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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
September 6, 2022, beginning at 1:34 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

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

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

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

4 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

5 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

6 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

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

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

10 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

11 **MARGARET MINER**

12 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

13 **KAREN BURNASKA**

14 **DAVID RADKA**

15 **ERIC McPHEE**

16
17 **Staff:**

18 **LAURA LUPOLI**

19 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 (Begin: 1:34 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
4 the Water Planning Council meeting for
5 September 6, 2022. I hope everybody had a nice
6 summer and a nice Labor Day weekend. I'm sure
7 Martin is very happy today because as we look out
8 our windows and we see all the rain and all the
9 totals -- and we'll hear more from him later on.

10 So I will call this meeting to order. The
11 first order of business will be the approval of
12 the July 28, 2022, transcript.

13 Do I hear a motion?

14 MARTIN HEFT: So moved, by Martin.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

16 LORI MATHIEU: Second that.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

18 Any questions?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
23 saying aye.

24 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved.

1 around since July 25th, where the Water Planning
2 Council advisory group has recommended that we
3 approve Steven Vitko to replace John Hudak to
4 represent regional water companies.

5 He is a senior environmental analyst and
6 involved with the Connecticut Waterworks
7 Association, and a member of the regional water
8 source protection program. Steven has spent the
9 last year getting up to speed on numerous water
10 allocation and policy issues.

11 Any questions on this nominee?

12
13 (No response.)
14

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, I would entertain a motion to
16 approve this nomination.

17 **LORI MATHIEU:** I make a motion to approve.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Motion by Lori. Second by?

19 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I'll second that.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Motion made, and seconded by Graham that
21 Steve be appointed to the Water Planning Council
22 advisory group.

23 Any questions? Comments?

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** I only have one comment, and I have no
25 problem with the appointment. I would just like

1 to reiterate that in the future as we're going
2 through with the appointments, that we make it a
3 more open process, as was discussed at a previous
4 meeting; rather than just looking for single
5 recommendations, that we do a more open process of
6 looking.

7 I know we still have some other vacancies to
8 fill and just that we open it up to others -- as
9 well as we're looking through that, and the
10 recommendations coming forward.

11 But otherwise, I don't have a problem with
12 the appointment for Steve.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

14 Any further comment?

15 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, I'd like to just mention that Steve
16 I think is an excellent candidate, and look
17 forward to the work ahead with him.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

19 Any further comment?

20
21 (No response.)
22

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And you're right, Martin. We do have --
24 we still have two vacancies that I'm looking at
25 here. Okay. All those in favor signify by saying

1 aye.

2 **THE COUNCIL:** Aye.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** The motion is carried.

4 The next order of business under topic 6, 6B,
5 implementation workgroup topical subgroup
6 workgroup United States Geological Survey Data
7 Collection Program.

8 And Virginia, would you like to talk about
9 this?

10 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Certainly. And let me start out by
11 giving my apologies. My computer is telling me I
12 don't have a camera. So I'm not sure what's going
13 on with that, but that's why I'm off camera.

14 You received -- at your last meeting you
15 discussed very briefly the proposal for a
16 workgroup to look at USGS data, and requested that
17 we make sure that there were details in terms of
18 the duration and the cost, in terms of resources
19 and those kinds of things.

20 So we did update that proposal and sent it to
21 you, and I'm hoping that at this meeting we can
22 clear up any outstanding questions and get your
23 approval so we can put that workgroup together.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes, you did send a very comprehensive
25 e-mail to us on August 10th, and you certainly

1 answered my questions. It lays it out very nicely
2 in terms of what the subgroup would do and the
3 background purpose and the scope of the work.

4 Any comments or questions on this?

5 I have no problem authorizing or accepting
6 this.

7 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So just a question. Thank you,
8 Virginia -- because I know I'm the one who asked
9 this.

10 What agency is handling this?

11 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Primarily DEEP.

12 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Thank you. I knew that that was
13 going to the chair in the workgroup, but I wasn't
14 sure if they were going to handle it to make
15 sure -- all of the minutes and all that stuff.

16 So I wanted to verify that. Thank you.

17 And what was --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have any questions -- go ahead.

19 I'm sorry, Martin.

20 MARTIN HEFT: That's okay. The other was just -- and
21 if I missed it I apologize, because I've got tons
22 of papers here -- the timeline for this workgroup.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'm happy to take that, Virginia, if
24 you want?

25 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Certainly.

1 Thank you. Thank you, Graham.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: I don't know if you're having the best
3 Internet today.

4 So I think we anticipate it will take some
5 time, between nine and twelve months depending
6 upon how much analysis we need to do with USGS.

7 MARTIN HEFT: Great. Thanks, Graham.

8 Do you need a motion, Jack?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

10 MARTIN HEFT: So moved to establish the topical sub
11 workgroup for the evaluation of USGS data
12 collection programs.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Second? Do I hear a second?

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded this workgroup
16 be approved by the Water Planning Council.

17 Any questions?

18
19 (No response.)

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

23 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

25

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

4 Moving onto 6D is the Water Planning Council
5 advisory workgroup conservation pricing and rate
6 recovery analysis. This is the workgroup that
7 will be under the Water Planning Council advisory
8 group.

9 And perhaps Alecia -- who sent out, again, a
10 very nice proposal with the background, purpose,
11 scope, and the membership -- would you like to
12 give a little overview, Alecia, please?

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, it hasn't changed since the
14 last time we chatted -- only that I did add the
15 information that PURA will be staffing this.
16 Thank you, Jack, for offering PURA's staff on
17 this -- and I added the timeline to the proposal
18 as well.

19 And essentially this is really sort of more
20 of a putting an analysis forward and putting some
21 facts and information about, what are our barriers
22 and possible opportunities as far as rate recovery
23 and conservation pricing are here in Connecticut?
24 So it can be applied more -- for the barriers to
25 it being applied more evenly across our various

1 flavors of utilities.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: So I mean, the intent of this would
3 eventually, obviously, come up with some
4 legislation?

5 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes, that would be step two, is to
6 take a look at, you know, what the issues are, how
7 we can get over them.

8 And then step two is to put a group together
9 to try to find some solutions -- and maybe they
10 might be legislative. They might be other. You
11 know, we always look to legislation first, but
12 sometimes it's not always the best path.

13 So finding a solution, at least bringing
14 something into the next update of the state water
15 plan at the very least.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Any questions on this before
17 we entertain a motion?

18 LORI MATHIEU: Could I ask Alecia a question, Jack?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course.

20 LORI MATHIEU: I'm just curious about one thought that
21 is always very good when we're looking at
22 challenges such as this, to look at what other
23 states are doing. So hopefully that would be
24 embedded in this review.

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes, you're right Lori. It is always

1 a good thing to look at to see what information we
2 can bring in from other states.

3 LORI MATHIEU: So we'd love to see that, and look
4 forward to this work ahead.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia. Thank you, Lori.
6 Any further questions, comments?

7
8 (No response.)

9
10 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, I would entertain a motion to
11 approve?

12 LORI MATHIEU: Motion to approve.

13 MARTIN HEFT: Second.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made by Lori, seconded by Martin
15 that this proposal by the Water Planning Council
16 advisory group for a conservation pricing rate
17 recovery analysis group be approved.

18 Any questions?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
23 saying aye.

24 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. We're just
4 pumping out all sorts of work this afternoon.

5 Okay. Now we're going to move on, on the
6 agenda. It's going to be number 6D, which is the
7 Connecticut General Assembly GAE Committee
8 conveyance letter. This is been around here since
9 June as well. June 21st is when the draft was
10 sent to us.

11 I guess, Alecia, this letter will come from
12 you, your group as cochairs of the advisory group.

13 Correct?

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes, myself and Dan.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I've read it. I have no problem
16 with the letter.

17 I don't know if anybody else does?

18 LORI MATHIEU: No.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I would entertain a motion that we
20 authorize the Water Planning Council advisory
21 group to submit this letter to the cochairs of the
22 GAE committee. Do I have a motion?

23 MARTIN HEFT: So moved -- so we can get a discussion.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So moved. Second?

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded.

2 Further discussion, Martin?

3 MARTIN HEFT: So I think some probably hesitation is
4 because it's a legislative matter. Obviously, you
5 know I agree with it conceptually with what
6 they're looking for here and everything else, but
7 I know that there's probably some hesitation from
8 other Councilmembers because the legislative
9 matters -- obviously, we have our own legislative
10 processes we have to follow and go through on it
11 where, although this is not coming directly from
12 the Water Planning Council, it's coming from our
13 advisory group which reflects us. So I think
14 there's probably some discussion in that sense for
15 it.

16 I think overall looking at what's being
17 looked at here, regarding the questionnaire and
18 the supplemental information, looking at trying to
19 work with them as you're looking for potentially
20 other changes and make sure it's out there is a
21 good thing.

22 But I can sense that there's hesitation
23 because of the legislative impacts and not having,
24 you know, we're not in session at this moment.
25 And trying to help make a decision on that, on

1 that there's no legislative proposal necessarily
2 in here on it. It's just expressing some
3 concerns/thoughts.

4 So maybe it would have to be reworded a
5 little bit in that sense saying, I'd like to
6 discuss with you the potential for legislative
7 changes, something maybe that might help appease
8 some of our other members.

9 Just some thoughts out there.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Good comments, Martin. I think one of
11 my hesitations is the letter does make a request
12 of another branch of government.

13 And what I might be more comfortable with is
14 if the letter was just clearly stating what we
15 would -- what information is beneficial to our
16 charge of protecting these valuable water
17 resources.

18 And that we hope that we can sit down
19 potentially and work with the committee to explain
20 and work out a process to try to ensure that this
21 information is available for review.

22 I think the letters may just be a little bit
23 strong in its requests and direction to the
24 committee.

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Just to refresh everyone's memory,

1 we -- the GAE did adopt the supplemental
2 questionnaire that would bring forth the
3 information that had -- that the watershed lands
4 group had looked at and said, you know, this is
5 really information we need to know and the public
6 should know -- and legislators should know before
7 making a decision on what to do in these land
8 conveyances during the legislative session. And
9 that was adopted, and that went forward.

10 That went forward.

11 The problem with the last legislative session
12 and what this letter gets to is that that
13 information was not ready before the public
14 hearing. So --

15 LORI MATHIEU: Martin or Jack, could I just have a
16 point of order here? I think we're in the middle
17 of a motion. It's for our discussion as a
18 Council.

19 Am I correct at that?

20 Because I don't want to -- we're discussing
21 it between the four of us.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Right?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

25 LORI MATHIEU: So it's our motion. Right? So I just

1 want to be clear with that, because that was --

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

3 **LORI MATHIEU:** I'm thinking about what Graham just
4 said, and I want to have a discussion between the
5 four of us. So, sorry to do that, but --

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Then let's continue. The point
7 of order is well taken.

8 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yes.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And let's continue the discussion
10 between us.

11 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, so just --

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Because I have my own thoughts on the
13 letter.

14 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, I do have concerns.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Go ahead.

16 **LORI MATHIEU:** I do have concerns, and I think if I was
17 a legislator and I received this I would say, I
18 would want to have further discussion.

19 And I just want to make sure that we're clear
20 that we would a hundred percent support this as a
21 group of four agencies.

22 No doubt there are concerns here, and what I
23 always like to do is point it back to the state
24 water plan and the mission of the Water Planning
25 Council -- which is the four of us. Right? And

1 that we care deeply about water resources, and as
2 expressed through the state water plan.

3 And I think bringing it back to that always
4 is where we come from. Right? And that's our
5 mission and that's why the money that has been
6 spent, and the time that's been spent.

7 I think if I was a legislator and I received
8 this in this way, I would be very confused. And
9 so I don't know what the best pathway forward is,
10 but that's just my thought.

11 So thank you, Jack and Martin, and Graham.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I read the letter several times. I as a
13 former legislator many, many moons ago -- I mean,
14 to me what they're trying to do is kind of clarify
15 what has already transpired.

16 They're not asking for new legislation.
17 Maybe we need to tweak it a little bit, but I
18 don't see anything offensive by it.

19 The only thing is that, should it be coming
20 from both the advisory group and us, to your
21 point? And we do represent four agencies.

22 And to Martin's point, when we do something
23 legislatively we usually have to go through a
24 process -- but this, this is not looking for a new
25 legislative initiative. This is something that

1 they're looking for clarification in terms of
2 what's already out there for future acquisitions
3 of property -- is the way I understand it.

4 I don't think -- I mean, I don't think it's
5 going to send up a lot of red flags at the
6 capitol. I just don't, so.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, one of my concerns is it kind
8 of looks to direct what the legislation language
9 actually contains, you know, containing
10 information on current and future use as well as
11 it speaks to whether or not there should or
12 shouldn't be a reverter clause in there.

13 Some agencies really don't want reverters in
14 there for different business purposes. If it's
15 going to be conveyed it should just be conveyed.
16 Potentially there could be a reversion after
17 something is built if it's deep open space; and
18 someone builds something and then they use it for
19 a purpose that isn't properly legislatively
20 authorized, and that reverter could be
21 triggered -- and DEEP owns a residential
22 development.

23 So I just think some of the directive-ness
24 needs to -- should be removed from the letter.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Why don't we -- Alecia, I'm

1 sure she's -- Alecia has heard.

2 Well first of all, do we want this letter to
3 come from the Water Planning Council advisory
4 group? Do we agree on that? Do we agree it
5 should be coming from them?

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think it would make the most sense
7 to come from the Water Planning Council, if we're
8 sending a letter to a legislative committee.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Right. I would agree, Graham -- or have
10 it come from both is perfectly fine, too.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Agreed. Agreed.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it should come from both,
14 myself.

15 Okay. So does somebody want to volunteer to
16 tweak this letter? Martin or Graham, or Lori?

17 LORI MATHIEU: Here, how about this? So this has been
18 a long-standing item. I'm glad that the letter
19 came forward, because some discussion needs to
20 take place. I don't know if this is the right way
21 to move this forward or not.

22 This has been a long-standing thing, and what
23 Graham just said is important. You know DEEP has
24 a huge role an all of this. They own property.
25 We've got to be incredibly careful about what

1 happens here.

2 There's a reason why things have happened the
3 way that they've happened. So this is -- there's
4 a lot to this. You know there's a lot to think
5 about.

6 So I guess what may be -- I don't know what
7 the best course of action is, but I know that
8 talking to my legislative people in my agency
9 would be important to do -- but I would like to
10 get a clear vision of what we are trying to
11 accomplish. That's what I would like.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: Lori, can I make a recommendation?

13 LORI MATHIEU: Sure.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: A bit of a history with the Conveyance
15 Act --

16 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, you do know --

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- having lived through the Haddam
18 Land Trust, if anyone recalls that little story in
19 Connecticut's history?

20 LORI MATHIEU: Oh yes, Uh-huh.

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: It is a very sensitive act of the
22 legislative -- somewhat misunderstood by folks.

23 I would be more than happy to work with
24 Alecia to redraft this letter coming from both
25 parties and to just tighten it up slightly to

1 clarify where we're coming from, basing it on the
2 state water plan and our desires to protect these
3 resources; and offer that back to all of you for
4 reconsideration on our next regular meeting -- if
5 Alecia is so willing?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia, are you so willing?

7 Okay.

8 MARTIN HEFT: She indicated a thumbs up.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So let's table this so that it
10 will give Alecia and Martin and Graham time to
11 work out some new language that we will be signing
12 as the Water Planning Council as well as the Water
13 Planning Council advisory group, and hopefully
14 we'll have clarification on this at the next
15 meeting.

16 Margaret, you've got your hand up and I will
17 call on you when we have the public comment at the
18 end.

19 MARGARET MINER: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Are we all clear on this? All
21 right. Thank you very much.

22 Now the moment we've all been waiting for is
23 Martin's report.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. So good afternoon, everyone. Sent
25 out earlier this month from the interagency

1 drought workgroup was our update to the state
2 drought preparedness and response plan, which the
3 workgroup reviewed all of the 2016-2017 drought
4 reports and findings that the state water plan
5 implementation workgroup went through.

6 In the packet we included was an updated
7 draft plan dated July 7th, as well as a change log
8 to help you kind of go through to see which
9 changes were made.

10 Basically, without going through the full
11 letter and everything -- and Lori has been a big
12 help on all of this as we've gone through this,
13 all the state agencies obviously involved going
14 through this whole process.

15 We actually have gone through every single
16 recommendation that came forward. What you're
17 seeing here is the changes -- is the more, what we
18 call minor technical type changes that can be
19 implemented without having to go through any
20 legislative changes, without having to go through
21 major overhauls of the plan, because some of those
22 items take further review and we need to continue
23 working on those.

24 So we did not want to kind of hold up the
25 whole plan saying, okay. We can do this phase

1 now, get these things implemented from simple
2 things of adding PURA as a voting member separate
3 from DEEP. Some of these things that we've talked
4 about; eliminating the titles in the stages of the
5 drought, so it's just a stage one through stage
6 five; adding the graphics into it; going through
7 some of the implementation pieces of here that are
8 outlined on this.

9 So with that I would recommend that this, the
10 Water Planning Council approve the revised drought
11 plan of July 7, 2022, knowing that the interagency
12 workgroup will be back, you know, at some point
13 with other changes as we continue going through
14 the other recommendations and doing some further
15 analysis on that -- but happy to answer any
16 questions anybody has.

17 And Lori's is my backup, too, just in case.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Are you moving that as a motion,

19 Mr. Heft?

20 **MARTIN HEFT:** I will move that as a motion to recommend
21 the adoption of the July 7, 2022, draft of the
22 Connecticut drought preparedness and response
23 plan.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Do I have a second?

25 **LORI MATHIEU:** Second.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made by Martin, seconded by Lori
2 that the drought preparedness response plan, the
3 7/7/2022, recommendations be approved by the Water
4 Planning Council.

5 Do we have any comments? I know --

6 LORI MATHIEU: One, I would like to do --

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Lori?

8 LORI MATHIEU: If I could, Jack? I would love to
9 say -- and like to say that I want to thank all of
10 the staff; Martin's staff, Eric and Bruce and
11 Steve Harkey from my group; and the people, just
12 the hours and hours of conversation and input from
13 many people across our agencies who paid close
14 attention to every single comment, as Martin had
15 said. So there was a lot of work put into this.

16 And I tell you, it's a testament to this
17 group of agencies that came together around
18 development of this plan that has been around
19 since the 'nineties.

20 But you know in this time when we were -- you
21 know I know it's been raining, but we have been in
22 a drought. We're still in a drought. It's always
23 fun to talk about drought when it's pouring out,
24 but it really is a true testament to the work of
25 everybody here to get this plan in the right

1 place, and to work closely together to help the
2 State understand where we need to be -- and to be
3 ahead of the game is a good feeling.

4 So I want to say thank you to every staff
5 person, everybody that has helped and assisted,
6 and in particular Martin for his leadership during
7 all these meetings. So thank you for that.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori. I was going to do the
9 same, and I would associate my comments with that.

10 I have attended a couple of these meetings
11 and there's a lot that goes into it. And you and
12 Martin, and the entire group have done a great job
13 on this, and during some very challenging times
14 with what we're experiencing now.

15 Thank God we've got this rain coming down
16 today and hopefully tomorrow -- but we have it,
17 but it doesn't mean it's not going to happen again
18 in the future. So this is a great framework. I
19 like a lot of the changes.

20 I particularly like the change that you're
21 putting a PURA representative on the group, a
22 voting member. I think that's very important.
23 We're very involved in these meetings and we
24 should have a voice.

25 But thank you very much, all of you for a job

1 well done.

2 Graham, do you have any comments?

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, yeah. It is interesting to
4 talk about drought with all the rain, but you have
5 to be prepared. Right? And --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Looking out the window here.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, you think about like looking
8 back to 2016 and lessons learned? I can't imagine
9 we won't -- I hope that this brings the drought to
10 an end at some point soon.

11 I don't want to see it be a multiple-year
12 drought, but obviously also doing further analysis
13 and continuing to refine our plans to ensure that
14 we're being responsive and taking into
15 consideration climate change and how these storms
16 and weather fluctuations are just going to
17 continue to be a part of our lives.

18 So great work to everyone, and I'm really
19 happy to vote on this today.

20 LORI MATHIEU: And I don't want to forget about our
21 federal partners. Right, Martin?

22 MARTIN HEFT: Yes.

23 LORI MATHIEU: The people from the National Weather
24 Service, from USGS. There they bring a lot to the
25 table, and our partners from our Department of

1 Emergency Management and Department of Agriculture
2 who are not part of this, our group here, but are
3 a big part of our team.

4 So it's an excellent example of how agencies
5 can come together, state and federal, around an
6 issue that deserves a lot of attention. So I just
7 want to make sure we mentioned our federal
8 partners as well.

9 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Thank you, Lori. That's a great
10 point.

11 And to think about the USGS item we just
12 approved, you know expanding our water monitoring
13 around the State will also benefit hopefully with
14 additional new groundwater monitoring wells,
15 sentinel wells.

16 It will also increase the data that we have
17 and the ability for the State to understand what
18 is being impacted and what the drought conditions
19 truly are, and trying to make that more readily
20 available.

21 I mean, it's great progress and just another
22 great thing that the Water Planning Council is
23 doing for the people of Connecticut.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Graham.

25 Any further discussion before we vote?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor of the
4 recommendation of the implementation drought
5 group, please respond by saying, aye.

6 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved.

8 Thank you all very much.

9 The 6F, the final part of this agenda, that
10 part of the agenda is reporting workgroup
11 recommendation to form a small group to develop
12 for the January 2023 legislative report.

13 This is something, Virginia, I believe you
14 recommended?

15 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes, it did. It was discussed at
16 the implementation workgroup. And as you know,
17 the state water plan requires an annual update to
18 the Legislature. In the past that has fallen to
19 typically a single individual.

20 Bruce Wittchen has done it many times in one
21 of the agencies.

22 And we thought it would be appropriate to
23 come up with a group that would begin by coming up
24 with a template of how we go about doing this so
25 that in subsequent years it could be more

1 automatic. And it's something that actually the
2 agencies could fill in some of the items
3 throughout the course of the year, rather than
4 waiting and doing a mad dash in December.

5 And so that was the idea, that have a small
6 group working on creating the template and then
7 working with the agencies to populate the
8 information for this calendar year.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's an excellent idea, because we've
10 been somewhat remiss in getting this report in.

11 And do you have some ideas of who should be
12 on this committee?

13 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Clearly, we need agency
14 representatives. I think it also would be
15 good for -- now I'm just speaking off the top of
16 my head. This is not representing anybody else
17 but myself.

18 I think it would be good to have somebody,
19 whether an agency person or outside of an agency
20 familiar with the whole legislative process and
21 what kinds -- what would be most helpful to
22 legislators in terms of being able to digest this
23 in a reasonable way, because we all know that
24 they're very busy individuals and we want to
25 actually see it get looked at.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: So if we go back to our respective
2 agencies, and perhaps you and Alecia and her group
3 before the October 4th meeting come back with some
4 names, would that be soon enough -- that that
5 would give us three months. Would that be soon
6 enough to put a committee together?

7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I would hope so.

8 David, do you want to have some input to
9 this?

10 DAVID RADKA: Sure. I think if you wish us to proceed
11 with this we have a meeting coming up next week,
12 and we can certainly begin to solicit individuals.

13 Again, it's sort of a small pool -- we're
14 always tapping the same folks, but as Virginia
15 mentioned, having agencies folks participate is
16 going to be important.

17 And the ones who have been intimately
18 involved with the implementation workgroup are
19 probably the best suited unfortunately to, you
20 know, draw on them again.

21 But we can take the pulse of our members and
22 see if we can start, start to pull individual
23 volunteers together.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So I'm going to make a note that we come
25 up with a committee on the October 4th meeting so

1 we can move forward with this.

2 LORI MATHIEU: So could I ask, which committees are we
3 to report to? Is it public health? Environment?
4 E and D? There's four of them?

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I believe there are
6 (unintelligible) --

7 LORI MATHIEU: So there's planning and development, E
8 and D, environment, public health. So wouldn't it
9 be great -- because you're right to your point,
10 readability.

11 You know, to put some life to it, it would be
12 wonderful -- because I think back to the other
13 couple items that we talked about, drought, all
14 the good work that we're doing there and the issue
15 with land, land conveyance.

16 I think it would be great to issue a report;
17 keep it short, but also offer to present this
18 through a webinar.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, absolutely. And the other thing,
20 keep in mind that our next item is going to be
21 talking about the '24-'25 budget. So a lot of
22 what we do in this report will be tied into the
23 request that we're going to be making for the
24 '24-'25 budget.

25 LORI MATHIEU: Right.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: So I think, Lori, that's a great idea,
2 that we make the round -- where we have a joint
3 meeting of the committees, and we make the
4 presentation.

5 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And the four of us can go up and make a
7 presentation, and then it would tie into what
8 we're looking for from a budgetary perspective,
9 so.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Right. And that people would get to
11 know what -- what this is all about and give life
12 to the state water plan.

13 And also introduce -- Virginia, look out.

14 There's a cat on you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Wow.

16 LORI MATHIEU: I'm like, what is that?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And it's a black cat.

18 LORI MATHIEU: I'm sorry. I just look up and see
19 that -- but it would also give life to everything
20 that we're talking about -- and I think to
21 introduce the advisory committee chairs and to
22 have a discussion about, who we are.

23 What do we do?

24 Here's our annual report. Here are the five
25 or six important topics that we've been working

1 on, and introduce ourselves. So that when we are
2 out there looking for a budget and funding, that
3 people would tie it together.

4 So it's a good point, Jack.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: No, you're absolutely correct. And you
6 know I hate to blame the pandemic and everything,
7 but a lot of it -- the pandemic is responsible.

8 But we really do need to reintroduce the
9 Water Planning Council to the Legislature. I
10 think 26 legislators aren't running, I believe,
11 for reelection this year.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Wow.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: So we're going to have a whole crew, a
14 new crew, and then a new committee leadership.

15 So the timing is good, Lori, to your point,
16 so.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And to state the obvious, the
19 reporting workgroup of the implementation
20 workgroup has been working on coming up with a
21 template for a report to get information out in
22 general. And when that is fully developed
23 hopefully the report to the Legislature will just
24 be pushing a button.

25 And so the two are intimately related, and

1 the report to the legislators is one of the
2 driving forces behind developing the template to
3 do ongoing reporting.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I love that idea. Excellent.

5 Okay. We have a plan for that, I believe.

6 Any further questions before we move on to
7 item number seven?

8
9 (No response.)

10
11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 Item number seven is the fiscal '24-'25
13 biennium budget proposal, and I have to thank both
14 Martin and Graham for their assistance with this.

15 And maybe Graham or Martin -- Jeff as well.
16 Graham did give us a little -- we have a little
17 bit more time. And Graham, as you know, Martin
18 had talked to the OPM secretary. He thought PURA
19 would be the best place to put it, the budget
20 under PURA.

21 And I spoke with our Chair, and she seems to
22 be fine with it as long as it wasn't going to come
23 out of any of our PUC funds, which is the funds
24 that the utilities pay for the regulation, for
25 regulation. And Graham has worked with his CFO to

1 come up with a plan moving forward.

2 So Graham, maybe you could just fill us in a
3 little bit where we're at.

4 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Sure. Since PURA's budget falls
5 within DEEP's budgetary span; worked with our
6 budget chief, shared the draft.

7 A budget and information has been put
8 together thus far and they are looking at
9 incorporating that into our budget expansion
10 options, which is actually due October 1st.

11 So we do have a little bit of time. I think
12 originally we talked about this being an
13 August 31st deadline. Thankfully, that wasn't the
14 case -- and also thanks to Martin for doing the
15 legwork of vetting this internally as well just so
16 folks know that it's coming, which will be helpful
17 for the budget folks who analyze our requests.

18 And so we're hopeful of having that be part
19 of our next biennial budget request and expansion
20 to cover the operations, and the water chief as
21 we've been calling the person, as well as
22 administrative support.

23 So really exciting times that we're seeing
24 the great work of the volunteers who have
25 committed countless hours, changes to our drought

1 updates, and at the same time reporting updates
2 and tying that to the budget. It's just a good
3 day in water.

4 So I don't foresee any issues with respect to
5 that submittal. Obviously, I'll update the group
6 on October 4th.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham. Very much
8 appreciated. Any questions for Graham?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move on to aides reports.

13 Graham, we have you here under water conservation.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, that's me. Put your buckets
15 outside. Hope you collect the water from those
16 rain barrels that you haven't used all summer.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: It's still coming down very hard here.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes.

19 Be cautious of combined sewer overflows.

20 So on water conservation there's just two
21 topics I want to cover today, and one of them is
22 in response to Denise Savageau's comments about
23 the outreach committee and a webpage for water
24 conservation.

25 She made a really good point that there's

1 very few folks who are able to develop some web
2 content to kind of put forward some ideas on water
3 conservation.

4 So DEEP is going to be working to put
5 together just some static information on water
6 conservation, just general water conservation.
7 Other agencies have information that we want to
8 point to.

9 We just want to basically have a landing page
10 that has information about water conservation,
11 whether it be fixtures, whether it be drought,
12 whether it be general information about where your
13 water comes from and why it should be protected,
14 those areas should be protected.

15 We have information on native plant species
16 that could potentially be used by, whether it be
17 commercial or residential folks, that are more
18 drought resistant.

19 Xeriscapes is a new topic that's being
20 discussed out West -- maybe not so much here in
21 Connecticut, but there's information that we can
22 point to there.

23 And essentially creating this, this page that
24 will link to other state and federal resources and
25 content so that when folks are looking for

1 information on drought or water conservation, that
2 hopefully they'll be a reasonable resource that
3 they can rely upon for information that's as
4 Connecticut specific as possible.

5 And in the future State where we have a water
6 chief and additional resources, you know when we
7 tackle potential future webpage updates that could
8 be content that could be ported to the Water
9 Planning Council webpage as well -- in the future,
10 a future idea.

11 LORI MATHIEU: So Graham, could I ask a question on
12 that? Because all of us have a role in water
13 conservation, and we have a current page -- that's
14 probably a bit aged, but it could use an update as
15 well.

16 I'm just wondering how -- because you know
17 PURA has a role. We have a role. You have a
18 role. How do we make sure that we're all sort of
19 linked up and that people can have that one place
20 to go that would connect all of our information?

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. And DPH's page is great, Lori.
22 Actually, I don't think it needs much dusting off,
23 but -- and it would be great if we can until such
24 time, and the Water Planning Council maybe assumes
25 the lead role of the web content on that topic,

1 I'd love to work with you and PURA.

2 And you know obviously OPM handles the
3 drought page to ensure that those pages are
4 integrated. Right now we're in the process of
5 collecting content, which essentially links to
6 other webpages or other materials.

7 And I am more than happy to ensure -- and
8 part of our work plan was to circle back with all
9 of the agencies that were, you know, leaning from
10 as well as pointing people to, to make sure that
11 everyone knows how that content is going to be
12 delivered to various different folks whether -- I
13 think my target audience is maybe more the
14 individual property owner, advocates concerned,
15 citizens.

16 But I don't want it to be content that
17 changes based on, like, for instance the drought
18 stage. I think that's something that we shouldn't
19 do, but it can have the language and information
20 about drought in that webpage and linking to the
21 active drought webpage.

22 So I think in the future -- and I think we
23 all hope for this, a more robust webpage that we
24 can work as a Council on should be the call of how
25 we get that information out to consumers,

1 regulated parties and others.

2 But at this point trying to get some
3 footprint on the website for DEEP to talk to water
4 conservation -- we recently went through, as did
5 other agencies, a massive website modification due
6 to Sitecore being the new web content provider and
7 service.

8 And I feel like the water conservation
9 information we previously had was somehow lost.

10 So we want to make sure that that's restored.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So are there any questions for Graham?

12
13 (No response.)

14
15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much.

16 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** And just one more, one more quick,
17 quick one -- just to let folks know that we've
18 instituted increased communication with diversion
19 permittees and registrants on the drought.

20 You know obviously, registered diversions
21 don't require a throttling back of what they
22 divert, but you know we've been modifying our
23 permits of late and tying them to the drought
24 stage, and in some cases some of those permittees
25 are going to have to adhere to stricter water

1 conservation measures.

2 So we're notifying them both individually and
3 collectively as a group to be cognizant of the
4 drought conditions as the permit restrictions may
5 be kicked in place.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

7 LORI MATHIEU: And I think -- Jack, if I might for
8 Graham?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Just to that point, Graham, I know you
11 and I have talked about a couple of situations,
12 specific situations where we've had some
13 situations where water utilities need to pay very
14 close attention to permit requirements.

15 And I think it would be great to work
16 together maybe the three agencies, between us,
17 PURA and yourselves, specifically about water
18 utilities and their particular -- during each one
19 of the stages that the State is relaying to
20 particular counties, the particular items the
21 water -- the larger community water systems need
22 to pay close attention to.

23 Because that is something when we talk about
24 we're going to stage three, I want to be very
25 clear to our water systems, this is what it means.

1 When we go to stage two, this is what it means.

2 And with the state drought plan being in the
3 position it's in now, I believe that the plans
4 that are out there have aged. Right? And haven't
5 caught up to climate change -- to your point,
6 haven't caught up to maybe some of the newer ways
7 and techniques that could work.

8 And also the messaging to people and to
9 customers I think is really important for us as a
10 group of agencies to say to the Governor, this is
11 now stage three. We get a lot of questions as to,
12 what does that really mean? What should I do?
13 What am I supposed to do? Right?

14 And I think helping the utilities out in a
15 consistent manner about conservation techniques I
16 think would be really very helpful. And maybe
17 that this is something for the -- definitely maybe
18 for the future when we do have staff. Because
19 tying that all together? Because I know that
20 we've thought a lot about that.

21 Martin, when we're in our meetings talking
22 about what stage to go to, we're also thinking
23 about, how do we make sure our utilities know
24 about it, are taking appropriate steps, and are
25 paying close attention, and are helping their

1 customers understand what it means?

2 So I think the challenge, the challenge is
3 always communication and education. So I like
4 what you're doing, Graham. I think that's going
5 to be extremely helpful.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. Thanks, Lori. And we obviously
7 should coordinate closely on this as well as you,
8 you know, PURA, Jack.

9 But the idea is -- right? Over
10 communication. Even though the folks who have a
11 registered diversion -- share with them the same
12 information because it would be great if they were
13 able to pass that down to their customers.

14 It would be great if people understood, like,
15 even where the water comes from. Right? That's
16 another education and outreach effort that at some
17 point you know we could do.

18 Or maybe we could require that the water
19 companies provide that information to folks
20 annually, or something in some sort of -- you know
21 we get a lot of flyers with our water. I'm not
22 sure if everyone reads them, but maybe that could
23 be part of it as well.

24 Or what it means to be in which stage drought
25 based on what their source of water is -- but

1 those are definite things that we should continue
2 to coordinate, the four agencies should continue
3 to coordinate on so that our individual and
4 collective communications are more impactful.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any further comment?

6 And I agree. I mean, I don't think people
7 still get it when we tell them to do a voluntary
8 conservation.

9 I mean, even today if somebody told me they
10 were taking their children to the bus stop -- and
11 the water on people's laws, the sprinkler on the
12 lawn was going, and it's raining outside.

13 So I mean, we do not really enforce enough
14 when it comes to water conservation and water
15 restrictions to the point where, you know, you
16 give people one warning, two warnings. I mean,
17 many moons ago I remember one particular water
18 company, if it got to the third warning they would
19 go there and shut your water off.

20 So I mean, we really have to look at this and
21 take a deep dive, if you will, in terms of
22 looking -- fortunately, you know we're going in
23 the right direction now -- but as we all said
24 earlier, it's going to happen again.

25 So, all good stuff.

1 Thank you, Graham, Lori.

2 Any further questions or comments on this?

3
4 (No response.)

5
6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's move on to WUCC.

7 Lori, anything on WUCC?

8 LORI MATHIEU: I believe Eric McPhee is here, to give
9 us an update, Eric from the Department of Public
10 Health.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: There's Eric.

12 ERIC MCPHEE: (Unintelligible) -- too excited. Just a
13 quick update this time. The WUCC implementation
14 will meet Wednesday November 16th at two o'clock.
15 We're going to do a joint business meeting with
16 the three individual WUCCs who will meet
17 beforehand. It will be on Teams still, so that
18 discussion is open to anybody.

19 We did not achieve any kind of consensus on
20 which item or items would be taken up next in
21 terms of implementation recommendations. So the
22 bulk of that meeting will be devoted to, you know,
23 working on that decision and also do some work in
24 between time to try to move towards the next items
25 to implement from the WUCCs.

1 Thank you.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric.

3 So just to that point, Jack, Martin and
4 Graham, given that there is no consensus I'm
5 wondering if given our discussion here about --
6 and with Eric still being here, our discussion
7 about drought and about the needs that surround
8 it, and the needs to better prepare -- that's one.
9 That's one item that I would think is important
10 for the WUCC to talk about.

11 And I'm wondering if we could think about for
12 the next meeting, for the October meeting that we,
13 the four of us think about what we would suggest
14 for the WUCC to consider.

15 Drought would be one thing. Another thing
16 that's on my mind -- and I don't know, Graham, if
17 you mentioned it, or someone had mentioned it. I
18 was talking to I think Dan Aubin earlier, and the
19 word "quality" comes to mind.

20 You know quality of our water supplies has
21 always, you know, cyanobacteria, blue-green algae
22 is always a concern. And testing for that, it's
23 not a testing requirement right now, but it's
24 another up-and-coming issue of concern.

25 So I just wondered, Jack, if that would be

1 something that, given there's a lack of consensus
2 there, that the four of us could come up with some
3 ideas in October and have a discussion about it on
4 the agenda?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I made a note of that, and surely
6 we'll do that.

7 LORI MATHIEU: And I'd love to have Eric part of the
8 discussion, if we could?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Very cool.

11 So Eric, that date again is the -- when?
12 November what?

13 ERIC McPHEE: Wednesday, November 16th at two o'clock,
14 with the three WUCCs having a brief business
15 meeting before that.

16 And I'll just make mention, too, part of the
17 struggle with the WUCC implementation is, it's not
18 being duplicative and not stepping on the toes of
19 the other implementation efforts. And that's
20 something we've sort of struggled with, is finding
21 our lane.

22 You know the WUCC members would love to
23 collaborate, and do collaborate with the advisory
24 group, and with the state water plan
25 implementation, but you know it's a challenge

1 sometimes to sort of have a unique -- something
2 worthwhile doing that's not already being done at
3 one of the other groups. So that, that's sort of
4 a big part of the discussion and the struggle.

5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: No -- thank you, Eric and Lori.

7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: So excuse me, folks. Correct me if
8 I'm wrong, but aren't the WUCCs supposed to be
9 independent of agencies?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Is there another point of order please,
11 Jack?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I guess, Virginia, by that point of
13 order -- Virginia, will you ask that question
14 later on at the public comment?

15 We do public comment at the beginning on the
16 agenda, and at the end. So if you could hold that
17 question until the end, I appreciate it.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you. So just to wrap up on Eric's
19 point, there it's such a good group of people and
20 they represent utilities. Our big utilities are
21 all there.

22 And there is a WUCC plan that dives in
23 deep -- and is three excellent plans that we've
24 spent a lot of time and funding on, and Eric spent
25 an enormous amount of time with a lot of people

1 involved.

2 So I think that they have a unique expertise,
3 a point of view that should be tapped into. And
4 it's something that is sort of -- not all of those
5 utilities can be part of this discussion. Right?

6 So that's the kind of, to me, the linkage and
7 expertise that we could -- we should be tapping
8 into as a group of four agencies.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Agreed.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. Thank you for that.

11 Thanks, Eric.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So Lori, you're on for private
13 wells.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Oh, sure. Okay. So some interesting
15 things going on. I think I mentioned last time as
16 well we are in the midst of -- well, kind of a bit
17 of a reorganization around private wells within
18 our group, trying to reestablish our group after
19 losing one of our key members.

20 And we are looking to provide two more
21 positions, do a refill, but we also had a position
22 come through with one of the pieces of legislation
23 on private wells; to be able to better organize
24 the information that comes into us through local
25 health departments, not only on sodium and

1 chloride, but other issues that are of concern.

2 Not only -- and we're, you know, all this
3 discussion about drought, not only quality issues,
4 but quantity issues. Right? So there was an
5 effort on our department to make sure that we
6 understand wells that are going dry for private
7 wells.

8 I mean, that's a handful. Right? That's a
9 lot of work, and it needs a good robust data
10 system to be able to track everything that is
11 going on with 325,000 wells that are private,
12 privately held.

13 So -- and we're working with our colleagues
14 at OPM to make sure that we can gather information
15 and share it for private well quality with a
16 specific focus on sodium chloride -- but again,
17 when we're doing that we want to be inclusive of
18 other contaminants that people have found or are
19 concerned with.

20 So that's where we are with private wells and
21 implementation of the legislation that passed. So
22 more to come as we work to reorganize ourselves
23 internally and can announce more once that plan
24 moves forward.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions for Lori?

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

4 Okay. We're going to move onto workgroup
5 reports. The first is Virginia and Dave in the
6 implementation workgroup.

7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you. And I want to thank you
8 all for approving the workgroup to look at USGS
9 data.

10 As I mentioned in the cover letter that went
11 with the workgroup -- because the data are used by
12 so many different organizations, we're going to
13 reach out as widely as possible to get
14 participants in that workgroup, not only because
15 they use the data, but also as we mentioned so
16 many times the responsibility for participation in
17 the state water planning process has fallen to a
18 relatively small group of people, and we'd like to
19 expand that group as much as possible.

20 And so that's going to be our approach in
21 doing that, and we will start working on that now
22 that you've given us the go-ahead.

23 It's raining, as we all know. At one o'clock
24 I had four and a quarter inches of rain at my
25 house, and that's good, obviously -- but I think

1 it's also not good because we as a species tend to
2 only really work on things when it becomes a
3 crisis stage.

4 And so I'm hoping that if this rain is enough
5 to actually cut short our drought, that we can
6 still find the momentum to keep working on it.

7 And not that I want to say that a water
8 chief, when we get such a person, is the answer to
9 all of our problems, but hopefully with that kind
10 of leadership and cracking the whip we can
11 continue working on it.

12 You may recall that at the special meeting of
13 the Water Planning Council Lori asked that the
14 outreach and education workgroup consider drought
15 education for fall workshops, and that was
16 discussed both at the implementation workgroup and
17 also in the education and outreach sub
18 workgroup -- and some questions came up.

19 I have to apologize that I didn't get the
20 questions to you in time to have them actually on
21 the agenda for this meeting, but I do want to
22 mention them to you.

23 And if you will allow me, I will share my
24 screen so that you can all see it -- and I will
25 send it out to you in a moment, so.

1 Okay. These are comments that came from the
2 implementation workgroup, the education and
3 outreach workgroup -- and quite frankly, some of
4 my own thoughts.

5 So I'll start out by saying primarily my
6 thought, is the implementation workgroup outreach
7 and education workgroup the appropriate entity to
8 do this? Because there are some concerns that
9 were mentioned in those meetings.

10 This is a group of volunteers. Are we
11 ultimately the people who should be coming up with
12 actually training in drought issues?

13 Going through the implementation workgroup
14 process takes time to get things approved, and at
15 that point time was of the essence because we were
16 in the height of the drought.

17 The drought preparedness plan has a section
18 that really tasks water suppliers with the
19 responsibility to do that. Acknowledging that
20 private wells are not really included -- would not
21 be included in that, and so that would be
22 something that would need to be addressed.

23 As was mentioned earlier today, all the
24 agencies have educational materials and those need
25 to be tapped and pulled together. And I was

1 pleased to hear the discussion earlier that
2 there's going to be some sharing. In fact, it
3 came up when we were talking specifically about
4 conservation -- but I think it's broader than
5 that.

6 And that could be -- that information could
7 be expanded to include the private well education
8 and also the linkage between drought and water
9 quality, and wells going dry, as Lori just
10 mentioned.

11 Also, the state water plan details what kind
12 of education outreach there should be, but I did
13 not find that it said who would be doing that.
14 And so I think some clarification is needed there
15 with the idea of, is this something that would
16 be -- that should be designed by a group of
17 volunteers?

18 There's new legislation mandating climate
19 change education. Again, that would be a hook to
20 talk about drought education.

21 If you want the implementation workgroup to
22 continue working on this, we need to clarify who
23 the audience is. Is it homeowners? Water
24 intensive businesses? Public water suppliers?
25 Perhaps others? How would it be disseminated, and

1 would there be funding for that?

2 So there are a lot of outstanding questions
3 that I hope you folks can discuss at your next
4 meeting, and I will send this list of questions
5 out to you because we need guidance from the Water
6 Planning Council.

7 So I'll pause there for a moment and see if
8 there are any questions before I finish stuff
9 coming from the implementation workgroup.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions for Virginia?

11
12 (No response.)

13
14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think it's something we just have to
15 look at and digest and discuss at the next --

16 **LORI MATHIEU:** I just, you know, to me putting it out
17 there I thought that there was interest on behalf
18 of the membership. But if there's no -- it
19 doesn't seem like there's interest since there's
20 more questions than there is interest.

21 So you're right. Yeah, there's good
22 information up on our webpages, but again that
23 information is aged. And as Graham had mentioned,
24 there's always a need for good thoughts and some
25 more gathering information. So if there is no

1 interest, and there's more questions than there
2 are people who want to move forward -- then that's
3 fine.

4 You know it's always a struggle this time
5 with agencies. You know we're down staff. We've
6 lost a lot of people to retirement. And we know
7 that you are all volunteers but -- and we're
8 looking forward to a time of having permanent
9 staff, but that's going to take some time to get
10 in place.

11 And given the situation that we were in --
12 and probably still might be in. Right? Even
13 though it's raining, we still might be in a
14 situation. We don't know yet. Right? So don't
15 let that horse go out of the barn yet. Right? We
16 still might have an issue to deal with.

17 So that my thought is, when there's a drought
18 like this and we're heading down this road, as
19 Graham mentioned, it could be one of those times
20 that is a very rare time for a two-year drought.
21 It just seems to me to be all hands on deck, and
22 so -- but if there's no interest in it, so be it.

23 Thank you, Jack.

24 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** And just one, one additional comment.

25 Real quick, Denise. I'm sorry.

1 Maybe there's interim steps that we can take.
2 Virginia, you mentioned the climate change
3 comments. Maybe there's like a module through
4 Project WET, which DEEP has access to for
5 environmental educators to offer that to the
6 schools.

7 Because I think one of the things we should
8 always remember to ensure that we're providing
9 everyone information, including students -- I
10 still will never forget about all of the recycling
11 I would yell at my parents about when a DEEP
12 employee who portrayed himself as Ray Cycle came
13 to my school, as a child, and danced around and
14 sang a song -- which I still remember, but will
15 not sing for you all.

16 Because whenever I sing my daughter says,
17 sing tomorrow.

18 But I mean, that's something that maybe we
19 can pick apart a few of those ideas, Virginia, and
20 just, you know, I'm sure I'm happy to reach out to
21 Sue Quincy and Project WET folks and see if
22 there's something we can try to provide.

23 Because I know that every time there's a
24 requirement for schools to integrate something
25 into their lesson plans, they're looking for

1 content.

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And (unintelligible) --

3 A VOICE: (Unintelligible.)

4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I just want to -- in the
5 implementation workgroup Denise is chairing the
6 education and outreach group; a lot of these
7 thoughts originated with her group and comments
8 that were discussed at the implementation
9 workgroups.

10 And Denise, if you want to clarify or augment
11 what I said, please do.

12 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, I just wanted to say I'm on the
13 agenda on outreach and education and I really
14 would like the conversation to happen after I give
15 that report. Thanks.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Denise.

17 Any other comments?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Virginia, you have more items?

22 VIRGINIA de LIMA: The other thing that may be more
23 appropriately we wait for Denise -- is that the
24 group is planning two workshops, and I trust that
25 you will be updating people on that when you do

1 your section. So thank you. That's it.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you very much.

3 Martin, anything additional under your
4 interagency drought workgroup?

5 **MARTIN HEFT:** Yeah. So thanks. Thanks, Jack and
6 again, thanks for approving the drought plan
7 update. The interagency drought workgroup will
8 meet on Thursday of this week.

9 As everyone has mentioned, yes, we are
10 getting rain at the moment. We will not have just
11 as kind of a precursor -- obviously, with this
12 rain all coming in and everything right now,
13 obviously we're not going to have data to analyze
14 the effects of it.

15 We'll know how much rain we've received in
16 certain areas, but obviously we are not going to
17 know -- and part of this comes later after we
18 receive the rain is, how it affects the stream
19 flow. How is it affecting our groundwater levels?

20 So that data, we're not going to have this
21 week at the meeting, because typically we review
22 that data on a monthly basis. So just kind of a
23 precursor, that where the rain is helpful to us
24 right now in helping the drought situation, but
25 the overall impact of it with all of the triggers

1 we look at will obviously be reviewed as we
2 continue on through this process.

3 So we're hopeful with all this. And as we
4 know, like, the flash flooding and everything
5 necessarily doesn't help the drought, because the
6 water is not seeping into the ground and
7 everything else.

8 But since our last meeting August 18th the
9 Governor did declare upon our recommendation stage
10 three for Windham and New London. We kept the
11 rest of the state at stage two, and we have taken
12 all the necessary steps in the drought plan
13 regarding stage three; getting notification out to
14 those counties, to state agencies, state buildings
15 and everything else about water conservation.

16 Everything is still on a voluntary effort for
17 that, but as I said, we will continue reviewing
18 and going through as we progress through the
19 drought process.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Martin. Appreciate
21 all of your group's work.

22 Any questions for Martin?

23
24 (No response.)
25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now we're going to go to Denise.

2 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi. So the outreach and education
3 workgroup met today, and we're moving forward with
4 lots of things.

5 The fall workshops, we were hoping to start
6 those in September. We're moving those to
7 September, dates still to be determined -- but
8 those workshops, we're looking at how we do
9 monitoring, water quality and quantity monitoring.

10 We kind of have two agendas that are in
11 formations that we had talked about, what we were
12 not able to -- with everybody's interesting
13 schedules over the summer, including mine, I will
14 take responsibility there to move forward to get
15 those up and out in September. So we're moving
16 those to October.

17 Just quickly I want to take care of a couple
18 of things before we get into the major meat -- is
19 the website. And Graham, you brought this up --
20 and it's so important, you and Lori -- the
21 website.

22 We have drafted some recommendations. We
23 discussed them a little bit with the
24 implementation workgroup. We're going to finalize
25 those and get those to you so that you'll see just

1 some of our thoughts on it. It was on the review.

2 And I will say it was Dan Aubin and Karen
3 Burnaska, and Allie Hibbert who really worked at
4 that and took a look at that. So we appreciate
5 their work on that, on those recommendations.

6 And it's not about content. It's really more
7 about, like, how the website should work, and I
8 think there's some recommendations that we know
9 that that's what we'll be looking for once we do
10 have, you know, some funding for the Water
11 Planning Council to do this.

12 Branding, we looked at some branding stuff
13 and we've sent that back. So the DEEP staff who
14 was working on that, is working on that. So
15 that's kind of where we are with that.

16 We had a full discussion on the drought info
17 and we had brought that to the Water Planning
18 Council. And our major concern was not that we
19 didn't want to tackle it, but could we tackle it
20 in a timely manner? There should be materials
21 available now on site during a drought.

22 And our problem was that because we have to
23 develop something, bring it to the implementation
24 workgroup and then for you guys to approve, we
25 wanted to make sure that you do understand we

1 don't have a turnaround time quick enough to do
2 that -- but we fully understand the importance of
3 this and how do we get it done.

4 So that was one of the things we were trying
5 to convey, is that there's -- and also that
6 there's multiple people, and what we didn't
7 understand -- and this is one of the
8 clarifications we were looking at, is in the
9 drought plan, does it say who's going to do
10 education?

11 And is it looking -- and I guess we were
12 looking at, not just during the drought in terms
13 of implementation, but there my understanding if I
14 remember correctly was, in the drought plan there
15 was kind of a preparedness piece.

16 And that's kind of where, let's say, if this
17 rain got us out of a drought -- which I don't
18 think it will, but if it totally goes out of a
19 drought -- okay. Now we don't have a drought, but
20 we still need to do all this planning.

21 So we have materials in place and we can tell
22 people what to do. It's like, we can't do the
23 planning. We're in the middle of the emergency.
24 We need to be prepared ahead of time, and that was
25 kind of the questions we were trying to get to.

1 That said, I did contact Sue Quincy, as I
2 said, at the last meeting when we were talking
3 about this and she has a host of materials.

4 As you know, climate change was mandated as
5 an education program by the State Legislature this
6 year. So her being able to tie in drought
7 education to that, so we can tie right into that
8 through Project WET and whatever -- she already
9 has programs developed.

10 But certainly we should be tapping into the
11 work that she's going to be doing in terms of
12 meeting this new state-mandated requirement to
13 have climate change education in the classroom.
14 And so that's one area where we're really looking
15 at tying into.

16 The other thing is we are developing a
17 presentation on drought for the general public,
18 but we, as we started looking at that -- and I had
19 a quick draft of it, we were looking at like,
20 okay. This one -- this one is for the public, but
21 then we started thinking about very specialized
22 audiences.

23 So for example, one of the things that came
24 up was golf courses, and there is a best
25 management practices out there for golf courses,

1 but it's 2006. So then we started talking about,
2 okay. Not only do we need to do this presentation
3 for, you know, the public, maybe, you know, the
4 town officials, those types of things -- but some
5 very, very specific workshops on how do you put a
6 plan in place, and who should develop those?

7 So for example, Mike Dietz is on our
8 committee. And UConn, obviously when we're
9 talking about farmers and rancher -- I guess we
10 don't have ranchers here.

11 Sorry. I always talk about farmers and
12 ranchers in one breath in another organization I'm
13 in -- but the farmers and other folks who are
14 using that, how do we get materials to them, other
15 industries as well?

16 So we were looking at there's a whole host of
17 educational materials that was out there. That
18 said, there's certain things we could do. We
19 talked about the whole water conservation piece
20 that Graham was looking at, and we've kind of, as
21 you know, put that on hold because of the rate
22 case discussions.

23 But we really need to move forward with it,
24 and particularly with some just general
25 information for homeowners on water conservation,

1 and what they can do to make their yards more
2 drought resilient, for example.

3 And so you know, how do we do those types of
4 things? What else might we do? And particularly
5 looking at homeowners who are on wells. So
6 they're not subject, you know, they're not buying
7 water from the utilities. So we could certainly
8 target that as a water conservation.

9 And the other piece of that conversation we
10 had on water conservation is, let's say we figured
11 out the rate case with the stuff that Alecia and
12 the Water Planning Council advisory group is
13 working on and we get legislation passed next
14 year. Well, do we have the water conservation
15 stuff in place to roll out?

16 So our thought process is, we really need to
17 be talking about, yes, doing this drought
18 education, doing the water conservation education
19 and have the materials ready for even if we don't
20 roll everything out at once, but when we are ready
21 to roll it out -- because we keep getting behind
22 the eight ball on this.

23 So that's kind of the discussion we had. We
24 are looking for direction from you in terms of how
25 far, how deep you want us to dive into this. And

1 I guess it kind of gets to one of the other things
2 we're talking about with membership on the
3 outreach and education.

4 And this kind of gets to Eric McPhee's point
5 with the WUCCs, is that we don't have anybody from
6 the water utilities right now serving on this
7 committee. We have someone we thought was going
8 to join and they really haven't been
9 participating -- but what's the role with the
10 WUCCs? What's the role with AWWA?

11 When we're talking about drought and water
12 education there's multiple people who need to be
13 at the table, and the same thing with the whole
14 state water plan.

15 So we are looking to expand this membership,
16 as we've said before. And so I think this is a
17 perfect time to think about who those other
18 members on this should be, rather than saying, you
19 do it. You do it. You do it.

20 Maybe there be a coordinating committee here
21 that would look at, you know, all of the work that
22 needed to be done. So that's where we are with
23 drought, and then just let me give you two last
24 things.

25 One is we talked about a theme for next year,

1 and we want you -- as you know, we brought a theme
2 to you for this year. It was the Inland Wetlands
3 and Watercourses Act, and we kind of laid that
4 out.

5 The theme we're looking at for next year is
6 climate change. We think it's very, very timely
7 with -- okay. We can talk about drought. We can
8 also talk about flooding. Whatever the weather is
9 we can talk about that, but basically climate
10 change and being prepared with the materials, that
11 we need to have that climate change discussion
12 from an education outreach perspective.

13 So again, if we, you know, we don't
14 necessarily -- if there's a consensus or not, just
15 say, yeah. That sounds great. We can develop
16 that and give you a bigger proposal in October.

17 And then the final thing I said is that we
18 did have a theme of inland wetlands and
19 watershed -- the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
20 Act this year. That's wrapping up.

21 I just wanted to let you know that two of our
22 partners have major things going on, and that is
23 CACIWIC has their annual meeting. They're going
24 to be tapping into folks, and they're in the
25 process of putting together -- and their whole

1 agenda is going to be on the Inland Wetlands and
2 Watercourses Act and where they should take that.
3 So that's going to be a really exciting agenda.

4 And then Darcy Winter, through the DEEP, was
5 able to get a proclamation out on the Inland
6 Wetlands and Watercourses Act. And there's a
7 whole group of folks including myself and others
8 who are looking to do an outreach program on the
9 proclamation -- and basically with the Governor,
10 and do that.

11 I did notify Jack about this and just wanted
12 to let folks know that we're working on that. So
13 stay tuned for that. I'm doing that with that
14 particular piece with multiple hats, so.

15 I know I spoke really fast, but I -- because
16 I had a lot, a lot on there but --

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We understood. We understood every bit
18 of it.

19 Denise, as recently as this morning I
20 contacted the Governor's office regarding our
21 conversation and then sent that forward, e-mailed
22 it to be sent up there. So we're trying to get a
23 date nailed down.

24 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Thank you, Jack, on that.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** You know, it's interesting you talk

1 about drought and drought education. And I can
2 remember when Governor Malloy was in office we did
3 a press conference at the New Britain Reservoir
4 during the drought.

5 And it seems like the only time you get
6 people's attention, like when we lose the power,
7 is that when the Governor has a press conference.

8 So at some point as we look at the drought
9 education program I think we're going to have to
10 have someone like the Governor or Lieutenant
11 Governor help us roll this out so we can get some
12 media there, get the importance of it.

13 And it doesn't have to be during a drought.
14 It could be after a drought, so that we're
15 prepared for the future. Just a thought.

16 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. I mean, just a thought when
17 you say something like that is, do we have any
18 PSAs on drought? That when Martin and his group
19 say, there's a drought, we have PSA.

20 You can just push the button.

21 That's the preparedness piece that I was
22 talking about. And I'm like saying -- and I guess
23 that was our question, not that we don't want to
24 tackle it, but we weren't sure where that type of
25 thing fit into the drought management, the drought

1 management and preparedness plan. If that's
2 something we should tackle in terms of at the
3 state water plan?

4 And understanding that the drought plans, you
5 know that they interlock. So that was just the
6 question is, who's tackling this? Should we
7 tackle it. So those were some of the questions
8 and, you know, Virginia brought them up.

9 Again, it wasn't that we didn't want to it,
10 it's just that as we started to do the deeper dive
11 there were, like, lots of like implications about
12 where we should go.

13 And we also, like i said, just wanted you to
14 understand that it wasn't like we were going to be
15 able to have it turn around on a dime. It needs
16 to be thoughtful and we need to make sure that
17 we're getting out the right information.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** When we have a hurricane or a storm
19 coming, or potential electrical outages we have
20 the Office of Emergency Preparedness sending all
21 sorts of notifications out, including to the
22 media.

23 And I think that's something we can talk
24 about moving forward when we're in a drought
25 situation, that we get somebody through that

1 office so we have a captive audience to say, hey.
2 Look, people. This is serious. We really need to
3 have you conserve water. So I think there's lots
4 of avenues. We just have to fine tune it.

5 Okay. Any questions for Denise?

6
7 (No response.)
8

9 Thank you, Denise.

10 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, if I could make one more
11 comment?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

13 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Just to what Virginia presented,
14 there was one piece that talks about funding, and
15 the reason I'm bringing that up -- it was actually
16 Sue Quincy who asked me.

17 She goes, do you have any funding for this?

18 I just wanted to point that out that it
19 wasn't something we looked at, per se, but if
20 we're going to roll out and ask other groups to do
21 certain things when we're talking about -- whether
22 it be any of these dockets -- that they were,
23 like, saying, you know, so to hold workshops to
24 buy materials, those types of things.

25 So I just wanted to make sure that you

1 understood where that was coming from, because it
2 was like, I reached out to Sue.

3 And she said, do you have any dollars?

4 So I just wanted to share that.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: And that's important. And yeah. I
6 mean, she has the resources, but rolling them out
7 to people is not free. So you can tell her that,
8 that rolling them out is not free, and that's
9 where our future budget comes into play.

10 And to the good comment on the PSA, which I
11 really like, again when we have a water chief and
12 an operational budget, the State does have very
13 decent contractors on a contract for
14 communications who would be capable of putting
15 together quickly and maybe we'd have the funding
16 to pay for those slots, as well in TV and radio.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham.

18 Thank you, Denise.

19 Alecia, are you connected to us?

20 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I am. I will try to turn my camera
21 on and see how that goes, but it seems to be okay
22 for now. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Great.

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Since we didn't meet last month I
25 don't have much of an update. And you've already

1 acted on the two -- or discussed the two major
2 business items that we had.

3 And so I will just hand it over to Karen and
4 Margaret, as they have a meeting coming up on
5 Friday of the watershed lands group.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Very good.

7 **KAREN BURNASKA:** Thank you, Alecia. That's going to be
8 my lead in. Yes, if you're -- we hope all of you,
9 if you have free time -- I smile when I say that.
10 On Friday morning at 9 a.m. the watershed lands
11 workgroup has its quarterly meeting via Zoom.

12 Two things that should be -- we have, you
13 know, lots of little items on the agenda, but two
14 major presentations. One will be by John Triana
15 from the Regional Water Authority on their land
16 acquisition program, and he will be focusing on
17 how RWA looks at protecting watershed land that
18 has class one and class-two water that is not
19 currently connected to their water system.

20 So that should be a very good and interesting
21 discussion.

22 And the second presentation, I'm going to say
23 is from Alecia, who's going to give us kind of an
24 update on the draft framework for riparian and
25 headwaters protection.

1 So two very good items along with some
2 discussions on other items that we have open
3 including the -- so Alecia will be there on the
4 letter to GAE that she will be working on with
5 Graham Stevens.

6 And I'm going to turn it over to Margaret to
7 see if she had anything else that she wanted to
8 add, because she's been also involved in a few
9 other side issues.

10 So Margaret?

11 **MARGARET MINER:** No, that's fine. It should be a good
12 meeting. I hope a lot of people will tune in.

13 You heard me?

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yeah.

15 **KAREN BURNASKA:** We sure did.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

17 **MARGARET MINER:** I'll go back on mute. I'll have a
18 little followup on the letter that we drafted, the
19 poor letter that we drafted -- but I'll do that in
20 public comment.

21 I have two or three things in public comment.

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

23 Any questions for Karen?

24 **LORI MATHIEU:** So could I ask, Jack?

25 For Karen, are you all going to record that

1 meeting so it could be shared? Because I don't
2 think I can take it, but I'd love to listen to it.

3 KAREN BURNASKA: Yes, it is. It is being handled, and
4 it is through OPM. The meeting is recorded, and
5 within the proper timing we will have written
6 notes and a link to the meeting where you can see
7 it.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's very good. Thank you.

10 Okay. Any other questions for the watershed
11 lands group?

12
13 (No response.)

14
15 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, our next meeting will be
16 October 4th, but before we adjourn I'm going to
17 open up for public comment.

18 I know, Margaret, you had some other comment?
19 Margaret?

20
21 (No resposne.)

22
23 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, Virginia, did you want to follow
24 up with public comment -- oh.

25 MARGARET MINER: Unmute. Here I am.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Here's Margaret. Yeah. Okay.

2 MARGARET MINER: The New York Times had an article on a
3 very effective comprehensive watershed plan in the
4 Yakima Valley in Washington State.

5 And this was -- I mean, we're sort of working
6 toward a plan, but this was a plan. And as
7 Virginia said, people only do it in desperation,
8 but there was all kinds of litigation between the
9 fishermen and the farmers, and the hotels.

10 And they did get together and they worked out
11 a plan. Now it was complicated, and expensive
12 because they need -- you need special new
13 infrastructure for the irrigation.

14 But it was a real plan in which people sat --
15 they worked it out. They got the sparring
16 partners at the table and they did a watershed
17 management and allocation plan for there, for
18 their watershed and for their river, which is a
19 tributary to the Colorado River. So you can
20 imagine everybody was looking at it.

21 And this kind of planning, we saw it in
22 Australia in the Murray-Darling Watershed. When I
23 was in Costa Rica when there was a drought the
24 water agency or the government came to the
25 province and got, you know, the fishermen, the

1 tourist industry, the ordinary residents all
2 together at the table and worked out a specific
3 water allocation plan. So I will forward that so
4 we can see the possibilities.

5 The next thing I was interested to hear, and
6 would like to know more, that Graham and Lori
7 Mathieu were saying concerning using registrations
8 and maybe other permits to -- and I don't know if
9 it was to force or encourage water companies to
10 take certain steps at different water stages.

11 I think, Graham, you used the term "to
12 modify" the registration. I didn't know you could
13 do that, but I'm glad to hear it.

14 At any rate, I would be interested I hope
15 from DEEP and DPH to learn more about how -- I
16 don't know if you can enforce, but how you're at
17 least sort of enforcing behavior at different
18 drought stages. And I imagine it's pretty
19 complicated, but I was extremely interested in
20 that.

21 On the letter to GAE, it's probably -- at
22 this point I don't even know if it's worth doing.
23 They know -- we worked with them for a year, Karen
24 and I and the Water Planning Council advisory
25 group, and the result was the worst conveyance act

1 ever that I've seen in 20 years with the least
2 information; every environmental group testifying
3 against it and only one group testifying in favor.

4 So nevertheless, it passed and I don't think
5 legislators will be confused because they've been
6 getting a lot of blowback and sort of saying, what
7 happened? What happened here?

8 But I don't know that they really -- they're
9 responsive to getting blowback. I don't know that
10 they're going to care that much about a nice offer
11 to work with them. That's just my opinion. They
12 know that of course the agencies and the
13 environmentalists -- that's where we always start,
14 sitting down and working with them.

15 And the question is, does it do any good?

16 And it seems that a little more of a forceful
17 response, like them getting marked down on their
18 environmental scores does do some good. And to be
19 fair, some of the legislators quickly realized
20 they had done something bad, and they changed
21 their vote in the Senate.

22 And I think I told you -- personally, not on
23 the part of the Water Planning Council, I wrote
24 each one and thanked them for seeing the light.

25 But my reaction is, if a letter is just going

1 to tell them we want to work with them and we want
2 to clarify things, they really know that. I don't
3 know that we'd be adding much that's to their
4 understanding at this point.

5 So maybe that's one less task, but those were
6 my three comments. The watershed plan which is
7 really a model -- and if they can do it in
8 Washington State, we should be able to do it here.

9 How are you enforcing in a drought situation
10 using permits? Or whatever you're using, I'm very
11 intrigued.

12 And then GAE will probably reform itself
13 because everybody is very upset, and I don't know
14 that we'll add much to the debate on that point.

15 So those are my three comments.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Margaret.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, I can take two of those
18 comments.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think those were directed kind of
21 towards me.

22 So Margaret, just to clarify, folks who have
23 a registration for diversion, you know we cannot
24 require that they change their operation.

25 But we are providing them information

1 nonethelless on the drought stage in the hopes that
2 they will voluntarily evaluate their withdrawal
3 and the potential impact, and be more aware of the
4 situation that's ongoing.

5 You know, thankfully our drought stages do
6 have good information and people will understand
7 them and that they have greater clarity now. So
8 that's being -- that's something that's helpful.

9 As far as folks who have permits for
10 diversion, so newer or a changed water diversion,
11 we have been working over the last several years
12 to impose permit restrictions that are tied to
13 drought stages.

14 So depending on who the permittee is and when
15 the permit was issued, depending on the drought
16 stage they may have to throttle back certain
17 wells, certain instances or reduce their diversion
18 depending on the drought stage.

19 So that's just a clarification for you there.

20 And on your comments on the GAE letter, I
21 think communication is critical on an ongoing and
22 repeated basis. As you well know, we may have new
23 cochairs of GAE. So that was one of my thoughts
24 on the letter, that we should wait until their
25 assignments are made public.

1 And it's always an opportunity to partner
2 with our colleagues in the Legislature to share
3 with them our perspectives and opinions so that
4 hopefully we can move forward our agenda.

5 MARGARET MINER: Thanks, Graham. I'm interested to
6 hear both of those comments.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham.

8 Alecia, do you have your hand up?

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I do.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

11 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So at the risk of overcomplicating
12 something that seems simple, as far as information
13 on conservation being put out there, I think it's
14 really important to also tie in the things that we
15 should be doing on a regular basis outside of
16 consumptive water use to help mitigate some of the
17 impacts of drought -- and tying that in for the
18 public is important.

19 And the reason I'm saying this now is because
20 I've been getting so many inquiries from the press
21 where they say, oh, what is the State doing to
22 mitigate this drought?

23 And my response is, well, mitigation and
24 response are two completely different things. You
25 know we are responding to a drought now, and the

1 State is doing a great job on it.

2 You know, they've done all of the right
3 things and -- but if we really want to mitigate
4 the impacts of drought that we know we're going to
5 see every few years, because we've already --
6 we've predicted that, and we're seeing these
7 predictions come to reality.

8 We have to do certain things. And there are
9 some things we need to do outside of just
10 conserving, our consumption of water.

11 Because before folks get information from
12 there, their utilities that they need to dial back
13 on outdoor water use, there are anglers and
14 paddlers and a lot of folks who see those impacts
15 of drought first in our rivers and streams.

16 And there are so many things that we could be
17 doing better moving forward, and things that we've
18 already outlined in the state water plan, things
19 like making sure we have that ground water
20 infiltration so our ground water is in better
21 condition when we go into drought. Perhaps we'll
22 continue to have that cold water being fed to our
23 streams even with a lack of precipitation.

24 Conserving our forested buffers and our
25 vegetative buffers to make sure that we have, you

1 know, these, these colder pockets of water in
2 places where these, these -- our critters can go
3 to during times when water is low and our
4 temperatures are higher, because we also saw the
5 third highest summer and the warmest August in
6 recorded history.

7 So all of these things are important to
8 really educate the public on at this point as well
9 as what we can do as far as conserving water at
10 home, that this is also bigger. So I just want to
11 put my two cents in there.

12 You know, it doesn't have to be the main
13 focus, but I think it's really, really important
14 at this time to tie what we should be doing
15 outside of conserving water that we consume to
16 mitigate the impacts of the droughts we're going
17 to be seeing going forward.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Very good.

19 Any other public comment?

20
21 (No response.)

22
23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Again, the next meeting will be
24 October 4th, and I appreciate everybody's very
25 productive meeting today. We accomplished a lot,

1 and we still have a lot to do.

2 And before the next meeting we will get a
3 budget completed and submitted to OPM.

4 And we'll also take what Margaret said under
5 consideration, as Martin and Alecia look at
6 another letter to GAE. Maybe we'll come back with
7 a different recommendation in October.

8 And with that, if there's nothing else to
9 come before us this afternoon I thank everybody
10 for their participation. Enjoy the rain.

11 And I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

12 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

14 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

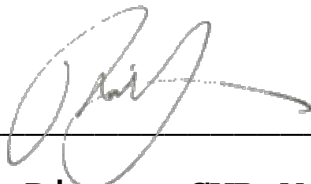
18 Have a good evening, everyone. Thank you.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, everyone. Bye.

20
21 (End: 3:13 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 86 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 September 6, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

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