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2 THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS 58 PAGES

3 NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 58

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 Regular Meeting held at the Department of Energy
13 and Environmental Protection and Public Utilities
14 Regulatory Authority, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain,
15 Connecticut, on February 7, 2023, beginning at
16 1:34 p.m.

17
18 H e l d B e f o r e:

19 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, WPC CHAIRMAN,

20 and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN
21
22
23
24
25

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) (via teleconference)

6 GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP) (via teleconference)

7

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

9 CHRIS BELLUCCI (via teleconference)

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA

11 DAVID RADKA

12 DAVID KUZMINSKI (via teleconference)

13 DENISE SAVAGEAU

14 KAREN BURNASKA (via teleconference)

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT

16 CAROL HASKINS

17 ALYSON AYOTTE

18 MAUREEN WESTBROOK

19 LISETTE STONE

20

21 **Staff:**

22 LAURA LUPOLI

1 (Begin: 1:34 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon. We'll call this
4 meeting, in-person meeting of the Water Planning
5 Council to order for February 7th.

6 With me this afternoon is Undersecretary
7 Martin Heft and on the Zoom is Lori Mathieu,
8 Bureau Chief. And we have Graham Stevens from the
9 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

10 The first order of business will be the
11 approval of the January 3, 2023 transcript. Do I
12 hear a motion?

13 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, are you going to second that
15 motion?

16 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, seconded.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, we hear you loud and clear, Lori.
18 Very nice.

19 Any questions on the motion?

20
21 (No response.)

22
23 THE CHAIR: If not, all those in favor signify by
24 saying aye.

25 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

2
3 (No response.)
4

5 THE CHAIR: The motion carried.

6 At this point I'd like to entertain a motion
7 to move items on the agenda, item 6A, which is a
8 special presentation. I'd like to take that up
9 now. Do we have a motion?

10 MARTIN HEFT: So moved to adjust the agenda.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Second to that?

12 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that we adjust
14 the agenda to move item 6A, special presentation.

15 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

18
19 (No response.)
20

21 THE CHAIR: The motion carried.

22 Okay. Now this afternoon we have a very
23 special -- can everybody hear me okay?

24 LORI MATHIEU: Yes.

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yes, sir.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a very special presentation to
2 make this afternoon.

3 And Maureen Westbrook, please come forward.

4 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: I never get to go in the circle.

5 No testifying.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: So, good afternoon. You know, it's very
7 interesting that this is the first in-person
8 meeting we've had in three years. Can you believe
9 it? Three years. And how I know is that Lori
10 Mathieu bought me lunch three years ago when we
11 were at a Thai restaurant, and I'm due to buy her
12 lunch. And this is very true because I always
13 mark it in my calendar, and that's when it was.

14 But I can think of no better occasion than to
15 honor our good friend Maureen Westbrook for her
16 years and years of service to the water industry,
17 to the Water Planning Council.

18 And she is going to be the second Champion of
19 Water awardee.

20 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Now Mike Caron had a run, Commissioner
22 Caron, but he said something very interesting.
23 It's not the kind of award you give every year.
24 It's an award to give when somebody really has
25 done some special things, great things for the

1 water industry.

2 The first awardee was Margaret Miner -- and
3 she's not on the line? I don't know if she's on
4 the line or not today.

5 But Maureen has been an absolute delight to
6 work with during my 25 years here. She's always
7 been passionate about the water industry. She was
8 a great colleague. She was very supportive of the
9 National Association of Regulatory Commissioners,
10 the water committee where I started as Chairman,
11 and became president of NARUC, and now Mike Caron
12 is president.

13 But Maureen has always been there to support
14 us. She was one of the first co-chairs of the
15 Water Planning Council Advisory Group. And she
16 was never a wallflower, but she was also very good
17 at professional dealing.

18 And as I said at her retirement, you know,
19 I've always had the philosophy the companies are
20 not the enemy. As a regulator, you're not the
21 enemy. You work with them collaboratively. You
22 try to do things for the people of the state of
23 Connecticut, and she had that front and foremost.
24 It was all about the customers, and that was her
25 philosophy.

1 So I'm very, very happy to present this to
2 you. I know Martin wants to say a few words.

3 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sure, very few.

4 Maureen -- and Jack, thank you for all those
5 comments for Maureen because you know that
6 encompasses everything of what you have done.

7 Maureen and I go back many years, back to
8 when I was first selectman back in Chester, she
9 was working for a water company. So watching each
10 of us grow together as we've gone through this
11 entire process over the past however many years
12 now. We won't go -- a few years for that.

13 But watching you grow in your positions
14 through the water company, working at the
15 different levels with you has been an absolute
16 pleasure, and you know I value your expertise and
17 your knowledge that you have given to the Water
18 Planning Council and all the other, you know,
19 entities that you have been involved with.

20 **MAUREEN WESTBROOK:** Thank you.

21 I think it's fitting that Margaret and I both
22 got this, because we were the opposite sides of
23 many of the debates. Mary Mushinsky would say, if
24 Maureen and Margaret agree, it's a good-to-go.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Cochairs, right?

1 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: Yeah.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: The first cochairs.

3 Lori or Graham, would you like to say a few
4 words?

5 LORI MATHIEU: Sure. Graham, do you want to go first?

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I'll go Lori. Thank you.

7 So congratulations. It's not often. We've
8 only mentioned two champions of water. And you
9 know our time working together has been limited,
10 but I know that your name is mentioned on a
11 regular basis within the halls of DEEP as we're
12 having conversations on water planning,
13 diversions, streamflow.

14 So you know all of these programs within DEEP
15 have your fingerprints on them, and we appreciate
16 all of the work that you have done to improve what
17 we do for ultimately the water and the citizens of
18 Connecticut.

19 So congratulations, and thank you very much
20 for your years of service.

21 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori?

23 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, thank you, Jack. Thank you, Graham
24 and Martin.

25 So, Maureen, you had worked for the Health

1 Department in the 1980s. Right? Maybe a lot of
2 people don't realize that. But when I first
3 started working in 1988, and Denise Ruzicka was
4 here, she would speak about you all the time,
5 about how you built the program, you worked on the
6 planning aspect of water supply and planning in
7 the 1980s for the Department of Public Health.

8 And so your time spent in this department has
9 great meaning today. Right? Even to today. Is
10 that 40 years? I can't even believe it. It's so
11 many years ago -- it's like that's a long time
12 ago.

13 But then fast forward into the 1990s, and
14 your work on revising -- if you remember all of
15 this? You probably do. You were instrumental in
16 revising and updating the water supply plan
17 regulations. And I was just a young person at
18 that time, just learning and was -- marveled at
19 your expertise and what you were able to do and
20 accomplish.

21 And again, as Jack had mentioned, and as
22 Martin, we're always working together to have
23 consensus around what we were trying to accomplish
24 for the State of Connecticut.

25 And then the next ten years. Right? The

1 Water Planning Council, and Jack being the
2 Chairman in 2001, and how difficult that year was.
3 Right? 2001 after 911.

4 But I remember -- and maybe I'm getting the
5 years wrong -- the year 2002, I think that whole
6 summer, Jack, we spent, I spent -- invested time,
7 a lot of us did, sitting in that room that you're
8 in today and talking about the new Water Planning
9 Council and where we should go, and what we should
10 all do together.

11 And we developed the very first plan, the
12 first idea, the model that we built and you were a
13 big part of that. And as Jack mentioned, that you
14 were the very first, along with Margaret, the
15 chairs. And leading that, that newly formed
16 advisory team, which was really important to all
17 of our work, and has been ever since.

18 Like you set the tone that, number one, this
19 is a collaborative approach. Right? And number
20 two, that we're here to work together and provide
21 for balance. Right?

22 And then another time, I'm working with you
23 on spending a lot of time at 79 Elm Street, on
24 minimal stream flow, as Graham had mentioned.
25 There was another time for negotiation and

1 discussion, and if it wasn't for your input and
2 your level of expertise there, we wouldn't have
3 what we have today, which is a really good example
4 of how we can move forward and provide for
5 balance.

6 So through all of those experiences -- and
7 there's many more, but those are the things that
8 came to my mind when we were thinking about this
9 as a group, that so well-deserved Champion of
10 Water. When I heard that you're retiring, I said,
11 no. No please, you can't leave us.

12 So I hope that you stick around, and I hope
13 that you know you're always welcome to our group,
14 our team, and to participate in any way that you
15 would wish -- but I wish you well in your
16 retirement.

17 And thank you for the years and the decades
18 of all the work that you've done.

19 So I just want to say thank you.

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

21 And Karen Burnaska, would you like to say a
22 few words on behalf of Safe the Sound?

23 **KAREN BURNASKA:** Oh, I would love to. And first of
24 all, I have to thank you for doing the Zoom
25 meeting, because all the bad things that had to do

1 with COVID. What the Zoom got -- unfortunately
2 got us doing is we have back -- because we don't
3 have to get in a car and physically drive
4 someplace, we do back-to-back things all the time.

5 And Maureen, I can't tell you how
6 disappointed I am to not be there in person, and
7 the same for the staff at Safe the Sound.

8 And I would just like to echo what you've
9 heard already, but in looking back, it's been
10 over -- over 15 years that you have worked with
11 staff at Connecticut Fund for the Environment and
12 Save the Sound.

13 And you have always -- we've worked together
14 for the benefit of the environment and for the
15 drinking water for Connecticut's residents.

16 And two of the things I just have to point
17 out -- one comes from your buddy, Kurt Johnson,
18 who has also retired from Connecticut Fund for the
19 Environment, and all the many hours that you
20 spent, the two of you and many others spent
21 developing and proposing legislation that would
22 give tax incentives to water companies to help
23 them protect land. Great job.

24 And more recently, with Leah Schmalz and
25 other staff at Save the Sound, the MOU that

1 Connecticut Water signed with Connecticut Forest
2 and Park Association and Save the Sound to help
3 municipalities, and land trusts acquire and
4 preserve surplus Connecticut Water Company land
5 and also to increase recreational opportunities.

6 When I think of you, us working together
7 benefits all. And just on behalf of Leah and Kurt
8 and myself, we would like to congratulate you on
9 receiving this wonderful award today. You
10 absolutely deserve it.

11 To thank you for all your years of service to
12 the -- I call it the water community, the water
13 community, but most of all is to wish you best of
14 luck in your retirement. Enjoy it. Have fun, but
15 you will definitely be missed.

16 Thank you, Maureen.

17 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else wish to speak?

19 Virginia, you don't want to talk?

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: How can you add accolades to
21 accolades?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. There you go.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Well said.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well said. Okay. So let's get a
25 picture and then we'll ask you to say a few words.

1 (Pause.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Maureen, the floor is yours.

4 MAUREEN WESTBROOK: All right. Well, I could, you
5 know, torture the stenographer and speak quickly
6 and carry on a whole lot in the next two
7 minutes -- but I won't do that.

8 But I do want to say, I mean, the things
9 people talked about and the ability to work
10 together with people has been some of the most fun
11 things of my career.

12 There have been moments, I will say, during
13 the heat of it that they weren't always fun, but
14 the outcomes that we got together are really
15 something that I'm proud of and I know all of you
16 are -- or can be proud of.

17 That it was working together to get to
18 solutions that made sense for all the parties.
19 And I think that's the stuff that, you know, when
20 I tell people new in their careers and what they
21 can do when they're working with other people,
22 it's, you know, it's not all black and white.
23 There's somewhere in the middle that everybody's
24 got to get a win and we'll be successful, both
25 successful.

1 And so I know I'm not the only one who's
2 spent tons of time working on this. There's many
3 in the room who've been in all those same meetings
4 as I have for over the decades -- I hate to say
5 decades -- but years, decades, whatever. But you
6 know, everybody's got the right interests at heart
7 and really there to serve their constituents, and
8 finding a way to do it together.

9 The process that we set up through the
10 planning council gives us a vehicle to do it and
11 gets all the right people at the table. And so it
12 has been fun, and some things I will look back
13 most fondly in my thinking of my career.

14 So thank you all.

15 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** Hey, Jack. This is Dave in Portland.

16 If you can get me a copy of that picture, I'd love
17 to get it up on CWWA's website.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We will do that -- if it's okay with
19 you?

20 **MAUREEN WESTBROOK:** That's fine.

21 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

22 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** Thank you.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I plan on putting it on Facebook, too.

24 Congradulaions.

25 **MAUREEN WESTBROOK:** Thank you so much.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I would be remiss, too -- I have to
2 thank Laura and Allie, and our IT people for
3 making this happen today. It was no small task to
4 do both Zoom and in person today. So thank you
5 for making this happen. I appreciate it.

6 Okay. Any public comment on agenda items
7 moving forward? Any public comment on agenda
8 items at this point?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move on to agency reports,
13 and we'll start with WUCC. Lori?

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. So Eric -- I'm not certain if Eric
15 is on. I see Lisette. I don't know, Lisette, if
16 you can provide the update -- but I do have the
17 update.

18 So the next -- and it's a brief one. The
19 next WUCC meeting for the implementation meeting
20 is Wednesday, February 15, at one o'clock on
21 Teams, and the discussion will be the
22 prioritization of next coordinated plan
23 implementation items. So it's an important
24 discussion. Again, that is February 15th at one
25 o'clock on Teams.

1 The discussion will continue on with
2 integration of individual water supply plans,
3 sustainable rate structures, cybersecurity,
4 conservation, and resiliency. So there's a lot of
5 good conversation there.

6 Lisette, I know that you're on. If you
7 wanted to add anything to that?

8 LISETTE STONE: No, that's perfect, Lori.

9 Thank you so much.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Thank you, Lisette.

11 Jack, that's it for the WUCC at this point.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Moving right on to private wells,
13 Lori?

14 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Another quick update based upon
15 the law that passed last session, DPH has been
16 working on a data system.

17 Part of the initiative there is to gather
18 information that's coming in from laboratories and
19 to be able to put together a database. We have
20 received -- staff are telling me that we have
21 received. Over 3500 lab reports have been
22 submitted, and we are utilizing that information.

23 This is, again on private wells and
24 semi-public wells, and the electronic reporting
25 database that we're working on right now will

1 replace the e-mail method that we came up with.

2 And so we are working with an IT contractor
3 to help move forward with that mechanism for
4 collecting the information from the environmental
5 laboratories. We're very excited about this
6 because, you know, one of the efforts along with
7 this law change was to be able to have the
8 information in one place, and to be able to share
9 information that is shareable. So we're excited
10 about that.

11 And that's my update on private wells.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Any questions?

13
14 (No response.)

15
16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Moving on to action items. We
17 have the Water Planning Council advisory group
18 nomination for our agriculture representative.

19 Carol?

20 CAROL HASKINS: Good afternoon. We have an action
21 item; the nominating committee would like to make
22 the recommendation to nominate Bonnie Burr,
23 Assistant Director and department head of UConn
24 Extension as the representative for agriculture,
25 with the term beginning January 1st or upon

1 approval and ending December 31st, 2026.

2 And that's filling the vacancy in that
3 position.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I know she's been around quite some
5 time. She has a lot of experience, for sure.

6 CAROL HASKINS: Yes, indeed.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I would entertain a motion.

8 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that Bonnie
12 Burr be a member of the Water Planning Council
13 advisory group, representing the agriculture
14 community.

15 Any questions on the motion?

16
17 (No response.)

18
19 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
20 saying, aye.

21 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

23 CAROL HASKINS: Okay. Wonderful.

24 We also have a question for you, and this may
25 or may not be an action item for now or it can be

1 an update under the advisory group update as a
2 whole.

3 We understand that Tyra Peluso from the
4 Office of Consumer Counsel is no longer working
5 for the State, and she was the alternate for
6 Brenda Watson from Operation Fuel.

7 And Tyra hadn't attended any of the meetings
8 in Brenda's absence, but Brenda has had someone
9 typically from her agency attend the meetings as
10 an alternate.

11 And I don't know all the history of that
12 participation for Office of Consumer Counsel, but
13 I understand that was a recommendation that was
14 made by the counsel itself, that there be a
15 representative from the operation -- or from the
16 Office of Consumer Counsel.

17 So if there is a representative that you guys
18 would like us to consider, we certainly welcome
19 that information.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And the Chairman of the Water Planning
21 Council was supposed to reach out to Claire
22 Coleman -- so I need to do that.

23 **CAROL HASKINS:** Okay.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And see if -- I think they have some new
25 people coming in there, that they'll be

1 interested, and then I'll have her reach out to
2 you with the new person.

3 CAROL HASKINS: Okay. Sounds good. All right. Thank
4 you very much.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

6 Lori, we're back to you. Are you going do a
7 brief PFAS presentation?

8 LORI MATHIEU: Well, there was an item, just a brief
9 update on PFAS. And one thing I wanted to bring
10 to everyone's attention is that very quickly --
11 and this is outside of the other PFAS presentation
12 that I think Chris and I are going to just do a
13 quick update as to what we talked about back in
14 December during our hybrid meeting with the other
15 agencies on PFAS in the action plan.

16 But there is something known as the UCMR rule
17 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and that's the
18 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. It's the
19 fifth round.

20 Under that particular rule there's occurrence
21 data that gets sampled across the country. And
22 UCMR 5 -- and we can share more information on the
23 details of this, but there are 29 PFAS chemicals
24 under that rule that are being sampled across the
25 country -- 29 PFAS, and including one other known

1 as lithium.

2 So there are 30 chemicals being tested, and
3 this is all handled directly by EPA. They utilize
4 their laboratories. We don't have much to do with
5 it as a state agency. We do have a look at the
6 information that comes into the data system once
7 it is filed.

8 The UCMR 5th round testing has already
9 initiated starting in January. So it
10 encompasses -- if I can find my update, the
11 correct update -- that it encompasses over all of
12 our public water systems that are community
13 systems over a certain size. And I could get you
14 a certain blurb on this, but we wanted to bring
15 this to your attention because this is important
16 because this testing has initiated.

17 And again, I think one thing that is really
18 very important here is that people know that over
19 the next three years, all community and
20 non-transient/non-community systems that serve
21 over 3300 people will be monitoring for these 29
22 PFAS contaminants under this rule.

23 Each public water system has been given a
24 schedule to follow. Some have begun, as I
25 mentioned, monitoring in January. Others won't

1 begin monitoring until the year 2025.

2 The data, once validated, will become public
3 for public review under EPA's UCMR 5 occurrence
4 data webpage. We work directly with the public
5 water systems that are -- if there's any detects,
6 again, where we have a look at the data system
7 when the information comes in, where you watch
8 that, that data system. And then we look for any
9 detects, and we'll be reaching out to the public
10 water systems that do get detects.

11 And more to come on this as this rolls
12 forward. And again, it's over the next three
13 years. So it's an interesting rule, and it's
14 probably not widely understood that this happens
15 across the country.

16 Again, this is the UCMR 5, so the unregulated
17 monitoring contaminant rule, fifth round under the
18 Safe Drinking Water Act.

19 I don't know if there's any questions on
20 that.

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

22 Any questions for Lori?

23
24 (No response.)
25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

2 LORI MATHIEU: You're welcome.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: So we're going to move on to workgroup
4 reports, implementation workgroup. Virginia and
5 Dave, would you like to come up? And like the
6 good old days, come up to the table.

7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Good afternoon. Good to see
8 you all.

9 So the implementation workgroup has been busy
10 working, and our biggest recent accomplishment was
11 completing the annual report for the multi-annual
12 report, because it went back several years since
13 the implementation of the state water plan.

14 And that report, as you probably know,
15 summarized all the workgroups that we've had over
16 the past several years, and then also had links to
17 those workgroup reports so that people could get
18 access to the purpose of the workgroup, the
19 recommendations from the workgroup, the
20 participants in the workgroup very easily. So all
21 that information is now available.

22 And we had a great group who worked under a
23 very tight schedule in order to complete that
24 report by the end of the year to be able to get it
25 to you so that you guys could get it to the

1 legislature in January, which is mandated by law.

2 And I trust that happened. I haven't heard
3 specifically, but I trust that that report has
4 been passed along.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it's been signed off by OPM, DEEP,
6 PURA -- and unfortunately, we appear to have a
7 bottleneck at DPH. It was sent there a few weeks
8 ago.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, it was received on the 11th, Jack,
10 and it is with leadership and has not been signed.

11 I've not been allowed to sign thus far.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Oh. Are there any consequences that
13 we didn't meet the deadline?

14 MARTIN HEFT: So thank you, Virginia. So there's no
15 consequences per se, because there's nothing in
16 statute that says there's a penalty for not
17 filing. Obviously, I think Water Planning Council
18 has missed a few years of filing, and obviously
19 there hasn't been any consequences per se on that.

20 The report is ready to go as soon as we have
21 the signature. Everything is set and ready to go.
22 Once we have the approval for signatures we're
23 ready to send it out. So unfortunately, we're
24 just waiting on that.

25 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. But as I mentioned, it's a

1 great source of information, and you have access
2 to all the related documents through links so that
3 you can come up with a complete picture of the
4 work that's been done by the implementation
5 workgroup over the years.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, would it be helpful if we, we the
7 Council, sent something to your leadership team
8 saying we'd like to get this thing? I mean, we
9 want to meet the statutory deadline.

10 I don't want to put you in a situation, but
11 would it be helpful to do that?

12 LORI MATHIEU: We have within our department, as
13 many -- some of you may not know, we had our
14 Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron resign. That
15 resignation happened as of January 3rd, and
16 therefore there's a lot for the new deputy, who
17 started Wednesday last week, to get caught up on.

18 So we're in this time where I have briefed
19 the new deputy on what this report is, and she's
20 mindful of it, and that leadership is also mindful
21 of it at this point in time.

22 So the unfortunate thing is that we've lost
23 our leader who was our deputy in charge of our
24 branch of Environmental Health and Drinking Water,
25 and have quickly, to the commissioner's credit,

1 replaced -- you know we have a new deputy right
2 now. Her name is Lisa Morrissey.

3 So she's Deputy Commissioner Lisa Morrissey,
4 and some of you may know that name because she was
5 a local health director, most recently in the
6 newly formed Housatonic Local Health Department
7 for just over a year. And she was also health
8 director for a bit of time in Bridgeport, and then
9 prior to that, she was A health director in
10 Danbury, the City of Danbury.

11 So Lisa is now our deputy as of last
12 Wednesday. So we have a lot to catch up on and a
13 lot to review, and this is one of the priorities
14 for us.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Lori, thank you.

16 LORI MATHIEU: You're welcome.

17 VIRGINIA de LIMA: So we have two ongoing workgroups at
18 this point. One is the workgroup looking at the
19 USGS data collection networks, and that is chaired
20 by Chris -- and I believe Chris is on the line.

21 Can you give us a very brief update of where
22 you're at? Is Chris on the line?

23 CHRIS BELLUCCI: I am. Thank you, Virginia.

24 So last month we postponed our meeting, and
25 the reason being is we wanted a little bit more

1 time to prepare materials. The workgroup is
2 obviously reacting to the existing network of
3 gauges that are out there. We wanted some time to
4 prepare some maps and tables of what's out there
5 in order to have a better conversation.

6 So we postponed the meeting, and we're
7 scheduled to meet -- let me just double check --
8 February 24th at 10:30. And the topic is going to
9 cover streamflow network, and we're going to have
10 Tim Sargent of the USGS guest because he is in
11 charge of that network.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, Chris.

13 Also ongoing is the outreach and education
14 group, which is not really the same structure as a
15 topical sub workgroup under the implementation
16 workgroup. It's more of a standing committee
17 because that's ongoing.

18 Denise couldn't be with us today, but I think
19 there is somebody from that group who may give us
20 a quick update. They met this morning.

21 ALYSON AYOTTE: Hi, it's Allie.

22 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Oh, hi, Allie.

23 ALYSON AYOTTE: So the focus of the group this morning
24 was two workshops coming up in the spring. The
25 theme is going to be climate change. The first

1 workshop tentatively is April 12th at one, and
2 that is going to be preparing for drought in
3 Connecticut.

4 And the second workshop is impacts on
5 watersheds, and that's going to be May 10th
6 tentatively.

7 And that was our main focus this morning,
8 these two workshops, looking for speakers.

9 Did I miss anything, Carol?

10 CAROL HASKINS: I don't know.

11 I'm not on that committee.

12 ALYSON AYOTTE: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were
13 there. Oh, my bad.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, Allie.

16 ALYSON AYOTTE: Karen was there. Did I miss anything,
17 Karen?

18 KAREN BURNASKA: No, other than the fact that they were
19 very pleased that the logo was approved and I
20 believe representatives on the outreach and
21 education committee from DEEP and DPH are going to
22 look to see if they can set some procedures in
23 place on how it should be used, or how it can be,
24 how this logo can be used.

25 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I mentioned the annual report, and

1 that had been the recommendation from a workgroup
2 that had existed. We did it, and now, as you all
3 know, we've proposed doing a phase two of that to
4 come up with an ongoing process. So Dave?

5 DAVID RADKA: Thanks, Virginia. So, yeah. With the
6 completion of the report -- I just want to say,
7 personally I understand, you know, the holdup and
8 it makes sense to me, but I'm disappointed,
9 obviously.

10 And I'm concerned -- this is what I want to
11 express, some concern because this is when we're
12 going to ask for money for a water planning chief,
13 for an update to the plan. And I think the longer
14 we delay, the poorer it reflects upon us, the
15 Planning Council and the implementation workgroup.

16 So like I said, I understand it, but I would
17 hope that it could really be expedited in any
18 event.

19 So with the completion of that, what we felt
20 was that continuation really of the initial
21 implementation tracking and reporting workgroup
22 efforts was timely. And quite frankly, it's
23 necessary because we really need now to focus on
24 sort of the routine tracking of the implementation
25 work so that we're not doing what we did last

1 year, which was scrambling in November, December,
2 to pull together all those disparate pieces for an
3 annual report.

4 So we need to figure out how are we going to
5 do this sort of routine on an ongoing basis? And
6 then also, obviously, produce an annual report in
7 a timely manner and on a regular routine annual
8 basis so we don't have a hiatus like we did the
9 last four years.

10 So as part of that effort you have the
11 proposal that we shared with you. Again, we want
12 to springboard off work that was previously done.
13 We think it might be helpful this go-around to
14 identify some metrics as to how are we going to
15 really measure progress in this plan
16 implementation?

17 And then also, as part of that, we thought --
18 and this is just a concept at this point, but
19 maybe after the legislature receives, the
20 committees of cognizance receive the report, we
21 could actually reach out to them and say, what
22 would you find helpful? What would you like to
23 receive from us so that you can see the way that
24 we are implementing this and how are we going to
25 measure that progress?

1 We need to identify an electronic system for
2 capturing all this information, and we thought
3 that, again looking back on this past, past work
4 that we just completed, we had four years of
5 effort to pull together.

6 And given the shortness of time we agreed
7 that it would not -- we did not have the time nor
8 the methodology to look at what the individual
9 agencies had also been accomplishing. But going
10 forward, if this is really done on an annual
11 basis, it makes sense and maybe is even, you know,
12 more critical to actually start to pull in now
13 what the individual agencies are doing. So that
14 would be another thing we would recommend that
15 this new workgroup would look at.

16 So what we're -- again, you have the
17 proposal. We'd like the permission to kick that
18 off. We'll discuss it at next week's meeting of
19 the implementation workgroup.

20 And Jack, you'll notice I took the liberty of
21 inserting that PURA would be responsible for the
22 FOIA compliance. I hope you're okay with that.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Allie, I hope you're okay with that.

24 **ALYSON AYOTTE:** I'll defer to one of the attorneys.

25 **DAVID RADKA:** That can obviously be modified, but we

1 would look to identify someone to lead this at our
2 next meeting, to solicit participants.

3 I will say that when we pulled together the
4 annual report workgroup, we were very pleased in
5 that we got some nontraditional folks who stepped
6 up and wanted to join. These are people who we
7 don't normally see at these meetings, and we would
8 hope to be able to do the same, to bring in more
9 people. We think six to nine months might be a
10 reasonable timeframe to have this conclude.

11 So if there's any questions, I'd be happy to
12 answer them.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions?

14 **MARTIN HEFT:** A couple of things. So thank you very
15 much for the proposal here, and I think it's
16 worthwhile looking at. Typically what we have
17 been doing is receiving the information and then
18 at our next meeting voting upon any workgroup, so
19 that way it's kind of presented to us here a first
20 time publicly and at our meeting. And then the
21 next month's meeting we would have it as an action
22 item on the agenda -- is typically what it is.

23 Not to say we can't approve it today either
24 for that, but that's typically what, you know, why
25 we kind of have the action items now once we

1 receive it in. So we can look at it, make sure
2 we've got time to review everything on there.

3 Thank you for also explaining just about the
4 membership, because I was concerned. At first
5 when I saw it, it was like, okay. Well, there's
6 only three people on it, because that's what you
7 have listed here, representative of three people.
8 And in essence that's, you know, as a work group
9 proposal in here and only showing three people --
10 even though it says additional people, really the
11 workgroup is going to only have three people by
12 essence by what's on paper here, because you're
13 only saying that we want representatives from each
14 of these three organizations.

15 Granted, you're looking for other people to
16 join in, but if there's specific people that you
17 want or representation you want on there, they
18 should be listed in the proposal as well; just for
19 future, you know looking there that if you need
20 someone from a particular area, whether it be
21 agriculture -- as we just talked about that, that
22 it should be a representative of the agricultural
23 industry or something.

24 You know, look at it in that sense, because I
25 want to -- you know as we're looking at these and

1 filling the memberships there, I'm looking at this
2 and saying, okay. Well, it has to have three
3 members, but other than that it doesn't have to
4 have any more by this.

5 Obviously, anyone is welcome to any of the
6 groups which you guys have been great about doing
7 and everything. So I just wanted to just note
8 that. So that's only my -- those are all my
9 thoughts on it.

10 DAVID RADKA: And I think, Mr. Heft, I think to your
11 point; yes, it would make sense for us to probably
12 more explicitly have said, we want someone who has
13 expertise, knowledge, subject matter expert in
14 whatever kind of electronic database system we're
15 going to build. Right?

16 Because we clearly don't have that. You know
17 we're two old retired farts, and you know we need
18 to bring in someone new. But I wouldn't even know
19 who it is to look for. That's why we'd probably
20 be looking within the agencies themselves to see
21 what kind of staff they may have that they could
22 tap. And we would hope to tease that out when we
23 have the conversation at our next meeting.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori or Graham?

25 I have no problem with entertaining a motion

1 to charge you with setting this group up. And
2 then you can kind of flesh things out at your next
3 meeting and report back to us next month.

4 If that okay?

5 MARTIN HEFT: Mr. Chair, I will make a motion that we
6 establish the topical sub workgroup as described.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second?

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions on the motion?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Can we just be --

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: No, just --

12 LORI MATHIEU: Can we clarify the mission? Sorry.

13 DAVID RADKA: I'm sorry. Lori, did you get a copy of
14 the proposal?

15 LORI MATHIEU: I'm just asking you to put it on the
16 record so you can clarify what the mission of the
17 group is.

18 DAVID RADKA: Do you have it?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. You can do it.

20 DAVID RADKA: I'm sorry. No, that's a fair ask. I
21 just don't have a copy of it.

22 Could you read it into the record?

23 MARTIN HEFT: That's okay. I have it here. I'll read
24 the purpose. It is to continue phase one efforts
25 to create and transition to a permanent tracking

1 system for the state water plan implementation.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Thank you.

3 I just wanted to be clear.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: No, that makes perfect sense, Lori.

5 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

7 LORI MATHIEU: No.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham, you're all set?

9 If not, all those in favor signify by saying
10 aye.

11 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

13 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Just one further comment addressing
14 what you were saying, Martin. In that often when
15 the group starts to meet, the specifics of what
16 they're actually going to be looking at morph a
17 little bit as the discussion gets bigger than just
18 the two or three folks who were discussing this
19 originally to put together the proposal.

20 And so we would expect that to happen and
21 certainly would keep you apprized of any changes,
22 but they would not be significant.

23 One of the things that we're going to be
24 discussing is if we can set an expectation for the
25 workgroups. As they develop their proposals, as

1 they write their reports that they do it in such a
2 way so that the annual report is actually just a
3 cut and paste from material that already exists.
4 So then it could be pulled together in a matter of
5 days, and that would just expedite the process for
6 everybody.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Sounds good. Anything further?

8 **MARTIN HEFT:** I have a question.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Yeah, sure?

10 **MARTIN HEFT:** I have a followup just on another side
11 piece. And thank you again for all the work you
12 did with the annual report and everything.

13 So as that kind of topical subgroup is now
14 completed, is there anything that's official so we
15 have it done, that it's -- you know that it's
16 officially done and closed out as a topical sub
17 workgroup?

18 The reason I ask is just kind of trying to --
19 I have been going through looking at what's on our
20 website of different groups, everything else. You
21 know the topical sub workgroups, so I want to make
22 sure you know that officially we're closing them
23 out when they're done type of thing, rather than
24 they're just not still out there.

25 So you know I was looking as -- you know we

1 probably may not have ever had kind of a process
2 of that in the past. Part of that is I know even
3 on our website we've got a couple of other sub
4 workgroups from the '16-'17 drought event that are
5 still up there. We've got one on private domestic
6 wells sub workgroup.

7 It's like, are these still active? Are these
8 not? You know? Let's clean up things a little
9 bit. You know we know we've got a couple new that
10 we've just established, which you've talked about
11 already. So thank you for that and kind of
12 keeping an updated piece, and also trying to
13 update our website appropriately as well.

14 So I just want to make sure you know we can
15 officially close out that topical sub workgroup.

16 DAVID RADKA: That's an excellent observation, because
17 this one we did not prepare a report with
18 recommendations.

19 VIRGINIA de LIMA: We repaired it.

20 DAVID RADKA: Yeah, we repaired it, as we have with all
21 the others.

22 So I think with the others we do have a final
23 document that we ultimately review at the
24 implementation workgroup level, at the Water
25 Planning Council advisory group level, and then

1 formally submit to you. And that sort of pulls
2 everything together and, you know, closes the door
3 on that. This one was different, so it's a good
4 point. We probably should have some more formal
5 process.

6 And I also appreciate the fact that you're
7 looking into the status on the website of these
8 various other workgroups.

9 Rebecca Dahl has reached out recently in the
10 past few days to look for more information. So I
11 can see she must have got a little nudge from
12 you -- what is the status, and so on?

13 So we're giving her that information so that
14 hopefully the webpage can be updated.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Right.

16 **DAVID RADKA:** But at this point we have really just the
17 two working groups that Virginia mentioned,
18 outreach and education, which has really morphed
19 into a standing committee, if you will.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Correct.

21 **DAVID RADKA:** Chris Bellucci's USGS data collection
22 group, and now this newly formed group that we'll
23 be getting off the ground.

24 So yeah, we should come up with something
25 that we can say, here, we're done, and formalize

1 that. Yeah.

2 **MARTIN HEFT:** No, that's great, and I appreciate that.
3 And I think, just obviously now we have in the
4 record that this one is closed out. And I think
5 to your point where you've given recommendations
6 in the past, you know it may just be a statement
7 on that saying this now closes out the committee,
8 you know, type of a thing, or the work of the
9 committee by, here's your recommendation report --
10 unless we say, no, we're sending it back to you
11 for more work or something on that type of thing.

12 So I appreciate that.

13 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** I also appreciate you tying it to
14 the website, because the information certainly
15 needs to be there.

16 Just in terms of for your own information, in
17 the annual report that we put together was a chart
18 that indicated completed, ongoing, or -- we had a
19 third term.

20 One meant ongoing forever, and the other
21 meant still active. I guess that was it, active.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well -- and I think that Dave raised a
23 very good point earlier. I mean, the more
24 documentation and products we show of what we're
25 doing as we look for money, because you know that

1 they're going to make sure that we're dotting the
2 i's and crossing the t's in terms of that.

3 So I think this is a good subject for that, a
4 topical subject in that direction to validate the
5 annual report.

6 Anything else?

7
8 (No response.)
9

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your work. I appreciate
11 it very much. Do you want to talk about the
12 interagency drought workgroup?

13 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sure.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We have a report in front of us.

15 **MARTIN HEFT:** So interagency drought workgroup, two
16 items; we did meet last week, started talking with
17 all the agencies.

18 One of the things in the drought plan is to
19 have a report at the end of drought reviewing
20 everything. So we are doing that with all of our
21 agencies and supporting agencies.

22 And we've got our kind of internal work team
23 going to be getting together and drafting up notes
24 from this past drought in order to be in
25 compliance. So we'll have that report coming out

1 hopefully in the next couple of months.

2 Additionally, in the packet that was sent out
3 today, if you remember back in December the
4 interagency drought workgroup sent to the Water
5 Planning Council a list of recommendations that
6 were from the other workgroup that had made
7 recommendations, and ones that we felt that need
8 to come back to the Water Planning Council for
9 review.

10 As mentioned at the last meeting, I said that
11 we would come back with kind of a one-pager on
12 each of those charges, which is what we have in
13 the packet.

14 I'm not looking for any action today per se
15 on any of them, but I wanted to at least address
16 that we do have those there. One has more
17 immediate priority -- which was charge three --
18 than the others on that.

19 So just as future agenda items, it may be
20 that we might want to take up a particular charge,
21 review it, see what our next steps are going to
22 be, whether or not we need to have other people
23 look at it, or we need more information. So this
24 is kind of a start into that process.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, I thank you for your work, and the

1 committee on this. I mean, I think charge three,
2 the adoption of water use restrictions by
3 municipalities is something we ought to really
4 look at because I don't -- do we have any?

5 I think Southbury had tried it years ago. I
6 don't know if it's ever really been passed.

7 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, there's some towns that I think
8 might have some but there they're old. There's no
9 standard. There's no guidelines. There's no
10 template, if you will.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: To me, that's one we ought to be taking
12 a look at.

13 Lori or Graham do you have any comments?

14 LORI MATHIEU: This is an important factor, because
15 when we start to get into the later stages, towns
16 and their actions are really very important.

17 And so the City of Norwalk has a city-wide
18 ordinance that they enact, and that they set their
19 triggers, and they work with the two big water
20 systems that are within.

21 You know, there's Norwalk 1st Taxing
22 District, and then there's the other, the southern
23 Norwalk water system. So there's two large water
24 systems in Norwalk, and the City of Norwalk enacts
25 this ordinance that they have for the city. And

1 they seem to always be very on top of what's
2 happening.

3 So I think they may be a very good example to
4 follow. And the local health director, this past
5 drought, we were in touch with and working with
6 the city staff. Our leadership got involved as
7 well when they first enacted their emergency under
8 their city ordinance.

9 So Norwalk is probably a good place that we
10 could start and have some discussions with about
11 what the language is.

12 Because you're right, Martin. There is years
13 ago we developed a model ordinance, and nobody
14 really adopted what we came up with. If people
15 remember that time -- like, 15 years ago. Right?
16 But you know we should look at who has ordinances.

17 I think the Town of Simsbury has one. I
18 think there are some that are out there that we
19 could take a look at, but it does become very
20 important that the Town has abilities and has
21 these ordinances in place when the time is needed.

22 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you, Lori.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: So the only thing that --

24 MARTIN HEFT: Go ahead, Graham.

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: I was going to say, the only thing I

1 would add in this case is, you know -- and I
2 wasn't part of this process in the past as maybe
3 putting together some points on what are the
4 benefits of such ordinances? Because you know
5 different towns may have different constituencies
6 that may want to see this occur for different
7 reasons.

8 So just I'm sure there's plenty of materials
9 out there that we could pull from, and maybe it's
10 a case of also trying to encourage the towns that
11 do have ordinances to speak with their other
12 municipal partners as well as the COGs. And maybe
13 the COGs have a role here, too, to share best
14 practice and we could participate in outreach at
15 the COGs with the towns that have ordinances.

16 **MARTIN HEFT:** Thank you both. What I will do with this
17 for charge three is I can have my staff start
18 pulling some of the ordinances that are out there
19 and try to get some of the background to
20 everything for that to kind of help move this
21 along to our next steps and be able to present
22 that and see where we're at.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** We have no drought now. Right?

24 **MARTIN HEFT:** No.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** No drought.

1 MARTIN HEFT: No, we are not in a drought at this
2 point, but we're continually to watch and monitor
3 as we haven't had the snowfall -- so that's not a
4 good sign either.

5 But we've had rain, so that's good.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Martin. Thanks.

7 Any other questions for Martin?

8
9 (No response.)

10
11 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, outreach and education we kind
12 of covered already with Denise. So we'll move on
13 to the Water Planning Council advisory group.

14 Alicia, come on up. Unfortunately, Dan is
15 under the weather and cannot be with us today.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Wow, this feels familiar.

17 Just to clarify for the folks, just to avoid
18 any confusion with the advisory group bringing you
19 an alternate, I know that there was a lot of input
20 from the Water Planning Council on ensuring that
21 the Office of Consumer Counsel was at least an
22 alternate on the advisory group, and that's why we
23 sought your input on that.

24 So thank you for being willing to reach out
25 to those folks.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to walk right down there after
2 the meeting.

3 ALICEA CHARAMUT: All right. You're going to strong
4 arm them.

5 So we don't have a whole lot in the way of
6 updates this month. I know that the watershed
7 lands workgroup does have a pretty extensive
8 update.

9 Are you still willing to give that, Karen?
10 Or do you want me to give what you had sent to me?

11 KAREN BURNASKA: Either or, Alicia. I would just go
12 over the points in the e-mail. I had also sent
13 that to Jack, so please feel free.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: All right. Hopefully I still have
15 that up.

16 Okay. So just an FYI for the Water Planning
17 Council, some of the Water Planning Council
18 advisory groups have met with the GAE committee to
19 discuss the amendment to the questionnaire and the
20 importance of making sure those are complete.

21 And the next meeting of the Watershed Lands
22 Group is on March 10th. There will be a
23 discussion of state land conveyances, MDC's
24 request for a declaratory ruling, proposed 2023
25 legislation, and the agenda will be published the

1 week of the meeting -- which is next week, I
2 believe. No, that's in March, sorry.

3 It's February still? Are we sure about that?

4 MARTIN HEFT: We're still in February.

5 ALICEA CHARAMUT: We're still in February. Okay. And
6 did I pretty much have everything covered there,
7 Karen?

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Sure. I think as long as you
9 mentioned to the Water Planning Council that the
10 individuals who sit on the advisory group went and
11 spoke with the GAE staff as representing their own
12 organization.

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes.

14 KAREN BURNASKA: Not the advisory group or the Water
15 Planning Council. They were very -- a very good
16 meeting. They've been very cooperative. And
17 we'll put -- just so the other members of the
18 Water Planning Council know, we'll put the GAE
19 land conveyance request questionnaires and the
20 supplemental environmental questionnaire up on the
21 CGA website sooner in the process so that people
22 can review it.

23 And if there are questions on either one of
24 those questionnaires that are not complete, the
25 clerk will go back to get complete answers, and

1 then the questionnaires will be reposted.

2 So that's very good news. That's good for
3 anyone who's public, legislators, whomever are
4 interested in the requested -- the legislative
5 requested conveyances.

6 And we welcome anyone to come to the
7 Watershed Lands Workgroup meeting on the 10th.
8 And if there's any other items that you would like
9 to see on the agenda, anyone would -- just let us
10 know.

11 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And so we will be monitoring the
12 legislative session. I know there's a list of
13 bills that touch water and public health that are
14 of interest.

15 It would be helpful if what -- I understand
16 the governor's budget is supposed to come out
17 tomorrow. If there's anything that our
18 stakeholder groups can do to advocate for the
19 resources, if we can send that information down
20 the chain, you know we're certainly happy to do
21 our part.

22 We don't want to undermine any efforts. We
23 want to support the effort going forward. So if
24 you guys can let us know what we need to do, we're
25 happy to do that.

1 And other than that, I don't have anything
2 more at this time.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Much appreciated.

4 Any questions, for Alicia?

5
6 (No response.)
7

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

9 Any public comment before we -- yes? Would
10 you like to come up? Or do you want to speak from
11 there?

12 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** I can speak from here.

13 **MARTIN HEFT:** As long as I can hear on the --

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Can you hear her?

15 **THE REPORTER:** She enunciates very well, yes.

16 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** I'm okay?

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** He says you speak loud.

18 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Okay. I've never been accused of
19 otherwise.

20 I've been a member of the Union of Concerned
21 Scientists for decades. For those of you who are
22 not familiar with them, it was started 50 years
23 ago by some professors at MIT who realized that as
24 scientists, they had information that could be
25 very informative and affect public policy, and

1 that they had an obligation to get involved with
2 it. And they have been doing that over the years.

3 I'm part of their National Advisory Board,
4 and at a meeting last week I was told that I could
5 give ten memberships to the Union of Concerned
6 Scientists to anybody who's interested, ten free
7 memberships.

8 So on a first-come-first-serve, if anybody
9 here is interested in being a member speak to me
10 and I can sign you up.

11 Just as a side note, the meeting last week
12 was very positive in that they're focusing a lot
13 on climate change clearly. And they are actually
14 encouraged at the way the world is moving.

15 Primarily because of COVID they feel that for
16 the first time the general public is aware that
17 there are global issues that can affect everybody,
18 and we need to pay attention, dot, dot, dot,
19 climate change.

20 So they are encouraged, which is the first
21 encouraging note I've heard in a long time.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent. Thank you for that offer.

23 Any other public comment? Yes?

24 CAROL HASKINS: In regards to the mention of a drought
25 ordinance, have you considered Sustainable

1 Connecticut as an avenue for proposing something
2 like that to challenge towns to adopt a drought
3 ordinance?

4 I serve as a reviewer for Sustainable CT on
5 watershed education, and I'm familiar with a
6 number of action items that are included in there,
7 and I know one of the action items for towns for
8 their sustainable criteria is the town themselves
9 adopting a policy for water-efficient fixtures,
10 but there could potentially be an action item that
11 is adopting a drought ordinance.

12 So that may be a possible pathway to
13 encourage towns to move forward with those.

14 MARTIN HEFT: Great. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: We've had some -- I know PURA had some
16 work with sustainable energy. So that's actually
17 a good suggestion. Thank you.

18 Alicia, did you have another?

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I'm going to come to the microphone.
20 I've been having an issue with my throat. So
21 speaking up hurts a little bit.

22 So speaking as a member of the public now, I
23 know the issue with the MDC abandoning the
24 10-billion-gallon source is, of course, not at an
25 end, but it's been longstanding. And there have

1 been a lot of stakeholders paying very close
2 attention to this.

3 And with this issue moving toward the
4 abandonment permit process, it's my understanding
5 from the statute that DPH will consult with the
6 Water Planning Council entities on an abandonment
7 permit.

8 And I just want to voice -- be the voice in
9 this room for all of the other stakeholders
10 involved outside of the agencies.

11 There the management of the West Branch of
12 the Farmington River is incredibly complicated,
13 and there are so many stakeholders involved.

14 You know there you're looking at public
15 health, recreation, ecological services, all of
16 these things to try to find a balance there in a
17 system that essentially is artificially created,
18 but yet economies and quality of life has been
19 built around it.

20 And I again just want to be that voice for
21 all of these stakeholder groups to come and say
22 that we really hope that moving forward that all
23 of our agencies and the stakeholder groups can
24 sort of come together to talk about how that 10
25 billion gallons can be used to benefit public

1 health and, you know, the ecological health of the
2 river and support the recreation that has, you
3 know, that the West Branch of the Farmington River
4 is a blue-ribbon trout fishery, and it's, you
5 know, beloved by kayakers, anglers, tubers.

6 And just again, I just wanted to emphasize
7 that so that all of the agencies understand how
8 closely so many people are watching this and how
9 important it's going to be to bring everyone to
10 the table on this.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, do you have any comment on that?

13 LORI MATHIEU: No. I'm part of the proceedings, so.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.

15 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah -- but thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand.

17 Any other public comment?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, our next meeting will be March
22 7th, and I again to congratulate our second
23 champion of water, Maureen Westbrook, and
24 congratulate her and thank her for being here with
25 us today. Thank you for all coming here to

1 acknowledge.

2 I don't know if we're going to be in person
3 again next month. We'll kind of play it by ear,
4 but we have lots going on in terms of monitoring
5 the legislative session and the budget.

6 We'll see what the Governor's budget address
7 has tomorrow. So as always, I thank all the
8 volunteers of the workgroups for doing the
9 excellent work that you do, and my fellow
10 Councilmembers.

11 And with that, I'd entertain a motion to
12 adjourn?

13 **MARTIN HEFT:** So moved.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Second?

15 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Second.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** All those in favor?

17 **THE COUNCIL:** Aye.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you all very much.

19 Have a good rest of the day.

21 (End: 2:40 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 56 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting of the Connecticut Water Planning Council, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN, at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut, on February 7, 2023.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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