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2 THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS 60 PAGES
3 NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 60
4

5 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
6 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
8 PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
9

10 STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL
11

12 Special Meeting held Via Teleconference on
13 July 28, 2022, beginning at 2:05 p.m.
14

15 H e l d B e f o r e :

16 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN,
17 and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN
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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 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

10 **DAN AUBIN**

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

12 **KAREN BURNASKA**

13 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

14 **MARGARET MINER**

15 **CAROL HASKINS**

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17 **Council Staff:**

18 **LAURA LUPOLI**

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1 (Begin: 2:05 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
4 the Water Planning Council meeting, the special
5 Water Planning Council meeting for July 28, 2022.
6 I'd like to call this meeting to order.

7 Apologies. We're having a little bit of
8 technical difficulty today, and I hope everyone is
9 on that wants to be on at this point.

10 And the other thing I want to say is that we
11 do have a kind of hefty agenda, but we also have
12 people that have to be somewhere at three today.
13 So unfortunately when we set these meetings up
14 there's other meetings I'm piggybacking on. So
15 we're going to try to do this as expeditiously as
16 possible.

17 So with that we'll start the order. We'll
18 start with the approval of the June 7th meeting
19 transcript. Do I hear a motion to do so?

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that the
23 transcript for the June 7th meeting be approved.

24 Any questions or comments?
25

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

6 MARTIN HEFT: And Jack, I need to abstain because I was
7 not at that meeting. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Next is, any public comments
9 this afternoon -- from agenda items?

10 Any public comment?

11 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I've got a quick comment, Jack.

12 This is Virginia.

13 Unfortunately, the report from the
14 implementation workgroup on creating a subgroup
15 for looking at the USGS data collection program
16 did not make the agenda. I would like to let
17 people know that that was shared with the Water
18 Planning Council.

19 And if you can discuss it in this meeting
20 that would be great. If you cannot, we look
21 forward to discussion and hopefully approval of
22 that subgroup at your next meeting.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Right, and thank you. I know that
24 Dave -- I just sent a follow-up e-mail to the
25 Water Planning Councilmembers. They had received

1 to elect a chairman of the Public Utility
2 Regulatory Authority.

3 We have to elect a chairman, and I would
4 entertain motions to elect a chairman for the
5 '22-'23 year?

6 LORI MATHIEU: I move to elect -- I vote for Jack
7 Betkoski to be the Chair of the Water Planning
8 Council for the next year.

9 MARTIN HEFT: I second that.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Any further nominations?

11 Any further nominations?

12
13 (No response.)
14

15 THE CHAIRMAN: With that, that for yours truly for
16 another one-year term, all those in favor signify
17 by saying aye?

18 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved, and thank you
20 very much. And it's been a great, great journey
21 being Chair of the Water Planning Council. I
22 can't think my colleagues enough for the support
23 that they have given me, and my staff at PURA, and
24 also the cochairs, and all the working groups that
25 really are the foundation of this.

1 And I'm humbled to be doing this another
2 year. So we've got a lot of work to do.

3 So let's move onto the proposed '23-'24 Water
4 Planning Council budget, which Martin is going to
5 give us an update on that and what's going on with
6 the federal application.

7 And Martin has done a great deal of work on
8 this, and I thank him for that. So Martin?

9 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. So good afternoon.

10 First I'll do the federal piece, just because
11 that will be quicker.

12 I did reach out to Senator Murphy's office.
13 As a reminder we did put a submission in for a
14 congressionally directed spending funding request
15 back in April for updating the state water plan
16 for 1.8 million.

17 On that they did get back to me. I inquired
18 just for an update for today's meeting -- that
19 they're hoping to have committee decisions early
20 this -- or actually, by this week or early next
21 week.

22 Awards right now are still kind of at the
23 senate committee bill. It kind of cleared the
24 first hurdle. So it's going in process, but we
25 still don't have a definite yes or no on that yet,

1 but at least we know that it's still in process.
2 So that's on the congressionally directed
3 spending.

4 OPM I know will be sending out shortly to all
5 agencies, through its budget division and the
6 secretary, all the instructions/guidance for
7 submission of agency budgets.

8 As we've discussed in the past, as the Water
9 Planning Council established by statutes and
10 certain duties we need to do, my recommendation is
11 that we as an agency submit a budget proposal
12 for -- its going to be a biennial budget. So we'd
13 submit a two-year budget in there.

14 Part of it we have our estimates already for
15 updating the state water plan. And so we can
16 obviously plug those numbers into it if we should
17 receive federal funding. In the meantime, then
18 obviously we could withdraw those pieces of it.

19 But by the duties that are outlined in the
20 statutes I kind of did just a preliminary draft,
21 but wanted to see -- not a total budget, but just
22 areas.

23 One of the things we have talked about as
24 we've gone on here is administrative support for
25 the Water Planning Council for our workgroups.

1 It's come up with looking at the water planning
2 chief position. You know we could look at
3 including that into the budget.

4 Do we want to be putting administrative
5 support in, as I said, for the Water Planning
6 Council for, like, the drought workgroup? For the
7 implementation workgroup as people that do the
8 minutes, mail the file, upload everything?
9 Obviously, currently now we rely on individual
10 agencies to do so.

11 So one concept is we look at an overall of
12 having a clerk, if you will, of the Water Planning
13 Council and that be part of our budget. So
14 there's a couple of options, and I want to just
15 kind of throw things out there. As we're going to
16 start looking at this we'll have some time yet to
17 develop a budget once all the official
18 documentation comes out.

19 But that was just some of my thought process
20 of trying to put a budget together for the Water
21 Planning Council.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Martin.

23 Do we have any comments from Lori or Graham?

24 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Just that I'm strongly supportive and
25 I appreciate Martin's thoughts in putting those

1 concepts together.

2 I think it would greatly help move our agenda
3 forward. I love the idea of the water chief, but
4 I also really love the idea of the clerk of the
5 works to make sure that we stay on track and that
6 we don't run afoul of any of the requirements with
7 respect to FOIA, or lose time by lack of tracking.

8 So thanks. Thanks, Martin. And definitely I
9 would support this approach.

10 LORI MATHIEU: And Jack --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin -- oh, Lori, go ahead.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, thank you.

13 So as the state water plan says, one of the
14 first items that was envisioned that we needed was
15 a water chief position. We are responsible for
16 annual reports. We are responsible to keep this
17 plan up to date, and so that's the expectation.
18 And we need staff to be able to do that.

19 So Martin, thank you for that. And we look
20 forward to working on this together.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

22 Martin, when would we have to be ready to
23 submit? When would we have to take a vote at the
24 Water Planning Council on a proposed budget?

25 MARTIN HEFT: I don't have the guidance yet and the

1 deadline dates, but I know it will be this fall.
2 So that's why, because they have to develop a
3 budget, and have it already for beginning session,
4 for Governor's proposed budgets, everything else
5 you know for release of February.

6 So I believe they had said they wanted to get
7 things out by August 1st. So I'm sure it's going
8 to be by the end of September, the 1st of October
9 to get things back.

10 And I will share after the meeting -- I just,
11 I've got some draft notes in that, but I'm going
12 to put it into an Excel spreadsheet. But I wanted
13 to kind of get thoughts of everybody. If
14 conceptually this is what we're looking for, then
15 I can kind of take next steps, and once guidance
16 comes out, see what format we need to submit in
17 and everything else that way.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** One of the things is that I have been
19 saying at the meetings that I had thoughts about
20 trying to get some bridge funding, if you will,
21 between now and June 30th of 2023.

22 And I have spoken with some of our regulated
23 water companies, and they were receptive to that
24 idea of coming up with some funding to get us
25 through. I've not talked to South Central or to

1 MDC at this point, but I know that we'd be able to
2 get some money from the regulated companies to get
3 it started.

4 So by the September meeting I will have more
5 of a clear path forward, how we're going to do
6 that. It will be somewhat similar to when
7 Connecticut Water was acquired by San Jose; part
8 of that whole process where they came up with the
9 money to fund Mary Ann Dickerson and the whole
10 ratesetting workshop contribution -- rates, and
11 that was all paid through Connecticut Water.

12 And I envision a similar process where
13 recovery is paid directly by companies. So we
14 just have to make sure we work out the logistics
15 and legalities of all that. So any --
16 (inaudible).

17 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, unfortunately you're cutting in and
18 out. And you're frozen right now --

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Questions, comments?

20 MARTIN HEFT: No questions or comments.

21 Thank you for your efforts.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: (Unintelligible) -- implementation
23 group.

24 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, you're kind of --

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Alecia frozen?

1 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, you're kind of freezing, going in
2 and out.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Alecia froze?

4 LORI MATHIEU: I'm here, not frozen.

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: No, I think you're frozen.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you hear me?

7 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. Right now we can, yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is Alecia frozen?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: No. Maybe -- Jack, maybe try turning
10 off your --

11 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I just stopped moving for a little
12 while.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia, did you hear me?
14 Alecia, did you hear my question?

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I know that's really unusual for me.
16 I could hear you, yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to go now before the
18 implementation workgroup update?

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: As long as Virginia doesn't mind.
20 Virginia, I apologize, but there's a meeting
21 at three o'clock I have to duck out and be a part
22 of. Is that okay with you, Virginia?

23 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Fine.

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay.

25 MARTIN HEFT: Excuse me, but we can't change the order

1 of the agenda on a special meeting.

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. All right.

3 MARTIN HEFT: Sorry. It's just FOI laws, everything.

4 We can't -- a special meeting agenda we can't
5 change order.

6 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. That's fine. Then I will keep
7 my fingers crossed that we can get through it all.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So then let's go right to
9 Virginia then.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. I'll try and get through this
11 really fast. The implementation workgroup
12 education outgroup topical group has continued to
13 do a fabulous job.

14 And they're now looking at September because
15 there's World Water Monitoring Day in September.
16 And so they are hoping to put together another
17 panel discussion as we would do it in the past.
18 We have September 18th which is (unintelligible.)

19 They're also looking at the WPC website, the
20 state water planning website and trying to figure
21 out -- it's going to be making recommendations on
22 changes to that, because ultimately that will be a
23 good vehicle for communicating information from
24 the state water plan. We're also putting together
25 a report summarizing the work that they have done.

1 I mentioned the data collection group. They
2 have put together a draft proposal to establish a
3 workgroup that would be looking at the data needs
4 identified in the state water plan, and how
5 perhaps different or additional data could help
6 address those needs that are identified.

7 And they will be looking at data needs in
8 general and making recommendations. So that's the
9 intent of that.

10 Obviously, there's an issue with funding --
11 that they're not looking to solve that issue, but
12 perhaps identify some of the needs. Mentioning
13 again the data gaps that may have been identified
14 in the state water plan.

15 Also the drought report that the
16 (unintelligible) reviewed and made some
17 recommendations to, also identified some gaps in
18 the data. And so that some information will be
19 pertinent to the work of this, this group.

20 LORI MATHIEU: Is anyone else having a problem hearing?

21 MARTIN HEFT: Yes.

22 THE REPORTER: Yes, I'm having a little difficulty
23 hearing.

24 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Thank you for that.

25 MS. LUPOLI: This is Laura. I'm just letting you know

1 that I'm checking the newswire, and apparently
2 Zoom is having issues throughout the country
3 today. So it's not just us.

4 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

5 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

6 LORI MATHIEU: Virginia, you're sort of going in and
7 out. So maybe speak up and speak loudly.

8 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay.

9 LORI MATHIEU: That's better.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah. Okay. My computer doesn't
11 like any angle in where I am relative to it.

12 So is there anything in particular that you
13 missed that you want me to restate of what I just
14 went through?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Virginia frozen? Everybody is
16 frozen. Oh, this is crazy.

17 LORI MATHIEU: No. Jack, you're frozen.

18 Virginia I did not hear anything you said.
19 So if you just want to summarize again, it would
20 be great --

21 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Will do.

22 LORI MATHIEU: -- and so I could hear it. I didn't
23 hear it. I didn't catch everything. I'm sorry.

24 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. The education outreach group
25 continues to do a great job. They're going to be

1 planning something in September for World Water
2 Monitoring Day. They're are also looking at the
3 state water plan website and will be making
4 recommendations on improvements to that website.

5 As I alluded to earlier, Chris Bellucci put
6 together a proposal to establish a topical sub
7 workgroup to look at USGS data collection. The
8 state water plan identified that data were a
9 crucial part of any kind of water analysis in the
10 State. The state water plan identified some gaps
11 in data. The interagency drought workgroup also
12 has identified some gaps in data, so that will be
13 looked at.

14 The group will be going through the state
15 water plan identifying where additional or perhaps
16 slightly different data may help to inform the
17 kinds of decisions that would need to be made to
18 address the ideas in the recommendations of the
19 state water plan.

20 They'll also be reaching out to other states
21 to see how they handle their data collection
22 programs with the USGS. So that's the proposal
23 for a workgroup that I alluded to earlier that
24 hopefully we can get approved at your next meeting
25 so that that group can get started.

1 You did receive the final report of the
2 tracking and reporting workgroup. I would call
3 your -- if you have it with you, or open, I would
4 call your attention to -- it's page 6 before the
5 appendices, which basically is the high-level
6 takeaways.

7 There's your summary of what is in that, in
8 their report. Very briefly they -- at least in
9 the short term they feel that the tracking should
10 be limited to what's in the state water plan
11 itself and not involve all things related to
12 water.

13 They want to put together a small group that
14 will not only pull together a report for the
15 Legislature that's due in January for this current
16 year, but also come up with a template that could
17 be used in future reports and straight line -- not
18 straight line, but streamline that whole process.

19 And also when they reach out for information,
20 if people know the format of the final report it
21 will make reaching out to those organizations, to
22 those agencies and workgroups much simpler.

23 There is a recognition that we will probably
24 need some kind of an interim reporting system --
25 that might be a narrative, that might be a

1 spreadsheet -- before developing a really robust
2 formal official tracking system.

3 A lot of this was informed by reports from
4 the Long Island Sound study work, how they pulled
5 together a tracking system. The topical sub
6 workgroup met with them multiple times. They gave
7 a presentation, and so we're trying to learn from
8 their experience to make it easier to develop our
9 own plan. They also had an interim plan that
10 bridged them to their more formal plan.

11 So anything else in there in that -- and they
12 encouraged all of us to review the executive
13 summary of the state water plan so that we can
14 have a focus on what we need to plan for and track
15 in the future.

16 So is Dan on the call?

17 DAN AUBIN: Yes, I'm here, Virginia. Yeah.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Is there anything you want to add to
19 what I just said?

20 DAN AUBIN: I think that's a great summary. And just
21 for the sake of time and for the public record I
22 want to thank Corinne Fitting who has, sadly from
23 our end, but joyfully for her has retired from
24 state service.

25 She was my cochair in this effort and I want

1 to thank Allie Hibbert as well from DEEP who
2 assisted in all the administrative tasks with
3 conducting for that workgroup.

4 It was an enjoyable experience. We did our
5 best to be inclusive at every step of the way --
6 and happy to take any questions on the report at
7 any time. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Dan, thank you very much. You kind of
9 beat me to the punch in terms of thanking you and
10 other members of the group for really -- this
11 report is very well done and very well thought
12 out.

13 I mean, we do have a statutory obligation to
14 report to the General Assembly per state statute,
15 but you laid out very nicely what we ought to do,
16 and how we ought to track and report to the powers
17 that be.

18 And any other comments from the council
19 members? I appreciate all of your work.

20 And I'm prepared to accept -- I'm prepared to
21 accept this report today if my councilmembers
22 agree?

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, if I could very, very quickly?

24 Yes, I just wanted to thank Dan, you know; A, for
25 his comments; and B, for his work.

1 But also just to one point Virginia made --
2 I'm willing to -- I'm ready to accept this report
3 as well. I would just say in light of our attempt
4 to seek funding, it might make sense to ensure
5 that this year's report also has balancing between
6 slimming down what we're doing on an interim
7 basis, but also understanding that we need to show
8 people the benefits of the state water plan and
9 the Water Planning Council as well at this time,
10 particularly in light of the request for future
11 funding.

12 And that's something that DEEP is more than
13 happy to put some extra effort into this upcoming
14 year to bolster that report.

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

16 Martin?

17 **MARTIN HEFT:** I'm fine with the report. I actually
18 read through it -- and an excellent job and
19 recommendations in there for that, for the
20 transmittal of the report.

21 And I'll make a motion that we accept their
22 report on the tracking and reporting.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Martin. Do I have a second?

24 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Second.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Second by Graham. Any questions on the

1 motion?

2 LORI MATHIEU: Am I allowed to speak? There's a
3 question.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori -- we're trying to keep things
5 running smoothly here, Lori -- but go ahead. Go
6 ahead.

7 LORI MATHIEU: No? Is that part of the talk?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Well, what I want to say is I want to
10 echo --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We're having Zoom problems. I'm trying
12 to move --

13 LORI MATHIEU: Well, you know there's four agencies
14 here. And Dan's -- to Dan's point, who works for
15 the Department of Public Health, I want to thank
16 Dan for all of his good work, all of his hard
17 work -- because this is not his full time job, and
18 by any means. Right?

19 And Corinne Fitting, which we dearly, dearly
20 miss, was wonderful with this and it was a great
21 effort on behalf of everyone.

22 You know it's so important -- as I think
23 everyone has made this point here -- when we're
24 seeking money, we better have a good report and
25 good documentation of what we all do, and what we

1 based is the priorities that are set by the Water
2 Planning Council.

3 And so I'm pleased to see that further on in
4 your agenda you will be discussing those
5 priorities, because it is proposed that the Water
6 Planning Council update their priorities every
7 spring. And so we're running a little late on
8 that schedule, but that helps the whole process of
9 tracking those priorities.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Virginia.

11 Anything further?

12
13 (No response.)

14
15 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Denise going to give us a little
16 report on outreach and education?

17 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi, Jack. It's Denise. Yes, just
18 quickly, I'm going to follow up on the
19 implementation report.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Denise?

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Can you hear me?

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: I can hear you.

23 MARTIN HEFT: I can hear you.

24 DENISE SAVAGEAU: I think Jack is not hearing me.

25 Okay? Is he -- Jack, are you back?

1 No, he's frozen.

2 So --

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'm here.

4 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** I just wanted to share this quickly.

5 The outreach and education group is working on the
6 two workshops for the fall. As again, we're going
7 to -- we're taking the theme of monitoring and
8 working that into the work we've been doing this
9 year.

10 And possible topics for those, for the two
11 workshops what we're going to be doing is stream
12 flow monitoring, cyanobacteria, hydrilla; overlap
13 between the water quantity and quality when we
14 have not a lot of water, if the quality isn't
15 always good; beach monitoring, drinking water
16 supply monitoring. We're going to break those
17 into two different workshops. We'd be more than
18 happy to have your input.

19 Our next meeting is August -- is next
20 Thursday, a week from now. So August 4th is our
21 meeting where we're going to be starting to put
22 these agendas item -- this into agenda format and
23 figure out our speakers. So if you have any
24 comments, please send/share those with us.

25 And then the last thing on that is

1 similarly -- and we're putting together a
2 workplan. For the 2023, we're -- our workplan,
3 because we're using themes from other calendars
4 and whatever -- we kind of did our theme, for
5 example, this year it was the 50th anniversary of
6 the Inland Wetland Water Act. So we're kind of
7 using that calendar year, because that's how
8 everyone else does it.

9 We're looking at what the themes are going to
10 be nationally. For example, if there's any
11 national water themes or from the UN, what's their
12 World Water Day theme going to be? And see if
13 those fit, and we'll be bringing those to you in
14 either September or October.

15 But again, if you guys have a theme that you
16 would like us to consider exploring for the 2023,
17 please share that with us. Sometimes you guys
18 have more information about what's going on than
19 we do.

20 And just for example, one of the things I
21 will be looking at is 1974 -- it will be the 50th
22 anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act. So
23 we'll probably be looking at that as a theme for
24 the next fiscal year in 2024, but we're looking
25 for 2023 and what we should do.

1 So I will stop there. Just to say with the
2 education outreach, it says, discuss the branding.
3 I went over that last time. So unless -- and we
4 haven't had an update on that yet. We probably
5 will next week.

6 Unless Graham and/or Ali Hibbert want to give
7 an update, I don't have any anything further on
8 the branding.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: No. No further update at this point.

10 Thank you, Denise.

11 LORI MATHIEU: If I could just quickly?

12 Denise, for going into the fall for
13 education, I think if it's going to be
14 continuously dry -- which it might be, I think it
15 would be lovely to work with us as a council and
16 to work on drought and what people need to know.

17 I think if there's -- you know the State can
18 take the lead on that, but we -- we need all hands
19 on deck -- I think, to help people understand if
20 you're on a private well, if you're on a public
21 water system, what you can do -- you know every
22 little bit will count.

23 And there's actually on page 5-13, I'll
24 continue to promote our plan. Right? The water
25 conservation education outreach idea was to -- all

1 of us to work together, and to have the water
2 utilities involved in that as well to come up with
3 a strategy to reach out and survey public
4 attitudes, and really look at partnerships with
5 providers and water educators.

6 So I'd really love for that as a theme.
7 You've asked my thought; we're going to need help.
8 I chatted with Martin and Jack and with Graham
9 individually about what we all can do, but I think
10 we've got to get the word out and the messaging
11 out as many times as we can to reach many people.

12 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thanks, Lori, for your input.

13 Just a quick question -- only because my
14 internet was unstable when you first started
15 speaking. And are you talking about a theme for
16 next year, or do you want --

17 LORI MATHIEU: No, this fall. This fall right now.
18 Right now.

19 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. On the drought.

20 LORI MATHIEU: Right. Now. I see Martin shaking his
21 head.

22 DENISE SAVAGEAU: So just quickly, when we were talking
23 about monitoring we were looking at exploring --
24 that's why we talked about the stream gauges and
25 the importance, of how important those are.

1 And we could certainly work into, like, all
2 the things we're using for drought monitoring and
3 also getting the word out during that. Like, this
4 is why we need it.

5 So there's definitely --

6 LORI MATHIEU: But you know, there's one thing to talk
7 about the monitors and the need for more. There's
8 another thing to talk about, what do people need
9 to know? Education. Right?

10 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah.

11 LORI MATHIEU: They really need help. I think if we
12 can -- there's a lot of great information that
13 we've worked on together for decades, but where
14 can people go to know more? And what should they
15 be thinking about? How we can get through schools
16 and other programs.

17 You know if we really use the plan, there's
18 some good stuff here that we should be reading and
19 using, and that's what I mean, right now.

20 Right? We need it now.

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: So we can certainly do that. We have
22 all the tools to do that. So if you need
23 something to go out, we can make that happen.

24 We'll be working on the other stuff as well
25 just because that's where we are, but I think the

1 drought stuff is just additional work that needs
2 to be done. And we can certainly bring in all the
3 partners.

4 Project Wet has all kinds of information on
5 that. Still working with Sue Quincy and some
6 other folks. There's a lot of outreach we can do,
7 you know, immediately surrounding water.

8 So if you're interested in us doing that, we
9 can certainly bring that up.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Well, I'm interested. Look at what the
11 state water plan says about working together with
12 the water utilities and across the state. Public
13 well managers, operators, private well owners --
14 it's important. So we'd love to work with you
15 further on that.

16 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. No problem.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else -- and Denise,
18 anything else?

19 Any questions of Denise? And really Denise,
20 thank you for your leadership on this. You do a
21 great job, you do a great job coordinating the
22 events that we've had so far this year.

23 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly, at the Council we appreciate
25 your work.

1 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Alecia?

3 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Hi. So I guess, first I need to
4 understand what's come through in correspondence
5 and what we can discuss in the special meeting.

6 Because one of the things that we did send
7 over was the replacement for John Hudak -- and I
8 believe we might have mentioned this in the last
9 water planning council meeting -- who is retiring.

10 And at the last advisory group meeting, Steve
11 Mitko's name was brought forward. Is that
12 something we can do today with you guys, have him
13 authorized? Martin, is that --

14 MARTIN HEFT: So it really should be on the agenda as a
15 voting item --

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay.

17 MARTIN HEFT: -- for the appointment of this, because
18 we don't have it listed down as a vacancy or
19 anything. So appointment really should be listed
20 on the agenda for appointment.

21 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. So I guess the only thing that
22 we have today is the workgroup proposal that we
23 sent along last month. And --

24 MARTIN HEFT: Actually, Alecia. If I may? And Jack?
25 Just on the on the piece -- so maybe we can

1 clear this up for the appointment. One of the
2 things I know you did, because I know we got the
3 e-mail on whatever, the night of the 25th or
4 something -- I believe it came through, but we
5 really need to get that information prior before
6 our agenda is posted so we make sure that
7 particular voting items get listed on the agenda.

8 But one question -- it would maybe help move
9 this along for the next meeting is I know you have
10 a recommendation there, but there was also no
11 process, or were others -- was this put out to
12 other water utilities, large regional? Or only
13 one individual that was asked to be put onto this?
14 So I would like to know what the process was in
15 the recommendation.

16 And then also there's two other vacancies --
17 what is happening with those? So for a future
18 meeting -- it doesn't have to be today, but I'd
19 like to have the background of how this person was
20 selected and the process, and then just an update
21 on the other two vacancies for agriculture and
22 business and industry.

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. Sure. I think we can if -- I
24 know Carol's here. If she wants to give a quick
25 update on the other two vacancies?

1 Carol, are you still here? I had seen her.
2 Yeah, she is -- there she is.

3 CAROL HASKINS: I'm here. So the nominating committee
4 met earlier in July to talk through what vacancies
5 exist and continued recruitment strategies for
6 filling those vacancies.

7 And for the regional water position John
8 Hudak as the exiting member offered a suggestion
9 from within the regional water authority as a
10 suitable candidate. And that recommendation was
11 brought back to the Water Planning Council
12 advisory group for consideration to then bring
13 forward to the Water Planning Council as a
14 recommendation from the advisory group as a whole.

15 So there we did not go out to the other
16 regional water authorities to see if they had any
17 interest or not. Given the challenges in finding
18 people as is willing to serve, we took the
19 recommendation from John as the exiting member to
20 bring that forward to the advisory group for
21 consideration.

22 So that's been the process. So it's brought
23 up within the nominating committee. It goes to
24 the advisory group for further discussion and then
25 comes forward to you guys.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: So Martin, let me ask this.

2 For next month can we simply have an item on
3 the agenda, appointments?

4 MARTIN HEFT: Yes, that would be appropriate.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We don't have to specifically --

6 MARTIN HEFT: Correct. That would be appropriate to
7 do --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: -- put for appointing. Do we?

9 MARTIN HEFT: Correct. We can have appointments on
10 there in that kind of more of a catchall, correct.
11 And thank you for the background information.

12 CAROL HASKINS: You're welcome.

13 Thanks for the process guidance.

14 LORI MATHIEU: And Martin, to your point and to your
15 question, over the years -- and Jack, you'll
16 probably remember this much more, much more than I
17 would.

18 So you know we used to have water utilities
19 sort of trade, trade off. Right? And so to
20 give -- Martin, I think your point was that you
21 wanted to be fair and sort of open it up instead
22 of keeping it within one entity?

23 MARTIN HEFT: Oh, yeah. And thanks, Lori. Yeah, more
24 so I just know having/doing other appointments for
25 boards, commissions, everything is like you don't

1 necessarily look at a singular individual to
2 replace someone. You know, someone's outgoing --
3 terrific.

4 And you know that John has recommended
5 someone to fill in from his, but we should also
6 look at the other large regional, because maybe
7 there is a potential there. There may not be, but
8 the options should be there.

9 As we're looking at that we always know how
10 hard it is to find volunteers, but if we're not
11 also out asking if there's people interested, that
12 piece has to happen as well. And that's my belief
13 rather than just a single entity, and leaving it
14 at that.

15 LORI MATHIEU: I agree. Yeah -- no, I agree. I think
16 it should be open. That's a good point.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Alecia?

18 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes. And I apologize that it did
19 come back late. But you have to also understand
20 that this meeting is kind of on a different date
21 than normal, and we just met last week.

22 So I apologize if it's a little late.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: This meeting will go down in history,
24 because this is a very tough meeting to run today
25 because people are coming in and out. It's very

1 difficult -- but go ahead, Alecia.

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. So the next thing on the
3 agenda is the proposal that we sent along. This
4 is the second version of a proposal that you guys
5 saw -- gosh. I can't even remember. It's been
6 maybe two years.

7 And this is something we've -- this helps to
8 sort of explore a subject we've talked about here
9 at the water planning council and the advisory
10 group. I'm sure it's been discussed in the
11 implementation group. I know it's been discussed
12 in the water utility coordinating committee
13 implementation group as well -- is really kind of
14 looking at what can be done, and what are the
15 barriers to all water utilities being able to use
16 some sort of conservation pricing and rate
17 recovery?

18 Because it was very clear in the Alliance for
19 Water Efficiency event that we had that there were
20 some challenges to implementing this across the
21 board. And really all this does, that this
22 workgroup would do would lay everything out. It's
23 not here to find solutions, but here to really
24 kind of talk about, well, what are the problems?

25 Because you know, we hear often, well, we

1 just can't do that. Well, let's talk about why
2 and see if we can come up with something creative.
3 Maybe there's something outside of the box that we
4 haven't considered.

5 So that is the purpose of this, and it has
6 been edited since the last time you saw this
7 proposal. So we are sending this up for your
8 thoughts, and hopefully we can move forward.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Alecia.

10 Graham, Martin, Lori, comments?

11 **LORI MATHIEU:** I like it. I guess we need to get back
12 to that. There was a lot of great discussion, and
13 if we could pick up sort of where we -- or remind
14 ourselves where we were, because it is important.

15 And it just ties into the water conservation
16 theme. Right? Because times are clearly changing
17 here and we've got to be prepared for the worst.
18 Right? Always got to prepare for the worst, and
19 it's important for us. So I like it. I support
20 it. Thank you, Alecia, for bringing that forward.

21 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** Thank you, Lori.

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

23 And Martin, Graham?

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** You want to go first, Graham? I'm fine.

25 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Go for it, Martin.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Great. No -- I think overall
2 conceptually I'm fine with that. I'd like to know
3 projected timelines for this workgroup. What's
4 the length of time that you feel start to finish
5 you're going to need? Actually how many members
6 you're looking at. I know it's kind of talks just
7 in general here.

8 And then which agency is going to be working
9 with you to oversee this for the minutes for
10 posting for FOI requirements? That's something
11 I've brought up in the past, that if we're
12 establishing a new workgroup, we also need to
13 establish, you know, to make sure that the
14 documentation and everything is going to be done
15 there.

16 As I've stressed in the past, you know our
17 active workgroups, we have had a listing in our
18 past meetings showing which agency is involved or
19 are responsible to make sure they're posted and
20 everything that way. So I think these are pieces
21 that we also need to add into any proposal.

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: And very quickly, Alecia. Thank you,
23 you know, supportive of this workgroup, support
24 Martin's comments and Lori's comments as well.

25 And I don't know -- Lori, we might be on the

1 same page today, as they say, because I'm on 5-13,
2 too, and this, this really hits on some really
3 important issues -- yeah, that you know that we've
4 been talking about at DEEP.

5 So really looking forward to that kicking
6 off, when it does.

7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So Martin, are you asking for some of
8 these things in writing before the Water Planning
9 Council should entertain approving this?

10 MARTIN HEFT: I will not vote in favor of it until I
11 know those answers of the length of the time. I'm
12 less worried about who the members are going to
13 be. Obviously, we know those have to be appointed
14 and everything else.

15 Obviously, we want to just follow -- we
16 have -- you know with the State, we have diversity
17 requirements, everything else for that. But I'm
18 looking -- how many members are we looking at? Is
19 it just a six-member person. Are we're looking
20 for twelve people. You know, if there's some
21 thought?

22 But I would like to know the length of time
23 that this workgroup plans to be active from start
24 to finish, and also which agency is being
25 suggested to be the overseeing agency to help for

1 FOI in minutes and everything -- because otherwise
2 establishing this without those, it's going to
3 fall through the cracks.

4 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay.

5 MARTIN HEFT: But otherwise I'm supportive of the
6 proposal. So don't get me wrong on that side --
7 that I'm supportive of the proposal, but any
8 workgroup coming forward, I'll be asking the same
9 questions if they're not proposed to us.

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. I will. I will change my
11 template for workgroup proposals to make sure
12 that's included.

13 So I would say one of the questions I can
14 answer now, I would expect anywhere from five to
15 nine people involved. Having the correct people
16 in the room is going to be extremely important.

17 Obviously, you know different flavors of
18 water utilities and their perspective on this is
19 going to be extremely important, and also the
20 environmental side being represented.

21 As far as the agency that will help out on
22 this, I guess I would just ask the Water Planning
23 Council agencies to think about it and think about
24 if you have, you know, a staff who would have an
25 interest in this. Then you know we certainly

1 would be very excited to have, you know, them
2 involved.

3 So I will leave that there, because I don't
4 expect an answer to that -- obviously here.

5 But as far as time, you know, again this is
6 kind of -- almost kind of more of a white paper
7 than it is -- I would hope that after this, what
8 would come is folks looking at it, and especially
9 the Water Planning Councilmembers after they look
10 at it, coming up with some sort of
11 recommendations -- but that is not part of this.

12 So I would expect this to be anywhere from
13 six to eight months.

14 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you for that. Appreciate it.

15 LORI MATHIEU: So that's a good question, Martin. So
16 six to eight months. And what is the goal?

17 What is the goal? What's the end game? What
18 are you looking to accomplish?

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: To provide a report that identifies
20 the various regulatory and operational barriers
21 that prevent various categories of utilities from
22 taking advantage of conservation prices and
23 setting rates that would stabilize revenues while
24 a year-round conservation ethic is encouraged.

25 So it's to identify the regulatory and

1 operational barriers -- so putting that out there
2 so we know why, exactly why it's difficult for our
3 various types of utilities that we have here in
4 Connecticut to conserve and really build that
5 conservation ethic into their operations without
6 losing revenue, because they have to be able to
7 support their work and --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia -- I'm sorry, Lori. I don't want
9 to cut Lori off.

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Sure. Go ahead.

11 LORI MATHIEU: No, I'm fine.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, are you all set?

13 LORI MATHIEU: I'm good. I would love more
14 conversation on this, because where I'm leading is
15 we're heading into the '23 session and it's too
16 late to tee up items.

17 But I think this one deserves a lot of
18 discussion. It deserves times. It deserves our
19 agencies' input actively, active input into this,
20 utilities' active input.

21 Study other states, and then come up with
22 something maybe in May -- because Martin, to your
23 point about timing is important here to -- in May
24 to maybe propose some legislation through us as a
25 Council, getting it to us for the summer of next

1 year so that we maybe can lead into, or lean into
2 some legislative change.

3 Because you know we can issue all the papers
4 you want, but if you don't actually implement
5 anything we're all going to be frustrated. Right?
6 Because there's reasons why things don't change,
7 Alecia. Right?

8 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No, I understand that. And what I'm
9 saying is, this is going to lay out some of those
10 issues to be able to make some of those decisions,
11 Lori.

12 LORI MATHIEU: No, that's good.

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So that's a step two. This is just
14 sort of the small baby step to get there. Right?

15 LORI MATHIEU: To get to this next level.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So that all the stakeholders that are
17 involved in the advisory group -- because we have
18 the right stakeholders here. Even if they're not
19 part of the workgroup, one of the things that we
20 do before we send anything to you is all of the
21 work -- that the advisory group members have a
22 chance to look at something and be able to give
23 their perspective even if they couldn't be
24 involved in the actual workgroup itself.

25 And the agencies as well, because obviously

1 the agencies are extremely active in the
2 workgroups.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** One thing I was going to say as you put
4 a workgroup together, I'd highly recommend -- and
5 I might have thought that somebody from the PURA
6 rates and revenues staff be part of this
7 process -- people that have worked water case
8 regulatory adjustment mechanisms, and revenue
9 peaks.

10 And I think that that's imperative that we
11 have somebody from our shop. So Ally Ayotte and I
12 will work on getting you someone.

13 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** And so Martin, that will be more like
14 nine or ten.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** But seriously, I mean, why go through
16 this effort? I mean, these people live, eat and
17 breathe this.

18 So what you're talking is something that
19 is -- I think that we have to do. We've been
20 talking about it for a long time, but we have to
21 look at the realistic ramifications of some of
22 this and how it impacts, impacts the consumer and
23 how it impacts the company.

24 So we'll get somebody for you.

25 **LORI MATHIEU:** And I would love to -- and I have to go,

1 Jack, because I have another meeting. But the --

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I know Alecia has got to go, too.

3 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I've got to go to the same meeting,
4 Lori.

5 LORI MATHIEU: But I would love to include and be
6 inclusive of the nontraditional partners. You
7 know in this time of we're working really hard on
8 health equity and diversity, I think that we have
9 to include people that haven't been part of the
10 discussion, you know, the actual ratepayers, the
11 people who pay the bills, and what people are
12 facing with rate increases, or why people might
13 not understand why it's important that maybe there
14 needs to be change.

15 So -- and I see Francis there -- here, and I
16 love that he's here heading up council of
17 government. I would love to see more municipal
18 and council of government involvement, and we
19 should be more inclusive of our municipal partners
20 because they are really very important -- and our
21 regional water.

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: They are extremely -- they add so
23 much to the advisory group, our council of
24 governments.

25 LORI MATHIEU: And our health directors. Right? Who

1 are very busy with many things, but they also have
2 an important link to all of this. Right? And
3 have great thoughts.

4 So Alecia, thank you for that.

5 And Jack, unfortunately I do have to go.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Sorry for that. Alecia, I'll see you
8 over there.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: See you in a few minutes, Lori.

10 And unfortunately I have to drop off now to
11 go to that sewage working group meeting, but I
12 will -- even though you can't --

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia, I know we're going to have Karen
14 Burnaska give her --

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah. Can everyone else hear me?

16 I think Jack might have frozen up again.

17 But I will leave Karen just to give you an
18 overview of the letter that we hope you guys can
19 authorize sending to the GAE at your next meeting.

20 And just if you have any questions about
21 it -- I understand you can't vote on it, but it's
22 my understanding it's been sent to you. So again,
23 I apologize I have to drop off early, but have a
24 good rest of your day.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you, Alecia.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Okay. Let's go to Karen.

4 KAREN BURNASKA: Sure. Thank you. Yes, I realize --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Hi, Karen.

6 KAREN BURNASKA: Hi there, Jack. I hope you can hear
7 me. I'll try to talk very loud.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I can. I can --

9 KAREN BURNASKA: You kind of still break up. But
10 anyway, I know that the letter to the GAE
11 committee that the advisory group has sent to
12 you -- you received it, but it is not on the
13 agenda.

14 So therefore you will not be able to vote on
15 it today, but I hope that you will have had an
16 opportunity to read it, and will hopefully approve
17 it next meeting.

18 What it does in essence is basically three
19 things. One, it thanks the GAE Committee for this
20 past legislative session using the supplement to
21 the CGA questionnaire on land conveyances and
22 getting additional information. We felt it was
23 helpful.

24 We also then would like to continue
25 discussions with them to make certain that the

1 information contained, not only in the CGA
2 questionnaire, but in the supplement that they are
3 using be posted on the CGA website prior to a
4 public hearing on the proposed land conveyance.
5 And that the information that is requested in both
6 the CGA questionnaire and the supplement be fully
7 completed.

8 We also hope that the information -- hope?
9 We would ask that the information included on what
10 the change in the proposed -- the specifics of the
11 land conveyance and what the land will be used for
12 are included in the wording of the bill.

13 All this is being done so that, not only the
14 public, but anyone involved in the process will
15 know why the land is being conveyed and for what
16 purpose.

17 And the third thing that's specific that we
18 would like to ask them is that if -- we as water
19 advocates and you the advisory council are looking
20 for making certain that the land conveyance is in
21 the best public interest.

22 And what we would like to make certain is
23 that if the land that is conveyed to a
24 municipality, or whatever entity, if that use does
25 not come to fruit, that the land is not used for

1 what it is proposed to be used for, that the land
2 then will revert back to the State.

3 So Margaret -- I know Margaret Miner is also
4 on -- and if you have any questions. But we would
5 like -- as you could see it, it could either come
6 from you; it would come from the Water Planning
7 Council to the GAE chairs, or from the cochairs of
8 the advisory group -- thanking them and then
9 requesting this additional information.

10 And Margaret, I don't know if you wanted to
11 add anything to that?

12 MARGARET MINER: No.

13 Thank you for explaining it so clearly.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, I've read the letter. I think
15 it's a pretty clear and direct letter and I think
16 you articulate the issue quite well. And we'll
17 make sure it's on the agenda next -- the September
18 meeting, which would be right around the corner,
19 so.

20 KAREN BURNASKA: Okay. And will -- the September
21 meeting will be a regular meeting. Right?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank God. Yes, and hopefully a better
23 Zoom, a better Zoom at the September meeting. And
24 maybe we'll meet in person in September.

25 KAREN BURNASKA: I'm not -- I wasn't laughing at that.

1 I'm just happy -- so thank you for your
2 consideration. I do know that -- just so you know
3 that, the advisory group and the watershed lands
4 group is continuing their discussions, not only on
5 interconnections working with Dan Lawrence of --
6 and the WUCCs, but also looking -- and I believe
7 Chris Baluchi is involved in, not only that DEEP
8 permitting involved -- and other issues, so.

9 And then there's another meeting, if I'm not
10 mistaken, taking place tomorrow on this. So lots
11 and lots of things going on. So thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Karen, for your efforts and
13 your group. Appreciate it very much.

14 Any questions for Karen?

15
16 (No response.)

17
18 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, we'll move onto water
19 conservation. Graham, do you have anything more
20 on water conservation?

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes. Thank you, Jack. Water
22 conservation has been a common theme today -- and
23 I know Lori had to jump off.

24 And I think the sole purpose of adding this
25 item to the agenda is just to stress that water

1 conservation has most recently focused on water
2 fixtures through our discussions. I still think
3 that is a valid item to pursue with our partners
4 whether it be at DAS, or Department of Consumer
5 Protection.

6 However, I also just wanted to reiterate a
7 point that education and communication, and
8 personal habits and behavior is also something
9 that we should really consider focusing on as
10 well.

11 In light of the recent declaration of stage
12 two, or incipit drought, DEEP and I'm sure other
13 water planning council agencies were contacted by
14 the press, likely sparked by reading reports in
15 other publications -- whether it be out of LA, or
16 New York -- about droughts.

17 And people were asking questions about, where
18 can I find information about water tolerant
19 plants? What can I do to replace my grass with a
20 less water intensive ground covering?

21 You know it's not LA. It's Connecticut.
22 People aren't ripping up their lawns as of now,
23 but it's one thing to think about, that there are
24 some early adopters or innovators out there that
25 may want to consume this information.

1 really fly through the rest of this, because -- I
2 don't know about others, but the Zoom is just
3 absolutely terrible today.

4 So the only thing left from my end here is --
5 because Lori has left -- is Martin Heft to talk
6 about the drought.

7 **MARTIN HEFT:** What drought? No.

8 Yeah, so as Graham has alluded to with the
9 current drought conditions, the interagency
10 drought workgroup has been meeting. At our July
11 13th meeting we actually recommended to the
12 Governor, and the Governor approved the
13 recommendation to put all of the State of
14 Connecticut into a stage two, which is kind of the
15 early stage.

16 Stage three is actually -- just for
17 everyone's reference, stage three is what actually
18 declares that we're actually in a drought. Stage
19 two is kind of like that, the raising public
20 awareness stage for that. We did get press
21 releases out.

22 If you're tired of seeing me on TV or in the
23 news, please pray for rain because I've been on a
24 lot of television and radio and everything else
25 with the drought.

1 We do have a meeting next Thursday, August
2 4th, which we'll obviously review all of the
3 conditions once again and see if we're at any
4 stages for moving any of the State to a stage
5 three and referring those to the Governor.

6 So please stay tuned on that.

7 But I do thank all of our agencies, because
8 as this information has gone out through DEEP,
9 through the DPH, others -- it's been great of them
10 getting the information out and following through
11 with the drought plan.

12 As we speak on the drought plan, the second
13 thing we postponed in our last meeting --
14 obviously, because of the drought stages and our
15 review of everything -- but we do have a draft
16 update to the drought plan that will be coming
17 forward to the Water Planning Council.

18 It is on our agenda for next week to vote on
19 and recommend it, obviously pending what actions
20 we've got to take on the drought -- because
21 obviously that's a priority for us.

22 And the drought plan will just get pushed off
23 on that, but we do have our first set of
24 recommendations for updates to the drought plan.
25 So we'll be getting that to the Water Planning

1 Council as soon as we can.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Martin. Any questions?

3 A great, great -- you and the group, great
4 work.

5 Let's pray for rain -- not because you're on
6 TV, but let's just pray for rain.

7 MARTIN HEFT: No, you can do it for both.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So Lori is not here for -- Water
9 Planning Council priorities we'll bring up at the
10 next meeting.

11 I'm going to go right to public comment.
12 Public comment? Denise?

13 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, I just have a couple of things.
14 One is I just want to -- when you're working on
15 the budget, which I think is a great thing to have
16 a budget for the Council -- if there's some way
17 that you can account for all of the in-kind
18 service you receive.

19 There's a whole lot of us who put in a lot of
20 time to this organization and I think it really
21 needs to be accounted for. It's not just agency
22 people working on that.

23 And I think the folks you just heard from
24 starting with Virginia and David, and the work
25 they do, all the work Alecia does, the work that

1 I'm doing -- but we're not the only ones. There's
2 a whole host of folks out there -- Karen Burnaska,
3 but there's a whole host of folks doing a lot of
4 work, and I think it needs to be documented and I
5 think it needs to be respected. So I just wanted
6 to put that out there.

7 And then, just a comment on the education
8 piece. I think that there's lots of work to be
9 done on education. And I just wanted to remind
10 folks that one of the challenges with education
11 and outreach is our limitation with the website.
12 And we purposely had said, we're not going to
13 develop all of our materials until we get the
14 website handled.

15 So I just wanted to kind of put that out
16 there. It's one of the reasons we're not quite as
17 flexible. We also don't have the branding out
18 there. So we had kind of limited our outreach at
19 this point. That said -- so I just wanted to kind
20 of remind people that that is the case.

21 And also that the, you know, when you're
22 directing something like the education outgroup to
23 all of a sudden respond immediately to, let's say
24 for example, the drought; that's me and Karen who
25 aren't agency people, but the rest of it is your

1 agency people.

2 So if you're going to direct your staff to
3 work on that, that's fine. But I just wanted to
4 point out the makeup of the education and outreach
5 workgroup. That when you're saying, all of the
6 sudden we should focus on that -- then who you're
7 talking about.

8 So I just wanted to put that out there just
9 as, you know, for -- an information so that you
10 know who, you know, what you're asking when you
11 all of the sudden say, let's do something.

12 So thank you.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Denise. We appreciate your
14 efforts and your commitment to this.

15 Any questions for Denise?

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any other public comment?

20 Any other public comment?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, our next meeting will be on
25 September 6th, the day after Labor Day and it will

1 be a regular meeting. So we will have a little
2 bit more flexibility on the agenda.

3 I appreciate everybody's participation today
4 and apologize for the technical difficulties we've
5 been having. And I wish everybody a safe and
6 healthy rest of the summer.

7 If there's no other business to come before
8 us, I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

9 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made a seconded that we adjourn.

12 All those in favor?

13 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: We are adjourned.

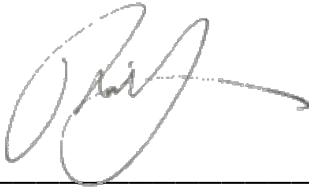
15 Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

16 Be safe.

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18 (End: 3:14 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 58 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 July 28, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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