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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  
November 1, 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             **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

5             **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

6  
7     **ALSO PRESENT (on record):**

8             **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

9             **MARGARET MINER**

10            **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

11            **KAREN BURNASKA**

12            **CHRIS BELLUCCI**

13            **DAN LAWRENCE**

14            **DAVID RADKA**

15            **ERIC McPHEE**

16            **CAROL HASKINS**

17            **DAVID KUZMINSKI**

18  
19     **Staff:**

20            **LAURA LUPOLI**

21            **ALYSON AYOTTE**

22

23

24

25

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

2  
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to  
4 the November 1, 2022, Water Planning Council  
5 meeting by Zoom. I call this meeting to order.

6 The first order of business will be the  
7 approval of the October 4, 2022, meeting  
8 transcript. Do I have a motion?

9 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded.

12 Any questions on the motion?

13  
14 (No response.)

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

18 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And I should note for the record Martin  
20 Heft is not with us today because he is attending  
21 a CCM conference on behalf of OPM.

22 Move on to public comment.

23 Any public comment on the agenda?

24  
25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'd just like to say that I had the  
2 honor, actually, of attending the Rivers Alliance  
3 anniversary celebration at the Glastonbury  
4 Boathouse last week.

5 Unfortunately, poor Alecia could not be there  
6 because she had COVID, but it was very well turned  
7 out. It was a very nice evening honoring them for  
8 their efforts over the years. So I thank them for  
9 letting me be a part of that.

10 Any other public comment on agenda items  
11 before we begin?

12  
13 (No response.)

14  
15 THE CHAIRMAN: Any correspondence?

16  
17 (No response.)

18  
19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's go right to the logo.

20 Graham?

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, I'm pleased to announce that all  
22 member agencies of the Water Planning Council have  
23 approved the proposed logo and DEEP is taking  
24 action now to formalize letterhead versions,  
25 finalize the logo for web use and also seeking

1 approval of the use of the logo through the  
2 Secretary of State's office.

3 So hopefully at our next meeting -- hopefully  
4 our next meeting agenda could be put out on Water  
5 Planning Council logo letterhead, if you could  
6 believe it.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Very nice. Thank you, everybody, for  
8 their input.

9 And thank you, Graham, for working it through  
10 DEEP. We appreciate that very much.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Good stuff.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 Agency reports. Lori, you have WUCC and  
14 private wells.

15 LORI MATHIEU: I do. So I'm not certain if my  
16 colleague Eric McPhee is on to talk about the  
17 WUCC. Eric, if you are in fact on?

18 ERIC MCPHEE: I am here. I am struggling -- I'll be  
19 blunt -- with my connection.

20 So I'll do what I can.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know if it's you, Eric. We are  
23 having connectivity issues today.

24 So I'm not quite sure what's going on, but --

25 ERIC MCPHEE: Can you hear me now?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, we can hear you.

3 ERIC McPHEE: Okay. So I was trying to say I'm having  
4 connection issues. So I'll just very quickly  
5 mention that we do have a WUCC implementation  
6 meeting coming up on November 16th at one o'clock.

7 In addition to that, the individual WUCCs  
8 will be having if they choose business meetings on  
9 that same day before that. So we're trying to get  
10 the whole group together.

11 We're struggling with engagements, so we're  
12 trying to talk about how to get more people  
13 engaged and involved, and potentially including  
14 in-person meetings and looking at other ways to  
15 get more members involved in the meetings.

16 At the implementation meeting we will be  
17 talking about drought and emergency declarations  
18 in Western Connecticut. We'll be talking about  
19 syncing up with the Water Planning Council  
20 advisory group specific to rates and conservation,  
21 and then continue to update on the other work that  
22 we're doing.

23 And excited to announce that DPH has hired a  
24 planning specialist, who many of you may know and  
25 he'll be starting in November and will be actively

1 involved in WUCC, and sort of coordinating the  
2 efforts between, like, the Water Planning  
3 Council's efforts and other planning efforts, and  
4 integrating that and working with other  
5 stakeholders on water supply planning in general.

6 So we're excited for that coming up.

7 Thanks, everyone.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, can we say who that individual is?

10 LORI MATHIEU: No, we cannot until that person is over  
11 here with the beautiful Department of Public  
12 Health. So we will introduce that person when the  
13 time is right, maybe the next meeting --

14 ERIC MCPHEE: I believe he did mention it publicly, but  
15 like Lori said --

16 LORI MATHIEU: That's okay, Eric. We ought to decide  
17 how we make that announcement.

18 So Jack, we'll probably bring that  
19 announcement forward next month.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I can't wait. This is very  
21 entertaining.

22 LORI MATHIEU: I know. It's very intriguing.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: It's very exciting.

24 LORI MATHIEU: I know. So are we. We're very excited,  
25 extremely ecstatic to be able to hire someone at

1 the planning specialist level, and is very  
2 special -- especially in the water supply planning  
3 area.

4 So Eric, thank you.

5 So for private wells we have instituted and  
6 sent out a circular letter, and I believe in  
7 December I'll be able to provide more details for  
8 all of you about the concerns that we're hearing  
9 from our local health partners that concern the  
10 way the law was written and some of the  
11 requirements on the confidentiality of the  
12 information.

13 There is sort of a disconnect between how the  
14 State has looked at information for private wells  
15 versus how local health have treated that  
16 information over the years.

17 And so the circular letter had a note in  
18 there about confidentiality of the information,  
19 which is how our Department has moved forward  
20 under a particular statute versus how local health  
21 have handled and utilized the information.

22 So more to come on that particular item as we  
23 work through it with our attorneys, and I'll be  
24 able to talk and speak to that more, more broadly  
25 maybe at our next meeting when we have a lot of



1 these questions that are coming our way sort of  
2 untangled.

3 We're also working to hire a position and  
4 utilize a little bit of funding to help us be  
5 better organized around collection of the  
6 information.

7 Because that was a big part of this, was to  
8 be able to -- and frankly, what the legislators  
9 really liked about this was gathering the  
10 information and having it in one place, which we  
11 do not have to today. And to be able to speak to  
12 the areas of concern that we're aware of -- or  
13 maybe not aware of, areas that have arsenic or  
14 uranium.

15 Certainly sodium and chloride is one area  
16 that there's a lot of concern and question always  
17 about where those areas are and how many wells are  
18 harmed, and who are harmed?

19 So sort of many questions are out there about  
20 this, but as we move forward I can speak to these  
21 items more directly probably at the next meeting,  
22 Jack.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Great. Thanks very much, Lori.

24 Any questions for Lori?

25 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Yes.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia?

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I have a quick question for you,  
3 Lori.

4 Is the work that this individual is going to  
5 be doing in parallel with the recommendations that  
6 came out of Mike Dietz's workgroup on water  
7 quality and domestic wells?

8 LORI MATHIEU: The individual that Eric mentioned?

9 VIRGINIA de LIMA: No, that you just mentioned now,  
10 bringing on somebody. Having somebody do the --

11 LORI MATHIEU: Oh, no. No, this is -- so I wouldn't  
12 tie what I just talked about with private wells to  
13 the person who's being hired. So that person  
14 being hired has a specific work duty that's not  
15 directly tied to private wells.

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Thank you.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. And we can talk more broadly when  
18 that person gets announced. We can talk about the  
19 duties.

20 And a lot of what we do is tied to our  
21 funding. If it's tied to federal funding we have  
22 specific job duties that it's tied to what that  
23 funding is, is to be used for.

24 So we can talk more broadly about that next  
25 time when we announce the person.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. If there's no further  
2 questions we'll move onto workgroup reports. And  
3 we'll start with the implementation workgroup with  
4 Virginia and Dave.

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Thank you, everybody. The  
6 implementation workgroup is continuing to go on  
7 and on. The things that are current right now are  
8 the workgroups looking at the USGS data  
9 collection.

10 At my last count there were 27 people who had  
11 expressed an interest in it -- and Chris,  
12 certainly correct me if I'm wrong. And they  
13 covered a fairly wide spectrum of interests.

14 Quite a number of people from state agencies;  
15 10 of the 27 were from state agencies. We had  
16 representation from other political entities,  
17 COGs, cities, those types of things. There was  
18 good representation from the environmental  
19 community, from academia.

20 There was one person from the consulting  
21 community. There were two people from the water  
22 industry, and of course one person from the USGS.

23 And I might participate at the beginning to  
24 help people understand the history of the gauging  
25 program that I'm familiar with, having worked

1           there since the mid-nineties.

2           So that's all very exciting. And the first  
3 meeting of that, Chris, is next week.

4           Is that correct?

5 CHRIS BELLUCCI: Yeah, next Wednesday, very near.

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah. So I think that's going to be  
7 a very interesting group, and good participation.

8           The other activity that we have ongoing is  
9 the workgroup looking at putting together a  
10 template for the annual report to the Legislature.

11          One of the things that we are thinking of  
12 doing is to encourage the future, the current and  
13 future workgroups to create an executive summary  
14 of their final report highlighting the types of  
15 things that we're looking for so that in future  
16 years we can just lift those executive summaries  
17 from the various workgroups and create the annual  
18 report very, very efficiently.

19          So that's -- we're keeping that in mind, that  
20 this is not just what's been happening since the  
21 plan was initiated in 2019, but how to make it  
22 easy to do in the future.

23          And Dave, are you on the call? Why don't you  
24 pick up and give us a little more detail on that?

25 DAVID RADKA: Sure. Yeah, I'm here. We had our

1 kick-off meeting yesterday. Half a dozen  
2 individuals attended. And for the record I do  
3 want to note since we last met, the Water Planning  
4 Council last met, while our proposal indicated  
5 that the last submission to the Legislature was  
6 2015, subsequent to that we were able to find on  
7 the state website two submissions. So it was  
8 actually 2017.

9 It doesn't change our recommendation that we  
10 initiate this year's submission beginning with  
11 2019 efforts, since the state plan was approved,  
12 but I just want to make that correction.

13 As I said, we met yesterday. We had a very  
14 good discussion. We are working feverishly --  
15 (unintelligible) -- template that will go out to  
16 errors or leads on the various implementation  
17 workgroup sub topical workgroups --  
18 (unintelligible) -- as well as the Water Planning  
19 Council advisory group.

20 That will be finalized no later than the end  
21 of this week. We will shoot it out next week. We  
22 were asking for responses by the 21st of November,  
23 recognizing the timeframe is very short. And we  
24 will start to synthesize a draft report for  
25 delivery to the planning council. I'm hoping by

1 mid-December we will have something in your hands.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Much, much appreciated. That as I said  
3 yesterday when I was briefly on your call, I said  
4 to the group the fact that we're asking for  
5 significant dollars in this year's budget we need  
6 to get something in the hands of the Legislature  
7 in terms of the wonderful work we've been doing.  
8 So I appreciate the group acting on this quickly.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: And Jack, considering Martin is not  
10 here today, could we just talk about process for  
11 approving that report if we're looking for a  
12 timely submission? Would we be approving that  
13 report at our January meeting?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, if the report is -- it depends on  
15 the report. If we're pretty optimistic I would  
16 think that I would call a special meeting if we  
17 need to.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay. Great. Thank you.

19 DAVID RADKA: And it sounds like we'll be using the new  
20 logo on the report, which is great.

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: Fantastic.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: That's wonderful.

23 DAVID RADKA: I'm sorry -- for those who are  
24 interested, let me see -- we welcome everyone to  
25 partake in this. Our next meeting was scheduled

1 for Tuesday November 29th at 10 a.m. --

2 (unintelligible) -- responses we receive at that  
3 point.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: David, at least for me you broke up in  
5 the last sentence. You said our next meeting is  
6 November 29th, at 10 a.m.?

7 DAVID RADKA: At 10 a.m. we'll be reviewing -- our  
8 focus will be reviewing what responses we had  
9 received up to that point in time, and then  
10 obviously next steps.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

13 Virginia, anything else?

14 VIRGINIA de LIMA: No. Any questions from anybody on  
15 either of these two topics.

16  
17 (No response.)

18  
19 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent. Thank you very much. Thank  
20 you.

21 So interagency drought workgroup; Martin is  
22 not here, and in his absence he did submit a  
23 report. And Lori, could you just highlight that  
24 for us please?

25 LORI MATHIEU: Do you want to show what he wrote?

1           Because he did share with us information word for  
2           word -- and probably it would be good to share  
3           from his point of view, because he did share it  
4           with us. I don't know who can share their screen.

5           To be fair to him, I was thinking, because he  
6           did sign it and send it.

7   **THE CHAIRMAN:** How about if we just read it? It's not  
8           long.

9   **LORI MATHIEU:** Do you want to read it?

10   **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'd be glad. He said, due to a  
11           conference I will not be able to attend the Water  
12           Planning Council meeting on November 1st. Below  
13           are some notes for the meeting to be read into the  
14           record.

15   **LORI MATHIEU:** There we go.

16   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Item 5A, the State Water Plan Water  
17           Planning Council logo. The Office of Policy and  
18           Management is in favor of the logo, and prefers  
19           the horizontal lockup.

20           You got that, Graham?

21           Item number 7B, interagency drought  
22           workgroup. It met on October 6th. New London and  
23           Windham Counties, drought stages were reduced to  
24           stage two.

25           There we go.



1 LORI MATHIEU: Awesome.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Laura.

3 Laura doing double duty today, too, I have to  
4 say. All eight counties are currently in stage  
5 two. The next meeting is this Thursday  
6 November 3rd in which conditions were reviewed.  
7 Additionally we'll be continuing to review the  
8 drought plan recommendations and probably  
9 towards -- there were several items that we  
10 referred to in the Water Planning Council review  
11 and input from the list, and it's signed by Martin  
12 Heft, Undersecretary.

13 Lori, you're very much a part of that group.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to embellish on that?

16 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Thank you, Jack.

17 Yeah. So as Martin had mentioned, currently  
18 all eight counties are at stage two. We meet two  
19 days from now to talk about the current conditions  
20 and do what we normally do on a very frequent  
21 basis.

22 We are looking at all of the metrics that our  
23 drought plan has, and many of the metrics are  
24 looking better just in general. So there's a  
25 possibility that we will be working together to

1       decide what to do next, and what stage we should  
2       be at given the current conditions that we have  
3       today. So I -- you know, obviously more to come  
4       as those decisions are made on Thursday.

5             It could be very possible that we decide to  
6       hold the course, and stay the course at stage two  
7       and hold it for another couple weeks. Or you know  
8       we could make other decisions to move sort of  
9       back, given that the information that I've looked  
10      at so far is that our reservoirs across the state  
11      really are still down a bit below normal for this  
12      time of year, and we're going to talk about the  
13      metrics that our department -- all of our  
14      departments track, and take a careful look at that  
15      and follow the drought plan as our guide. So more  
16      to come on that as we make a decision on Thursday.

17            Typically Martin and his team are really very  
18      good. If there is a change that is to be made  
19      there is a very quick, you know, very quickly  
20      followed by a press release. So if there is a  
21      change to be made, it will be announced to  
22      everyone.

23      **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thanks very much, Lori.

24            Any questions for Lori?  
25

1 (No response.)

2  
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Next, move on to the outreach and  
4 education. Denise Savageau?

5 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi. Good afternoon, and I'm going to  
6 just share my screen. Let's see.

7 Can everybody see that okay? So the outreach  
8 and education subgroup met today and we started  
9 reviewing this work plan. So I'm going to go over  
10 it to you. We're going to present this to the  
11 full implementation workgroup, but we're looking  
12 for -- because of the way the meetings are running  
13 now with our change in meeting date, we'll share  
14 with you, if you have comments.

15 But then we'll bring them to the full  
16 implementation workgroup to see if they have any  
17 additional comments, and then be bringing these to  
18 you at your next meeting for approval.

19 But again, we're looking at, kind of, the  
20 workshops and, you know, things that we're doing  
21 that way; the theme of climate change in the state  
22 water plan, looking at doing two workshops in the  
23 spring. And they are using that same format that  
24 we have with the hour-long workshop.

25 The first one in March, and kind of looking

1 at, you know, what's happening with the GC3 and  
2 what's happening with the state water plan, you  
3 know, and how they interface with each other? And  
4 focusing on quantity issues and the flashing  
5 condition that's possibly causing this  
6 flood/drought. So educating people about that.

7 And also, as you know, the development of the  
8 state water plan, a lot of that had a lot of  
9 analysis and work on the basins. And the plan has  
10 a lot of all that basin analysis in the work, in  
11 the state water plan. So you know, showing people  
12 that -- here's some tools you can use. How do we  
13 want to -- how do we then interpret that? So the  
14 idea is to kind of look at that from that quantity  
15 perspective and where we want to go with that.

16 And then the next workshop would be looking  
17 at we would do it in May an association with  
18 national drinking water week, and looking at both  
19 the supply. So for example, source water  
20 protection and also demand. So -- and what we  
21 might need to do for water conservation, and also  
22 if there's any nature-based solutions, and we were  
23 kind of asked about that.

24 And nature-based solutions may be, you know,  
25 forest protection, forest source water protection.

1 From a demand side, water conservation. It's, you  
2 know, soil health so that the plants don't get at  
3 stressed and don't need as much water. So there's  
4 things that we can talk about that way.

5 And that's -- and, you know, we haven't put  
6 the workshops together. These are just some of  
7 the concepts of the two workshops we're looking  
8 at.

9 Because of bandwidth with the committee,  
10 we're looking at potentially doing a workshop in  
11 the fall, but we're going to say really depending,  
12 you know, to be determined as time allows for the  
13 staff because we have some other stuff besides the  
14 workshops that the committee is working on.

15 And then just the final thing is this year  
16 the Connecticut Envirothon, which is a statewide  
17 program for high school students, the theme of  
18 their program is climate change. And so they were  
19 actually -- they were asking if we could  
20 coordinate with them and share, you know, some  
21 workshops with the students on climate change.  
22 And so we'll be doing that as well.

23 And it could be that we do a workshop, or  
24 that we do a video for them, and we had talked  
25 about even having possibly some of our Water

1 Planning Council members do a short little  
2 five-minute video or something for high school  
3 students on the climate change thing and the work  
4 you do.

5 So that's all to be decided, but we'll be  
6 interfacing somehow with the Connecticut  
7 Envirothon.

8 The other pieces of our work plan -- so  
9 drought materials. As you know, we had been asked  
10 to take a look at that. And we did reach out to  
11 DEEP and Sue Quincy, and the environmental  
12 education division. And we'll be coordinating  
13 with her on, you know, how do we put drought  
14 education into climate change education?

15 So I know she's working on this and we're  
16 saying how do we -- how do we collaborate so that  
17 our committee doesn't have to do it alone?  
18 There's already work being done, and if there's  
19 work being done on climate education based on  
20 that, on the new statute that just was passed  
21 requiring this, how do we make sure that  
22 climate change education and the work that we do  
23 with the state water plan also is part of that?

24 So we'll be interfacing with them.

25 And then the other piece is that working with

1 UConn and CIRCA and CLEAR -- and actually had two  
2 folks from CIRCA attend our workshop and they were  
3 looking and realized because of some presentation  
4 that I had done at the CACIWC meeting which was --  
5 Alecia and I were asked to do a presentation along  
6 with Aquarion on, you know, just water supply  
7 stuff that we're all working on.

8 And they realized they didn't have anything  
9 on drought on the CIRCA website at this point. So  
10 they're interested in collaborating with us on  
11 some fact sheets, similar to the fact sheets that  
12 they've put out on -- they one out, for example,  
13 on flooding.

14 They have one out on temperature changes and  
15 whatever, and I think you're going to probably see  
16 one coming out on heat island effects. So they  
17 didn't have drought on their radar. So they're  
18 looking at now doing that. So that would be great  
19 for them to help us with that.

20 And also, you know, how this relates to  
21 private wells in particular. And of course, Mike  
22 Dietz is also on our work team. So that's why  
23 it's UConn, it CIRCA, it's CLEAR. And you know,  
24 people who know how to do this, how to -- helping  
25 us putting together fact sheets that we would put

1 out. So that's one of the things. So that's some  
2 of the work we're looking to get some drought  
3 materials on there out there.

4 Then the website, we've given an analysis of  
5 that. We're going to continue to look at that.  
6 We understand that we're looking at the new water  
7 director -- when we have one, water chief,  
8 whatever it's going to be called -- that the  
9 budget is going to pass and we're going to have  
10 someone, but we also know that that's not going to  
11 happen for a year. Right? By the time you pass  
12 the budget and by the time you hire someone it's  
13 going to be a while.

14 So is there anything we really need to do to  
15 the website right away? South -- for example, we  
16 were talking about the great work that CIRCA and  
17 CLEAR are doing. Do we have links to the work  
18 that they're doing as it relates to some of the  
19 work that we're all doing with the state water  
20 plan. So that's there.

21 Again, the logo -- we're going to be looking  
22 at the materials we have. Once that logo is --  
23 final approval -- or I should say, it's approved,  
24 but as far as DEEP getting the final materials out  
25 to us we'll start incorporating that in.



1           One of the things that came up in our meeting  
2 was this idea of outreach and jobs and we don't  
3 know exactly where we might want to go with this,  
4 but how do we work with institutions of higher  
5 education? How do we work with schools? Kind of  
6 like, you know, something we might do with the  
7 envirothon. How do we start getting the word out  
8 about the job pipeline of people working in water  
9 resources?

10           And this came up that we know that the  
11 agencies, various agencies are having problems  
12 hiring folks. There's, you know, we have the gray  
13 tsunami within all the state agencies. So how do  
14 we increase this job pipeline? So that was  
15 something we thought -- from an education outreach  
16 perspective, is that something we should  
17 incorporate in?

18           So we didn't say what we were going to do,  
19 but just to kind of explore the next steps and  
20 bring that back to you on how an outreach on the  
21 state water plan may better inform that.

22           And then just from an administrative  
23 perspective we changed our meeting dates. They're  
24 now held the first Tuesday from 9 to 10 a.m.  
25 DEEP, Ali Hibbard is handling the FOI requirements

1 for posting. Thank you, Ali. And one of the  
2 things we're looking for is to increase  
3 membership. And we're hoping that some of the  
4 CIRCA folks who joined us today may come on board,  
5 but increase the membership, because there's a lot  
6 of work to do on the education and outreach. And  
7 we're only limited by how many people we have on  
8 our committee -- and also participation.

9 And again, this kind of got into the idea of,  
10 you know, when we're talking about education and  
11 outreach jobs, that type of thing, more people who  
12 may want to participate; so making sure that  
13 people understand they could listen to what we're  
14 doing at these meetings as well.

15 So that's kind of an overview of our work  
16 plan. So looking to see if you have any comments,  
17 and/or I can send this to you. And if you have  
18 comments before the implementation workgroup  
19 meeting, we'd love to have them so that we have  
20 that full discussion at the implementation  
21 workgroup, and then would be looking to come back  
22 to you at the next meeting, so.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Denise, thank you very much, and for a  
24 very comprehensive presentation in terms of where  
25 you're at with the outreach and education group.

1           It's very impressive.

2           Graham, or Lori would like to --

3 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I just want to echo, echo your comment  
4 there on comprehensive summary. Thank you,  
5 Denise, and commend you for your suggestion, your  
6 group's suggestion to look at jobs. Finding  
7 different ways to really highlight the importance  
8 of water and water protection and its use, and  
9 through the jobs market.

10           And you know we -- I think we at DEEP agree  
11 with you that maybe, maybe there is an opportunity  
12 to do some upgrades on the web page before the new  
13 water chief is hired. And we'll be reaching out  
14 to OPM to offer some assistance if there's ideas  
15 that you have for static updates, as we call them  
16 at DEEP.

17           Evergreen items that could be placed on that  
18 webpage, we're happy to try to lend a hand. And  
19 particularly with the new logo, when we get that  
20 approved we can add that to the web as well.

21           So thank you, and I would appreciate a copy  
22 of this via e-mail if we can --

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes, if you can send that? Because  
24 particularly if Martin is not -- if we can all get  
25 a copy, Denise, that would be great particularly

1 in Martin's absence so we can look at it and get  
2 back, talk to our staff and get back after  
3 feedback.

4 Lori?

5 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. Thank you, Denise. Excellent,  
6 excellent review. And I'm very interested in your  
7 spring workshops.

8 We at the Department of Public Health would  
9 like to get back on celebration for the National  
10 Drinking Water Week, which is early May. We used  
11 to give out awards. We used to hold all kinds of  
12 different events.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Right? We haven't done that since  
15 COVID.

16 And it's always a wonderful week to  
17 celebrate. So would love to work with you closely  
18 and everybody on that week in celebrating that.

19 I love the idea to focus on conservation. I  
20 think that a theme that I would like for the year  
21 2023 is conservation, and energy conservation  
22 around water conservation. I think that we could  
23 do so much more in this area of water efficiency,  
24 and it's something that I'm going to talk a lot  
25 about upcoming.

1           Because I do believe that we have a lot of  
2 area and a lot of room to look at what the state  
3 water plan has and what we can do better together  
4 next year. And I love the idea on climate change.  
5 And looking at the GC3 there's -- as you know,  
6 Denise and a lot of us that are involved with the  
7 GC3 work, there's a lot of cross pollination  
8 between the state water plan and the GC3.

9           And we'd love to have a time where we  
10 possibly even have a workshop about that, about  
11 where water is within the GC3, where it is, what's  
12 happening today and who is working on what?  
13 Because I know that there are many different  
14 efforts out there. So I do think that we need to  
15 tie in our planning and our efforts closer with  
16 what's happening with the GC3.

17           And as Graham mentioned, workforce is an  
18 ongoing major concern and our Department is  
19 starting a new office of workforce in the  
20 Department of Public health. And so we'd be more  
21 than willing to bring more information forward  
22 once that office is more up and running.

23           So thank you, Denise. A lot of good stuff  
24 here.

25 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thanks, and a lot of -- I have to say

1           there's a lot of the, you know, tweaks on this.  
2           In particular, we had a good discussion on at our  
3           meeting.

4                     And we just had our meeting at 10.  
5           Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to make all  
6           those tweaks and send them to you ahead of time.  
7           So I just got it so that we could have it for  
8           today, but I will get this out to everyone.

9   **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Thank you.

10   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent. Appreciate all of your  
11           efforts, and particularly the fact that when we --  
12           I'm going to say when we get money, that doesn't  
13           begin until July 1st. So we should really be  
14           peppering our website with the fact that the  
15           upgrade and the revision of the plan is coming up  
16           in within the next year so we can get input from  
17           people moving forward.

18                     And also the fact that, for example, the  
19           Southern Connecticut State University has a degree  
20           in public utility management right now, and we  
21           ought to be trying to utilize that and other  
22           universities as well in terms of getting the water  
23           plan out to them and let them know what we've done  
24           and what we plan to do. So lots of good stuff  
25           here. Appreciate it.

1           Okay. If there's nothing we're going to move  
2           onto the Water Planning Council advisory group.

3           Alecia is away. She at -- ironically, she's  
4           at a drought conference. Right, Dan?

5   DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah, she is. She told me, like, an  
6           hour ago -- but we're all good.

7   THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

8   DAN LAWRENCE: So hopefully we'll update this quickly.  
9           I feel inadequate right after Denise -- but Denise  
10          had such a great presentation.

11          We did have our meeting on October 18th. We  
12          had a quorum, which is good. The group has been  
13          very active, which is nice.

14          Working through a couple little things, there  
15          wasn't a lot going on, but I'll just bring a  
16          couple things up to your attention.

17          One second. Where did that go?

18          So we talked about basically the draft solar  
19          siting recommendations and work plan. Denise  
20          brought that up, and we're just waiting on DEEP to  
21          begin its sustainable, transparent and efficient  
22          practices for solar development. And Chris  
23          offered just to check in to see where that was, as  
24          we can't really go any further without that  
25          particular document.

1           And then we have the conservation pricing and  
2 rate recovery analysis workgroup that's being  
3 developed. And we'll be getting/collecting names  
4 of people that are interested; trying to get a  
5 good cross section. That's what -- this is a  
6 group that you guys at the Water Planning Council  
7 had approved, but making sure we get a good cross  
8 section to look at barriers to conservation  
9 pricing, if you will.

10           We also had a conversation around -- and you  
11 guys were just having this conversation as well  
12 about taking combined documents. We have the GC3  
13 plan. You have the WUCC plan. You have the state  
14 water plan. And Margaret and I talked about this  
15 at one point; you have the green plan, the blue  
16 plan -- I don't know how many plans there are. Right?

17           And they all have planning documents and  
18 recommendations all over, and I'm trying to get to  
19 some point where we can look at all of them  
20 together. And Alecia and Margaret and a couple  
21 others keep trying to do it, but it is a big task.  
22 But as we look forward it would definitely be  
23 something to do so that we have a better view of  
24 what planning looks like on the water and  
25 environment side at the same time.



1           So just a thought as you think about the  
2 state water plan, and I think as we at some point  
3 think about WUCC updates. It all kind of, you  
4 know, we're all kind of trying to move in a  
5 direction at the same time and sometimes we get  
6 different outcomes -- which is okay as long as we  
7 understand where that's coming from.

8           And then we did have the discussion around  
9 our nominating committee. Carol spoke last time.  
10 I don't know if Carol has anything else to say,  
11 but we're continuing to move forward with filling  
12 open positions.

13           So that's all I have for today, unless  
14 somebody wants to say -- Carol, did you want to  
15 say anything on the nominating committee?

16           Or are you good?

17 CAROL HASKINS: Yeah, I'd like to jump in on that. So  
18 at the last meeting we had sent a memo up to Jack  
19 in looking for input from the Water Planning  
20 Council on the recruitment strategy. And I'm  
21 wondering if you guys have had a chance to review  
22 that?

23           If you guys have any thoughts and input to  
24 help keep us steering in the right direction to  
25 reach out to some potential recruits and, you

1 know, try to get those nominations ready and  
2 together for the next meeting, if not early  
3 January. Any opening, open seats would be terms  
4 beginning January 1st. So the sooner we have that  
5 input the sooner we'll make sure we have full  
6 representation.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham or Lori, do you want to get to  
8 Carol with an e-mail? Or --

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I can certainly respond. I  
10 think we reviewed the recommendations that we  
11 discussed at our last meeting, too, if I recall --  
12 or maybe that was -- yeah.

13 I will definitely get back to you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll make it a priority to get  
15 back to it, ASAP.

16 CAROL HASKINS: Okay. Thank you.

17 DAN LAWRENCE: Thank you. Thank you, Jack and  
18 everyone. That's all I have. Any questions?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia, question?

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah, I have a question for you,  
21 Carol. And that is there are some members of the  
22 advisory group that have not been particularly  
23 active.

24 Has the group done any discussion, or do you  
25 have any guidelines of when you want to replace

1           those individuals with people who perhaps would  
2           actually come to meetings?

3   CAROL HASKINS: We have had some discussion. There's a  
4           couple -- at least one seat in particular that  
5           there has not been attendance on a consistent  
6           basis, although they attend when there is more  
7           topical discussion that's relevant to their  
8           category representation.

9           There we did last year remove the  
10           representative for continued lack of participation  
11           on the agricultural category. And so that one has  
12           remained vacant -- but I, to my knowledge, I don't  
13           know if there's a particular attendance  
14           requirement. I can look back in the documents  
15           that were handed to me when I stepped into this.

16   DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah, there is. There is one, and it's  
17           for consideration. Right? So it's, you know,  
18           reach out to the person, try to get them to  
19           understand what's going on. That's why we ended  
20           up coming up with alternates, too, so.

21   VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you.

22   THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else?

23           Thank you, Dan.

24           I see a hand up, but I'm not quite sure who  
25           it is.

1 KAREN BURNASKA: Hi, Jack. It's Karen Burnaska. I  
2 just wanted to comment.

3 I'm sorry. I'm not on camera, and I didn't  
4 rename it -- and I'm not an iPad. And I didn't  
5 want you to think I'd forgotten about this  
6 meeting. But I just wanted to --

7 THE CHAIRMAN: No, but you're next.

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Well, I just wanted to add on to that  
9 Carol has done a great job, and what she has done  
10 to help -- and this is kind of an answer to a bit  
11 of Virginia's concern, is to make certain that  
12 every member on the Water Planning Council  
13 advisory group has an alternate. And that if they  
14 cannot make it, that their alternate try to  
15 attend.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

17 KAREN BURNASKA: So Carol has made that outreach.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

19 KAREN BURNASKA: So just if they wanted to know that.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Karen.

21 We'll move onto the watershed lands  
22 workgroup. Margaret and Karen. Margaret?

23 MARGARET MINER: Karen, do you want to give us a lead  
24 in here?

25 KAREN BURNASKA: No, I'm going to let you. I'm letting

1 to let you take it, Margaret.

2 MARGARET MINER: Okay. So all was quiet until we were  
3 reading the current issue of the Environmental  
4 Monitor which included under agency conveyances,  
5 land conveyances, three properties, each of them  
6 more than 20 acres, each identified as open space  
7 with water resources.

8 We were extremely surprised. Usually a  
9 conveyance like that comes up through GAE.  
10 Apparently, since 2020 there have been a couple of  
11 similar conveyances of state land out from state  
12 stewardship and state control announced in the  
13 Monitor, perhaps three or four. Like, one was on  
14 Trinity Street. We didn't really pay attention.

15 These got a lot of attention. In Suffield  
16 27.5 acres open space littered with natural  
17 waters, residential. Now this one is going to be  
18 sold to the Town for \$230,000. Really no further  
19 description. And there are no use restrictions in  
20 any of these.

21 The next is Waterford at about 25 acres;  
22 again with open space, natural waters. It's in a  
23 flood zone, zoned industrial to go to the highest  
24 bidder. I don't even see a low price, just the  
25 highest bidder.

1           North Canaan -- and I know quite a few land  
2 people are interested in this one. Ashley Falls  
3 Road and Elm Street, 27 and a half acres open  
4 space, woods and natural waters in a flood zone,  
5 zoned residential; value on field card, 339,000 to  
6 go to the highest bidder. I don't know if that  
7 339,000 is supposed to be the floor of the bids.

8           These were -- I would say to the, you know,  
9 Karen and I are thinking, there's a lot of water  
10 here. Some of it might be drinking water. Some  
11 of it might be useful to a water utility. Some  
12 might be next to water utility land. We're really  
13 not sure.

14           The law that allows this is a little  
15 different from what I thought was in the law. I  
16 thought that agency-to-agency transfers went like  
17 this, no particular public review. I was very  
18 surprised to see that an agency conveyance out of,  
19 you know, out of state authority could go forward  
20 in this relatively unscrutinized method.

21           Paul Aleta at CEQ, the Executive Director, he  
22 did quite a good comment on the Waterford  
23 transfer, which I think should be a model to all  
24 of us because it identifies that it's next to  
25 significant open space, that it has wildlife

1 management issues and so forth. He got a lot of  
2 the environmental detail and put it in his  
3 commentary.

4 It's not easy for the average person, even if  
5 they see the notice in the Monitor to do that kind  
6 of research.

7 The Suffield transfer that's 27 acres that's  
8 being sold to the Town, no limits on the use; this  
9 is the second announcement. I missed the first  
10 one. So that comments are due November 4th. The  
11 other two comments are due November 18th. These  
12 are fairly tight deadlines.

13 Now I had not understood really how this,  
14 these conveyances of natural space -- and  
15 naturally open space with natural waters at this  
16 size could -- would be done under, kind of, a  
17 process that's announced in the Monitor, but was  
18 somewhat new to me.

19 There is, as I understand it, a scoping  
20 period in which we get fair -- as far as I can  
21 see, fairly brief, just skimpy information on  
22 these lands, most of which Paul Aleta came up with  
23 he had to dig for.

24 Then people can send in comments, and then  
25 the comments -- the statute seems to say go to the

1 OPM, but I believe the process says to go to -- I  
2 think DOT is the agency that owns all of these  
3 lands. I forget of DAS is what -- none are DEP.

4 Then the agency, the sponsoring agency, or  
5 OPM will consider comments and will publish their  
6 response to comments. And basically that's the  
7 end of it. It's not like -- well, there's one  
8 more thing that could happen. It's not like a  
9 regular scoping under CEPA where there's an  
10 environmental evaluation that the agency decides  
11 to do, or not to do.

12 Throughout -- the comments that the State,  
13 that the agency will publish are done in  
14 consultation with DEEP, and there's several  
15 references to consultation with DEEP as the  
16 process goes on.

17 There is a final step if DEEP -- if people  
18 didn't listen to their consulting advice, DEEP  
19 apparently under this scoping situation has the  
20 opportunity to issue a separate independent report  
21 on these lands. And then there will be another  
22 comment period, and the comments will be listened  
23 to. And then there will be a final decision.

24 And the decision to sell comes within -- it's  
25 pretty quick. I think within 15 days of when



1 these responses, whether it's one or two reports  
2 are issued. I was truly -- I don't know if  
3 abutting landowners have been notified. I do know  
4 that large land trusts in the neighborhood there  
5 have not been notified, haven't been given, you  
6 know, an opportunity to do something with this. I  
7 don't think water companies have been notified.

8 There's got to be some good potential well  
9 fields there -- and I'll probably oppose them when  
10 they try to put them in. But you know, there's a  
11 lot -- there must be quite a bit of valuable water  
12 there.

13 I even think of things like affordable  
14 housing. The State is, you know, knocking itself  
15 out trying to change zoning to get more affordable  
16 housing. And every year we give away hundreds of  
17 acres of land, and only very rarely is affordable  
18 housing even mentioned.

19 So I'm -- so what we're looking at is a  
20 puzzling and new situation to us. I really do not  
21 understand how it all works, but the issues that,  
22 you know, that jump to mind are, who heard about  
23 this. Other than nerds who read the Monitor, who  
24 knows?

25 Obviously, in the case of Suffield the Town

1 was involved. I thought originally the difference  
2 between these, doing something through the  
3 conveyance act in the CGA and doing it here using  
4 the monitor was that the announcements in the  
5 monitor were generated solely by the agency.

6 They weren't requested by a legislator who  
7 would want a bill who would get the property. I  
8 mean, the Town usually asks the legislator and the  
9 legislator usually makes the ask.

10 But in the case of Suffield, the sail to  
11 Suffield -- and I have no idea if it's a good  
12 price. Obviously, the Town was involved. This  
13 couldn't have been strictly an agency decision; we  
14 want to get rid of this land to anybody. As with  
15 the other two pieces, it was the highest bidder.  
16 So I'm not even sure that distinction holds up.

17 My concern is this -- this, in my experience,  
18 most of us that I've talked to have never seen  
19 anything quite like this. It's important land and  
20 water. We have reason to think at least some of  
21 this is important in terms of watershed, you know,  
22 protecting drinking water sources and high quality  
23 watersheds.

24 And I know that -- I know at least one land  
25 trust that will be preparing comments on the North

1 Canaan offering, but it was kind of like, why  
2 didn't you tell me this before? So I just  
3 discovered it myself.

4 So I will stop talking now. I can just say  
5 that it's very surprising and has raised a bunch  
6 of questions.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I see Graham. Graham's hand was up.  
8 Maybe Graham could?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'm happy to comment on this. So  
10 this, from what I understand you're saying,  
11 Margaret, this deals with the state land transfer  
12 process or the state surplus process.

13 For land DEEP does not typically surplus.  
14 It's open space. That doesn't -- it's not  
15 something that we're want to do, but we do have a  
16 statutory role in this process. It's set by  
17 statute.

18 And probably about 20 years ago this was a  
19 very big issue regarding some very large  
20 properties which were surplus that DEEP did not  
21 want for various reasons, but others felt required  
22 some protections, which is one of the things that  
23 DEEP by statute can suggest.

24 CEQ brought together a significant amount of  
25 people, and I believe the statute was modified as

1 a result of that. The process is outlined here in  
2 the chat by CEQ with links to statutes and flow  
3 charts and process.

4 So it's a process rich endeavor for an agency  
5 to surplus its land. This is something that's  
6 managed kind of jointly by DAS and OPM. When an  
7 agency makes a determination that a property is no  
8 longer serving a business need, it can surplus it.

9 The Conveyance Act is not something 95  
10 percent of the time that the agencies desire. It  
11 is something that is raised by constituent groups  
12 through legislators looking to take property that  
13 the State has not determined is surplus to its  
14 needs, and transferring it to another party for a  
15 different use.

16 So there are two different processes. I  
17 would say this, the state surplus process, as we  
18 probably all have talked about here has process --

19 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Yes, sir.

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- whereas others it is unclear the  
21 degree of process that --

22 DAVID KUZMINSKI: I got a refund from them.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay.

24 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Yeah, they already issued it.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Dave your -- could you please --

1 DAVID KUZMINSKI: However your you want me to do it.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Dave, put yourself on mute, please.

3 DAVID KUZMINSKI: You got it.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: There he goes. Okay.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: So I mean, that's -- I'm not defending  
6 either, the conveyance or the state surplus  
7 process. But I will say it's something that's  
8 been an issue of contention probably 15, 20 years  
9 ago. There's statutory framework, and the process  
10 is outlined by CEQ and by OPM on their respective  
11 web pages.

12 MARGARET MINER: I have a question. How does this  
13 surplus land law relate to the changes that were  
14 made in connection with the constitutional  
15 amendment?

16 Because I thought agency transfers were  
17 addressed there. I don't think I had it right,  
18 but is the relationship -- does the constitutional  
19 amendment laws, does that change anything, make  
20 any difference in terms of these agencies  
21 conveying out public land?

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: You know, Margaret, that's a that's a  
23 past life of mine. I would reserve an opportunity  
24 to refresh my recollection before answering that  
25 question, if you don't mind?

1 MARGARET MINER: Okay.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: It does seem to -- I mean, when it comes  
3 to the sale between a water company property,  
4 there's certainly a set statutory procedure you go  
5 through. It seems like this is a hell of a lot  
6 looser than that, for sure.

7 So maybe Lori -- Lori, do you want to weigh  
8 in on this?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Well, I was just thinking that in the  
10 statute -- and Margaret, you'll remember this like  
11 years and years ago. Sale of water company land  
12 that had been part of an abandonment, or if it's  
13 considered class three land, especially if you're  
14 regulated under PURA there's a requirement for  
15 notification. Right?

16 And so I think that they, the statute number  
17 16-50 comes to mind for some crazy reason -- but  
18 that may be way off, but there is a notification  
19 requirement that gives land trusts the  
20 opportunity, it gives a notice.

21 Jack, somewhere in your statutes there is  
22 this notice requirement that kicks in to people.  
23 So that, Margaret, to what you were speaking to,  
24 that everybody had this opportunity.

25 And it seems as though -- I was just opening

1 up and reading what Graham had shared. You know  
2 there is a mandatory public notice and opportunity  
3 for public comment within the Environmental  
4 Monitor.

5 I remember way back in the time when water  
6 company lands were being transferred and there was  
7 a concern there that there wasn't enough notice.  
8 Because if you're looking to purchase some of  
9 these properties, Margaret, you mentioned either  
10 Suffield, Waterford or North Canaan -- pulling  
11 together a few hundred thousand dollars is not  
12 insignificant work. Right? So you need time to  
13 be able to know about it and be able to -- if  
14 you're interested, to gain the interest and put  
15 the funding together.

16 So I just remember way back in listening to  
17 you, Margaret, when we -- I believe the statute  
18 was changed to provide more notice, more upfront  
19 notice when there was a time for a water company  
20 to sell property. So that others who had interest  
21 in the property would have a chance and would have  
22 time to have a consideration.

23 But here it does appear that there is the  
24 mandatory public notice and opportunity for public  
25 comment, but it looks like an extensive process

1           that Graham had shared with us.

2           But maybe it's not long enough. Maybe 30  
3           days is not enough time. I don't know.

4 **MARGARET MINER:** So I just -- I think it's something we  
5           need to work on. I think it's of interest in  
6           protecting waters. It's of interest in protecting  
7           open space, obviously.

8           I'm surprised by the lack of notice to  
9           neighbors, but what Lori is pointing out -- yes,  
10          on abandoned class two land I do recall that it's  
11          a notice has to go to the local land trust, the  
12          town -- maybe one other entity I forget.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Right.

14 **MARGARET MINER:** There's nothing here. So I'm raising  
15          this. I know that people will be scrambling to  
16          come up with testimony in this process. That's  
17          for, a lot of us, new.

18          And we can see from Paul's testimony it's not  
19          easy. You have to know your way around the state  
20          databases and so forth, or perhaps live there.  
21          Well, you have to know your way around the state  
22          databases.

23          But I imagine that this -- I bring it to the  
24          attention of the Water Planning Council and I hope  
25          we'll make some progress toward improving this --



1 we'll make progress toward improving this process,  
2 because right now it is wide open.

3 I've attended auctions of properties under  
4 mortgage and the weirdest damn things happen. So  
5 I'm not at all confident that the public interest  
6 will be served in any consistent way by this  
7 process. So that's it. That's the excitement of  
8 the week.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well --

10 MARGARET MINER: Oh, and thank you for coming to our  
11 anniversary. You made the day.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: It was fun. Thank you. It was lots of  
13 fun.

14 Karen?

15 KAREN BURNASKA: I just had one question, and this is  
16 this is regarding the topic that -- and that's why  
17 I gave it to Margaret. Nobody knows this process  
18 better than Margaret.

19 And I did not read what Graham put in the  
20 chat. Is it my understanding that on non-water  
21 company land -- and I'm going to say specifically  
22 this Waterford property -- was the land trust in  
23 the area made aware of it? Because my  
24 understanding this morning is that they were not,  
25 that this property was going to be put up for

1 sale.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. Karen, as far as my quick  
3 review of the webpage that I found, unlike some of  
4 the other processes there's not a notification to  
5 the land trust prescribed, nor I believe is there  
6 a notification to the Town in this process.

7 But I think that some agencies through their  
8 disposal, their own disposal authorities have to  
9 notify municipalities first. I know DOT has a  
10 very prescribed process when they dispose of land,  
11 including offering it to municipalities and  
12 offering it to the party that they originally  
13 acquired it from.

14 And I gained some of this knowledge when we  
15 worked with DOT to find a conservation outcome for  
16 the Route 6 corridor that was acquired -- but  
17 Super 6 was not built through Eastern Connecticut.  
18 Some of it was carved off through conveyance bills  
19 for economic development purposes, and the  
20 advocates and the agencies worked together to find  
21 conservation outcomes for most of that land, if  
22 not all of the remaining land.

23 KAREN BURNASKA: Thank you.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: You're welcome.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, maybe between now -- well, between

1 now and the next meeting we can go back to our  
2 respective agencies and kind of maybe have some of  
3 our legal people look at what we have in the  
4 books.

5 But you're right, Margaret. I think that the  
6 process needs to be a little bit more inclusive,  
7 to say the least, so something we can certainly  
8 help with.

9 MARGARET MINER: Great. Thanks.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Just there's a discussion, municipal  
11 consultation identified on the OPM -- Paul Aresta  
12 just signed that.

13 I would think -- yeah, somehow I would hope  
14 that the towns -- is Suffield going to buy the  
15 property? Is it being offered to Suffield?

16 MARGARET MINER: Actually, it's like a done deal as far  
17 as I can see, other than comments.

18 The announcement says that will be sold, this  
19 land will be sold to Suffield for -- what is it?  
20 \$239,000.

21 So maybe this relates to Graham's memory that  
22 DOT does notify towns. Maybe that's how come  
23 Suffield knows about it.

24 Now you might want to say, hey. Maybe if  
25 you're thinking about highest bidder in some of

1           these cases, is this the best deal for the public?

2           I don't know. It looks like it's a done deal.

3   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lots more to come on this. Okay.

4           Anything else under the water -- your workgroup,

5           Margaret and Karen, that's the report?

6   **KAREN BURNASKA:** That's it.

7   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you.

8           So our next meeting is going to be December

9           6th.

10          Before we adjourn is there any other public

11          comment today? Any public comment?

12   **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Jack, I have a comment. This is

13          Denise.

14   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Go ahead.

15   **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Okay. Thanks. All the sudden I

16          realized you were on mute. So I just wanted -- I

17          did want to comment on the last topic. And when

18          there's surplus land -- and I appreciate they work

19          very closely with DEEP and, you know, where Graham

20          used to work in the open space office, there's

21          great work coming out of there.

22          But I think from a watershed perspective and

23          from a source water protection perspective it

24          would be appropriate to have that so that it comes

25          to the Water Planning Council so that you have

1 more agencies looking at, is this land we need to  
2 protect from a public drinking water supply  
3 perspective to make sure that that is one of the  
4 things that's looked at? Because if DEP is  
5 looking at it from, do we needed it as open space?  
6 Is it about our fisheries? Is it about our  
7 forestry? But we may look at it differently.

8 So I'm just putting that out there that  
9 that's one of the things I would like to -- I  
10 think should be considered.

11 And then the second thing I just wanted to  
12 comment on -- and I kind of alluded to it in the  
13 presentation I gave on education and outreach, but  
14 I just really wanted to bring back this comment on  
15 the work that's going on with the Governor's  
16 Council on Climate change and the state water  
17 plan.

18 There's just so much interface there. I  
19 always want to make sure that people understand  
20 what some of those connections are, and I  
21 particularly want to bring it up in relationship  
22 to all the funding that's happening right now and  
23 how that, the funding, for example, could impact  
24 water resources.

25 So DEP has a grant out there right now due

1 November 11th, and they're looking at folks  
2 putting in for, you know, development of plans  
3 and, you know, what we might be looking at in  
4 terms of trying to be more resilient. So it's all  
5 about a more resilient Connecticut.

6 And of course, a lot of this is looking at  
7 sea level rise, and how do we have more resilient  
8 communities and about flooding, but I really want  
9 to look at this impact on water resources and  
10 particularly the drought issue.

11 And you know how, for example, those of us  
12 who are in water planning may look at, you know,  
13 putting in, for example, a grant to look at  
14 something that's more landscape scale. When I'm  
15 trying to protect the public drinking water supply  
16 watershed and do source water protection it's not  
17 about one municipality. It's about a watershed.  
18 We need to be looking at that landscape scale.

19 So for example, are we looking at the health  
20 of our forests? And do we need to do forest  
21 restoration work within these watersheds? So I  
22 just wanted to put it out there, that with so much  
23 funding happening it's not just education and  
24 outreach that need it.

25 That we really need to look at a better

1 coordination in how we access these funds and  
2 what -- how we should be accessing these funds.  
3 There's a lot of nonprofits looking at this, but I  
4 was looking at the Water Planning Council in  
5 particular and saying, are we engaged? Do we  
6 understand what's happening with all of the  
7 dollars?

8 How do we make sure, for example, that our  
9 water utilities can do the best work they can do  
10 on source water protection when most of the lands  
11 owned from a source water protection perspective  
12 are in private ownership? And so what do we need  
13 to do from a planning perspective there?

14 So that's just a couple of things that I'm  
15 looking at, but a lot of these are landscape  
16 scale. They're not, oh, let's get a municipality  
17 to, you know, do a very specific project for flood  
18 control or something like that.

19 So I wanted to put out there that I see this  
20 planning effort happening. I'm on the state water  
21 plan in -- what is it called? They keep changing  
22 the name on it.

23 But anyway, it's the infrastructure and  
24 nature-based solution -- oh, resilient  
25 infrastructure. Resilient infrastructure and

1 nature-based solutions workgroup right now. And I  
2 just, you know, and so I see this, this  
3 relationship, but I'm not sure we're fully engaged  
4 and I wanted to figure out how we might get more  
5 engaged.

6 Like I said, it's got to go beyond what we're  
7 doing with the education outreach committee. So  
8 I'm just putting that out there that I think it's  
9 something for this, for the Council to take a  
10 harder look at and see, you know, how we should  
11 be, you know, interacting with the GC3 more  
12 formally. Thank you.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. Appreciate your  
14 comments.

15 Any other public comment. Any other public  
16 comment? Any other public comment?

17  
18 (No response.)

19  
20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, I wish everyone a happy and  
21 healthy Thanksgiving holiday and look forward to  
22 seeing you either before or at the next meeting.

23 Councilmembers, anything in closing?

24  
25 (No response.)



1 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, a motion to adjourn is in order.

2 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

6 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Our meeting is adjourned.

8 Thank you all for your participation today.

9 Much appreciated. Take care, everybody.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thank you, all.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Take care.

12

13 (End: 2:41 p.m.)

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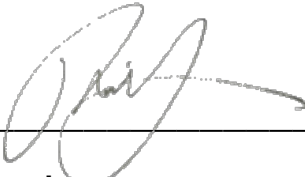
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**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing 57 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 November 1, 2022.



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**Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857**

**Notary Public**

**My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025**

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