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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Special Meeting held Via Teleconference on
December 2, 2022, beginning at 3:02 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 **MARGARET MINER**

11 **KAREN BURNASKA**

12 **CHRIS BELLUCCI**

13 **DAVID RADKA**

14 **ERIC McPHEE**

15 **CAROL HASKINS**

16
17 **Staff:**

18 **LAURA LUPOLI**

19

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25

1 (Begin: 3:02 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We're going to call this special
4 meeting of the Water Planning Council for December
5 2, 2022, to order.

6 The first order of business will be the
7 approval of the November 1, 2022, meeting
8 transcript. Is there a motion?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

11 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there 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: The transcript is approved.

20 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, can you just please note I'm going
21 to abstain, because I was not at that meeting?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So let's make a note of
25 that, please, Rob.

1 One thing I'd like to just say, that
2 yesterday I had the honor of attending the 50th
3 anniversary celebration of the inland wetland
4 passage, the bill, at Dinosaur State Park. It was
5 a proclamation from the Governor, and Graham was
6 the keynote speaker.

7 It was nice to see -- very nice to see people
8 in person that I haven't seen, like Alecia, for
9 quite some time. It was nice to see you.

10 But it was a very, very -- it was really a
11 very uplifting event, I thought. It was really
12 nice. People there from all different backgrounds
13 and I really enjoyed being there. So I did want
14 to thank Denise Savageau and Alecia for
15 coordinating it. It was really nice.

16 And the people at Dinosaur State park, it's a
17 great facility.

18 Is there any public comment on the
19 correspondence received? I don't believe we have
20 any at this point.

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We'll go on to hear the reports, WUCC.

25 Lori?

1 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack. I believe that Eric
2 McPhee is on and Lisette Stone from the DPH to
3 talk about the WUCC. Eric?

4 ERIC MCPHEE: I'll just make a really quick update. We
5 had a joint meeting between the individual WUCCs
6 and WUCC implementation a couple of weeks ago.
7 Continue to have discussions about the future
8 implementation priorities for WUCC implementation,
9 and work with the group members and stakeholders
10 on where we're headed next.

11 And our next meeting is going to be February
12 15th at one o'clock remotely -- talking about
13 doing, however, this coming year an in-person
14 meeting and all the phases together in person.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Eric.

17 LORI MATHIEU: That's it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: And private wells?

19 LORI MATHIEU: Well, with private wells the public act
20 that passed this past session has been enacted.
21 There was a lot of question -- as I mentioned last
22 time.

23 We continue to work with our legal counsel on
24 answering questions and issuing a very clear and
25 concise frequently asked question document. So we

1 continue to work on that with our legal counsel
2 and hope to be able to share that within this
3 month.

4 It is quite extensive. It's five or six
5 pages long, and we have a lot of questions about
6 confidentiality of the information. And we have
7 received questions from local health directors and
8 departments as well as environmental labs, and
9 what could be done with the information and
10 sharing the information. So more to come on that.

11 When that is issued we intend to send it out
12 via a circular letter to all parties. And when it
13 is sent and it is made public, Jack, maybe we
14 could add it to the agenda so that I could maybe
15 present on it and bring Ryan from our private well
16 program to speak on it.

17 Because there's a lot of question, and I
18 believe that it would be helpful to everybody to
19 hear more detail.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent. Thank you, Lori. Any
21 questions for Lori.

22
23 (No response.)

24
25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, we'll move on to item number

1 five on the agenda, action items. Water planning
2 advisory -- the nominating committee for member
3 proposal by Alecia and Carol. You should have
4 received this from the printout.

5 They did a great job in looking at the
6 various groups on the advisory group and have a
7 complete list of who's on it, and have some
8 recommendations to make for us this afternoon.

9 So Alecia?

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Sure. I'm actually going to --

11 Carol, are you okay to do this?

12 CAROL HASKINS: It's okay. I'm going to do this, and
13 then I'm going to jump off and go back to bed.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. Because I can I can take it,
15 if you need me to?

16 CAROL HASKINS: No, it's okay. I'm okay.

17 She's asking that -- I have COVID. I've been
18 home all week.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, my God. Sorry, Carol.

20 CAROL HASKINS: Yeah. Families that eat together on
21 Thanksgiving get COVID, apparently.

22 So in the memo it details I think pretty
23 clearly what the recommendations are from the
24 nominating committee as far as the group one,
25 folks that need to be renewed as well as -- and

1 the recommendations for renewal.

2 And then there's two members that were not --
3 or one member that we're nominating as a
4 replacement for somebody that's stepping down.

5 And then so maintaining a vacancy in
6 agricultural category.

7 There's no changes for group two at this
8 time. There's no vacancies.

9 Group three, there's a vacancy and we have a
10 proposed member to put in there.

11 And then group four has no vacancies at this
12 time. So there's no action needed there.

13 So the slate that you have before you has
14 been discussed predominantly by the Water Planning
15 Council at our last -- or the Water Planning
16 Council advisory group at their last meeting; had
17 general consensus about what was being put forward
18 except for John Morrison had not been a name
19 proposed yet -- but USGS was the suggestion from
20 that group to reach out to for somebody in that
21 category.

22 And in the memo I do have one error. It
23 says, Virginia de Lima was in the academia, public
24 health, and ecology category. Instead of public
25 health, it should say streamflow. That's

1 somewhere along the way that typo slipped in there
2 as far as the category that she represents.

3 So we'll certainly entertain any questions
4 you guys have, but this is the state that we'd
5 like to present to you for consideration.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Carol.

7 Any questions for Carol or Alecia from the
8 planning councilmembers.

9 **MARTIN HEFT:** Just a question, just clarifying -- and
10 thanks for all the work on this. It's great. So
11 just one quick question. The alternates get
12 appointed in the same fashion that the Planning
13 Council votes on the alternates, or are the
14 alternates appointed by the representative?

15 **CAROL HASKINS:** My understanding has been it's been
16 more informal on the alternates, and those have
17 been appointed by the representative.

18 **MARTIN HEFT:** Okay. I would suggest that we formalize
19 a process for doing the alternates. Most boards
20 or commissions, if there is an alternate it's
21 either done by the official representative, or
22 it's done by the council.

23 So we should just formalize that at some
24 point, Mr. Chair, just so we do have that there.
25 So I appreciate that just so we have it kind of in

1 record someplace of how we appoint that. And I'm
2 fine with whichever way, but just wanted to
3 clarify that.

4 And then the only other thing I have -- and I
5 have no issues with any of the recommendations,
6 anything else. It would be helpful that -- I know
7 you guys have, or the group has these kind of big
8 groups listed there, but on this sheet itself, if
9 we actually have the terms listed?

10 The group numbers mean nothing on the
11 spreadsheet, the bigger spreadsheet, where it says
12 group one, two, three and four -- actually having
13 the terms listed there so we can see what the
14 terms are.

15 I know those correlate to your groups. I
16 don't know if your groups have a different
17 reference or something, or if the group is just
18 the term limit. I would rather see the terms on
19 there, rather than group numbers -- unless there's
20 some other significance.

21 But other than that, I don't have any other
22 questions. Thank you.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Martin. I think the
24 suggestion about formalizing the alternates is a
25 good one. So if the Water Planning Council

1 advisory group can --

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: We actually -- it's in our operating
3 procedures, and I'll post that in the chat.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Perfect. Thank you.

5 CAROL HASKINS: Thanks, Alecia.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

7
8 (No response.)

9
10 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, I want to thank Carol, Alecia
11 and the committee for putting this really
12 comprehensive report together. And I would
13 entertain a motion to accept the 2023 proposed
14 membership slate.

15 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

16 MARTIN HEFT: And I will second that.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that the 2023
18 membership slate as proposed by the Water Planning
19 Council advisory group be approved.

20 Any questions on the motion?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 THE CHAIRMAN: It's not, all those in favor signify by
25 saying aye?

1 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

3
4 (No response.)

5
6 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion carries. Again, thank you
7 very much for your work on this.

8 CAROL HASKINS: Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: We also have before us the action item
10 for the 2023 meeting schedule which has been sent
11 out to you. There's only one.

12 The change that would be the fourth -- the
13 July meeting actually falls on the 4th of July.
14 So we're going to have to figure something out for
15 that.

16 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. On 4th July one, Jack, I just
17 recommend you do it the following week.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay.

19 MARTIN HEFT: That would be that would be my
20 recommendation, is just pop it into the following
21 week, so -- because it's the holiday.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: So let's do that. We'll make the July
23 11th --

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: So the one thing with July, I have a
25 recurring second Tuesday of the month meeting at

1 this time. Can we do that Wednesday, the 12th?

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: That's also when the implementation
3 workgroup meets.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Which, the 11th?

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: The second Tuesday.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: So why don't we -- if it's okay, Martin
7 and Lori, we'll do it the 12th? Is that okay?

8 And again, this is a proposed schedule that
9 we're submitting that we can always change.

10 LORI MATHIEU: That's what? Can you just clarify what
11 date again? I'm sorry.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: July 12th.

13 LORI MATHIEU: What time?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: 1:30.

15 And these are all remote access, but that
16 could very well change in 2023. We're starting to
17 do in-person hearings at PURA. So maybe we'll
18 start doing in-person WPC, but January is going to
19 probably be remote -- but I will keep you posted
20 on that.

21 So I would look for motion to accept the
22 proposed 2023 Water Planning Council meeting
23 schedule.

24 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and second. Any questions?
2 LORI MATHIEU: So shouldn't we say, as revised?
3 THE CHAIRMAN: As revised, yes.
4 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.
5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions on the motion?
6
7 (No response.)
8
9 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.
11 THE COUNCIL: Aye.
12 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?
13
14 (No response.)
15
16 THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting schedule is approved.
17 The next item is the Water Planning Council
18 annual report pursuant to Statute 22a-352.
19 Who would like to speak to this? David?
20 DAVID RADKA: Would you prefer it now? Or when
21 Virginia and I do our update?
22 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, is it going to be an act -- it's
23 still a work in progress. Isn't it?
24 DAVID RADKA: Oh, most definitely.
25 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then why don't we wait until we

1 do the report?

2 DAVID RADKA: Okay.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: So thank you. And we're going right
4 down to topic number six, workgroup reports and
5 we're going to start with the implementation
6 workgroup.

7 Virginia and David -- I don't know who would
8 like to go first?

9 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Well, working on the annual report
10 has been one of the major things that we've been
11 doing in the last month.

12 Before we get into the details of that, I
13 also want to mention that the group looking at the
14 USGS data collection has also met. They had an
15 excellent first meeting with Denise Argue from the
16 USGS, giving an overview of what the data
17 collection program is and has been.

18 Chris, do you want to add anything to that?

19 They're off and running.

20 CHRIS BELLUCCI: Yeah, off and running and lots of
21 participation. I think we had 23 people on the
22 call. So it's exciting to see a lot of
23 participation on that workgroup.

24 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah. So that's very encouraging,
25 and I assume that there will be a very positive

1 and informative outcome from it.

2 As I said, we have been working on the annual
3 report and came up with a form to gather
4 information from the various workgroup chairs,
5 both workgroups under the implementation workgroup
6 and also the advisory group. And they were great
7 in getting information back to us in a consistent
8 format so that it will make it easier to pull it
9 together.

10 We identified some issues that we thought
11 were of high priority that will be discussed in a
12 little bit more detail in the annual report
13 itself. All the workgroups will be mentioned, but
14 we'll give a little bit more detail to those that
15 we feel were a higher priority.

16 We've also developed a visual graphic that
17 compares what the workgroup focuses have been and
18 the 17 requirements of the state water plan so
19 that you can see at a glance which of those
20 requirements are being addressed.

21 One of the things that I would like to add to
22 that is to probably just in bold indicate those
23 ones of the 17 that you folks, the Water Planning
24 Council have determined should be higher priority,
25 because clearly those are the ones that the groups

1 have been addressing.

2 And so somebody not familiar with the details
3 of the process looking at the chart will see all
4 these blank lines. Well, they're blank because
5 they weren't deemed to be a high priority at this
6 point. And so that's something that we're going
7 to add to it.

8 Dave has been working on some of the
9 introductory material. So why don't you pick it
10 up from here, Dave?

11 DAVID RADKA: Great. Thanks, Virginia.

12 Let's see. She touched down the template.
13 We've been digesting that. We are currently
14 actively drafting. We had a meeting this past
15 Tuesday -- just Tuesday.

16 And as Virginia said, we're currently
17 gathering additional information, but our main
18 focus now is really shifting into the actual
19 drafting mode given the shortness of time.

20 We are going to meet again this coming
21 Monday -- if anyone's interested, ten to eleven on
22 Zoom. An agenda has been posted for that.

23 And at this point we do fully expect to be in
24 a position to present the Planning Council with a
25 draft report before the end of the month. That is

1 our goal most certainly.

2 What we need to figure out is how to also
3 stay true to our process which usually involves
4 sharing with the implementation workgroup and the
5 advisory group before we finalize it and share
6 with you. And that will likely not be -- the
7 draft likely won't be finalized in time to do
8 that.

9 So we may have to have special meetings, or
10 work something out -- I guess, but again our goal
11 is to have to you before the end of the month.

12 One thing that we -- I think I would
13 appreciate your feedback at this point on is, as
14 Virginia mentioned, we're putting together all the
15 work done by the implementation workgroup and the
16 advisory group over the past several years since
17 the plan itself was adopted.

18 We were debating whether or not arguably one
19 could also pull in various initiatives that the
20 individual agencies have done really on a
21 day-to-day basis -- most certainly DPH's drinking
22 water section, you know, many of the programs at
23 DEEP.

24 And the dilemma that we were discussing of
25 the day was that if we include all of that, it is

1 going to be arguably voluminous. And I think that
2 it may potentially do a disservice to your request
3 for funding for a chief position and for plan
4 update.

5 What we don't want is to present a document
6 that appears that while arguably, yes, all this
7 stuff is being done, we don't want to -- we want
8 to continue to make the point in this document
9 that the funding request bringing in a water
10 planning chief and all the other resources is
11 critical for this to continue to move forward.

12 Does that make sense, what I'm trying to
13 explain? So what we're looking for, Jack and
14 others -- what are your thoughts?

15 I know we're just throwing it off the cuff
16 right here, but do you think it would be helpful
17 for us capture that information. Or again, is it
18 likely going to be almost, you know, is it going
19 to almost counterbalance the request for
20 additional bodies?

21 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'm going to defer -- or ask the
22 Undersecretary of OPM who's been very instrumental
23 in getting us this far with our budget request,
24 and deals with this more often than I with these
25 recommending sorts of things.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So I think we're good either way
2 we want to present the annual report, that I don't
3 think -- one, it's, you know, parts of it are
4 going to benefit the backup documentation for
5 requesting the budget, the other side of it.

6 I think it's going to have kind of a dual
7 effect, if you will. So I think it's really up to
8 us how we want to do it. I wouldn't look at it as
9 a point of, is it going to affect any requests we
10 have in?

11 I would not worry about presenting it in that
12 fashion. We should be presenting an annual report
13 that's reflective of the activities of the Water
14 Planning Council.

15 You know part of that report can have in
16 there that because of these different things, that
17 volunteers have been doing it and we're asking for
18 a budget to be able to do, to continue this work.

19 And to expand everything I think is a good
20 approach to handle.

21 Hopefully that helps.

22 DAVID RADKA: The other concern we had, Undersecretary,
23 is that we really didn't have the resources, our
24 small group. There's only six of us. We really
25 don't have the eyes and the insight into what

1 those individual agency elements might be.

2 We thought in the interests of time we might
3 need to leave it out, but at a minimum we could
4 include text that discusses what we were talking
5 about. There are all these good things going on a
6 day-to-day basis, but here's also the case why we
7 really need to expand and amp up our efforts.

8 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, and I think that would be a good
9 approach, David.

10 DAVID RADKA: All right. Thank you.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, could I ask?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

13 LORI MATHIEU: So David, what exactly are you looking
14 to add?

15 DAVID RADKA: So one of the things that Virginia
16 mentioned was a table that identifies the various
17 implementation workgroup initiative that we've
18 done and that are ongoing, and link those to, not
19 only pry out a description, but also link them to
20 the 17 elements, statutory elements of the state
21 water plan -- do the same with the Water Planning
22 Council advisory group's efforts over this time.

23 And then what we discussed was, do we want to
24 create a separate table that identifies how the
25 various state agency programs also align with

1 those 17 elements? But we would need someone
2 within each agency to actually develop that for
3 us. That's part of the problem, is we don't have
4 the resources to do that at this time.

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Would it would it help clarify it if
6 I showed very quickly what this table is that
7 we're talking about?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I --

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: I've seen the table. I would just --
10 and obviously you can share it -- but I would just
11 say from my perspective, given the time
12 constraints, and you know the scope of what we
13 would have to do to put together a state action
14 table, that might be beyond the scope of what we
15 can get done this year.

16 But what I would maybe suggest as an
17 alternative -- because I think it is kind of
18 important to talk about the fact that there's also
19 four agencies working on these issues
20 independently and serving the goals of the state
21 water plan -- is to, in the narrative portion of
22 the report, to mention a few key examples.

23 Because having a full time water chief, or
24 whatever we're going to call this person, who's
25 aware of the various actions of the various

1 agencies is also going to be important to
2 implementation of the state water plan and actions
3 of the Water Planning Council.

4 So maybe just it wouldn't be necessarily a
5 detractor from a request for funding, but another
6 reason to justify it because we would need someone
7 who would be able to have attention on all agency
8 actions so that they could then integrate that
9 information into the actions of the Water Planning
10 Council.

11 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Let me just show you this very
12 quickly. This is the table that we've developed.
13 You can see that we have the principals here.

14 This is the implementation workgroup stuff.

15 This is the advisory group stuff.

16 These yellow ones are the ones that we
17 highlighted as probably going to be putting more
18 in the narrative.

19 The boxes indicate with a "C" those
20 workgroups were completed.

21 These ones with an "A" are active. And the
22 ones with an "O" are ongoing, which means that
23 they don't have an end date.

24 And so what we were asking is if the
25 agencies -- and we put this together just so that

1 you could use it if you wanted to. But I agree
2 with Graham's point -- that's probably better as a
3 narrative, but we just put together the same table
4 with the agencies.

5 This could be useful for the agencies to use
6 in house even if it weren't to be part of our
7 plan, just so that they could get a sense of which
8 of the programs tied into which of the 17
9 requirements in the plan. That may be something
10 that you already do. I'm not privy to that
11 information.

12 So this is what we're talking about, just to
13 have a visual to summarize it at a glance.

14 LORI MATHIEU: And I like that, but I think it's an
15 enormous amount of work because there's a lot
16 going on and we would hate to miss anything.

17 So I agree with Graham. I think that it's a
18 it's a good idea, but it's going to take some time
19 to get that in a place where it makes the most
20 sense and it's accurate.

21 Because I believe that one of the white
22 papers did that -- if I'm not mistaken. In the
23 state water plan there were four white papers, and
24 I think either a white paper or part of the state
25 water plan summarized the basics of what our

1 responsibilities are, and then I think trying to
2 match it to where we were headed with the state
3 water plan.

4 So I think doing this, this work and
5 continuously keeping that up to date is important.

6 DAVID RADKA: Thank you, Lori, for pointing that out.
7 We'll go back and look at those white papers and
8 see if there's text that we can actually use in
9 this report.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: And I think the fact that you're on such
11 a limited timeframe, too, we want to try to make
12 it streamlined as much as possible.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Certainly.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments from Virginia or
15 David?

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: That's it -- unless anybody else has
17 something to add?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. There's a lot of
22 work going into that -- and we're giving it back.
23 We're looking for more money. We want to get it
24 in as close to on time as we can, for sure.

25 Virginia, are you going to discuss the state

1 water plan website?

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Is Denise going to be talking about
3 the education and outreach group?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Well, then --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure. I think Denise might be
7 out of town. I think Denise may be visiting
8 family.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. I don't see her on the participant
10 list.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: So you want to talk about it a little
12 bit?

13 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Is there anybody on the call today
14 that has been participating in that discussion?

15
16 (No response.)

17
18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I'd have to go look it up, quite
19 frankly. I don't remember the details of what she
20 reported at our last meeting.

21 KAREN BURNASKA: This is Karen. I am on outreach and
22 education -- a subgroup with Dan Aubin and Ali,
23 Ali Hibbard.

24 But I believe what we sent to -- what the
25 subgroup did is we sent it. Denise presented it

1 to the implementation workgroup and that's where
2 it stands now, and I have not even heard what your
3 comments have been on it. So I think the ball is
4 right now in your court.

5 Sorry, Virginia.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we can --

7 KAREN BURNASKA: (Unintelligible) -- our meeting next
8 week.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, and we can talk. We can report at
10 our next month.

11 Martin?

12 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. So interagency drought workgroup.
13 After the last Water Planning Council meeting, the
14 group did meet November 7th and reduced, if you
15 will, the entire state from a state -- well, put
16 the entire state into a stage one, which is just
17 an internal recognition of drought conditions.

18 As you remember that we had New
19 London/Windham County were at -- well, we had New
20 London/Windham County were stage two. Then the
21 entire state got moved up to stage two in during
22 August. October it got reduced down, and then
23 we've just reduced it November stage one.

24 We have a meeting December 8th which will
25 review those conditions to see if we hopefully

1 don't have to move anything back up again, but
2 hopefully can come out and remove all stages
3 depending upon conditions.

4 Last month we didn't want to remove it
5 completely out of all stages because we still had
6 some areas that were still, you know, experienced
7 some stages of drought in some of our triggers.
8 So we wanted to continue monitoring, which we
9 would do regardless of stages.

10 And then secondly we will be continuing
11 reviewing the recommendations. As I had mentioned
12 previously, we will have a listing coming back to
13 the Water Planning Council. Some of those
14 recommendations have to come back to this level
15 versus the drought workgroup, and also looking at
16 implementing the other types of recommendations
17 that are in there. That's on the agenda for next
18 week as well.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We've got a lot of -- in fact, at your
20 last meeting you got quite a bit of a great
21 publicity, I'd say.

22 **MARTIN HEFT:** Yes.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Heard you on the radio.

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** I'm sorry.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** It was good.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: No -- thank you and the group for
3 everything. Any questions for Martin?

4
5 (No response.)

6
7 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, the Water Planning Council advisory
8 group. Alecia and Dan Lawrence?

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So our last meeting we had a
10 discussion about materials or what we needed to be
11 put together to get back to the implementation
12 workgroup for the annual report.

13 There's not a whole lot else to report, but
14 since I'm following the drought report I just want
15 to say I attended the drought early warning system
16 conference that was held in early November in New
17 York.

18 And we are -- Connecticut is doing really
19 well as far as drought response goes compared to
20 other states, because we got a report from all of
21 the other states on where they are with drought
22 planning. And we're really ahead at the game. So
23 we should pat ourselves on the back.

24 You know there are a lot of other states who
25 don't even have a drought plan, so we're doing

1 really well.

2 But I will -- I believe we've already talked
3 about everything else that's going on, and so I'll
4 just hand it over to the watershed lands group for
5 their report.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia.

7 Karen?

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Sure. As usual I will start off and
9 get some of the basics, and then I will turn it
10 over to Margaret who's got some more of the nitty
11 gritty.

12 But the most important thing is I wanted to
13 invite all of you and let you know that a week
14 from today, December 9th at 9 a.m., via Zoom, the
15 watershed lands workgroup is meeting.

16 And some of the interesting items on the
17 agenda will be we will continue our discussion on
18 land conveyances and also the transfer of state
19 surplus land. We will follow up on information
20 from the WUCCs, and from what they have been doing
21 and how they have been working with DPH on a story
22 map.

23 We will just mention the fact that of the MDC
24 petition for declaratory ruling to DPH will have a
25 public hearing on January 5th. You may have some

1 basic information, but that's when the hearing
2 will take place. And we will also have input from
3 Alecia Charamut on the Rivers Alliance study, and
4 what has come out of a draft framework for
5 protecting riparian and headwaters.

6 So the meeting should be very good. I know
7 Bruce and you have -- there's a new person now at
8 OPM, Rebecca Dahl, who'll be helping coordinate
9 this meeting on next Friday. But the information
10 will go out and we hope that you will join us.

11 And now I see Margaret is on. And like we
12 said, now -- now we get down to the real nitty
13 gritty, so.

14 And once again I have to -- I apologize,
15 Virginia, but I have no more information on that.
16 We have a report on the website. It went in. We
17 know that the implementation workgroup had made
18 comments on it and so we're leaving it up to you.

19 Thanks.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Margaret?

21 **MARGARET MINER:** Okay. Yes, I guess if they're
22 comments. Yes, that's right, Karen.

23 Okay. Two bits of -- two things of news.
24 One is that, amazingly enough -- amazingly enough
25 GAE and Mae Flexer have agreed that we should

1 meet, that we can meet and should meet with their
2 legislative counsel in order to work on whatever
3 issues we may have with the conveyance act as it's
4 been in the past, and especially as it was last
5 year.

6 And I had mentioned to them that the way we
7 worked it when Ed Meyer was head of the
8 Environment Committee was that he said, just meet
9 with my counsel -- who was Brad at the time -- and
10 when you people have worked it out come back to
11 me.

12 I think that's basically that we will sit
13 down with the legislative counsel, go over all the
14 asks and concerns that we've had, and hope that we
15 get a better outcome next year -- which nobody
16 liked, and especially the members of the GAE
17 committee did not really themselves like. So that
18 is good news.

19 The other news on land conveyances is that we
20 have been paying attention to the agency transfers
21 out of state public lands, out of public
22 stewardship that are being announced, as I think
23 we explained last time, that are being announced
24 in the Environmental Monitor and are accompanied
25 by scoping notices.

1 I believe that CEQ has -- Paul Aresta has
2 commented. Well, there were three that involved
3 lands that are quite rich in water resources,
4 which is why they are particularly of interest to
5 the watershed lands group. And I think CEQ has
6 commented on all three of those recommending much
7 greater protection or non transfer.

8 The interesting one -- I don't know if I had
9 mentioned this before. Perhaps the most
10 surprising was the North Canaan, a transfer of 27
11 acres in North Canaan which was noticed twice by
12 the State, once for an auction -- I don't know if
13 I did this before -- on November 16th, I think, or
14 18th, and then a scoping notice for a comment
15 period due a week later.

16 So there was obviously a mix up there, and
17 the branch of DOT that announced it for an auction
18 withdrew the auction. So now we only have one
19 agency, one announcement of agency action to deal
20 with.

21 That land is of interest locally for its
22 trails. It's been designated in the past as a
23 greenway. It's in a floodplain. It has lots of
24 water resources. It has forest. It's been
25 designated as a greenway, and in fact DOT had

1 leased it to the Town of North Canaan for a number
2 of years since 2002, I think. The lease expired
3 in 2008, and neither the Town nor the State
4 realized that until last year -- or this year.

5 So again it indicates that -- to me this
6 indicates we need to be more sophisticated in how
7 we announce and review transfers of public land.
8 It appears that much more attention needs to be
9 given to water resources.

10 And on the front -- the land transfers that
11 are not going to GAE, we are and I think lots of
12 people are looking at them through the
13 Environmental Monitor and the scoping process
14 announced there.

15 So that's where we stand. I would say some
16 considerable progress I hope on meeting with GAE
17 on the legislative transfers. And quite -- and a
18 fair amount of, quite a lot of advocacy and action
19 in CEQ on the transfer, agency announced transfers
20 that are in the Monitor.

21 So we've been busy. And I think -- I think
22 we're holding the line, or maybe making a little
23 progress on guarding the water resources.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Margaret, and a great report.

25 And the fact that you're meeting with the LCO

1 attorney of the GAE is a very positive move, so.

2 MARGARET MINER: Good. Yeah, we've got to get that
3 going, if possible, next week -- or at least get
4 it all set up.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's great. Thank you.

6 Any questions for Margaret?

7 MARTIN HEFT: I don't have a question, Jack. I just
8 want to -- thanks, Margaret, for that update.

9 And I just want to also just kind of alert
10 you -- which you may or may not be aware.

11 Obviously, you know post elections coming into
12 January there's a lot of changes in the general
13 assembly. Almost a class of, like, 40 coming in
14 new.

15 So there's going to be some education that
16 might be needed with new members that might be on
17 GAE there. So just kind of keep that in the back,
18 back of your mind as well as you're meeting with
19 the chairs.

20 I haven't seen if they're making any changes
21 to the chairs yet on that. They're just starting
22 to announce those now. So just something to just
23 keep in mind as you're moving forward with this --
24 and it's great. Thanks.

25 MARGARET MINER: Well -- and thank you. And if you

1 get -- if you find out who's going to be chair of
2 what before we do, please let me know.

3 **MARTIN HEFT:** Definitely.

4 **MARGARET MINER:** Thanks. Okay. Bye-bye.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Martin, that's a very good point
6 particularly in view of the fact that we're going
7 to be looking for some dollars in the next budget.
8 And so we ought to be getting -- getting lists of
9 members and leadership of committees so that we
10 could lobby appropriately.

11 So thank you for bringing that up.

12 **MARGARET MINER:** Yeah.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Any other questions for Margaret?

14
15 (No response.)

16
17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** It's not, other business?

18 Lori, did you have other business?

19 **LORI MATHIEU:** I do, a couple of other items just for
20 fun. I think we should note that Graham -- Martin
21 is laughing.

22 Graham and I -- the 8th is turning into the
23 busiest day ever. I'm not sure why. Every once
24 in a while these days converge. Right?

25 On the 8th in the morning -- and we've sent

1 out a broad notice to people about a couple-hour
2 meeting of the task force on PFAS is getting
3 together. So hopefully you've seen that
4 announcement.

5 Myself and Graham and our teams and along
6 with our commissioners are teeing up a
7 presentation on the action plan -- that was three
8 years ago now -- and the actions that are within
9 that, the implementation items within it, and what
10 we are doing presently and where we're headed for
11 the future.

12 So there's a presentation. All the agencies
13 are invited. We've invited agency heads. There's
14 quite a big to-do there.

15 It's an in-person at the LOB. I believe,
16 Graham, Room 1D. And all here are invited. It's
17 going to be quite the gathering -- and it's also
18 hybrid. So there's a Zoom link there as well, so.

19 Graham, I don't know if there's anything you
20 wanted to add?

21 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** No, it will be a live broadcast on
22 CT-N as well, and the agencies will record the
23 Zoom and post it on our PFAS task force meeting's
24 webpage, which is pretty easy to get to.

25 So, yeah. Great. Thank you, Lori.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: It's come a long way Lori since we had
2 the original meeting at DOT some years back. So
3 you can definitely see the progress you've made.

4 LORI MATHIEU: It's been a long time. And so it's been
5 three years, and we're very -- you know the teams
6 are very proud of the work that they've done and
7 we want to talk about the future and get input.
8 So it's a two-hour meeting. So that's one
9 important item.

10 Also the other item I wanted to bring up is
11 the, I believe, the pending retirement of Maureen
12 Westbrook from Connecticut Water Company, who I
13 believe is retiring at the end of this calendar
14 year. And given that she had spent an enormous
15 amount of time, an investment when she -- I
16 believe, the first co chair of the advisory
17 committee way back when, when all of this started
18 many years ago.

19 And the thought may be for the next Water
20 Planning Council meeting, either in January or
21 February, to invite her to have some sort of
22 ceremony or some acknowledgement from us as a
23 council of her work and her time with us and her
24 commitment, and the amount of time that she's
25 invested in helping us move forward.

1 So that's just a thought that I've had in
2 hearing that she's retiring. And by the way, she
3 did start part of her career at the Health
4 Department. Way back in the 1980s she worked at
5 DPH.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I think it's an excellent idea, and
7 she's really been passionate about the water
8 business for quite some time. We might want to do
9 it at the February meeting, which I think if
10 you're going to recognize her you've got to do it
11 in person.

12 And then coordinate something and perhaps
13 come up with some type of citation or something to
14 present to her -- if that's acceptable to you,
15 Graham and Martin, that we do at the February
16 meeting?

17 **MARTIN HEFT:** That sounds great.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Graham, are you okay with that?

19 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Yes.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Let's plan on doing at the February --
21 I'm very excited about it. She was just at a
22 conference with me out in New Orleans -- and she's
23 ready, but I think she certainly deserves it now
24 with her years of service. So great idea, Lori.

25 All right. I'll make sure we do that.

1 and great work throughout 2022, and years in the
2 past. And we look forward to great things in
3 2023, especially when you get all that money
4 Martin is going to get for us through the Office
5 of Policy and Management.

6 So have a great weekend -- and I'll entertain
7 a motion to adjourn?

8 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Second.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

12 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Be well, everybody. Thank you so much.

14 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you, all.

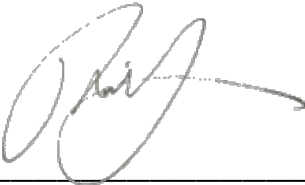
15 LORI MATHIEU: Take care.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thank you, Jack. Thank you, everyone.

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18 (End: 3:49 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 41 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Special Meeting of the Water Planning Council, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN, via teleconference, on December 2, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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