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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
April 8, 2022, beginning at 12:32 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 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

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11 **STAFF:**

12 **LAURA LUPOLI**

13 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to call the special meeting of
2 the Water Planning Council to order. The one and
3 only issue we're going to discuss today is the
4 feasibility of some federal grant money to update
5 the plan and to potentially hire a water czar.

6 And you know what? I'm going to turn it
7 right over to Denise, because Denise was kind
8 enough to get this information to me earlier this
9 week. And all this is time sensitive, and I know
10 we all have our own way of dealing with grants
11 within our respective agencies.

12 But I went to Denise; she gave me some
13 information. So I'd like to call upon her to give
14 us a quick overview, and I thank Denise for giving
15 this information to us.

16 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thanks Jack.

17 So I'm involved with a couple of different
18 groups including Long Island Sound, and sit on --
19 and as part of my work with the Long Island Sound
20 I was asked to sit on Senator Murphy's Long Island
21 Sound advisory council.

22 So one are the things being on that, as I'm
23 on an e-mail list from him and his team, letting
24 us know when different grants came available, but
25 also different programs. So one of the things

1 that has happened and just came into place last
2 year -- or actually, yeah, I guess last year --
3 was that they've kind of reinstituted what used to
4 be called earmarks.

5 They don't call it earmarks anymore. It's
6 not quite the same as the earmark program. It's a
7 program called direct spending program where you
8 request dollars under very specific programs that
9 congress has said, this is the ones we're going to
10 look at funding this year.

11 And the difference from earmarks is, it's
12 unlike, you know, earmarks, you could basically
13 ask for anything. And it didn't have to go with
14 any program. It was just asking for direct
15 funding. And it wasn't a percentage of the budget
16 so there was no way to really put a handle on it.

17 So they've changed it around. They now call
18 it direct spending. And what they've done is
19 said, these are the programs you can apply for.
20 So you can't -- it has to be something that fits
21 into these programs. And it also is, I think, 1
22 percent of the budget. So they've limited
23 themselves to how much money you can get through
24 here.

25 I became aware of this last year and was able

1 to get \$5 million for Long Island Sound to
2 complete the coastal zone survey. So one of the
3 programs that was available to get direct funding
4 was the Department of Agriculture USDA, the soil
5 survey program -- was last year one of the ones
6 that one was targeted for direct, for this direct
7 funding. This year actually it's not.

8 So they change it every year. So I was
9 looking at it and saying, like, okay. And I was
10 looking at all of the categories -- and the
11 categories for state technical assistance grants,
12 particularly with the Clean Water Fund, but all of
13 the state technical assistance grants for
14 infrastructure from EPA is one of the programs.

15 So I was kind of looking at that and looking
16 at what the requirements are. And I think we all
17 know that the state revolving fund, for the most
18 part, is looking at infrastructure. And you know,
19 either, you know, for drinking water supplies or
20 with the clean water fund, looking at sewage
21 treatment plants. And that's how a lot of the
22 dollars have been used.

23 And there's also a lot of dollars coming down
24 through the technical -- excuse me, the
25 infrastructure package. But this is also actually

1 a chance to just go right to direct, you know, the
2 direct spending and say, we need money for the
3 planning.

4 So folks who were involved with the state
5 revolving fund -- and I know they know a lot.
6 These folks on this call know a lot more about it
7 than I do -- Lori and Graham. But they also know
8 that you can take -- you can do set aside and you
9 can do planning with that.

10 So the idea is to ask directly instead of
11 having to put, you know, any of the dollars or
12 change our planning that is being done on those
13 funds that we're getting, that we can go just
14 directly and say, we want to use some Clean Water
15 Act funding and get a direct request for doing
16 planning.

17 And my thought would be to, you know, ask for
18 planning to update the state water plan as well as
19 possibly fund, you know, that you can use it for
20 administration and you can use it for staffing and
21 making sure you have enough staffing to implement.
22 So the idea was to, you know, ask for not only
23 funds for the contractual part that we would do to
24 update the state water plan, but actually for the,
25 you know, for a portion or all of the director,

1 the water chief we're talking about.

2 So I wouldn't want to stop you. I loved Jack
3 at the last Water Planning Council for saying we
4 can do that this year. I mean, I would encourage
5 getting someone on as soon as possible, but it may
6 be if, you know, because it won't be -- the direct
7 funding requests will be for fiscal year 2023. We
8 all know how that goes in Washington.

9 They just passed the budget for 2022. So it
10 probably won't be until next year that it gets
11 passed if something got put in, but I think it's
12 something to explore and it's just direct funding.

13 The reason I'm recommending this, the
14 application process is extremely simple. It's a
15 two-pager that's very simple to fill out. And you
16 just, you know, basically ask the senator to make
17 this request, and as long as it fits the
18 guidelines he can put it in. And then you just
19 wait.

20 So it's one of the simpler grant application
21 processes that I've ever applied for. So I think
22 I was looking at it saying, you just can't lose.
23 The amount of time that you invest -- unlike other
24 grants where you can invest weeks and months
25 developing a grant, this is really a two-page

1 application process, so.

2 And I know I've provided that to Jack. I
3 don't know, Jack, if you were able to send that
4 out to everyone.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I believe I did.

6 DENISE SAVAGEAU: But I had also provided it to Lori.

7 So it's a very simple process. And I did let Jack
8 know that since I've done it before, I'd be happy
9 to help navigate that. It's fairly simple anyway,
10 but I'd be happy to help with that.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Denise.

12 Okay. I'm going to open it up for a
13 discussion. I guess what we want to talk about is
14 the mechanics of doing something with all of us
15 represented.

16 We are not a state agency that ourselves, and
17 the mechanics of getting an application like this
18 in would have to, I assume, come through one of
19 our agencies as the lead. I'd be curious as to,
20 Martin, how OPM -- and I mean, I'm sure OPM must
21 apply for grants all the time.

22 Graham? Lori, your department? Anybody
23 weigh in here. PURA does not apply to grants.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Sure I can start, Mr. Chair, if you'd
25 like? Because I did -- can you all hear me?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Yes. Thank you.

2 MARTIN HEFT: I got a little break so I can come on
3 video here for you. So I did just run it through
4 the Secretary and Deputy just to kind of verify
5 pieces on it. So I think yeah, that there's not a
6 problem.

7 And I would most likely recommend that it go
8 through OPM, because we've been the recipient of
9 their funds because then even if they have to be,
10 if you will, then distributed out to another state
11 agency or something. OPM as being the budget
12 division, the budget arm, it makes sense to run it
13 through OPM. Even if then another agency is going
14 to be administering it, it's kind of then we pass
15 it to that administrating agency, same as bond
16 commission funds or other types of grant programs.

17 A couple of questions as we look at this.
18 I'm not sure and I didn't get a chance to go
19 through the, you know, I went through the summary
20 pages here looking at everything and saw that
21 under the environmental Protection agency they've
22 got the clean water drinking -- but I also noticed
23 that one has a 20 percent match.

24 So if we're applying, obviously we'd have to
25 come up with, where is that 20 percent match

1 coming from, if that's the one we're looking at?
2 That one seemed to be the one under the clean
3 water wastewater drinking water program, but just
4 as, you know, it does require a 20 percent cost
5 share under that. And then Denise can fill in
6 afterwards if she thought that would fall under a
7 different example there.

8 And then secondly, most times federal funds
9 do not allow you to hire an employee. You could
10 do consultants. So I don't know if there's
11 clarification, you know, in that, because one of
12 the things I would think that -- and the secretary
13 suggested that we would put on a durational
14 project manager to oversee this whole process.

15 And as long as I heard Denise say about
16 administrative being able to be included in that
17 we could -- you know that could be part of the
18 grant as that person is paid for as part of the
19 grant, similar to being like a consultant.

20 I know we talked about our water planning
21 person and on that as possibly being a consultant.
22 This would be a way to kind of help start that
23 out. Obviously looking at a grant, it's that's
24 why they typically don't put it in that you can
25 hire somebody, because then what do you do after

1 that period is over? You've got to let them go
2 unless there's another funding there.

3 But I think this would be a great opportunity
4 to start with putting in there that we put in for
5 a consultant to do some of the work, especially
6 updating the plan. And that we also put in
7 because I will tell you at OPM, I don't have staff
8 to be able to administer this program and do it,
9 which is why the secretary suggested a durational
10 project manager to oversee this.

11 And as long as the funds can pay for that,
12 then it would be able to be handled that way. And
13 I think that would be true of our other agencies
14 as well that we're all thin in the sense of
15 employees to be able to help staff, you know, any
16 new programs, or especially even if we're going to
17 be reviewing the entire water plan, we're going to
18 need staff to do so.

19 And if we can put that into the grant to be
20 able to hire the consultant, hire the project
21 manager, then I think, you know, that would be the
22 best way to handle it. So those are some of my
23 quick thoughts on all of this.

24 Sorry for being lengthy.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** No. Be lengthy, because it's very

1 encouraging what you just said.

2 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Just let me respond real quick
3 because I think Martin is right on the money in
4 terms of what I was anticipating.

5 With the 20 percent match, that's one of the
6 things we'll check into. The 20 percent match is
7 usually for -- a lot of these dollars are used for
8 big construction projects. And I think I would
9 defer to Lori and Graham if there's a 20 percent
10 match on the administrative dollars that are
11 usually attached to the state revolving funds.

12 That said, even if there is updating the
13 state water plan, if we're really going to engage
14 in that, I don't think we'd have any trouble
15 reaching match with a 20 percent when we think
16 about how much time everybody put into the state
17 water plan. There was a huge amount of time.
18 Look at all the planning documents and the amount
19 of people. Look at all the volunteer time.

20 So I'm, you know, I don't think we'd have a
21 problem coming up with it as long as it was an
22 in-kind match. That's one of the things we can
23 double check on.

24 And I just wanted to say that I did reach out
25 to some of my colleagues at EPA Region 1, and they

1 thought that planning was covered. So they do
2 think it's covered under what I'm saying, and it's
3 the way we write that up.

4 But I'll let, like I said, Lori and Graham
5 deal with the state revolving funds including the
6 state set asides, which is more the administrative
7 and how they fund, can possibly fund staff in the
8 way that they've done and some of the planning
9 work. So I will defer to them on that.

10 And then I've got a little writeup that I did
11 just so that you can see some of my thoughts, and
12 you guys can, you know, that this is, you know, I
13 did this. I got this from Senator Murphy, like,
14 you know, four or five days ago, whatever it was.
15 So this is like, boom -- just to let you know.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: So Jack, if you don't mind? I can --
18 and thank you, Denise. And thanks for your good
19 comments, Martin.

20 I'd be happy to provide some thoughts,
21 general thoughts. You know, obviously I just saw
22 this I think yesterday. It is interesting. I'm
23 not sure -- given the fact that earmarks have come
24 and gone, and now we've got the congressionally
25 directed spending -- exactly how the rules work.

1 Certainly, we too can try to find out that,
2 we being the State of Connecticut, what the rules
3 would be. It looks like this is some sort of
4 redirection of excess monies that are
5 carryforward, monies that don't affect the State's
6 allocations for either the clean water or the
7 drinking water state revolving funds -- which is
8 good.

9 So I'm not exactly sure what traditional
10 state revolving fund rules at either the federal
11 or state level would apply to this type of money.
12 I'm assuming they would not, other than I think
13 there is language in -- in what was shared stating
14 that they would have to submit the program
15 requirements.

16 So for the clean water state revolving funds,
17 the federal government authorizes eleven uses for
18 those monies. We want to make sure that, you
19 know, we and EPA agree that this type of work
20 would fit within one of those eligibility criteria
21 or potentially in one of the eligibility criteria
22 that I'm sure Lori is familiar with under the
23 drinking water state revolving fund.

24 So there certainly is some work that we're
25 going to be doing with respect to this idea. I

1 certainly need to brief my leadership, and I'm
2 sure that we need to make contact with our
3 legislative folks in D.C. to understand how the
4 process works, internal to state approval for
5 such.

6 You know grants. Typically agencies request
7 approval to apply for state -- I mean, federal
8 grants through OPM. So obviously Martin is the
9 expert on that process, although this is a bit non
10 non-standard. So an interesting idea.

11 I'm certainly interested to work and get
12 additional information so that we can see about
13 pursuing this.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** One of the things I think you all know,
15 unfortunately we're under a time crunch here. I
16 understand, Denise, that this has to be in -- at
17 least the two-pager has been by April 18?

18 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Actually -- and I reread that.

19 There's an April 18th deadline depending on which
20 category you're in. I think the EPA deadline is
21 actually April 22nd. So it gives us a few more
22 days, but still it's very short turnaround time.

23 And like I said, it's a one-pager into
24 Murphy's office so he can start considering it.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Which just happens to be Earth day.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Two weeks from today.

3 Lori?

4 LORI MATHIEU: So thank you Jack. There are various
5 categories of earmarks and one category takes
6 money right out of our SRF right off the top for
7 drinking water. So I want to be incredibly
8 careful about where this funding is coming from.

9 So we just got a list of projects' earmarks,
10 very specific projects for millions of dollars.
11 And what we were told from EPA headquarters in
12 Boston is that it comes right out, right out of
13 the top of our SRF allocation. That's one thing.

14 Two, the Safe Drinking Water Act, DWSRF, the
15 drinking water state revolving loan fund is
16 focused on safe drinking water, obviously, public
17 health protection. Much of that money is
18 programmed for aging infrastructure.

19 As Graham mentioned, there's categories of
20 funding items. So we have quite a few items under
21 the umbrella of safe drinking water that we can
22 utilize those funds for. Most of the funding that
23 is discretionary funding goes to fund our staff,
24 essentially, along with some other projects.

25 The funding that's coming in under the

1 bipartisan infrastructure law known as the bill,
2 or the IIJA, the Infrastructure Investment Act, is
3 money that is being programmed in over the next
4 five years and we are moving very quickly to apply
5 for those funds.

6 This is something we should carefully look
7 into. But again, I mean, our funds are focused on
8 safe drinking water, the Safe Drinking Water Act,
9 water quality, and all of the everything that goes
10 along with that. So you know there are various
11 categories. There's capacity development of water
12 systems. There's source water protection.

13 So you know we're part of what is in the
14 state water plan, but not everything. Right? So
15 it's not as broad as what the state water plan is
16 to cover. You know we're a piece of it, obviously
17 an important part. So I just want to make sure
18 that everyone is aware of that.

19 I am somewhat concerned about earmarks coming
20 right off the top of our SRF. That was news to us
21 two weeks ago. So it's something that we should
22 carefully consider, but it's another opportunity,
23 as everyone has said here, to take a look at and
24 see how this could work. And I'm uncertain
25 whether or not the matching requirement is even a

1 requirement for this. I don't know.

2 I know we have a matching requirement for our
3 SRFs. Right? For sure. And it's a lot of
4 funding that we have to provide. The 20 percent
5 is a lot of funding. So I'm not aware of the
6 details of this congressionally directed spending
7 known as CDS, which got started last year I
8 think -- because we're aware of a couple of
9 projects there, as you mentioned, Denise.

10 But I like the idea of, as Martin mentioned,
11 durational -- or not even a durational state
12 employee, but just essentially a contractor,
13 somebody that we could directly fund that would do
14 the work. And if that person, that contractor
15 can't do it, they get another person. Right?

16 So I think that we need some flexibility
17 there to be able to help us over the next couple
18 of years to update this, the state water plan, but
19 also to have somebody who is constantly there
20 working all of the efforts that we have moving
21 forward for implementation.

22 So I think we need to do some more homework
23 on where this funding is coming from and what's
24 appropriate.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thanks, Lori.

1 Martin, so the application would be made
2 through OPM. Correct?

3 MARTIN HEFT: Correct. And just -- yeah, I would say
4 it should come from OPM, obviously. So we -- I'd
5 need time to be able to review it with leadership,
6 everything else on that and have the plan there.
7 Obviously, they've got a heads-up so they know on
8 this.

9 Just noting, looking -- because I had
10 highlighted a couple of things on the document --
11 the EPA does require a minimum 20 percent cost
12 share of a grant funded through congressionally
13 directed spending. So we need to verify whether
14 that can be in kind, or if it needs to be cash.

15 I know it does state that it cannot be --
16 other federal funds cannot be used to meet the 20
17 percent cost share. And it says also, please note
18 that only the nonfederal portion of assistance
19 provided by the state revolving loan fund can be
20 applied towards a project's matching requirement.
21 That's in the details that Denise sent out.

22 So we just need to make sure, as well as
23 Lori's concerns, that we're not pulling away other
24 state money that's already given. It sounds like
25 this is a separate pot, but I'm not sure how this

1 all works.

2 So I think getting those answers, getting a
3 draft application so we can look at this and put
4 in there that it would be for hiring a consultant
5 or a durational employee or, you know, slash type
6 thing.

7 And I can work on when something is drafted
8 off of what the right, you know, help with the
9 right language and that type of stuff.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin, I have to look into possibly PUC
11 funds for the match. I think that's a real good
12 possibility that we could -- which when you look
13 at the utility companies that we have, would be
14 negligible and it would be recoverable -- if we
15 could do that. Graham just texted me that, and
16 it's a good point and that we could possibly do
17 that.

18 But I guess mechanically can Denise get you
19 information, Martin? I mean, it seems like she's
20 had experience with this.

21 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. I mean, if she wants, you know.
22 And if Denise, I know you said you would help do
23 that because unfortunately, I mean, I don't have
24 any time to write a grant application.

25 We're in session right now. So I'm

1 backlogged with everything as well as everyone
2 else. But I'll obviously take time and review
3 anything and can tweak stuff on it. I'm more than
4 happy to do that. I just can't draft the whole
5 thing to start out with.

6 And I know we're looking, and we've also got
7 to figure out -- I don't know what's required in
8 the application, if we just need a dollar amount
9 or we've got to provide a budget or anything else.

10 Obviously, I know Denise said about 1.5
11 million, which is going to probably be 250, 300
12 thousand dollars that we'll have to come up with
13 as a state match on it. So that we've got to see
14 how we're going to do that as well.

15 And if there's enough funds, Jack, you know
16 as you said within that program that you've got or
17 whether or not it's allowed in kind or a
18 combination, obviously the secretary is going to
19 want to know that as, where are we coming up with
20 these funds? Or what is our plan as all part of
21 this?

22 LORI MATHIEU: And Martin, to your point about in kind,
23 you might say, well, look at all the people. But
24 some of our people here are already used as
25 in-kind matches to other grants. So we've got to

1 be got to be careful about making assumptions on
2 such things.

3 So just another important point.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: But I do think it's exciting we're even
5 having this conversation. I'm always the eternal
6 optimist, but I also know that we have our own
7 internal bureaucracy with the State of
8 Connecticut, and we have the federal bureaucracy
9 to deal with.

10 But Denise, can we ask you to assist us?

11 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. I mean, I'm happy to take a
12 look at it. I guess I had started this, so --

13 THE CHAIRMAN: But you're good at this. You've got all
14 that money for use. So you've got a good track
15 record.

16 DENISE SAVAGEAU: That's right. Now I'm bored. You
17 know, I need to find someplace to get some more
18 money. No.

19 You know, I think that it's part of the state
20 water plan implementation team -- is to look for
21 funding. And so we've been looking. You know,
22 when this came up, it just made sense and we just
23 keep talking about the idea of, you know, that we
24 need to update the state water plan, and if this
25 is a way to possibly get some dollars.

1 You know, one of the things we can look at
2 is, I mean, I think Lori brought up some great
3 questions. I mean, certainly we don't want to
4 take away from your, you know, the allocation --
5 and that was not my understanding. There's
6 supposed to be additional funding. So it would be
7 interesting to make sure we have that
8 conversation.

9 And Graham, I know that obviously -- I do
10 think it's the clean water state revolving fund.
11 That is where we want to go with this, because as
12 Lori pointed out, this isn't -- the state water
13 plan is about more than, you know, drinking water
14 supply. It's about a lot of things.

15 And I think the State, you know, the Clean
16 Water Act allows for this integration. And I know
17 you do an integrated water report, but we could
18 take that a step further and say, we really need
19 to integrate a lot of things that I think, you
20 know, looking at the rationale for why we need to
21 do this, you know, looking at the climate change
22 stuff, looking at, you know, where we want to
23 integrate, you know, some different things,
24 emerging contaminants, for example -- and there's
25 a whole host of ideas like that that we can take a

1 look at.

2 But I would want to make sure from the
3 planning perspective as we're doing this that, you
4 know, that EPA agrees. So I can touch base with
5 you and make sure, you know, that you're talking
6 to the same people I talked with at EPA and see if
7 they agree, that under the state revolving fund,
8 that this is possible.

9 And then I don't know if either you or Lori
10 answered my question, but under the state
11 revolving fund there is a 20 percent match.
12 Martin is right. But the question I was asking, I
13 wasn't sure if it required a match when it was
14 from the state administrative -- you know how you
15 guys can take -- I don't know if it's 10 percent
16 or 20 percent for state administrative stuff? And
17 I know you pay and you hire staff with that.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Four percent, 4 percent.

19 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Does that also require a match?

20 LORI MATHIEU: Yes.

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. That's what I wasn't sure. So
22 that's --

23 LORI MATHIEU: It's overall.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: It's 4 percent, just to set the record
25 straight. We wish it was 20 percent.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Well, that's him. Our is different.

2 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Oh. So what did you say, Graham?

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: Four percent, 4 percent of the
4 capitalization grant from the federal government,
5 which is small in comparison to what we administer
6 under the clean water fund because of the funding
7 from the State Bond Commission.

8 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yes -- but that's 4 percent you can
9 put into administration, but what I'm saying is do
10 you have -- the money that you then take out of,
11 whatever they allocate for you to use under the
12 state revolving fund, do you have to provide a
13 match for the money, the take the state takes? So
14 do you provide the 20 percent match to that, those
15 dollars? Okay.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: There's match for all of the dollars
17 we receive, yes.

18 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All of it.

19 GRAHAM STEVENS: It's just that there's restrictions on
20 what we can use the money for, and they say that
21 we can use up to 4 percent of their grant, the
22 funds, the administration of the clean water
23 funds, state revolving program.

24 LORI MATHIEU: And we have different requirements. And
25 by the way, we just did a close of projects for

1 our water systems. And we just received about a
2 billion -- a billion dollars in requests.

3 So we have almost 200 different projects
4 asking for just about a billion dollars. So in
5 order to move all of those projects including lead
6 service line replacement projects and PFAS related
7 projects, we have our hands full. So we are
8 excited that we have all those requests, but over
9 the next couple of years we're going to be quite
10 busy moving infrastructure projects.

11 So that's where some of this set-aside money
12 is going. We're asking people to get that moving.

13 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, and that's why we didn't want
14 to talk about using that money and get a separate
15 pool, but want to make sure that they're not
16 taking out. So I think that that's a legitimate
17 question.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

19 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Because that is not -- that was not
20 my understanding, and I don't think it's Senator
21 Murphy's office's understanding also.

22 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. It would be good to just confirm
23 that, Denise. Yeah. I hope not.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. So moving, moving
25 forward are we still -- you know we're shooting

1 for that July 1st deadline to get the new position
2 in. And so I need to look and talk with my
3 colleagues about possibly getting some PUC funds
4 so we can do that on an interim basis until we --
5 when, I'm going to say when we get the federal
6 money -- so we don't stop that from moving
7 forward.

8 I don't know if a motion is in order to just
9 conceptually approve pursuing this. Are we going
10 to need to do that so it's an official
11 recommendation of the Council?

12 MARTIN HEFT: So Jack, my personal feeling is that
13 until you know -- I think conceptually that, yes,
14 we should put an application in. But to approve a
15 final application for submission and everything
16 I'm not willing to vote on without having all the
17 details and amounts --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.

19 MARTIN HEFT: -- in place, but I think conceptually
20 that we explore this funding opportunity, I would
21 make that motion.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Will you second that? Graham --

23 LORI MATHIEU: Second?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any questions?

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Just a question on the underlying

1 motion. Which is that motion going to be to
2 explore --

3 MARTIN HEFT: To explore this funding opportunity. I
4 forgot -- I don't have the --

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- this funding opportunity? Okay.

6 MARTIN HEFT: I don't have the title in front of me.
7 Sorry.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: No, that's okay, Martin. I know
9 you're were in on the meetings, so.

10 MARTIN HEFT: For the grant program, yeah.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay.

12 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. I mean, yeah. So the motion is
13 basically that we explore the funding opportunity
14 and whatever the title is of that, of the grant
15 program.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Sounds good.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: The motion being for the Water
18 Planning Council and specific members of said
19 council to explore opportunities for federal grant
20 funds to fund a water chief and to update the
21 state water plan as may be necessary.

22 MARTIN HEFT: No, I would not say water chief. I would
23 say consultant.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: Okay.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Consultant, right. Okay. Lori, any

1 questions?

2 LORI MATHIEU: I just think we're making this too
3 difficult. Right? I think we're just exploring
4 the opportunity, period. You know? And I think
5 we just leave it at that, and it's consensus. And
6 I don't even think we need to vote. Right?

7 That's why we're here today. That's why we
8 gathered everybody.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Rob, let the record show
10 that we have consensus. That's all. We don't
11 need a formal motion -- if that's the case.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Because I agree a formal motion, as
13 Martin had mentioned, is about when we know more.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Again, we're not a state agency. So
15 we're giving some consensus that we want to move
16 forward through the application process --

17 LORI MATHIEU: Agreed.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: -- with OPM. Denise is going to feed
19 some information. We have to look at the dates.
20 I am going to be out of town from tomorrow until
21 next Wednesday, but I'm accessible remotely.

22 We're here to help. Ally is here to help.
23 Anything you need from us, Martin or Denise, or
24 Lori, as we go through the process I just don't
25 want to lose the opportunity. And I know these

1 things, sometimes it's hurry up and wait, but we
2 have deadlines we have to get to, so.

3 LORI MATHIEU: Right. To your point, Jack, we might
4 need to hold another meeting to sign off on
5 something. Yeah. To Martin's point, you know?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And appreciation to Martin and Graham
7 and Lori for doing some homework. And Martin,
8 appreciate you doing that already before this
9 call.

10 So Denise?

11 DENISE SAVAGEAU: What we'll aim for is trying to have
12 something for -- I think the 22nd is a Friday. So
13 we'll try to have something for, you know, maybe
14 like Monday or Tuesday that week, that you guys
15 can then plan on a meeting and then you know, like
16 on Wednesday or Thursday. And then, you know.

17 The grant itself is very easy to put in. It,
18 you know, you're going to be able to, you know,
19 we'll have it written up so you can just copy and
20 paste it into the application. And then, you
21 know, like you said it's two pages. And it's like
22 saying limit to 250 words. That's the challenge.

23 But that just means -- I mean, it's a very
24 simple grant application. It takes your day to
25 put it, you know, it will only take you a day

1 to -- you know, an hour to put it in. So it's a
2 matter of as long as we have everything ready to
3 go.

4 So I think if we get all those questions and
5 if something stalls us we can just say, hey. You
6 know what? It's going to take money out of Lori's
7 program and it's going to take money out of the
8 existing programs, then we're not going there. So
9 I think there are questions --

10 LORI MATHIEU: And we should definitely talk about
11 that. So I would say knowing how long all these
12 grant approvals take between all agencies, could
13 we shoot for the 18th, which is the Monday
14 after --

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Easter.

16 LORI MATHIEU: -- Easter. Is that even possible?

17 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. Well, that's what I said.

18 Yeah, because it's due the 22nd. So I was
19 thinking I'll try to get everything by Monday or
20 Tuesday. But I can shoot for Monday.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Monday. Monday would be good.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: And we can, as we did today, we can set
23 up a meeting very quickly. Laura and Ally can do
24 that, so.

25 All right. Any comments? Questions?

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: No, no questions.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you all for making yourself -- I
3 know Lori and Graham have another meeting to get
4 to. And I appreciate everybody making the time to
5 be with us today. I think this is -- hopefully
6 we'll keep our fingers crossed.

7 And anything else before we adjourn?

8 MARTIN HEFT: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion to adjourn. Second?

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

12 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Have a great weekend. Be safe everyone.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack. Thank you, Denise.

15 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

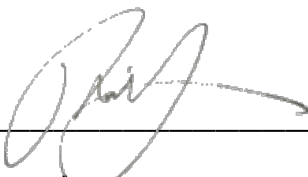
16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 ALYSON AYOTTE: Bye everyone.

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19 (End: 1:07 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 32 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 April 8, 2022.



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My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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