
24 know we've been talking about the different
25 branding and how we, you know, make sure people

1 understand what we're working on. And as we do
2 more and more work, it's becoming more and more
3 important we're finding out.

4 So at the last -- well, several meetings ago
5 Graham had offered to have DEEP staff working on
6 that, and I wanted to share -- if I can share my
7 screen -- which I can. Let's see. Where is my --

8 Here it is.

9 So DEEP has some staff that works on
10 concepts, and these are the initial two concepts.
11 They were looked at by the outreach and education
12 group as well as the full implementation
13 workgroup. So there's two concepts that were put
14 before us.

15 This is the first concept. This is kind of
16 the, you know, some water drops and the state
17 water plan. And you can see where you can kind of
18 use it. With just changes of words you can say
19 the Connecticut Water Planning Council, the
20 Connecticut state water plan. And again, it was a
21 concept that had to do with, you know, obviously
22 the shape of Connecticut.

23 The second concept that was presented was
24 this one, and it has kind of the CT with the water
25 drop in the middle. The interesting thing about

1 this one is a lot of what you're seeing, planning
2 has this kind of motion to it. And we thought
3 that that fit in well with the Water Planning
4 Council.

5 It was pretty much unanimous that both the
6 outreach and education workgroup as well as at the
7 state water implementation group, that we liked
8 this concept best, but obviously we're presenting
9 that to you.

10 We did get some more work done on one of the
11 concepts. So let me just go here and make sure
12 I've have got the right pages.

13 So this is the original concept one.

14 This is concept two -- okay.

15 Here's some revised concepts. So if you
16 wanted to go with one, there's a couple of other
17 different concepts here, and then I think here
18 they're similar.

19 They're the state. They're just working on
20 that same type of, you know, method where it's
21 taking the state of Connecticut and just doing,
22 like, different water crops and different things.
23 And you can see where you can possibly go with
24 this one.

25 I'll just give you my personal opinion. When

1 I look at these I still have the same reaction. I
2 don't think it's the best design. I'll go back to
3 the one that we thought was the best, and I have
4 to say it was pretty unanimous -- and I will admit
5 that I wasn't the most vocal. There were people
6 that were pretty vocal about they really liked
7 this one better.

8 So that said, you know, obviously you guys
9 are going to be looking at this. So here are two
10 concepts, and I guess it's a matter of -- should
11 we investigate? Do we like this, either of these
12 two concepts? Do we want to go forward with them,
13 or do we want some, you know, we want something
14 else.

15 So these are the two concepts before you. Do
16 we want to explore this concept two further? So
17 thoughts? I'll turn it over to you guys.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I like concept two myself, that has the
19 Water Planning Council with -- what looks like a
20 CT and then in the middle the drop. I think the
21 other one, there's too many drops. It plays with
22 numbers on your eye. Too many drops in that one.

23 I like the other one.

24 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** I mean, yeah. The idea was to have,
25 like you know, so there was four drops because

1 there were four agencies. Right? I think it
2 still got convoluted. So that's, you know -- well
3 again, the two groups have looked at it. This is
4 our recommendation, but you know, like I said,
5 it's your decision whether we go forward with one
6 of these or not -- or if you don't like either of
7 them and we start from scratch, I guess.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, this is Lori. I like two because
9 I, like you, I think concept one is too busy. I
10 think something more simple. I really like the
11 water drop and the CT.

12 And then, you know, within this we would
13 still use our logos for our agencies I think,
14 because you know we're the four agencies that make
15 up this Council -- but I really like this. It's
16 more simple and it's focused around water, I like
17 Connecticut with a focus around a water drop.

18 I like this one.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I think the way we do it right, we
20 have the Water Planning Council. Then we'd have
21 the members, and with the members we'd have our
22 individual logos with it. I believe that's what I
23 would envision.

24 Martin? And Graham?

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, I'm supportive of concept two,

1 absolutely. I particularly appreciate the idea of
2 motion and progress -- and it would look great --
3 and if we did it in black and white, too. The
4 other one kind of relies on some color schemes.
5 And just maybe that can't come through as easily
6 in black and white.

7 Yeah. I mean, I like the idea, too, that the
8 state water plan and the Water Planning Council
9 would have the same logo. That they would rely
10 upon -- just to show how integrated the group and
11 the plan are.

12 DENISE SAVAGEAU: I think just changing that name does
13 exactly what you said, Graham. It's a matter if
14 there's a logo, but it's like, Water Planning
15 Council, state water plan.

16 It's just -- you know.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, do we put this to a vote?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think that I really want Martin
19 to weigh in on it.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Absolutely.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: And we'll just tell him, he can go
22 whatever way he wants, but he's going to be out
23 voted.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: Exactly. Right.

25 MS. LUPOLI: Dan is on. Is Dan --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Dan, are you authorized to vote?

2 DAN AUBIN: I do not know Martin's position on this
3 one -- so I guess I shouldn't.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin did say something -- and perhaps
5 you can help me with this, Graham, about when you
6 do logos, there's some kind of --

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, we would -- so if the Water
8 Planning Council, you know, approves this logo, we
9 would seek the approval of the Secretary of the
10 State --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, Secretary of State. Okay.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- for authorizing this, authorizing
13 the use of this logo. But the Secretary of State
14 also authorizes the use of the Connecticut Seal,
15 which cannot be used without their authorization
16 as well.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Got it. Okay. That shouldn't be
18 difficult. So Denise, thank you from the
19 committee for the work on this. It looks great.
20 And what we'll do is we'll follow up with Martin
21 and -- well, we actually have to wait until next
22 month. If he's okay with it, we'll get back to
23 you.

24 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. Yeah, just let us know which
25 way we want to go -- you want to go. Obviously,

1 it's Graham's staff, so Graham is going to be
2 making that ask anyway, so.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

4 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Anything else under
6 implementation workgroup update?

7 **DAVID RADKA:** Just very quickly Jack, we did spend some
8 time talking about -- well, we recognized as we're
9 wrapping up our topical sub workgroups we want to
10 always have things in the pipeline, that when
11 start working on it, just for members.

12 And we know with the recommendations that are
13 going to come out of the tracking/reporting
14 report, there's a need for additional workgroups
15 focused on, let's say, some of the more technical
16 aspects of that, and possibly one more.

17 So we want to reserve some time for some
18 talent and time for those -- but given that we
19 felt that we could also take on a new topic, and
20 this we think aligns very nicely with the
21 priorities you've all discussed so far to date,
22 and that was USGS data needs.

23 I think Graham, you had identified as a DEEP
24 priority. Lori, you I believe also identified
25 data needs as far as stream gauging and

1 groundwater data collection network.

2 And so we thought we could do one of our, you
3 know, very targeted sub topical workgroups that
4 looked just at this topic to wrap it up in a
5 couple of months, kind of like we did with the
6 water planning chief report. We'd be looking at
7 really doing sort of a GAAP analysis on what the
8 current monitoring system is, what historically
9 it's been like, but also what the real data needs
10 are going forward, potentially what the costs
11 associated with that would be recognizing that we
12 can't rely upon, you know, 30, 40, 50-year-old
13 data to do appropriate planning given, you know,
14 climate change.

15 You can't rely on stationarity and say what
16 happened in the past is going to continue to
17 happen in the future, both with high and low flow
18 events.

19 And lastly, we felt the reason we're
20 supporting this also is that it does align nicely
21 with the GC3 recommendations to help position
22 ourselves better for those changing high and low
23 flows. And also health equity would be worked
24 into this, because of the potential for -- often
25 the potential for flooding and flood events

1 happens in, you know, those types of under
2 serviced areas.

3 So our recommendation based on our
4 conversation last month was that we would pitch
5 this to you. If you seem like it sounded like a
6 good idea, we would work up a formal proposal as
7 we have in the past, and we would present that to
8 you for hopefully for your discussion next month.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm fine with it. I don't know how my
10 colleagues feel. Everybody is shaking their head,
11 yes?

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'm strongly supportive of it. Yeah.
13 I mean, I think that USGS is a critical partner in
14 understanding, you know, where we stand with
15 respect to our quality and quantity. And we're
16 hopeful that we can, you know, seek additional
17 funds from the state Legislature to, you know,
18 bolster and improve that, you know, network.

19 I mean, everyone, you know, many people know
20 that there's major issues with, you know,
21 equipment right now.

22 YSI has, like, major failures with their data
23 loggers, that a lot of these are being -- in the
24 field that need to be replaced, and we would love
25 to see more groundwater monitoring wells, you

1 know, installed and have those be automated so
2 that, you know, we frankly don't have to pay USGS
3 to go out in the field to collect, you know,
4 monthly samples.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori?

6 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, agreed.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I want to ask you, Denise, do you have a
8 question? A comment?

9 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Just a quick comment. At the
10 outreach and education group we were talking about
11 monitoring both from a water quality perspective,
12 but this all -- obviously this stream gauge and
13 the work that USGS does, and we're looking at
14 doing some workshops in the fall based on that,
15 because we thought that that was really, really
16 important.

17 So I just wanted to give you a heads-up that
18 those are some of the topics we're talking about
19 covering in the fall.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. All right. Dave, you're all
21 set.

22 DAVID RADKA: Yes, I am. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks very much. Let's move
24 onto the WPCAG report. Alecia?

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Hi. I just wanted to really quickly

1 introduce Rivers Alliance. We were fortunate
2 enough to acquire a Yale conservation scholar for
3 eight weeks. She is working with us and a few
4 other -- a small group of stakeholders at the --
5 for right now, and putting together and collecting
6 information on buffers and headwaters protection.

7 And so she's with us for 30 hours a week for
8 eight weeks. We couldn't be more happy. So Alexa
9 Carrera is here with us from Minneapolis,
10 Minnesota.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So I just wanted to introduce her,
13 and she's really excited about working on water
14 issues. So she's our future --

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I love it.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: -- in environmental --

17 ALEXA CARRERA: Nice to meet you, everyone.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: You too, Alexa. Welcome.

19 ALEXA CARRERA: Happy to be here.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Glad you're with us.

21 ALICEA CHARAMUT: All right. Well, thank you for
22 indulging me there.

23 So the last meeting we obviously heard all
24 the updates from the implementation workgroup.
25 We -- I'll hand it over to Dan to talk a little

1 bit about what the WUCCs had presented, but we
2 also did get a presentation from the tracking and
3 reporting workgroup as well, from Dan Aubin.

4 So Dan, do you want to go over what the
5 WUCCs --

6 DAN AUBIN: Yeah, my brain is frozen. My brain is
7 frozen, because we've done interconnections with
8 Doug. What was the last one we did?

9 I totally forgot.

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: It was the new development in public
11 water systems.

12 DAN AUBIN: Oh, yeah. Sorry, my apologies. Sorry,
13 everyone. I just jumped into the meeting. So
14 working with Eric McPhee and Lasette from the
15 Connecticut Department of Health, the WUCC has
16 been trying to work on the synergy, if you will,
17 if we can create some for new water system
18 development through the CPCN process, through the
19 WUCC, through the Department of Health, local and
20 State.

21 And Lasette has been working with a couple of
22 us trying to blend through that. Eric has done
23 quite a bit of work as well.

24 The idea is to create really a pathway for
25 people to understand that process more fully and

1 be able to navigate through it. Because you,
2 depending on what you decide to do, whether you're
3 going to connect to, you know, an existing
4 supplier, try to develop your own source, become a
5 non-community system; trying to help people
6 understand that process, both at the, sort of, at
7 the planning and zoning level at the very, you
8 know, start.

9 So Eric had met with Peter Hughes from
10 Marlborough, my town, to review that and get some
11 good comments on how that process works through
12 the communities -- but I would say that Lasette
13 has done an exceptionally good job preparing a
14 story map and presenting that to us. So it's a
15 good, good -- it's good. It's in progress. The
16 hope is that we can get some more feedback from
17 planners and some developers, you know.

18 As the water side has seen it, DPH, sometimes
19 you go -- as you become so narrow-framed minded,
20 because you're the only one that sees it one way.
21 So we want to make sure we get the different
22 perspectives and make sure people can understand
23 it. And then hopefully put that live at some
24 point soon.

25 So I know Eric also needs approval through

1 other people to put it live, Lori and others --
2 but I think it's a great decision, because there's
3 so many questions that I answer as being in the
4 WUCC over the last, you know, number of years.

5 So that's what we did -- but again, presented
6 it. We didn't get a lot of comments, but it's a
7 great step forward in all the integration of that
8 particular subject.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Dan -- and just so the Water Planning
10 Council knows, Doug did bring the modification of
11 the general permit to the Water Planning Advisory
12 group.

13 However, I think what Margaret's reacting to
14 it did sound in the WUCC implementation meeting as
15 if some of the language might have changed between
16 what we had heard, or had presented to us and the
17 language that we saw and what the current language
18 is. So I believe that's probably what Margaret
19 was reacting to.

20 I was under the impression what the water
21 planning advisory group was getting was sort of
22 the final out of the WUCC implementation group,
23 but some of that might have changed.

24 And I -- and maybe it's also because we
25 haven't seen the hard language of the changes yet

1 to understand exactly how it's going to sort of
2 change the nuance of what we had -- what had come
3 to the advisory group.

4 So we are also working through our own
5 discussions of prioritization -- not necessarily
6 prioritization at this point, but taking a fresh
7 look at the state water plan recommendations and
8 as well as the pathways forward in light of the
9 reports that have come out recently with the
10 Governor's Council on Climate Change and, you
11 know, other emerging issues since the water plan
12 was solidified and finalized in 2018.

13 And we're trying to learn how to connect the
14 dots and move forward with the advisory group, but
15 it's just sort of exercise we're going through to
16 sort of take a fresh look at all of the work that
17 had been done in the past and compare it to
18 future -- the current conditions and any anything
19 that's come out since then.

20 So we've had some pretty detailed discussions
21 about that recently as well.

22 Dan, did I capture that fairly accurately. I
23 think he's shaking his yes.

24 DAN AUBIN: Yeah, sorry. I have to, like, get to the
25 mute button. Yeah, you have. Thank you.

1 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So I think other than that here
2 you're going to be getting the same reports we're
3 going to be hearing, probably just some fresher
4 things from the interagency drought workgroup --
5 which I am curious to hear about myself
6 considering our current conditions, so.

7 And we have again lost our business
8 representative. The representative we had changed
9 jobs. So we are searching again for someone to
10 take up the business and industry category.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: What happens with them, Alecia?

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: What's that?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: How come they leave us so quick?

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, he actually took a whole new
15 job. He switched jobs. So he wasn't representing
16 the organization that had stepped forward to fill
17 that spot.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I can't remember where he went, but
20 he's --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia and Dan. Any
22 questions?

23
24 (No response.)
25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Moving on to Karen and watershed lands
2 workgroup update. I believe we have a meeting
3 coming up?

4 KAREN BURNASKA: Sure. You're all invited, nine
5 o'clock Friday morning, via Zoom the watershed
6 lands workgroup will be meeting.

7 The bigger items on the agenda, we will have
8 a brief legislative recap on we're going to talk
9 about, once again, land conveyances, especially
10 the land conveyances that include watershed land
11 or aquifer protection land, source water lands.

12 We're looking at possibly sending another
13 letter to the GAE committee asking them to have
14 more information in the verbiage of the bill so
15 people actually know how much land is being
16 conveyed, and for what purpose. And we are just
17 looking about general information that they put on
18 their website to make certain it's current and
19 people can be involved.

20 We will have a brief update, and it probably
21 will be Alecia or someone on the steps process on
22 the side, Graham -- the solar project, Exxon
23 watershed land.

24 We will have Dan or Aaron Budris, or whoever
25 is there at the meeting. We'll hope that they can

1 give us, if they wanted to, an update on this, the
2 WUCC project that is informing and helping local
3 planning officials as they plan for the future
4 that they look to protect source water land.

5 And we will also continue our discussion -- I
6 think it started two meetings ago -- on how can we
7 stay better protected, class one and class two
8 live lands, or lands that are classified as having
9 a high potential for potable water. So that is a
10 discussion that has started. There's been a
11 modified back and forth, and we're going to
12 continue that on Friday morning, and everyone is
13 welcome. So please join us.

14 And Margaret is on also. I don't know if
15 Margaret wanted to add anything additional?

16 MARGARET MINER: That's perfect. No, nothing. You
17 covered everything, as usual.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Lots of good items
19 happening on that group, for sure.

20 All right. Moving on to other business.

21 WUCC update, Lori?

22 LORI MATHIEU: So Eric McPhee is out. We've heard a
23 lot about the WUCC. And Jack, I don't know if we
24 need to --

25 THE CHAIRMAN: We can put it on the agenda for next

1 month. We'll do more detail.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Beautiful.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay?

4 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Sounds good.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Moving right along to water
6 conservation.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Is my name on that for the agenda?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, water conservation.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Conservation, right. So I know that
10 water conservation, as we all know, is an
11 important item in the state water plan. It's
12 recognized in many locations within the plan
13 itself. We've had a lot of conversation about it.

14 (Interruption.)

15 LORI MATHIEU: So anyway, water conservation, an
16 important concept, very important to all of us to
17 continue to think about and move forward. I was
18 having a conversation with Francis Pickering.
19 He's the Executive Director of the Western Council
20 of Governments. Francis I believe is on. I have
21 asked him to join us for a couple of minutes.

22 Jack, if you're okay this?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course.

24 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Francis, if you're still on -- I
25 know we've totally blown apart the time that I

1 gave you. I don't know if Francis can unmute?

2 Francis?

3 FRANCIS PICKERING: Thank you for inviting me, Lori.

4 It's great to be here, yeah.

5 So as you may be aware, I'm the Executive
6 Director of West COG, one of nine COGs in the
7 state. And we do have a lot of work in regional
8 planning, which involves environmental planning.

9 And some issues have come up over the last
10 year that we thought might be of interest to DPH,
11 DEEP and I guess to the WPC as well. One of the
12 issues we've been involved in was the Public Act
13 21-29, which is the housing/zoning reform bill.

14 And it basically created a statewide standard
15 for accessory apartments, which is an interesting
16 opportunity. It's a low-cost way to increase
17 availability, diversity and reduce the cost of
18 housing stock statewide.

19 One of the challenges we see there -- and
20 this may not be directly under your purview, but
21 it's related -- is that adding an accessory
22 apartment, which can be an addition to a house or
23 a reconfiguration of space inside the house, or a
24 separate outbuilding; could be new or a conversion
25 of a garage or carriage house -- you can grant,

1 say, one -- zero one bedroom apartment.

2 The challenge we see is that septic systems
3 are generally sized to the number of bedrooms in a
4 house, and the State's design standards are based
5 upon the number of bedrooms. They do not account
6 for water efficiency. And we've seen the
7 neighboring states such as New York State, that
8 the standards are actually more nuanced.

9 So if a home is built with more efficient
10 fixtures, then the flow requirements are reduced.
11 And so for instance, a home in Connecticut under
12 New York standards, if you were to replace all of
13 the fixtures you could get four-bedroom capacity
14 out of what we would consider a three-bedroom
15 septic system.

16 Now, I mention this because the cost of
17 adding an accessory apartment can be anywhere from
18 modest to expensive, but it's far less than buying
19 a new lot, developing it and putting new utilities
20 in. Under current regs, a health department or
21 district would most likely say, your septic tank
22 is undersized for an additional bedroom. You've
23 got to replace your septic system, or put a
24 separate one in -- which is very expensive, on the
25 order of tens of thousands of dollars.

1 If you replace your fixtures you may be able
2 to accommodate an additional bedroom, say, a
3 studio or one-bedroom apartment on your property
4 and provide a lot of opportunity economically in
5 terms of housing choice, but right now Connecticut
6 doesn't actually do that. So what we see here is
7 water conservation can actually reduce housing
8 costs by allowing us if we update our regulations
9 to stretch more capacity of existing septic
10 systems.

11 Now then I can, if -- I'll be on in a second,
12 if you have any questions.

13 We've also been looking at sewer systems, and
14 similar issues arise. The communities around
15 Candlewood Lake are facing challenges with water
16 pollution in Candlewood Lake largely from failing
17 and leaking septic systems. And there's
18 discussion about having to sewer the area.

19 Sewering, of course, is very expensive. You
20 need to size all the infrastructure to demand.
21 There are sewage treatment plans available in the
22 general area. One of the challenges there is
23 people are very cautious with the capacity because
24 there's a feeling that we may need to reserve
25 capacity to accommodate future desired commercial

1 industrial growth. So you know there is capacity.
2 It may be hard to get.

3 So we've talked to the Town of Brookfield,
4 for instance. They are extremely interested in
5 ways to reduce water use in existing and new
6 buildings. So can we get more stringent state
7 requirements under the building code, under the
8 public health code? Can a municipality adopt
9 local ordinances to that effect?

10 Can we have a voluntary or mandatory fixture
11 replacement program as has been done in LA County?
12 If we can get our water efficiency up and our
13 water use down, then we can reduce the size of the
14 septic system or the amount of capacity we have to
15 buy from a neighboring community.

16 Almost a similar situation exists in
17 Ridgefield and Redding. Redding built a sewage
18 treatment plant for the Georgetown water
19 redevelopment. That development has not happened,
20 but has saddled the special taxing district with a
21 ton of debt, and it's gone bankrupt.

22 Nextdoor, Ridgefield wants access to the WPCA
23 for redevelopment, but Redding does not want to
24 give their capacity away because then they would
25 lose what they built to facilitate the

1 redevelopment.

2 The flows, the design flows are based upon an
3 assumption that non-efficient fixtures -- or
4 inefficient fixtures are being used. We don't
5 have any regulations in place to say you can
6 reduce your flows if more efficient fixtures are
7 used. We don't really have any programs for
8 fixture replacement.

9 And then the last issue I'll touch on is in
10 Southwestern Connecticut we've had droughts.
11 We've had water conservation measures. Obviously,
12 turfgrass is a major concern down there in terms
13 of its water needs, but we've really done nothing
14 to address -- at the state or local level to
15 address the efficiency of our fixtures.

16 And there are many dated fixtures out there
17 as well as newer, newer construction, which could
18 be more efficient. We haven't adopted EPA
19 WaterSense or more stringent requirements.

20 So we see all over Western Connecticut water
21 challenges. They're largely in the area of
22 wastewater, but drinking water is a driver of
23 wastewater and we can address these wastewater
24 challenges at low cost to drinking water.

25 One last thing I did want to touch in is

1 there may be synergies in existing state programs
2 such as Energize CT. Energize CT provides
3 relatively large rebates for the purchase of heat
4 pump water heaters because they are so much more
5 efficient than conventional resistance heat water
6 heaters.

7 But another way to achieve a reduction in
8 energy use is to put in low-flow shower heads.
9 The less hot water you use, the less electricity
10 you use, but also the less water you use. And we
11 really haven't seen much -- there's potential for
12 cooperation between water efficiency interests and
13 also energy efficiency interest.

14 So that was a lot in about five minutes, but
15 that's what we're looking at, the COG, and we are
16 trying to find a way forward to promote efficiency
17 and help us out with these challenges.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Francis, thank you. That's so much
19 information in a short period of time. And so
20 Francis and I were talking about all of these
21 things and he really did a great job summarizing
22 everything.

23 You know it just brought back to me all of
24 the work in the state water plan, all the
25 discussions about water conservation, water

1 fixtures, water system capacity, sewage capacity.
2 And I wanted to bring all of that energy of what
3 Francis just, you know, laid out for us in five
4 minutes to the Water Planning Council.

5 So Jack, Graham, Dan, I would love to have
6 your input and your thoughts and what you heard
7 from Francis, and then for us to think about maybe
8 we need a renewed effort in some way on water
9 conservation given what you just heard.

10 Because there's, you know if you brought on
11 the other eight executive directors, you might
12 hear some very similar issues from council of
13 government executive directors.

14 So Jack? Graham?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham?

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thanks, Jack.

17 First off, a pleasure to meet you. And we're
18 happy to deputize you to be our spokesperson for
19 water efficiency in Connecticut. It is an issue
20 that the Council has worked on in the past. We
21 have been trying to socialize the issue with the
22 Department of Consumer Protection and the
23 Department of Administrative Services that handles
24 the state building code.

25 Both of those agencies play a significant

1 role in water conservation. You know, DCP deals
2 with the water efficiency standards in state
3 statute, which need to be updated as well as the
4 regs.

5 And you know, obviously the state building
6 code is a very powerful tool for this purpose, but
7 one thing that's just -- this is just a really
8 good discussion. You're talking about really
9 energizing a new group of folks to care about this
10 issue who have shown over the last several years
11 to be very impactful, dedicated, organized in
12 their pursuits for greater equity in housing --
13 whether it be in, you know, location or cost or,
14 you know, availability.

15 So you know that's something that I'm very
16 much interested in, and would love to chat with
17 you about further.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Welcome, and I appreciate you being
19 here. And even when we put a plan together, the
20 COGs were very much involved in part of the
21 process. So what you rolled out to us today is
22 timely and something we really need to capitalize
23 on.

24 So we appreciate you, and I know you have
25 your own statewide organization. I know my good

1 friend Rick Dunne out of Waterbury would gladly,
2 gladly get involved. So I think this is a good
3 segue into doing some really good things for the
4 Council. The topics that you zoomed in on are
5 those that were very much in our mission.

6 Alecia, or Denise? Alecia?

7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So we were so extremely fortunate to
8 have to be able to utilize the Alliance for Water
9 Efficiency as a resource for a period of time, and
10 one of the deliverables they had provided to the
11 Water Planning Council was essentially all of the
12 tools needed to bring these efficiency standards
13 to the powers that be.

14 And I understand that there are others
15 involved, but I think it would be important for
16 all of us who were involved and worked on that to
17 understand where things stand, and understand
18 that, you know, other people in the room, in this
19 room and the advisory group room, and the
20 implementation workgroup room can help you guys in
21 pushing this forward with the powers that be in
22 some way.

23 You know, the last -- this is the first time
24 we've heard about it in the Water Planning Council
25 in -- I don't know how long -- in understanding

1 where that work stood.

2 So please, you know, we can work together to
3 take what was handed, you know, to the Water
4 Planning Council and drive that forward with the
5 outside of the Water Planning Council entities
6 that need to be -- either have put pressure on
7 them or to understand the vast amount of groups
8 that have an interest in moving this forward.

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

10 Denise?

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Yes. I'm going to build on what
12 Alecia said. Mary Ann Dickinson, I've been
13 working with her on the 50th anniversary of the
14 Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. So she
15 reminds me each time we speak that she presented
16 us with some, you know, legislation that needed to
17 be done.

18 But I think it gets to another point and
19 that's, you know, this idea when we're working
20 towards this idea of getting a water chief or
21 whatever, one of the challenges with the Water
22 Planning Council is, okay. If we give it to the
23 Water Planning Council, which agency picks it up
24 and brings it to legislation? Or do we need to do
25 it a different way?

1 We had a legislator ready to go with this
2 piece of legislation who would have taken it and
3 run, run with it. And it would have been, you
4 know, at least before the Legislature this year.

5 That said, what Mr. Pickering has brought up
6 goes beyond that.

7 But I just want to basically bring out that
8 the largest water utility bill for
9 municipalities is sewage treatment plants in terms
10 of electric. So their electric bill for running
11 sewage treatment plants is huge. So water
12 efficiency, whether you're, you know, running your
13 sink, doing your shower, flushing your toilet,
14 it's not just about the heating of water, it's the
15 treating of water on the downhill stream. So this
16 is about utility bills.

17 It's also an environmental justice issue, as
18 you can imagine. The utility bills for the
19 environmental justice community are amazing. So
20 they're the ones who are on public sewer. When
21 the sewer rate goes up because they have an
22 electric bill, like I said, it's the number one
23 user of electricity for most municipalities -- is
24 the sewage treatment plant.

25 So all of this ties together, and I just

1 bring it around again. We need to be thinking
2 about it in those terms. We need to be thinking
3 about that there's a nexus between water and
4 energy -- and I'll put in food supply, because
5 that's a water issue as well. And so we need to
6 be thinking holistically. And it comes back to we
7 need to be thinking about it again as one water.

8 Here we are talking about tracking water
9 supply, water efficiencies and wastewater on the
10 other end. We need to be talking about it like
11 that, and we need to be thinking about it in the
12 state water plan. So thank you for bringing that
13 up.

14 It is something we talked about. And at the
15 last implementation workgroup meeting we were
16 talking about this idea of water conservation and
17 how we needed to move forward with this. So just
18 bringing that up again. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Denise.

20 Lori, anything else?

21 LORI MATHIEU: Well, so Denise mentioned it,
22 legislative initiatives, water conservation along
23 with private wells were our two priorities. And
24 so I think what Francis brought up, there's a lot
25 of things to unpack there.

1 But I think fundamentally -- and Francis and
2 I were talking about this issue of rates. You
3 know we are heading into a dry period. Right?
4 And we talk about all the time, is anyone paying
5 attention? You know, what's the messaging we
6 should be sending out? Who should we be telling
7 about this?

8 And what worries us is when there is a call
9 for voluntary conservation, but some of the
10 utilities would hesitate because of the impact on
11 rates, and that is something that we need to
12 address. Because no one should hesitate, because
13 we have not had a back-to-back year drought in a
14 long time -- but it's coming. You know again we
15 talk about planning for interconnection; we better
16 be prepared for that. Right? We better be
17 prepared.

18 And I think what Francis brings up is that,
19 you know we need to do better on conserving water,
20 concerning energy. Because the costs are just
21 going to skyrocket. I mean, look what's happening
22 to gasoline. It's just you know, the inflation.
23 Affordability is a real issue.

24 So I would like to get your thoughts.
25 Alecia, Denise, Margaret, you know, what do we do?

1 What do we want to do? Dan, everybody, Francis.
2 You know, think about what we want to do now.
3 Where we stand today, what do we want to do? Do
4 we want to put it back on the table and
5 re-emphasize it? Do we want to reach back out?

6 And I know Graham has done a lot of
7 work working with DAS and DCP. Do we want to
8 reach back out to them? Along with Jack, you guys
9 worked together on this.

10 You know, what do we want to do? Do we want
11 to put together a little mini plan?

12 But I don't think we have the answers right
13 now -- but I just thought bringing Francis here
14 and all of his energy and all of these items was
15 important.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We appreciate Francis being with us. He
17 got us all thinking about this again. I think we
18 have to set up -- you know we love groups. I
19 think we have to set up, either through Alicea's
20 group or David and Virginia's group -- we have to
21 set up a plan.

22 And I think we have to be ready to go. I
23 mean, people put a lot of time and effort. I
24 mean, Graham and I tried to do a thing by going
25 through our various agencies -- but sometimes that

1 doesn't work, as we well know, and sometimes we
2 have to go a different route.

3 But I think we should come up with a plan as
4 if the agencies, we're going to embrace it. And
5 if it doesn't work we'll take a different avenue.
6 I would highly recommend that we have a workgroup.

7 Denise?

8 DENISE SAVAGEAU: I agree. I don't want to put Dan
9 Lawrence on the spot -- and maybe I'm incorrect,
10 but I was thinking that the WUCC had a rates group
11 that's working. Am I correct about that, Dan? I
12 thought I remembered someone else saying that they
13 had picked up and were trying to discuss the
14 rates.

15 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. At what point -- like we had at
16 our last meeting, we had a discussion around
17 what's our next topic? Rates came up and a couple
18 other things. So we don't have an active group
19 right now.

20 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All right. Thank you. I just wanted
21 to bring that up. If there was already a group
22 working -- I couldn't remember the discussion.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So Alecia?

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So we actually have a workgroup. We

1 revisited the workgroup that sort of -- it kind of
2 fizzled out, or was put on hold because of the
3 Alliance for Water Efficiency workshop.

4 And so we've reworked that, and the advisory
5 group has looked at it. And I will send it to you
6 guys to take a look at that proposal for that
7 workgroup, and that's exactly what we were looking
8 to do -- is really just sort of, not to solve the
9 problem, but to lay out the issue of why? Why?
10 How -- what all of the elements are in the
11 difficulty in decoupling rates from, you know, the
12 sale of water. And how we can make sure that what
13 we can do moving forward -- well, this will
14 hopefully help lay out the problem of what this
15 workgroup proposal is.

16 As far as utilities, the concern is about
17 losing revenue. Obviously, they need to run their
18 business and if they get their revenues from
19 selling water. And sometimes that undermines
20 conservation, year-round conservation. And
21 sometimes it undermines conservation in times of
22 drought -- and really that's kind of the elephant
23 in the room.

24 That is the -- as far as I'm concerned, that
25 foundational thing, that unless we fix that part

1 of the foundation first we're not going to get too
2 far in solving this. And it will never be solved
3 completely across the board the way we like to do
4 things in Connecticut, but at least to have a more
5 uniform solution -- or uniform tools that can be
6 utilized by more, by different kinds of utilities.

7 So I will send that along now to you guys,
8 and if it gets your blessing on it then we'll
9 start working on in the summer.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: But as I've said in the past, for
11 private investor-owner companies we do have
12 regulatory adjustment mechanisms.

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: So --

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: But if you remember, the big sticking
16 point when we were going through the workshop with
17 the Alliance for Water Efficiency was, for that to
18 be applied there has to be -- the customers have
19 to feel confident that there is regulatory
20 oversight of that program.

21 And for some smaller utilities, the customers
22 might not have that trust in the folks. And not
23 saying the utilities themselves, because the
24 people run -- but there might be political
25 decisions above the heads of the folks that really

1 do run those utilities.

2 So it's not necessarily something that can be
3 utilized because there isn't that consistent
4 oversight and trust from the customers.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I do not disagree with the smaller
6 companies, but I can tell you the larger
7 companies, there should be trust because we make
8 them go to hell and back -- Dan is shaking his
9 head -- when they come in for a regulatory
10 adjustment mechanism, because they best prove to
11 us that they money.

12 Is that correct, Dan?

13 DAN LAWRENCE: Yes, sure.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And there is, Jack -- and I mean,
15 proof positive that it's working for those
16 utilities is that I refer folks in my membership
17 lists to Aquarion's website on their messaging
18 about conservation, because it's so good.
19 Connecticut Water, theirs is good as well.

20 They can promote conservation, and not
21 everybody can do that because, a, they don't have
22 the capacity, and B, it's going to impact their
23 bottom line.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't disagree with that. I do not
25 disagree. Well, let's get moving, and we're going

1 to some nice legislative package together again
2 this year, and let's make this be part of it.

3 LORI MATHIEU: I would love to have Francis maybe give
4 us a download of the information. Maybe Francis,
5 you would be willing to do that and share?

6 FRANCIS PICKERING: Sure. Yeah, and I know the things
7 that I spoke to, they don't address, for instance,
8 the rate issue that you're bringing up, but they
9 are important issues.

10 So it will be incomplete for what you're
11 probably working on, but I'm happy to put together
12 some information and sent it over to you.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Francis, thank you again very
15 much for being with us, and more to come.

16 FRANCIS PICKERING: Thank you. You too.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. And Alecia, you're going to get
18 that back to us and we're going to get moving on
19 that. Okay.

20 And I know this discussion -- and I'm glad
21 that Francis came today, because it kind of
22 reenergized the discussion going on. I know
23 there's been frustration, but we're going to have
24 newly elected legislators this year. We'll get it
25 done this year. We're going to get lots of money

1 this year and we're going to get this passed this
2 year.

3 So okay. Moving onto private well updates,
4 Lori?

5 LORI MATHIEU: I was thinking in the interests of time
6 and my lack of -- total lack of preparation I want
7 to put on next month's agenda an actual
8 presentation on what passed. So I think I
9 mentioned last month, you know, what passed is not
10 exactly what Mike Dietz's group proposed and what
11 we all voted on. So that did not pass. Right?

12 So there is a property transfer for private
13 wells. We wanted to have a requirement for that
14 private will be tested, the water quality to be
15 tested. Right? So that didn't pass. We had some
16 negotiation on the language.

17 So what did pass is less than what we wanted,
18 but at least we have something. And it's a step
19 in the right direction, and we can talk more about
20 it next time.

21 So I will ask -- if it's okay, Jack? We'll
22 get on the agenda for about maybe 15 minutes.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

24 LORI MATHIEU: And then my staff -- probably Ryan
25 Tetreault to come and present on private wells and

1 what actually passed. And then we can have people
2 ask questions about what happened.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. That's fine.

4 Next we have interagency drought working
5 group update. I know that they've been somewhat
6 busy. Mr. Morley.

7 **DAN MORLEY:** Yeah. I'll provide you the update that
8 Martin wanted me to provide you.

9 So the drought group has met twice since the
10 last WPC meeting and that would be during the
11 months of May and June. They've been working
12 through the language of the drought plan that's
13 based on recommendations received, as well as the
14 past experience with the 2020 drought.

15 The group continues to monitor and conduct
16 monthly reviews of the hydrologic conditions, and
17 based on their assessment of the drought criteria
18 they determined that the Windham and New London
19 counties triggered the stage one drought, which is
20 for below normal conditions.

21 So Martin had a memo that went to the OPM
22 secretary and the office of the Governor
23 indicating that -- this says that the stage one is
24 activated in response to early signals of
25 abnormally dry conditions and serves as a heads-up

1 for the possibility of developing drought.

2 So again, you know that was what Martin felt
3 was appropriate, to provide notice that we're
4 continuing to monitor the situation and will take
5 further action as needed.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, to everybody's point, we better be
7 ready. That's why this interagency workgroup is
8 so important.

9 LORI MATHIEU: So there's a question from Alecia about
10 what counties, Dan?

11 DAN MORLEY: Oh, I'm sorry. It was Windham and New
12 London counties.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other questions for Dan?

14
15 (No response.)
16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, thank you, Dan. It's nice to
18 have you with us.

19 Federal grant application, proposed fiscal
20 '23 budget. Stay tuned. We haven't heard
21 anything back, certainly from the federal
22 government application. And we're going to be
23 working on a budget for next year.

24 The state water plan priorities I think we
25 heard a lot of priorities in this meeting this

1 afternoon. So let's look at what came out of the
2 meeting today and incorporate that into us, what
3 we're going to be doing moving forward.

4 Any public comment?

5
6 (No response.)

7
8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Our next meeting is the day after a
9 state holiday. Lori, are you going to be here?
10 Graham?

11 **LORI MATHIEU:** What day is it?

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** The 5th, the day after the 4th. The day
13 after the holiday.

14 **LORI MATHIEU:** That's never a good day.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Maybe we'll push it off a week.

16 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'll have Ally do the poles.

18 **LORI MATHIEU:** Graham, what are your thoughts about
19 that one?

20 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I mean, I can do whichever. I do have
21 a recurring meeting the following Tuesday the same
22 time.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We'll figure something out.

24 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** It would be nice to take a long
25 weekend, though.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, I'm in on the 5th, Jack.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'm in as well, I think. But I'm more
3 than happy to pick another time. And maybe,
4 Chair, what we could do is -- well, we could make
5 it a special meeting and just talk about the
6 priorities which could be a continuation of the
7 conversation we've been having.

8 Or we could dedicate the time to, you know,
9 some presentations. I'm not sure if we would be
10 ready, Lori, you know, for Ryan and a presentation
11 from Eric and Doug on the GP. It could be an
12 informative meeting as opposed to a regularly
13 scheduled meeting.

14 I'm open to any of those ideas.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Maybe we'll start -- in the
16 interests of time, start it like one instead of
17 1:30. We'll start a little bit earlier.

18 MS. LUPOLI: Well, it's one thing to say that we will
19 be around, but for our staff to come on the 5th
20 and present, it may not --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: No, no. I'm taking the 5th is going to
22 be out.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Oh, the 5th is out? All right.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: In my eyes, and we can look at some
25 alternative dates later on in the month.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else for the good
3 of the Water Planning Council before we adjourn?
4

5 (No response.)
6

7 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll see some of you tomorrow at the
8 webinar. If not, a motion to adjourn is in order?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

11 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

13 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

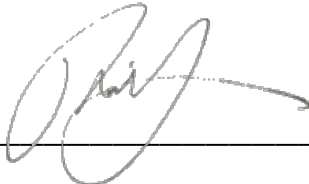
14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you all very much.

15 Have a good evening.
16

17 (End: 3 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 69 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 June 7, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

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