

**CERTIFIED
COPY**

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

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Special Meeting held Via Teleconference on
December 22, 2021, beginning at 2:10 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

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

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

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

4 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

5 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

6 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

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

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

10 **DAVE RADKA**

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

12 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

13
14 **Staff:**

15 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. I call the special
2 meeting of the Water Planning Council to order.

3 We're here today to discuss the next steps
4 and priorities of the Council, and we're going to
5 start by going over the list that we put together
6 some time back, starting with the statewide
7 drought planning.

8 And Martin, would you like to give us an
9 update on that please?

10 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Good afternoon. So the statewide
11 drought planning, obviously we have the
12 interagency drought workgroup we did receive
13 recommendations in. We have reviewed all of those
14 recommendations as a first run-through, if you
15 will, of all four charges that are in there to
16 kind of ascertain whether or not they have been
17 completed, they're in the process.

18 Should they be included in an updated drought
19 plan if there's a legislative matter that has to
20 deal with it or a financial matter, and which
21 things may have to come back to the full Council
22 separately?

23 There are two items that had I mentioned at
24 our last meeting, charges 4.3 and 4.31 which deal
25 with the Water Planning Council and tying into the

1 state hazard mitigation plan, and the GC3 report,
2 Governor's climate change -- which just had an
3 executive order that came out.

4 So obviously I think that will be a factor of
5 us looking at our State water plan as well as the
6 drought plan -- is that executive order to see
7 what pieces may have to be looked at with all of
8 that.

9 So we are on our way of looking at
10 recommendations. We'll review that, all of the
11 four charges again looking at that before we make
12 any recommendations back to the Water Planning
13 Council on any changes that we foresee in the plan
14 itself.

15 So that's kind of the brief summary.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions for Martin?

17 One of the things, for example, which would
18 be difficult -- like right now it's DEEP is a
19 voting member, but we're going to change that, or
20 look towards changing that so PURA would have a
21 seat at the table. Correct?

22 **MARTIN HEFT:** Correct. And that, that will be --
23 that's in our recommendation. We're also looking
24 at do, we add in -- sure, consumer protection. Do
25 we look at other agencies, you know, ones that

1 should be, whether they're being advisory or
2 voting numbers, but that is part of that that we
3 added into there.

4 It wasn't necessarily one of the
5 recommendations, but other things that we found
6 implementing the state drought plan, other changes
7 that we feel that might be beneficial, and that's
8 one of those. Correct.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

10 Councilmembers, any questions? Comments?

11 LORI MATHIEU: Only I think that I've participated in
12 the process and it's gone very well, and I want to
13 thank Martin for running a very efficient process.
14 It took us many meetings, but there was a lot to
15 go through; many excellent suggestions, comments
16 and we've made some -- I think some very
17 significant change based upon the input that we've
18 received.

19 And I think it couldn't be at a better time
20 to have this plan in the shape that it is, and
21 that it will be. And it deserves to continuously
22 be updated.

23 And it fits well into the work of the GC3 to
24 make sure that we have all of our ducks in a row
25 and be prepared the best that we can, so.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. Just quickly to reiterate, I
2 think you know Martin and the OPM staff have done
3 a great job leading this effort. I think it's
4 still, from our perspective given the points that
5 Martin and Lori raised, still warrants a long-term
6 priority from DEEP's perspective at the Water
7 Planning Council.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Thank you. We'll move on to
9 water conservation. This year, earlier in the
10 year we had the workshop with Mary Ann Dickinson
11 and came up with some suggestions from that in
12 terms of how we look upon conservation.

13 And I don't know, Graham, if you wanted to
14 give a little bit of an update in terms of
15 legislation that we potentially will be going next
16 year?

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. I mean, I think this group has
18 heard some of our deliberations about WaterSense
19 as well as how does the state building code plan
20 to do, you know, water conservation. We've had
21 our conversations about other water conservation
22 efforts and initiatives.

23 I think that this is certainly a great area
24 to continue to prioritize in the short term by
25 identifying our key next steps and starting to

1 make real tangible progress towards enhanced water
2 conservation. I think it's something that
3 everyone understands from on the consumer side to
4 the water utility side, to the state side.

5 So I think this is something that we all
6 could work together on over the next several
7 years, and ultimately look back and see some great
8 progress at that point when we reevaluate.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori or Martin?

10
11 (No response.)

12
13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Looking at the electronic
14 reporting for diversion --

15 LORI MATHIEU: I do. I do have one I was just thinking
16 about -- there's a couple things. One, Jack, if I
17 could? Back to the drought plan.

18 The one thing that I was just thinking about
19 is the approval of the drought plan. Now that
20 we're making adjustments I just wanted to keep
21 that on the table. I think it's important for
22 our, you know, definitely my agency's leadership
23 to know and understand and sort of sign off on
24 this new version. You know we should call it a
25 new version, because it is.

1 want to bring that back to a Water Planning
2 Council meeting and say that from our Department's
3 point of view, including as I represent my
4 commissioner on the Water Planning Council, I want
5 to be able to have that chance to get the okay
6 from our leadership and then bring it back and
7 say, from our Department's point of view we would
8 look to accept this plan and move forward.

9 Something like that, because one of the
10 comments, Martin, is we've noted that -- and I
11 think there's been this comment all along, that
12 this is not a formal process. It's sort of an
13 ad-hoc group -- and which is true. There is no
14 statute that developed us.

15 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So if I can piggyback on that? So
16 the draft -- or the drought preparedness response
17 plan was actually adopted by the Water Planning
18 Council in 2018. So any revisions, my
19 recommendation is it comes back to the Water
20 Planning Council to adopt.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Adopt.

22 MARTIN HEFT: And that's kind of in my thought process,
23 and I apologize if I didn't clarify that through
24 the process.

25 But all of the recommendations that we've

1 made we would then present to the Water Planning
2 Council.

3 Obviously each of our agencies have got to go
4 back and have the opportunity to look through
5 because if there's things that affect those
6 individual agencies, obviously they need to have
7 acknowledgment of that and also know what's going
8 on for that to have that kind of review process,
9 and then before it comes to a vote before the full
10 Council again.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Good.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: That was my understanding.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Okay. And so thank you for
14 that.

15 And then so my other comment about water
16 conservation, one item that is in the state water
17 plan under task 5.2.3.3 is comprehensive water
18 conservation including education to include towns
19 and local health of directors and impacts on
20 rates. I know that we've done a lot of discussion
21 about that. Mary Ann Dickinson has helped us on
22 that toward that end. I just want to bring that
23 up to the top again.

24 The impact on rates is significant. I think
25 some of our bigger utilities will hesitate to go

1 to water conservation measures when they -- maybe
2 they should, but they hesitate because of impact
3 on the financial side. And I think I would like
4 to highlight that and to continue our discussion
5 in our area of focus.

6 Because, frankly I think -- and I'll get
7 right down to what I'm saying here is, I think we
8 should go to a two-day watering requirement, only
9 watering two days for lawn irrigation. Because
10 that -- you know I've said it before. I'll say it
11 again. I'll say it again and again.

12 I think it's a waste of water. I think it's
13 a waste of energy. I think it's a waste of
14 treatment chemicals to utilize that water supply
15 on lawns every single day. And I think part of
16 the 2016 drought was created because of water
17 overuse. And we really don't -- you know we've
18 really got to take that issue up, in my opinion.

19 But when we say that we also have to say, we
20 know that there's a revenue concern. And I think
21 we should maybe form a plan for the next year of,
22 how do we move forward with that particular item
23 and issue?

24 So just my thought.

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, to your point, Lori, I think

1 that's why -- I think we as a Council should start
2 talking about what the short-term goals of this
3 priority are, but there's definitely some
4 interest. And I think this is a really important
5 priority that we should focus on.

6 And if it's a high priority for the Water
7 Planning Council, certainly those conversations
8 should follow in short order so we can look at
9 getting the input from the various folks and
10 coming up with various steps that we can take in
11 addition to our actions on WaterSense.

12 And through some of our diversion permitting
13 processes I think we are looking at enhanced water
14 conservation efforts with some of the water
15 utility companies.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** That's a nice segue for the next -- when
17 you're talking about electronic reporting
18 diversion, Graham, is anything happening with
19 that?

20 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I mean, I don't want to declare
21 victory on top of an aircraft carrier here, but I
22 think that we've made significant process. Really
23 we're in the data analysis stage, so I just wanted
24 to thank all the water planning counselors as well
25 as the Water Planning Council advisory group and

1 the implementation workgroup for your support of
2 the efforts to start getting this information
3 electronically.

4 So now we're sorting through the data and
5 trying to seek out these, the parties that hold
6 these registrations that either are nonresponsive
7 to letters from the government, or are
8 nonexistent.

9 So we're going to be reporting back to the
10 Water Planning Council soon on some of the data as
11 well as next steps to try to track down the
12 non-compliers.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Now any questions on that?

14
15 (No response.)
16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: So the next thing is the aging
18 infrastructure and when I talked with Martin
19 yesterday, the Governor released quite a bit of
20 putting money that was going to go into DEEP plus
21 we have the --

22 (Interruption.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: So this is kind of exciting when you
24 look into the infrastructure. Graham, you might
25 want to talk. Your department got a lot of money

1 yesterday. That's going to be going out to
2 various plants, sewage plants.

3 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** It was a good day yesterday. Yeah, we
4 were happy. We sent out a press release. We got
5 PFAS money for private wells, 1.15 million. We
6 got the money, the state's share of Superfund
7 projects for the Raymark site in particular, and
8 \$60 million of state funding to shore up our clean
9 water fund. So trying to keep this pipeline to
10 wastewater infrastructure projects moving.

11 And just to segue into the federal stimulus
12 money, obviously there's ARPA funds which can be
13 used for water. And as Lori knows drinking water,
14 clean water, water infrastructure projects.

15 BIL, IIJA; maybe some day Build Back Better.
16 So that the opportunities for federal and matching
17 state funds.

18 And potentially also I just want to point out
19 private funds go into infrastructure in the State
20 of Connecticut. It's very exciting. And the
21 private funds being the legislation that passed
22 last year that authorizes the Green Bank to
23 participate in environmental infrastructure which
24 is exciting, and we've met with the Green Bank on
25 a preliminary basis to hear some of their

1 thoughts, but they are looking at some interesting
2 approaches to try to, you know, as they have in
3 the renewable energy marketplaces, also come into
4 the environmental infrastructure marketplace to
5 try to participate and move forward in improving
6 environmental infrastructure in the state of
7 Connecticut.

8 LORI MATHIEU: And on the infrastructure law that
9 passed there's two names. So people -- there's
10 two different acronyms and it seems like it's
11 transitioning into what is known as the bill, the
12 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It used to be
13 known as IIJA.

14 So it is now going by the term BIL -- within
15 that over five years for drinking water, and most
16 of that money coming to the Department of Public
17 Health drinking water DWSRF, the state revolving
18 loan fund. There's about \$445 million over a
19 five-year period to focus in on the SRF program
20 through loans.

21 Some of the loans are highly subsidized.
22 There's some buckets of money that are coming to
23 help the SRF program, the base program and a
24 supplement to that.

25 So everything on aging infrastructure that

1 we're talking about, which includes a rebuild of
2 drinking water treatment plants, investment in
3 water main replacements, investment in pump
4 station upgrades, investment with our smallest
5 systems, adding new tanks, getting rid of the
6 explodable hydropneumatic tanks. Right? And
7 replacing old aging infrastructure.

8 So the SRF is going to really evolve. The
9 drinking water SRF is really going to evolve with
10 this funding. There's another pot of money that
11 will flow through the SRF for emerging
12 contaminants, and to address emerging contaminants
13 such as -- with a focus on PFAS, but that's not
14 the only emerging contaminant problem that we have
15 in our State.

16 We had a call yesterday with EPA headquarters
17 staff about how to term and what to look at for
18 emerging contaminants. We want to broaden it and
19 keep it flexible. So a contaminant such as
20 manganese, a contaminant such as sodium --
21 chloride, 1,4 dioxane.

22 Some of these other ones that are
23 unregulated, or will be regulated in the future
24 and are being studied in the future can be part of
25 the emerging contaminants pot bin of funding

1 there.

2 There's also a bin of money for lead service
3 line removal, and you'll be hearing more about
4 that in the near future. Our department, our new
5 commissioner, Commissioner Juthani, as one of her
6 priorities is lead. So removal of lead service
7 lines is -- the very first step of that is
8 inventories.

9 So a big announcement that came out on the
10 same day as the executive order was also the
11 federal lead copper rule, which is quite
12 confusing -- but anyway, the part of it that is
13 moving forward are the inventories that the water
14 utilities -- some of them have already done an
15 excellent job moving forward with the inventories.

16 We already have -- and we have 12 projects on
17 our SRF list for over \$134 million in requests
18 already. So that's part of what I look at as
19 aging infrastructure and how things have changed
20 and evolved since the time that we wrote this,
21 this state water plan is -- I think, this funding
22 and the way some of the buckets are formed will
23 definitely push us in a certain direction.

24 And certainly emerging contaminants as well
25 as lead service lines will be a big focus on the

1 drinking water side.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori, the process for getting state
3 revolving funds out to the companies I know has
4 been a cumbersome process in the past. Is there a
5 point where --

6 **LORI MATHIEU:** It's not cumbersome, Jack. We've
7 streamlined it. And I'll tell you, everybody
8 that's eligible -- there's 750 water systems that
9 are eligible. It is a streamlined process. You
10 can apply at any time; everything is online.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So it's much better than what it used to
12 be, is what you're telling me. Because people
13 would --

14 **LORI MATHIEU:** You have three days --

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori -- Lori, take a breath, Lori.

16 **LORI MATHIEU:** I will be honest with you. Well, when
17 you criticize a program --

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'm not criticizing. I'm just making a
19 point, Lori. I'm making a point, that in the
20 past it's been a cumbersome process and people
21 have pulled back from it and said, forget it. We
22 don't want the money.

23 **LORI MATHIEU:** I will tell you this. We have loaned
24 almost \$400 million --

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, good.

1 LORI MATHIEU: -- for almost 300 projects across the
2 state, and we've loaned \$10,000 loans to our
3 smallest systems to help them get a generator, all
4 the way all up to \$54 million. We work really
5 hard (unintelligible) --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Lori, we get it. Thank you.

7 And I'm happy, because we've been talking
8 about infrastructure for 20 years. And it's nice.
9 I mean, from -- what? The Bush administration
10 we're talking about infrastructure. It's nice to
11 finally see some of this money getting out and
12 getting into people's hands, because before it
13 took a very long time to happen.

14 LORI MATHIEU: So Jack, if I might just say one thing
15 about the process? For twelve years we worked
16 very hard to streamline it. Our big private
17 systems have also taken advantage of the process,
18 and which is wonderful.

19 We're working on one together right now,
20 which is helping disadvantaged
21 communities invest --

22 THE CHAIRMAN: In Naugatuck. I know, and I'm very
23 happy about that.

24 LORI MATHIEU: It's beautiful. It's a great project.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: That's good.

1 LORI MATHIEU: It is a long process. So I would love
2 to come in January or February and talk about the
3 process and how it works, because it is an
4 application process. There is a call for
5 projects. I mean, it is a big federal program,
6 but we've tried really hard to streamline it and
7 make it an opportunity for people.

8 And we can talk about who's eligible, because
9 its also schools that are public water systems.
10 It's also municipal buildings that are public
11 water. So there's a lot of town halls that are
12 public water systems that are eligible, all the
13 way up to Aquarion and Connecticut Water -- and I
14 see Pat Kearney there, on from Manchester, from
15 our bigger municipal systems.

16 Many of our bigger municipal systems have
17 taken advantage of the process. It is a federal
18 process, and you're right. There's a lot to
19 complete, a lot of crosscutting items to work on,
20 but we're here to help and get people through the
21 process, absolutely.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I just want to go on record I was not
23 being critical of the Department of Public Health.
24 I was just saying historically it's been a
25 cumbersome process, what you just pointed --

1 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: It hasn't been easy for people.

3 So okay. Anything more on infrastructure?
4

5 (No response.)
6

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

8 LORI MATHIEU: I think one of the points, though, with
9 this money times are changing and they have
10 changed significantly with the influx of money.

11 And probably what we should do when we have a
12 chance between myself and Graham, we should talk
13 more about through this forum what this, what
14 these pots of money are. Because it can get very
15 confusing, because there's a lot of money there, a
16 lot of opportunity -- which is very exciting.

17 So I think that for aging infrastructure to
18 address that and be as comprehensive as we can, we
19 need to get information out and educate people.
20 And I know that OPM and Martin, you guys are
21 taking the lead on all these pots of money where
22 there's billions of dollars, and there's a lot of
23 opportunity. So it's very exciting.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm looking at our list here.

25 One of the things that we've been working

1 on -- of course, the last item on this list, it
2 appears looking at the monitoring that the
3 subgroup has been doing a great job in terms of
4 the monitoring the implementation of the plan.
5 And I think that that group has done a really,
6 really good job. I have attended a couple of
7 those meetings and I think that they're on track;
8 there's another meeting coming up at the end of
9 January. So I think that that is moving along
10 very nicely.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Again, I just want to point out, Jack,
12 that that's statutory requirement. So certainly a
13 priority from my perspective, and I appreciate the
14 work that they're doing.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Right, a lot of good work there.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: And that kind of links into 17 as
17 well -- not to take away the reins here, but
18 just the consistency with existing state plans
19 which we are working some work on as well.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Talk a little bit about that?

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: So I think one of the things that
22 we've been looking at is how the state water plan
23 ties in with GC3. So we've gotten Rebecca French
24 to our meeting, and her and now her new staff are
25 looking at putting together some crosscutting

1 reporting on state planning as it relates to the
2 outcome from GC3, and seeing how climate change
3 mitigation and adaptation plays in with the state
4 water plan, and various other state level planning
5 documents.

6 So I think Martin was kind enough to drop the
7 Executive Order in the chat. You know it's not
8 only the best, but maybe the longest executive
9 order of this administration. So it really
10 highlights the importance of ensuring that
11 everything that we do across state government
12 takes into consideration climate change, the
13 impacts from climate change, our ability to adapt
14 to climate change.

15 And that, that fits in very nicely with
16 respect to the state water plan which really was
17 looking at some of these issues before the focus
18 became even more pinpointed on taking action.

19 So I think that as far as the implementation
20 tracking, which just kind of ties in really nicely
21 with the consistency piece, that was item 17
22 originally.

23 **MARTIN HEFT:** Jack, if I may add onto Graham's with
24 item 17, with the consistency with the existing
25 state plans?

1 The commission on the development and future
2 of Connecticut's future -- development in the
3 future, excuse me, that was established under --
4 if I remember what the public act number is now.

5 For that, Public Act 21-29, one of the
6 workgroups that's established there is the state
7 and municipal statutory plan reporting process,
8 looking at that, the legislation requires the
9 state plan of conservation of development. But
10 the commission opened it because we need to look
11 at all the state plans, how they tie together
12 everything for that as well as how they tie into
13 the state plan of C and D, but also all these
14 other plans including the state water plan, other
15 types of plans we have out.

16 So there's another piece to that that's going
17 to be being explored with this commission as well.

18 LORI MATHIEU: And Jack, if I could add? And Martin,
19 thank you for linking in the executive order.

20 So item 16 is DPH's new Office of Climate and
21 Public Health in the Executive Order. And under
22 16 there is the -- under 16c the requirement to
23 implement the actions of the public health and
24 safety section of the GC3 January 2021 report,
25 which include a lot of things of human health

1 impacts, but also resilient public and private
2 drinking water systems and sources.

3 So there's a lot within the January report,
4 the January 2021 Governor's report on the GC3 that
5 deals with infrastructure. And one item in
6 particular of concern that we're going to work on
7 under our new office is supply, the impact of
8 climate on our drinking water supply. And that's
9 not only quantity, but quality.

10 And that's what we were going to -- the
11 office will impart focus on, because I see it as a
12 link between our state water plan and what the GC3
13 were working on as it pertains to resiliency,
14 sustainability for public and private drinking
15 water systems and sources.

16 So that's one of the direct tie-ins that we
17 have under our new Office of Climate and Public
18 Health.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So Lori, so now the other thing, the
20 health equity and health equity initiatives, that
21 would be part of that as well?

22 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, exactly. So that's a good point.

23 So 16a, you know there's a new term there,
24 "social vulnerability impacts," called SVI. And
25 SVI, I know Graham and I have been working with

1 this and using it as a tool along with
2 environmental justice tools and disadvantaged
3 community tools on looking at how we can look at
4 helping the people that are most vulnerable.

5 And that's what 16a really speaks to. Use
6 the tool that's to the best of your ability. The
7 tool comes from CDC. It's a metric based upon
8 four different disciplines in four different areas
9 of vulnerability for people.

10 And it helps focus -- it's not at the town
11 level. It's at the census tract level. It really
12 helps you to focus on finding the people that are
13 the most vulnerable. And that's how our tie-in
14 with health equity -- and that's what, again
15 that's the Office of Climate and Public Health
16 will be using that metric and working with DEEP
17 and their office EJ, environmental justice.

18 And the other, the other concept at EPA
19 through the infrastructure laws and everything
20 that President Biden is moving forward is known as
21 Justice40.

22 Justice40 hasn't been yet fully defined, but
23 the drinking water state revolving loan fund
24 nationally is being used as a pilot for rolling
25 out Justice40 concepts. And Justice40 is using

1 40 percent of all of the federal money that states
2 are receiving to benefit the people in need.

3 And so tying, when you look at 16a -- and
4 that's why it's number one at the top of our list
5 for our office -- it is to very carefully look at
6 incorporating health equity, reviewing vulnerable
7 populations and moving forward the best that we
8 can using all the tools --

9 (Interruption.)

10 LORI MATHIEU: -- and moving all of the tools forward.

11 So anyway.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, this is exciting. So there's
13 going to be a new office within the Department of
14 Public Health.

15 LORI MATHIEU: It is. Yeah, it's within my branch.
16 We're hiring three people right now. And we have
17 been working over the summer to secure two
18 different grants, two different federal grants
19 through the CDC. So we are hiring a coordinator
20 and then two, two other people. As a matter of
21 fact, the positions close, I think, today.

22 So we're excited, yeah, to get started and
23 Commissioner Juthani, again she's made this one of
24 her top priorities climate, climate change, human
25 health impact, using SVI and using health equity

1 to help our most vulnerable. So it's all really
2 good stuff, and this coming out last week was
3 really exciting for us.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Very exciting.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Not that I want to jump, jump around
6 too, too much -- I think I might have started
7 this. I know, Jack, you were going down the list
8 very diligently.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: No, jump around. And then I will leave
10 some time open for public comment.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, I mean -- I guess the state
12 water plan did have an environmental equity piece,
13 which is not well defined. It says on my list it
14 was in 6.8.2 which is kind of a bit of a potpourri
15 of items.

16 But now to Lori's point, you know this might
17 be something that the Water Planning Council might
18 want to highlight. I mean, I think it's to the
19 point now where we -- I think we put an equity
20 lens on a lot of what we evaluate. So I mean,
21 there's the -- the one side of it is the, do you
22 list it as a separate priority?

23 Or do you list it as kind of a way that you
24 look at all of your priorities?

25 Which I would think may be more of the

1 letter, but since it is on the list here I just
2 wanted to bring it up -- but maybe that's
3 something that, you know, for the upcoming
4 re-prioritization or the new top priorities, so to
5 speak. Maybe that's one we should consider
6 highlighting.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, I would agree with that. At the
8 very end, Jack, if you remember the conversation
9 at the very end, we were sort of running out of
10 time and looking at some of these items. And PFAS
11 was just kicking up dust at the end of us putting
12 together -- that was one of them.

13 The other one was Commissioner Pino coming to
14 me and saying, Lori you're not talking enough
15 about equity in the state water plan. And that I
16 want you to go there and talk about health equity
17 and the importance of it.

18 So that is also in section six, but I think
19 what Graham says is incredibly important -- is I
20 think we have to better understand an equity lens
21 and how do we develop that within the work that we
22 do?

23 And this whole concept of Justice40 is just
24 evolving, and it's a directive from President
25 Biden and its very exciting. But it does

1 represent a challenge to all of us to make sure
2 that we're doing the right thing in the right way.

3 And so I think we should make it one of our
4 must-do priorities.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Agreed. I agree.

6 LORI MATHIEU: And it is part of section six Graham. I
7 don't know what page. I'm trying to find the
8 note.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I was looking through my plan
10 here. It says 6.8.2, but that might have been a
11 transcription error. I just reread that section,
12 but 6.8.2 does talk about the hiring of the water
13 chief, which I think we've talked about a lot
14 recently and it speaks to implementation.

15 It speaks to statutory requirements. You
16 know it may even speak to one of the comments in
17 the chat about ensuring that this, these new
18 monies are put to the best use, to paraphrase.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Just one thing. It's mentioning on
20 page 622 that the one thing I want to make a link
21 back -- it's sort of maybe jumping a little bit,
22 but all of these things tie into the sense of the
23 notion of long-term planning.

24 And we've had water supply plans for years,
25 and since 1985 that law came about. And they have

1 served the State of Connecticut well, but now we
2 know that climate change is -- and in the GC3 the
3 Governor's report from January, it recognizes the
4 need to look at safe yield.

5 And for us, we're in our department -- or we
6 want to look at the impact of safe yield from
7 climate statewide. And one of the concerns we
8 have is that our safe daily yields have aged.

9 Talk about aging infrastructure, like, aging
10 modeling. Right? It's aged modeling, and do we
11 know what our safe yields are given the impact of
12 climate? I don't think we do.

13 And we make a point. We make a point -- it's
14 embedded in this discussion here, in the EO, and
15 it came out last week. It's part of the January
16 report, and I find that we need to know more. We
17 need to have really solid numbers so for the next
18 50 years we know what we're doing with our water
19 supply.

20 And conservation ties into that. You know
21 while we have these concerns we also shouldn't be
22 wasting our water. But it does bring to bear that
23 we still have overallocated basins and that was a
24 big part of the discussion, was the Quinnipiac
25 Basin and the review of the basin.

1 I remember Mary Mushinsky coming to some of
2 our meetings and being very concerned that not
3 enough was being done for an overallocated basin
4 such as the Quinnipiac -- so the item on 622,
5 under 6.8.2, near-term goals for establishing
6 voluntary river basin commissions to prioritize
7 local issues in basins, that's one thing I'm
8 interested in thinking about further and talking
9 to groups about where there are -- and there is an
10 overallocation today.

11 And that may be -- I remember Mary coming to
12 us and mentioning that that river gets dry in
13 certain regions. And what do we need to know?
14 What do we need to do for the future? And tie it
15 in to safe yield and our sources of supply. And
16 are we doing the best planning that we can on a
17 statewide and regional basis for the future of
18 water supply?

19 So it's just something I wanted to bring up.
20 I know it's probably not in our short-term list,
21 but --

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** No, but it's a good point.

23 **LORI MATHIEU:** -- of this, these River basin
24 commissions was a good one, a good thought, and
25 Mary really bringing that home to us a number of

1 times -- and said, look. This was one of the main
2 reasons why we gave you this money. We want you
3 to start to look at these basins that have issues.

4 So just something to put on the table for
5 this.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. We have about ten minutes, and
7 what I want to propose is that before we go to
8 public comment is that, you know, we started to
9 chip away at this list, but that every future
10 Water Planning Council meeting we have an agenda
11 item and just kind of do a check-in to see where
12 we're at in these areas we talked about today.

13 And if we have to take some significant time
14 to do it, but just to stay on top of these because
15 during our conversation I did have some good
16 suggestions come in from some of the stakeholders
17 today in terms of moving forward.

18 And hopefully when we do go to public comment
19 they'll discuss that, but before we move on to
20 that is there anything else that -- we have a lot
21 to do, but in the interests of time?

22 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I like the idea of chipping it,
23 chipping it away, chipping away at this list and
24 discussing these points at regular meetings.

25 Thank you, Jack.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Sounds good.

2 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, and I agree with that. That's kind
3 of the way we handled the drought stuff is we had
4 to take it -- you know, of course you can't do it
5 all in one meeting. There's no potential way of
6 that happening, but you take sections of it and
7 you start reviewing them on it and coming up with
8 a plan.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, you okay?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, absolutely agree. We should have
11 a standing agenda item. It's really important.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: So going into public comment, during our
13 discussion Alecia and Denise have some
14 suggestions. Denise?

15 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi, yes. Lori had brought it up, but
16 I was just saying maybe there's a need to really
17 look at all of the funding that's coming in and
18 making sure people are all aware of it. There's
19 just so much is happening on the funding
20 perspective that I thought it would be good.

21 And so I was actually typing about the APRA
22 funds and the infrastructure bill as Lori brought
23 up the issue of the State revolving funds, and
24 both with the clean water, you know, state
25 revolving funds as well as the drinking water

1 state revolving funds.

2 How do these play out and how can they help
3 us? And I wanted to bring up that there being a
4 lot of use for green infrastructure. So that
5 could tie into source water protection.

6 So certainly there's a lot of work to be done
7 on the hard infrastructure and we don't want to
8 take away from that, but I just wanted to point
9 out that, you know, when we're protecting certain
10 types of things, that that is the green
11 infrastructure.

12 Just quickly, there's a couple other comments
13 I wanted to make. And that is that item 29 on
14 this list is the food/energy/water nexus and I
15 think that really ties into the whole climate
16 change as well and some of the priorities.

17 We know we've got food insecurity in the
18 state. We know we're looking at solving that by
19 having local, a more localized food system, not
20 just here in Connecticut, but as a region.

21 And what does that mean in terms of, if we're
22 going to do that, what does that mean in terms of
23 agricultural producers and their impact on water?
24 So both from a quantity usage as well as what we
25 need to do to help those farmers make sure that

1 they're doing best management practices to have
2 clean water.

3 And then the last thing I just wanted to
4 bring up -- I mean, we could talk about a lot of
5 things, but I just wanted to bring up that items 7
6 through 13 are all under land-use and water
7 quality. We're not using the term there "source
8 water protection," but I just wanted to point out
9 that this is source water protection work.

10 And so we may want to, you know, as we're
11 talking about it I want to make sure we don't lose
12 that terminology. Because I think it's really
13 important for people to understand there's
14 obviously work that we do that's not source water
15 protection, that's you know, for Long Island Sound
16 and that's for our rivers and whatever that don't
17 have to be drinking water supplies.

18 But I think as a priority for some of the
19 work we need to do, looking at those items in
20 terms of source water protection it's something we
21 need to do.

22 So it doesn't use the terminology I think
23 enough in the state water plan, but I think that
24 we should be using it. So I just wanted to put
25 the concept out there. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 Alecia, you had mentioned something about the
3 water conservation rates, I believe?

4 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah. Well, Virginia had mentioned
5 that, you know, as far as rate setting, that, you
6 know, the workshop did offer it. And it was very
7 valuable. It offered, you know, a lot of great
8 ideas for ratesetting to just sort of decouple
9 revenue and ensure that water utilities are able
10 to do the conservation needed for, not only
11 drought management, but drought resiliency.

12 Because we need to start looking at
13 year-round conservation so we can be more
14 resilient to these more, more frequent droughts
15 with climate change.

16 And one of the other tools was the rate
17 adjustment, rate adjustment mechanisms. And Jim
18 Beecher had stressed that in order for those
19 adjustment mechanisms to even be put in place
20 there has to be the proper oversight so that the
21 customers have confidence in how this is going to
22 work.

23 And because of the of uneven regulation of
24 our ratesetting process for our water utilities,
25 they can't -- a lot of our utilities can't use

1 that tool. And it's still something that we have
2 not solved yet.

3 And it's my understanding the WUCCs, this is
4 something the WUCCs are going to make a priority
5 to look into, but it's sort of a cornerstone of a
6 lot of our issues as far as ensuring that, you
7 know, we have that drought resiliency, not only
8 for our drinking water supplies, but for our
9 natural waters so that we're not drying them out
10 to meet those, those demands in the summer. So
11 it's something we really need to address.

12 The other thing I want to say is some of the
13 pieces on this, this list are not consensus
14 recommendations. There they're items that we
15 still need to work towards some sort of consensus
16 on and we can't forget about those.

17 You know, we certainly have made, you know, a
18 lot of progress just looking at this list seeing
19 where some boxes have been checked which is
20 fantastic, but it's still legal to dry up the
21 stream in Connecticut -- and we'll keep saying
22 that until we come up with some of these, these
23 pathway forward items and really work toward a
24 situation where it's no longer legal to dry up a
25 stream. So that's my 2 cents.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 Anyone else? Virginia?

3 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes. Jack, I have two comments.

4 One following up on your Quinnipiac and Mary
5 Mushinsky comment. You may recall that part of
6 the state water plan suggested doing the
7 accounting modeling that they did on the
8 Quinnipiac on other stressed basins in the state
9 and that discussion was happening before Glenn
10 Warner retired. And he thought it would be a
11 great student project to get the training to run
12 that model, and to do some of that modeling on
13 various basins.

14 Now we've talked about this with Mike Dietz,
15 but I think if we expanded it to having somebody
16 like Mike reach out to other professors in the
17 state and have this be a student project. It
18 could be done with very little resource commitment
19 on the part of the state agencies if it were done
20 as an academic task, and would be very valuable in
21 setting the priorities for those stressed basins
22 and coming up with possibly some solutions to
23 their problems.

24 On a separate note, you mentioned having
25 talking about these priorities as an agenda item

1 on all your the Water Planning Council meetings.
2 I think that's great. I would encourage you,
3 through, as individual agencies to go through the
4 process that you did in 2018, identifying the top
5 priorities of each of the agencies to focus the
6 discussion then at your Water Planning Council
7 meetings on comparing those priorities and then
8 coming to agreement on which ones you would like
9 the implementation workgroup to focus on.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much.

11 Any other public comment?

12 Any other public comment?

13
14 (No response.)

15
16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Dave Radka, looks like he's getting
17 ready to say something.

18 He's just giving the thumbs-up.

19 Well, with that -- on behalf of the Council,
20 I wish everybody a happy and healthy holiday
21 season and a happy new year and be safe.

22 Get your shots. If you haven't gotten them,
23 get your booster shots and get whatever shots come
24 out. I'm on the board of a local hospital, as you
25 know, and its not too pretty out there -- I'll

1 tell you that. So be careful.

2 And I thank you all for your participation.

3 And with that, we're adjourned.

4 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you all.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thanks everyone. Happy holidays.

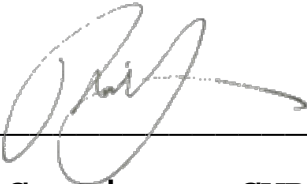
6 Happy new year.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

8
9 (End: 3:02 p.m.)
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 22, 2021.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
BCT Reporting, LLC
55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A
Plainville, CT 06062

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 INDEX

2 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

3 DESCRIPTION		PAGE(s)
4 M. Heft: Statewide drought planning		3-6
5 G. Stevens: Water Conservation		6-7
6 L. Mathieu: Drought plan approval		7-10
(Task 5.2.3.3) Comprehensive conservation		10-12
7 G. Stevens: Electronic reporting diversion		12-13
Sewage infrastructure		14
8 L. Mathieu: Funding programs		14-20
9 G. Stevens: State Water plan and GC3		22-25
L. Mathieu: Social vulnerability impacts		25-30
New modeling		30-33
11 Public Comment		
12 D. Savageau: APRA, Funding availability		34-35
Food security water impact		35
13 Source water protection		35-36
A. Charamut: Ratesetting		37-38
14 V. del Lima: Basin student project		39