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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
August 16, 2022, beginning at 1:30 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)**

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8 **Staff:**

9 **LAURA LUPOLI**

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1 (Begin: 1:30 p.m.)

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3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. We'll
4 call this special meeting of the Water Planning
5 Council for August 16, 2022, to order.

6 The only item on the agenda today for
7 discussion with just the Water Planning Council
8 members -- there will be no public comment
9 today -- just with respect to the meeting for
10 members to discuss this will be the fiscal '24/'25
11 proposed biennial budget.

12 Martin has done an excellent job providing us
13 with some background information from a statutory
14 perspective, what the Water Planning Council --
15 our mission, our goals and objectives, financing,
16 other -- (unintelligible) -- submitted. He also
17 gave us and -- (unintelligible) -- budget requests
18 for the 24-25 budget, and he also provided both
19 within that timeframe.

20 So with that, I thank you for that. And if
21 you could give us a quick update in terms of the
22 federal loan, the federal grant we applied for as
23 well, and then talk about this budget below.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Thanks, Jack.

25 Just so you know, I don't know if anyone

1 else -- you were cutting in and out a little bit
2 on audio, just on your side. So I don't know if
3 there's an issue. I heard 90 percent of what you
4 said, but there was in and out just on audio, just
5 so you're aware.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Can everybody hear me okay now?

7 **MARTIN HEFT:** Now I can, yeah.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

9 **THE REPORTER:** I was having some difficulty hearing
10 you, Chairman.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

12 **MARTIN HEFT:** Okay. So one, thanks, Mr. Chairman.

13 We did apply, as everyone knows, for
14 congressionally directed spending through Senator
15 Blumenthal and Senator Murphy's office;
16 particularly Senator Murphy through the
17 Appropriations Committee to update our state water
18 plan.

19 Unfortunately, we were not awarded those
20 funds. We did get notice back on August 1st to
21 that effect. So I did want to just note that,
22 because obviously then we have to look at other
23 potential funding sources for that.

24 And if I may, Mr. Chair? I'll kind of just
25 run through what you kind of mentioned there, but

1 I just want to add a couple of things to that?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

3 MARTIN HEFT: One under just for reference, for
4 everybody, under Connecticut State General
5 Statutes 22a-352, Subsection I, is the Water
6 Planning Council shall oversee the implementation
7 and periodic updates to the state water plan.

8 That is kind of the -- just for asking for
9 budgetary funds, because it is in statute for us
10 to do that as well as carry out the implementation
11 of the water plan. So just for statutory
12 reference as to why we are looking at an agency,
13 if you will, budget.

14 The OPM Secretary did send out guidance for
15 agency budget requests for fiscal '24/'25 asking
16 them to be submitted by September 1st back to OPM.
17 I did draft up -- and it was shared previously at
18 our last meeting. We kind of discussed options of
19 what things we should include into the budget.

20 The draft budget that was kind of circulated
21 around was basically the water plan, which I took
22 from the federal grant, but then added in a line
23 item of payroll for the water planning chief that
24 we all have discussed. And I took it at a policy
25 development coordinator level, average midrange,

1 which is typically what we do budget because we
2 can't really establish a new title person for DAS,
3 but we have to find something that would be
4 comparable -- and that was the closest thing I
5 could find for a reference. So I did that, add
6 that into the budget as well.

7 The other things that I think we need to talk
8 about looking at is also any type of
9 administrative support we need as a water planning
10 council, or any that our workgroups need. And if
11 so, then we should include those into the budget,
12 whether it be administrative support -- it was
13 kind of what I labeled it in the budget. Looking
14 at what I call secretarial, doing the minutes,
15 getting the agendas out, those type of things.
16 And that fortunately, PURA has been doing the
17 Water Planning Council.

18 I know my staff has been handling the drought
19 workgroup. Other agencies are doing other pieces
20 of that and everything, which is fine if we want
21 to be able to continue that way and doing that.
22 Or do we want to look at having an administrative
23 person that handles all of that type of stuff?
24 These are just budget options, if you will.

25 So those are kinds of things for

1 consideration, which are not part of what I had
2 sent out to everybody. There's line items for it,
3 but it's not broken down in that sense. And I
4 believe that was all part of the meeting packet
5 that was sent out -- but if I need to call it up
6 to share, I can do that.

7 The other piece is I did speak to the
8 Secretary regarding the budget giving him
9 awareness that we would be submitting a budget.
10 He recommended that PURA put it in as a sub-budget
11 of their budget for the Water Planning Council, so
12 not as a separate Water Planning Council per se
13 agency budget, but it come in with PURA's
14 submission of their budget -- was his
15 recommendation.

16 So sorry, Jack, to throw that on you -- but
17 its basically kind of a sub-budget as part of
18 PURA's. You would have Water Planning Council
19 listed and then the items on that with your
20 submission from the agency rather than creating a
21 new agency line and everything -- was I think his
22 intent that way.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** So that's kind of the updates I have and
25 where things are at. And so kind of more of a

1 couple decision points -- I think we're all in
2 agreement of the water planning update. The
3 budget cycle; I kind of just split the costs over
4 two fiscal years, fiscal '24 and '25.

5 And let me know if it's helpful -- do you
6 want me to call up the chart so we can look at
7 that? Or does everybody have it, the Excel
8 spreadsheet?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori and Graham, do you have a copy of
10 it?

11 LORI MATHIEU: I have it, but it might be -- I don't
12 know if it's helpful for others to see this.

13 It's up to you, Martin.

14 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Give me one second. As long as I
15 can share the screen, let me just -- it doesn't
16 look like I can share.

17 MS. LUPOLI: Martin, you should be able to.

18 I have permitted that.

19 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Give me a second, then. Let's see
20 if I can -- oh, wait a minute.

21 Now -- you should be able to see my screen?

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: The correct item as well -- so there
25 you go.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. So what I've done is the top
2 lines, there you see I've got just fiscal '24-'25.

3 Payroll was the water planning chief for, you
4 know, it would be listed policy development
5 coordinator level. That was the midrange of that
6 position.

7 The administrative support right now is --
8 I'm just scanning down slightly just so you see.
9 I've kind of got a breakdown of the administrative
10 support at the bottom of the screen, which shows
11 25,000. This was the state water plan. We had
12 originally put 50,000 in.

13 The directional project manager which would
14 be our person of handling all the updates to the
15 state water plan. And that's, you know, we can
16 come back to that -- and then a consultant.

17 So we kind of just broke out all those costs;
18 the presentation, advertising, marketing, printing
19 and binding. And I kind of just fluctuated
20 saying, okay. One is going to be more in one
21 fiscal year, and one is going to be in the other
22 fiscal year.

23 If those need to be adjusted -- because I'm
24 just guessing. I wasn't involved with the last
25 plan update, so I don't know where the costs

1 actually fell. I assume it's probably going to be
2 a two-year process. We're not going to complete
3 this all in one year.

4 So I kind of just took liberty to split them
5 out of what I thought. And then you see other
6 line items here such as, you know, education,
7 training, in-state travel. These are just other
8 items which I know are typically parts of budget.

9 We may not have those items, but under the
10 administrative support, as I had mentioned this
11 would be where we would add in, do we want
12 administrative support for the Water Planning
13 Council, the interagency drought workgroup,
14 implementation, the water planning advisory group,
15 or the watershed lands workgroup?

16 You know, is this something we want? Of
17 course, we'd have to come up with what those
18 figures are for staff time, if you will, which
19 would either be hiring somebody to do that, or an
20 outside contractor to be able to handle minutes,
21 everything else, in that sense and what duties
22 we'd want them to do.

23 So that may be a bigger ask. I'm not sure if
24 it would go through, but it's just things we
25 should consider if we are developing a full

1 budget.

2 And then whatever numbers we would put in
3 there, obviously that breakdown, that would filter
4 back up into this total up here for administrative
5 support, because that would encompass -- that's
6 the breakdown below of it. So that's kind of the
7 just preliminary budget document I came up with.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Martin, I have like a procedural
9 question for you?

10 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah?

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: First off, I really appreciate you,
12 your effort in shepherding this through and
13 putting together this proposal. So I understand
14 it would be a sub-portion of PURA's budget
15 potentially.

16 Would it be two line items? Or would it be
17 one? Would it be PS and then OE? I'm just trying
18 to think about the flexibility on that OE if it
19 was. OE meaning, operating expenses to those who
20 are familiar with state budgets. PS being
21 personal services, that typically pays for staff.

22 And then if we don't have that information at
23 this point, that's fine.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. Let me -- I believe you are
25 correct. I think the budget I have is more of a

1 complete breakdown.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: Operating budget, right. Right.

3 MARTIN HEFT: You know, for showing the operating --
4 but I think, correct.

5 You would have -- I'm not sure. I'd have to
6 go back through the guidelines that were sent out,
7 because I have not done it from my end of this
8 side, so.

9 But I agree. You're right. Typically when
10 the budget gets published you have, here's your
11 salary line items and here's your operating
12 expense line items, and then they get broken down
13 back at the agency, per se.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah.

15 MARTIN HEFT: So this is kind of the background to what
16 we'd be putting in for the totals of our requests
17 and everything, but we'd still have to submit the
18 information there -- but it wouldn't be what, you
19 know, we wouldn't have the full breakdown in the
20 budget.

21 And I believe that if something needs to be
22 switched around between that, you know that that
23 could happen as long as we are within the total,
24 overall of our total budget.

25 I think -- does that answer your question?

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: It does answer my question.

2 MARTIN HEFT: Okay.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thank you. I think any budget is
4 going to be fantastic for us as a group, and
5 collectively for everyone.

6 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. And I think the priority is the
7 state water plan, that that's a priority for an
8 update on that. So that becomes -- I think for me
9 that's like a number-one priority.

10 The second is water planning chief.

11 And then third would be the administrative
12 support and everything. If we had to say, well,
13 we can only do this much, that would be kind of
14 like a priority thing.

15 And the one piece, if we're hiring a water
16 planning chief, if they're going to be handling
17 the water plan update, you know we may not need
18 the durational project manager in there if we're
19 going to be doing that on that.

20 Or is there going to be enough work for the
21 chief to do outside of all of this, versus just
22 updating the water plan -- which we know can be a
23 full-time job in itself?

24 So just throwing all the things out there for
25 discussion and thoughts.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori?

2 LORI MATHIEU: Well, first of all, Martin, thank you
3 for putting this budget forward. I would agree
4 with Graham. Any amount of support would be more
5 than welcome, but I think that this really hits
6 the mark with, you not only need the chief, but
7 you need a durational project manager to work with
8 a consultant on the water plan update.

9 Because there's an enormous -- if people
10 remember from those times, it's a lot of work.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh.

12 LORI MATHIEU: So that's happening, not only when
13 you're updating the plan, but then all of the
14 operational work that we are doing and that we
15 need to continue to oversee and move forward.

16 I would put -- and absolutely I agree with
17 the secretarial support, but also administrative
18 support for the drought workgroup, because the
19 implementation workgroup -- for every workgroup I
20 think that there needs to be support, and whatever
21 form that that comes in, maybe there's either
22 another person or however we want to look at this.
23 I think every workgroup deserves support.

24 I know that in my agency we struggle to have
25 our staff that are doing many other things, attend

1 and try to keep up with the work that's ongoing.
2 And I think to be fair to every workgroup or
3 sub-workgroup they all need support in whatever
4 way, shape or form.

5 So I like it. I think it's efficient. I
6 like the two-year idea, because I -- it might even
7 need to be into a third year, dare I say, because
8 everything takes time.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right.

10 LORI MATHIEU: And that the idea of having a consultant
11 back on board to help us refresh the plan, but at
12 the same time implement pieces. And I think that
13 that's an important aspect here, because we're not
14 going to stop the work while we're refreshing the
15 plan and providing updates.

16 And who knows what the drought will bring to
17 all of us here? Right? We may have our hands
18 full over the next year. So you know we have to
19 be really mindful of that plan. And Martin,
20 you've done an excellent job and the whole team of
21 agencies of updating that plan, but as we know
22 there's so much work there.

23 If we get into the next level, you know we're
24 all going to be all hands on deck to implement
25 into the next stage. So I'm very supportive of

1 everything you have there and I would add more
2 support if we could -- if we dare to help the
3 workgroups.

4 MARTIN HEFT: So if I may, Jack, on that?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MARTIN HEFT: So thanks, Lori.

7 So one thought is instead of necessarily
8 breaking down into each of the workgroups, is that
9 as kind of Lori mentioned, is we put in for an
10 executive secretary position on it -- which kind
11 of covers all of the workgroups, everything else
12 to help with all the secretarial type work and
13 everything, which will help minimize some of the
14 agency work on it.

15 It's not going to eliminate all things. We
16 know certain things will have to be -- especially
17 if meetings overlap or things, you know, type of
18 things, but it would give that administrative
19 support. And so that mid level of that position
20 is probably around 75,000 roughly for an executive
21 secretary. There's different levels on it if you
22 wanted executive versus administrative.

23 So we could actually, under administrative
24 support, change that to a hundred thousand which
25 leaves the 25,000 separate for the water plan.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Uh-huh.

2 MARTIN HEFT: And then a position for the secretarial,
3 which would work with the water planning chief and
4 obviously all of us, and look at it in that sense.

5 Whoops -- sorry. I'm typing here and I added
6 extra zeros. That's not going to work.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: That will decrease our chances,
8 Martin.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Right. Yeah.

10 So if we did that and literally just kind of
11 handled it at that with what we've talked about,
12 you're looking about a 1,105,000 budget for fiscal
13 '24; and 1,085,000 for fiscal '25. So it's kind
14 of comparable each year, almost a 1.1-million
15 budget each year.

16 The majority of that, as we know, is the
17 water plan besides the salaried two positions
18 there, the rest is all really in the water plan --
19 which seems would be a good first step ask.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: So Martin, let's just talk about process
21 here.

22 In the past when we did it, the consultant
23 came through OPM and the secretary is suggesting
24 it goes through PURA -- which is really an arm of
25 DEEP.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: So I'm going to have to talk to Dennis
3 Thibodeau and see how -- of course, and our
4 Chairman, and make sure -- I'm sure she won't have
5 a problem with it.

6 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: But then talk about -- so then it would
8 come back to OPM. Would it not?

9 MARTIN HEFT: Well, yeah. All the budgets are going to
10 come back to us for all of that, and then they go
11 through the whole budget process. Correct.

12 But it's like looking at where it should be
13 housed, if you will.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

15 MARTIN HEFT: You know that was where the Secretary
16 said -- because at first we had all thought, well,
17 we'll just house it here at OPM directly, but then
18 he suggested PURA. So it's like, okay.

19 And it's like if he wasn't opposed to telling
20 him that we need to update the state water plan.

21 Told him the amounts. I said last time I
22 believe it was bonded, versus doing it for the
23 budget and everything else, but -- well, actually
24 we know it was bonded, but we're not recommending
25 it be done that way on it.

1 Obviously, that's an alternative if they want
2 to do that, but that's not going to help if they
3 want to bond the water plan piece -- but obviously
4 we're looking for staff to be continually. That
5 can't be bonded anyway, so.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Exactly.

7 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And we have to get this completed by
9 September 1. Correct?

10 MARTIN HEFT: That's the request, to have it in by
11 then. Yeah, agencies to submit by then.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I'm very excited and optimistic as
13 I always am -- but we'll see. You know I'm going
14 through enough budgets at the local level and the
15 state level, and can ask for more and see what we
16 come up with.

17 But from what I read in the paper, as I said
18 at the last meeting we're flush with cash in the
19 State right now.

20 So maybe this is the year to do it.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Plus I would say that we are in
22 desperate need to update the plan and in desperate
23 need for, you know, I see so many names here of
24 people that have volunteered their time over the
25 years and decades, people like Margaret Miner and

1 others, and Virginia and that have just put so
2 much time and effort into all of this, and on a
3 volunteer basis.

4 So it would be unbelievable to have -- Jack,
5 after how many years? 20 years of this with we've
6 been assigning our staff to help out, but to have
7 an actual staff and a budget would be -- would get
8 us to the next level. I would get the plan into a
9 place where we can just really feel good about the
10 implementation and get it moving forward.

11 Because right now conservation is so
12 important. The items that we work on are really
13 important, and to have people that can move these
14 forward while we do our other jobs -- right? Is
15 important to do, and I think that's been our
16 struggle for years.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Martin, one thing I -- just playing
18 devil's advocate a little bit -- PURA, I wonder if
19 the Secretary in the back of his mind is saying,
20 if we can assess all the utilities as part of this
21 water plan.

22 I mean, I don't know if that was -- but
23 clearly we have a statutory ability. When we put
24 together the PURA budget that's all funded by
25 ratepayers.

1 So I'm wondering -- I have to look out. I've
2 talked to Dennis --

3 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: -- and I've certainly talked to our
5 Chair. I don't know if she'd be crazy about using
6 it for the water plan, and not for more positions
7 in our place so -- but it's something we have to
8 kind of flesh out.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. No, that's fine. You know we go
10 with that and see where it comes out with
11 everything at that point. Right.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, personally with the money we
13 spend to assess companies for utility programs and
14 everything else, when you divide this amount
15 between the ratepayers, it's not a huge amount of
16 money, so.

17 MARTIN HEFT: Well, if I may, Jack?

18 From our conversations here, if I can share
19 my screen again? I just updated with what we've
20 talked about.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Great.

22 MARTIN HEFT: So give me one second if I get -- okay.

23 So what I've done is, as the numbers I had
24 already mentioned, basically the 1.1 each year,
25 basically all I do is under administrative support

1 changed it to a hundred thousand, which you'll see
2 in the bottom is 75,000 -- which would be the
3 Water Planning Council, the workgroups, which
4 would be a secretarial position.

5 And then still leaving the 25,000 in there
6 for support for the state water plan separately,
7 because we know that's a whole separate thing
8 totaling a hundred thousand. And then you've got
9 the payroll for the water planning chief and then
10 all the other water planning update pieces in
11 there.

12 I mean, that would be a good recommendation
13 for a first budget through, rather than even
14 looking at -- I think that kind of covers it and
15 at least gets us a base and see where it goes.
16 You know it kind of covers our priorities.
17 Obviously, the priority is the state water plan.

18 You know we get the planning chief in there
19 and then get our help -- and there are kind of the
20 three things that we've talked about.

21 LORI MATHIEU: Martin, that looks good to me. I just
22 wondering -- I'm curious about the line item. And
23 not to nitpick, but just a question about
24 presentation, slash, meetings -- and the first
25 year, 75,000. What do you envision?

1 MARTIN HEFT: Well, that's the way we did the budget
2 for federal. And that's the way it was listed,
3 was all the things for the state water plan of
4 having to do outside presentations, getting input,
5 all of those pieces there.

6 So I figured the most was going to happen the
7 first year when you're out doing all the public
8 outreach and everything on that, versus the second
9 year. I mean, I can split it 50/50.

10 I meant -- that's what I'm saying. I just
11 took a guess, because these were the numbers
12 originally that Denise helped us get together when
13 we put up the budget for the --

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

15 MARTIN HEFT: -- for the whole piece there. So that's
16 why I said, the numbers may -- I just kind of took
17 a guess -- like understand printing/binding that's
18 going to be the second year of it, because that's
19 the budget report itself, or (unintelligible) --

20 LORI MATHIEU: Just my question is, what would the
21 \$75,000 pay for?

22 MARTIN HEFT: I don't know. This is -- I didn't
23 propose the water plan budget.

24 LORI MATHIEU: I don't know.

25 Nothing comes to mind when I'm looking at

1 that number. So maybe my colleagues can help me.

2 **MARTIN HEFT:** Okay. Yeah. And as I said, I wasn't
3 involved the last time so I can't tell you. I'm
4 just using the numbers that were given to me, and
5 I just plugged them in appropriate categories.

6 **LORI MATHIEU:** Right. I don't -- Jack, or Martin, do
7 we have any thoughts about what that money would
8 go for, what that would be spent on?

9 Or do we want to -- like, what are the real
10 needs here if we have these staff?

11 They're going to need --

12 **MARTIN HEFT:** Well, is there not a public outreach
13 process that we have to go through?

14 **LORI MATHIEU:** Uh-huh.

15 **MARTIN HEFT:** Through this? So that's part of the
16 presentation and meetings portion there, whether
17 it be all of that piece. I mean, that's what I'm
18 assuming all of that amount was there, and it was
19 a hundred thousand that was put into the budget
20 that was based upon what was spent the last time.

21 **LORI MATHIEU:** And just the presentations that we did
22 to promote the plan, it was just -- I don't think
23 there was a cost associated really.

24 The association, you know, the cost was our
25 time and the effort, and I think a lot of the

1 effort would be developing the presentations. The
2 time would be in, you know, the funding would be
3 needed to fund the people that would do that work
4 to put that work together, to put the
5 presentations together, to line up the locations,
6 to do the organization of it.

7 That's what I would see where the funding
8 needs to go for the people to do that work. I'm
9 not certain what --

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: I would second Lori there. I mean, I
11 feel like that might have been a different time
12 and a different approach.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: But we could also strike that line
15 item, which does look a little bit weak.

16 And actually we could even up the
17 consultant's line item, and just round it up --

18 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

19 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- to 700,000 each year.

20 Because I think I could see the need -- maybe
21 we do have a contractor who helps us with
22 outreach, meeting preparation, and that sort of
23 thing, which I don't think would ever hit the
24 75,000 mark -- but you know we could hire someone
25 to help us with strategic communication and

1 feedback, particularly from communities and folks
2 who are not as engaged.

3 So I think that some of those dollars should
4 be preserved, but I think if you rolled it up into
5 the consultant line item and just made that
6 700,000 each year, that that would cover the
7 needs.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, because when we went out before we
9 did spend a lot of time on the road.

10 LORI MATHIEU: We did.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: But as Lori alluded to, our individual
12 agencies paid for that. I mean, if I had people
13 come out there was overtime involved. We absorbed
14 that. So if there was mileage involved we
15 absorbed that, too -- meals, whatever.

16 So I think the suggestion to put up the
17 consultant is a good one.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Agreed.

19 GRAHAM STEVENS: The only other --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: See how Martin does it so nice?

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: He's quite proficient.

22 And I don't know if it makes sense from a
23 strategic perspective or not, to lump the
24 administrative support into all three, all three
25 categories into one line item? Or to keep it

1 separate just to distinguish between those at the
2 bottom, Martin, the 75' and 25'?

3 MARTIN HEFT: Well, the bottom one that was just our --
4 that's our backup of how we broke down that
5 hundred thousand.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: Correct, our internal breakdown.

7 Okay.

8 MARTIN HEFT: Right. Just so everyone could kind of
9 see where that is on there so we knew if we're
10 hiring someone for that, but then the other 25,000
11 would be more consultant if we added secretarial
12 needs for it that way.

13 GRAHAM STEVENS: Understood.

14 MARTIN HEFT: It could also be our person that's doing
15 secretarial, if we get that person -- so.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right. Understood. Okay.

17 MARTIN HEFT: But also I wanted to just break it out
18 there, Graham, just so if for some reason they
19 say -- and budget it. It's like, okay. We're not
20 going to give you the secretarial position.

21 Well, we need the 25,000 then for water plan
22 in that position.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right.

24 MARTIN HEFT: So I want to make sure that we now
25 have -- you know what that difference is there.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right.

2 MARTIN HEFT: And we could list both up above and keep
3 the two separate, if that was your suggestion.

4 Or?

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: No. No, I think this looks fantastic
6 as is.

7 LORI MATHIEU: And do we want to -- row seven, Graham,
8 you had mentioned OE, operating expenses. Do we
9 want to list row seven as more of an OE so that we
10 are not limited to printing and binding? Because
11 you know printing paper these days is --

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: We may. We may pivot away from that,
13 but -- right.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: So that this could be --

16 MARTIN HEFT: And you may want -- right. Yeah, because
17 I agree. Yeah, we're probably not printing and
18 binding out the state water plan at the end. It's
19 all going to be PDFs, and everything else.

20 And you know we could put that at 25,000 each
21 year or split it --

22 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

23 MARTIN HEFT: -- just as operating, because --

24 LORI MATHIEU: It could be building (unintelligible) --

25 MARTIN HEFT: When you've got the same budgeting here.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Right.

2 Look at that it looks nice. Very good.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: We do have to print -- what? Nine
4 copies for the state library.

5 MARTIN HEFT: Well, right. Yeah, but that would all
6 fall into that.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: They'll be -- (unintelligible) -- but
8 yeah. But we won't put one in each library.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Right. Yeah.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: We should.

11 LORI MATHIEU: We should. We should.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: Do we want to list that one, Martin,
13 as administrative support, state water plan?

14 Let's draw that distinction.

15 MARTIN HEFT: Well, I kind of have that there.

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: We already have that there. Right.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. Yeah.

18 MARTIN HEFT: I was just adding secretary into that
19 one --

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Line it up. I see.

21 MARTIN HEFT: -- to sort of differentiate as a
22 position. I mean, we can tweak the names on it if
23 we need to or whatever else.

24 But if we get a budget, then it gives us
25 something Jack can take back to PURA and

1 everything else of where we're at, and least a
2 base to go with. And if we've got to provide more
3 detail on a certain thing, then obviously we can
4 do that and get whatever other detail is needed.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So, yeah. Because when you submit any
6 type of proposed budget to the State, you have to
7 have some type of narrative that goes along with
8 it. And you've done a great job looking at the
9 statutes, looking at the Water Planning Council
10 statutes and seeing how the budget relates to
11 that.

12 So we probably, before we submit it, want to
13 have an appendix with these line items just
14 explaining the updated plan. We could just
15 chapter and verse quote back the state statute,
16 why -- why we need it.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Because there's a part that says we
18 should be implementing this, too. Right -- I
19 think? And we're supposed to be reporting out,
20 and you know all of those administrative
21 functions -- I think, are there.

22 MARTIN HEFT: Right.

23 LORI MATHIEU: So the fact that the expectation is that
24 we're not only going to keep the plan up to date,
25 is that we're actually going to implement. And a

1 lot of this funding is for also implementation.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Exactly.

3 MARTIN HEFT: Right. Yeah, there were the two
4 statutes, but the one reverts back over. Because
5 one was the 25-330. But then at the end, like all
6 the reporting in that, it gets shifted over to
7 22a-352.

8 LORI MATHIEU: 352, yeah.

9 MARTIN HEFT: So that's what I put at the bottom of
10 this chart here, just as a statutory reference.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Right.

12 MARTIN HEFT: But I can -- I'll list both of them in
13 there because it does talk -- the first one talks
14 about the advisory group and everything, so I'll
15 list both there.

16 LORI MATHIEU: Right. Right.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MARTIN HEFT: Well, Jack, with that if everyone else is
19 set, I think you've got a budget to, I guess, get
20 a motion for -- maybe?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I was going to, pretty much. And
22 hopefully you can assist me with the narrative as
23 we put this together.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Oh, we'll try.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you've done a pretty good job.

1 MARTIN HEFT: In between. In between my drought stuff
2 this week.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: That's right. So then I'll entertain a
4 motion that we, the Water Planning Council submit
5 a budget through PURA for the years '23/'24.

6 MARTIN HEFT: And '24/'25.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Right. '23/'24 and '24/'25.

8 Do I have motion to that effect?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Can we just be clear on which years
10 we're talking?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We're talking July 1 of next year; July
12 '23 to July '24; and July '24 to July '25, I
13 believe. Right, Martin?

14 MARTIN HEFT: Correct. They go by the last year. So
15 you're looking at fiscal '24 and fiscal '25. We
16 are currently in fiscal '23 now. So they always
17 use the last day of the fiscal year as what fiscal
18 year it is.

19 So yeah. That will go July 1st of '24, until
20 June 30th of '25. And then July 1st of '25, to
21 June 30th of, you know -- or '24. Yeah. I had it
22 confused with, myself. You know, that June 30th.
23 Right.

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think we can say state fiscal
25 year --

1 LORI MATHIEU: State fiscal year.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: State fiscal year '24 --

3 MARTIN HEFT: State fiscal year '24 and '25.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: And state fiscal year '25.

5 MARTIN HEFT: And you want to put for total budget
6 request 1,070,000 for each fiscal year.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Right.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Subject to --

9 LORI MATHIEU: So maybe this -- right. Sorry, Graham.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: I would just say also subject to
11 further discussions. Right? So we're going to
12 make sure that that authorization allows us to
13 negotiate changes if need be.

14 You ready for this one, Jack?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

16 All those in favor.

17 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

19 This is a very historic meeting when you
20 think about it. It really is. And it's going to
21 be hopefully -- we'll get something, I'm sure.

22 And I think it helps that it's coming out
23 of -- the Secretary is instructing us where we
24 should have it submitted, and I think we have a
25 lot of history and documentation to back it up.

1 And I think it's going to be good.

2 So do we have anything else to come before us
3 for our next meeting versus the first -- the
4 regular meeting is the first Tuesday in September?

5 **MARTIN HEFT:** And Jack, I will just mention I will get
6 this out to everybody, the revised version that I
7 had up online just so -- if just you, Jack, so you
8 have it. And then they'll have it for the
9 transcript if needed as well, so.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent. Good. Thank you.

11 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Chairman, can I just give some
12 comments?

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Graham?

14 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I really appreciate everyone on this
15 Council's enthusiasm and care for this. This
16 is -- I'm feeling like a little bit overwhelmed to
17 think that we could get a budget that will bring
18 us forward even faster than we can do with what we
19 have in place.

20 And to think about, you know, providing the
21 stakeholders who've put so much of their life into
22 this with some additional resources just really
23 makes me feel a bit overwhelmed. So thank you for
24 your leadership, and thank you all for your
25 efforts many times.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And it's indeed a group
2 effort. And we have certainly the backup of the
3 Water Planning Council advisory group which had to
4 switch its schedule around to be with us today.

5 And the implementation group, we have a very
6 enthusiastic group. We couldn't do it without
7 them and we're very, very fortunate to have their
8 spirit and compassion for this plan.

9 And like I said before, I mean, when you see
10 the plan drought-wise throughout the United States
11 right now, I think it makes our case much more
12 formidable right now.

13 So with that, if there's nothing else to come
14 before us I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

15 I thank everybody for their participation.

16 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

19 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Have a good rest of the week, everyone.

21 Be safe. Thank you.

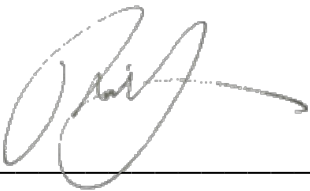
22 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thanks all.

24
25 (End: 2:11 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 35 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 August 16, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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