

**CERTIFIED
COPY**

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

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

**Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
May 2, 2023, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**

H e l d B e f o r e :

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

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

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

4 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

5 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

6 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

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

9 **CHRIS BELLUCCI**

10 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

12 **KAREN BURNASKA**

13 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

14 **LISETTE STONE**

15 **MARGARET MINER**

16 **MARTHA SMITH**

17
18 **Staff:**

19 **LAURA LUPOLI**

20 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

21

22

23

24

25

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

2
3 THE CHAIR: Okay. We'll call the meeting of the Water
4 Planning Council for May 2, 2023, to order.

5 The first order of business will be the
6 approval of the April 4, 2023, meeting transcript.

7 Do I hear a motion?

8 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

10 THE CHAIR: Motion made by Lori, second by Graham.

11 Any questions on the motion?

12
13 (No response.)

14
15 THE CHAIR: If not, all in favor signify by saying aye.

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 THE CHAIR: Opposed?

18
19 (No response.)

20
21 THE CHAIR: The motion carried. Thank you very much.

22 Any public comment on agenda items today?

23 Any public comment on agenda items?

24
25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIR: If not, we'll move right on to our first
2 number, correspondence received. I don't have
3 any.

4 Number five is action item, statewide drought
5 coordinator recommendation. Martin?

6 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. So previously it was sent out to
7 all the Councilmembers, a letter from the
8 interagency drought workgroup with a
9 recommendation for statewide drought coordinator.

10 This is pursuant to Section 3.2 of the
11 drought preparedness and response plan, that the
12 Water Planning Council shall designate an employee
13 of an agency represented on the interagency
14 drought workgroup to serve in the role of the
15 state drought coordinator.

16 At our meeting on April 6th it was voted to
17 recommend Rebecca Dahl of the Office of Policy and
18 Management as the state drought coordinator. I
19 won't go through all of her criteria because it's
20 in the letter, but basically under the leadership
21 of the coordinator staff of agencies represented
22 on the IDW, you know, share in the responsibility
23 of the administrative tasks and communication,
24 reporting protocols.

25 And basically the coordinator ensures all the

1 monitoring data is updated monthly and works with
2 the chair of the IDW to make sure things are
3 outlined on the actions taken in the drought plan.

4 So with that, I would make a motion that the
5 Water Planning Council appoint Rebecca Dahl as the
6 statewide drought coordinator.

7 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

8 THE CHAIR: I think we have a motion and a second.

9 Any questions on the motion?

10
11 (No response.)

12
13 THE CHAIR: If not, all those in favor signify by
14 saying aye.

15 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

16 THE CHAIR: The motion is carried. Very good.

17 Congratulations.

18 If the rain keeps on coming -- although we'll
19 hear from your report later on. I don't want to
20 jump the gun.

21 Any other action items?

22
23 (No response.)

24
25 THE CHAIR: If not, we'll move on to these reports,

1 WUCC from Lori, and private wells.

2 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. So I'm not certain if -- I'm
3 going to look to see if Eric or Lisette are on to
4 give the WUCC report. Otherwise, I could provide
5 that information directly.

6 Lisette, I see that you're on. Lisette, do
7 you want to give the WUCC report?

8 LISETTE STONE: Yes. I don't have much more to report
9 other than planning the July meeting in person.
10 We'll be sending out a request for agenda items
11 from participants and leadership shortly.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Great. The July meeting is July 19th,
13 at one o'clock?

14 LISETTE STONE: Correct.

15 LORI MATHIEU: And do we have a location? You said
16 it's in person?

17 LISETTE STONE: Yes, we are going to have it in person.
18 We do not have a location set as of today.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

20 And we're looking for agenda items.

21 LISETTE STONE: Yes, we'll send out a formal request
22 shortly.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Very good.

24 Any questions for Lisette or I?
25

1 (No response.)

2
3 GRAHAM STEVENS: No.

4 LORI MATHIEU: Beautiful.

5 THE CHAIR: Private wells, Lori?

6 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. So I don't think Ryan is on, but
7 Ryan has given me a very nice update. I think I
8 had mentioned previously when the law had passed
9 to change the private well statute, we had been
10 working on updating our private well database.

11 That work -- and our database is known as
12 Maven data system. So that work has been
13 completed. It will allow the Department, our
14 department to run reports and look at results that
15 are imported into the data system and generate
16 reports by town with these results.

17 The program, the private well program, which
18 Ryan Tetreault oversees, will then be able to work
19 with local health and provide outreach and
20 education information, and that's part of the
21 plan.

22 Let's see. We're also continuing to work on
23 electronic reporting from laboratories into the
24 data system so that, you know, not only in private
25 wells, but the semi-public wells that get reported

1 to us as well.

2 So more to come when we work on that
3 electronic exchange of information, which is
4 critical to just being able to get more
5 information into the system quicker.

6 And I know also that came along with that
7 initiative was the funding for one staff, and I
8 believe we are still working to refill that staff
9 person for the private well program. So anybody
10 interested in working for the Department of Public
11 Health, please let me know. I would be more than
12 willing to chat with you about all of the openings
13 that we have that are exciting within public
14 health.

15 So, Jack, that concludes my reports on WUCC
16 and private wells.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Lori.

18 Any questions for Lori before we move on?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. Moving on to item
23 seven on the agenda, workgroup reports. First up
24 is the implementation workgroup with Virginia de
25 Lima. Good afternoon.

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Hello, everybody. As you know,
2 we're still trying to finalize the membership of
3 the workgroup, waiting for a nomination from the
4 Water Planning Council Advisory Group. As you may
5 recall, Denise Savageau is now one of the two
6 advisory group members, and the other one I have
7 not yet heard has been selected. So we're waiting
8 on that.

9 One of our big needs at this point is to
10 appoint a co-chair. As you know, Dave Radka
11 stepped down a month ago, and so I have asked the
12 group to either nominate themselves or nominate
13 somebody else, and we'll be voting at the meeting
14 next Tuesday.

15 My threat has been that if I don't get
16 nominations, everybody will be on the slate and we
17 will vote, and we will see who the next co-chair
18 will be. So --

19 THE CHAIR: I like the way you think. That's good.

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: So hopefully that will be
21 accomplished.

22 In terms of our workgroups, Denise will be
23 giving an update shortly. We also have the
24 workgroup looking at the USGS data, and their most
25 recent meeting they were looking at the USGS Water

1 Quality Data Collection Network.

2 You may recall in the report a month ago that
3 they had looked at the water quality data that
4 came from DEEP, and so this was sort of the second
5 piece of looking at the water quality data.

6 We also have a proposal that you have
7 approved to have a phase two of the reporting
8 workgroup, and this is going to be focused more on
9 the technical aspect of things, how we actually
10 solicit the information and get it into the
11 system.

12 There was comments that there's a lot of work
13 that goes on with non-governmental organizations,
14 and that it would be good for them to have
15 representation on the group to determine
16 whether -- how or whether their information could
17 be included in an update of implementation
18 progress on the implementation of the state water
19 plan.

20 Also, because the end audience is the
21 Legislature, it would be nice if we had some
22 representation from the Legislature on the group
23 itself, perhaps a staff member of one of the
24 representatives.

25 We need to continue to solicit ideas for

1 representatives of various interested groups to be
2 serving on the workgroup, and we also need to be
3 able to designate a chair.

4 Dan Aubin has been the leading energy behind
5 the work so far, and certainly will be involved in
6 that and may very well be the most appropriate
7 person to chair the group, or co-chair the group.
8 It can be a shared responsibility. It all doesn't
9 have to fall on one individual.

10 Let me see if there's anything else here.
11 That pretty much sums it up, but Chris can give
12 more information on the data collection if you'd
13 like, and then we'll hear from Denise in a moment.

14 CHRIS BELLUCCI: I think you covered it well, Virginia.

15 The only thing I would add is May 22nd at
16 10:30 is the next meeting, and it's going to be
17 discussing the USGS groundwater network. So that
18 is the 22nd at 10:30.

19 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, Chris.

20 Any other questions?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Virginia. So let's move on to
25 the interagency drought workgroup report. Martin,

1 do you have anything additional to report?

2 MARTIN HEFT: Just real briefly that we are meeting on
3 Thursday. We'll continue reviewing the conditions
4 as we have been, and continuing our work.
5 Fortunately, we've had a good amount of rainfall
6 over the past few weeks and everything, which
7 helps because we were nearing getting in some
8 drought stages, factors over the past month and
9 everything.

10 So we'll see where we're at and keep
11 everybody posted after Thursday.

12 THE CHAIR: Very good. Any questions for Martin?

13
14 (No response.)

15
16 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

17 Moving on to outreach and education. Denise?

18 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi, everyone.

19 THE CHAIR: Hi, Denise.

20 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Let's see. We just had our meeting
21 this morning. We meet on the first Tuesday from
22 nine to ten, and we went over our workshops first.

23 We had a great workshop in April. Over 90
24 people attended. We had good feedback from that
25 workshop that was on drought preparedness. Thank

1 you, Martin, for leading us off, but I think it
2 was really well attended, and there were great
3 questions.

4 We're in the process of getting that -- Allie
5 Hibbard with DEEP is looking at getting that up on
6 YouTube for us. They have to go through and make
7 sure all the closed captioning is correct. And
8 Kelsey Sudol is going to help her with that so
9 that we can get that up. And then we'll look at
10 the other, you know, things we need to get on the
11 website to make sure that everybody has access to
12 that information.

13 The second workshop is scheduled for May
14 23rd. We're still finalizing that agenda. And
15 we're looking -- again, our theme of that, the
16 overall theme is climate change, but it's forests
17 and the role of forests in water resource
18 management. And we're looking at, obviously,
19 drinking water supply, but also fish and whatever.

20 Matt Lukowski for Connecticut DEEP fisheries
21 is confirmed, and we've got a couple other folks.
22 We're just waiting for confirmations before we can
23 get that out. And so expect we'll be getting out
24 the save-the-date shortly. That's all set. And
25 then we'll be, you know, getting out the final

1 agenda shortly.

2 At our workshop today -- or I should say our
3 meeting today, we spent a lot of time discussing
4 drought education. And as you know, we did,
5 obviously, this one workshop on it, but we were
6 really looking at drought education, what needs to
7 be on the website, how we look on that and just a
8 couple of things that came out of that discussion.

9 And again, this is just discussion. No real
10 decisions have been made, but things we're going
11 to be looking at. Some of the suggestions
12 included providing information kind of in a
13 drought 101. What is a drought, anyway? So that,
14 you know, we all work in this business on a daily
15 basis, but not everybody knows what we're talking
16 about.

17 So doing the drought 101, what are the basics
18 that folks need to know, and who needs to know it?
19 You know, that difference between the general
20 public and what they need to know, as well as then
21 municipal officials and the folks who, you know,
22 are on the front lines.

23 And I think the workshop we already did
24 focused on what the State is doing and gave some
25 tips for municipalities, but basically, you know,

1 how do we then support them with this work? So
2 we'll be looking at that.

3 There was a recommendation made, and I think
4 there was some consensus that -- and we start with
5 a focus on private wells, because you know the
6 water utilities do a great job getting information
7 out when we have a drought, but it's the folks on
8 private wells that might not know what they need
9 to do or to understand what they should do in
10 there, on their own property.

11 We also want to make sure we're talking about
12 quantity and quality. Drought is not just about
13 quantity. When we have drought, there's real
14 challenges with water quality. So make sure we
15 put that in there.

16 So those are some of the things we talked
17 about. We're going to be looking at what
18 materials are already out there, where there's
19 gaps in materials -- and what we can do, again
20 looking at that website, how do we get on the
21 website, and whatever? So that's kind of what
22 we're doing.

23 And we're going to be talking about this at
24 our next meeting, but we may have a special
25 meeting just to deal with these materials,

1 depending on what people show us, if we have a lot
2 of materials to review. And we'll certainly let
3 people know about that, if people want to
4 participate in that.

5 Just quickly, the website, we made our
6 recommendation to the state water plan
7 implementation workgroup on the website. And they
8 said yes, that they thought that we needed a
9 workgroup or a sub-workgroup specifically to look
10 at this workgroup.

11 So we're in the process of drafting a
12 workgroup description, and then we'll provide that
13 back to the implementation workgroup. And if it
14 gets approved, it will eventually be coming to the
15 Water Planning Council. That's still all just in
16 the planning stages, and it's being led by myself,
17 Kim, Kim Cosella, as well as Allie Hibbard.

18 And I think now there's some work that -- oh,
19 so it was reported to us by DEP, Kim, that they
20 now have access to the OPM website, and the Water
21 Planning Council website that OPM was handling,
22 which is a good thing.

23 So both Kim and Allie Hibbard are being
24 trained on how to do that and how to update that.
25 They're working closely with Rebecca Dahl also

1 from OPM. So that was good news, and we're
2 looking forward to seeing how, moving that along.

3 The last major topic was branding and logo.
4 And again, the logo is all set. We do have some
5 now information on the technical aspects from a
6 perspective of how to use that logo, make sure
7 technically you're not messing up the logo when
8 you use it, in terms of font and color, et cetera.
9 So we have that.

10 And we're looking at policies. So Allie
11 Hibbard has been our lead on the logo, as you
12 know. And she has found an old DEEP policy on,
13 not how to use the logo, but when to use the logo.
14 And Dan Aubin mentioned that he thought he had dug
15 up a DPH policy. So Allie is going to be looking
16 at that and seeing if we can get a draft policy
17 for your consideration on the use of the logo.

18 And then the last thing was Lori joined us,
19 and Dan Aubin has some new responsibilities at
20 DPH. And we're going to be really sad to see him
21 not be able to be on our workgroup as he's going
22 to transition off. He's not leaving us
23 immediately, but we'll be glad to have Lori and
24 any of her staff join us.

25 I do want to stress that we love having

1 someone from each of the agencies on outreach and
2 education. We have so much cross work we do, so
3 hopefully that will continue -- and I know Lori,
4 that's her intent.

5 But just I think for all of us who want to
6 say that, we will definitely miss Dan being as
7 active with our group as he has been, and I think
8 that's all for now.

9 If anyone else on our group has anything that
10 I missed, please shout it out.

11 **THE CHAIR:** Thank you, Denise. You've been very busy
12 as usual with your group, and a very good report.

13 Any questions for Denise?

14
15 (No response.)
16

17 **THE CHAIR:** Okay. Let's move on to Water Planning
18 Council Advisory workgroup. Alicia and Dan?

19 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** Thanks, Jack.

20 So there's obviously a couple of updates
21 coming from some of the advisory group workgroups
22 coming up, but just a note on source water
23 protection. There may be some progress made.

24 I have a friend who has been experimenting
25 with the newest version of ChatGPT, and we may

1 have some of the white paper written by a
2 non-human. So we're going to let you know how
3 that goes, to see how accurate some of the stuff
4 that had been brought up through the chat bot.

5 But there was a discussion during the Water
6 Planning Council advisory group meeting of
7 artificial turf fields being installed close to
8 surface water bodies, and concerns about PFAS
9 contamination to surface waters as new scientific
10 studies are coming out on the impacts of
11 artificial turf. So there are concerns about this
12 in a couple of different towns.

13 And also, unfortunately, because of the
14 timing of comments on what should be in DEEP's
15 newest request for proposals for renewable energy
16 projects, we weren't able to get anything out from
17 the advisory group, but there are several folks
18 who submitted comments that included some of the
19 recommendations that had come from the water
20 planning, from the report that was put out I think
21 about three, two, three years ago from the
22 advisory group and the watershed lands workgroup.
23 There will be another opportunity to comment on
24 the request for proposals once those come out, so
25 we'll be keeping an eye on that.

1 And I will leave the rest for the other
2 workgroup updates, unless I forgot anything.

3 Did I forget anything?

4 **THE CHAIR:** Well, are you going to talk about the
5 conservation price --

6 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** Yes. Okay. We'll move on to the
7 next agenda item. Yes. So we had the first
8 conservation and pricing and rate recovery
9 analysis meeting the first Thursday of April. Our
10 next meeting is eleven o'clock this coming
11 Thursday.

12 So far, in attendance in the last meeting we
13 had Mary Ann Dickinson, myself, Eric Lindquist
14 from DPH, Ally Ayotte and Rich Skarzynski from
15 PURA, Dan Lawrence from Aquarion, Iris Kuzminski,
16 Kevin Watsey and Leo Caterino from South Central
17 Regional Water Authority, Brittany Bettis-Allen
18 from Operation Fuel, and Bruce Wittchen from OPM.

19 We really just spent this meeting getting to
20 know each other, reviewing the scope, the goals
21 and the work product, and we identified some
22 information needs as well as next steps. So one
23 of the things that we'll be doing is we'll be
24 asking some presenters to come in to talk a little
25 bit about specifically the sort of tools and

1 mechanisms for conservation pricing, as well as
2 asking some folks to come in to talk about any
3 challenges they may face in implementing this sort
4 of program. So we're in information gathering
5 mode.

6 And so does anybody have any questions about
7 that?

8 THE CHAIR: Any questions for Alecia?

9 VIRGINIA de LIMA: That sounds like a great group.

10 THE CHAIR: Virginia stole my -- it's exactly what I
11 was going to say. That's going to be very
12 exciting to see what comes out of that group. I'm
13 looking forward to that.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, I'm hoping that -- so we have
15 put the call out for some municipal utility
16 leaders to join us, as well as a community water
17 system individual. And if we can't get them to
18 join us for every meeting, we will certainly be
19 asking them to come and talk to us amount, you
20 know.

21 THE CHAIR: Right.

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Their challenges and everything, so.

23 THE CHAIR: Great. Anything else, Alicea?

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: That's all I have. I know the
25 watershed lands group is next. Correct?

1 THE CHAIR: It is. Thank you very much.

2 The watershed lands workgroup, Karen and
3 Margaret.

4 KAREN BURNASKA: Thank you very much. I will start
5 off. I think this is -- the way we've been doing
6 it now, I start off and I let Margaret do all the
7 cleanup and give a lot of information.

8 Not as a direct responsibility of the
9 Watershed Lands workgroup, but as an offshoot of
10 it several environmental organizations have been
11 reviewing the proposed land conveyance,
12 conveyances that are in front of the Legislature
13 this year.

14 The Legislature will have -- the GAE
15 committee will hold a public hearing next Monday,
16 the 8th, and there are ten items on the agenda.
17 We are very interested in two of them, and we're
18 looking into that further.

19 The two are a conveyance in Cheshire, which
20 does have aquifer protection land -- include
21 aquifer protection land. And the second is in
22 East Haddam that contains a lot of watershed --
23 wetlands. So we were looking at that in more
24 detail.

25 They were very interesting this year. We

1 will thank the GAE committee tremendously for
2 putting the information up on the website prior to
3 the public hearing, actually several weeks ago, as
4 soon as they -- shortly after they received the
5 information. And these are the legislative
6 request questionnaires and also the environmental
7 supplements along with some other information.

8 And it was interesting to note that several
9 of them initially had no specific information
10 included with them. They were not called for a
11 public hearing.

12 And another initially proposed conveyance in
13 Beacon Falls, which was a set of four different
14 addresses, four different -- initially four
15 different applications of 100 percent forestland
16 that wanted to -- that the community wanted to use
17 for economic development are not on next Monday's
18 public hearing agenda.

19 But we will be trying to follow up on that
20 because that's a very interesting -- it was a very
21 interesting conveyance proposal. And like I said,
22 very concerning because -- or concerning because
23 it was 100 percent forestland.

24 **THE CHAIR:** Karen?

25 **KAREN BURNASKA:** Yes?

1 THE CHAIR: Just, I happen to be Chairman of the Beacon
2 Falls Economic Development Committee.

3 KAREN BURNASKA: Are you really?

4 THE CHAIR: So I can tell you very briefly on that, is
5 that that land is owned by the State of
6 Connecticut.

7 KAREN BURNASKA: Yes, DES.

8 THE CHAIR: And they want to put fire training, state
9 fire training school in there.

10 KAREN BURNASKA: Yes.

11 THE CHAIR: And so what's happened is that they got the
12 land, but they don't have the money for the
13 building. So there's a big controversy going up
14 right now in terms of what's going to be happening
15 with this.

16 So I don't know. I'm not -- so it's off the
17 agenda now. Correct?

18 KAREN BURNASKA: Yes. Yes, it is not on the agenda.

19 THE CHAIR: That does not surprise me.

20 KAREN BURNASKA: I didn't know you were in that.

21 You're the person we should have been contacting
22 all along.

23 THE CHAIR: But I don't think there's any water or any
24 issues there. I don't.

25 KAREN BURNASKA: Okay. Like I said, it just -- when

1 you look at 100 percent forest land, and we
2 know -- and I'm going to let Margaret speak,
3 because I think she had spoken to someone at DES,
4 or who the -- or someone in the Legislature about
5 this property.

6 But for next Monday's hearing, we are looking
7 at and we are considering, and we will be
8 submitting testimony probably on the Cheshire one,
9 and also on the East Haddam one.

10 And I saw Margaret light up and I'm going to
11 turn it right over to her right now, Margaret.

12 **THE CHAIR:** Thank you.

13 **MARGARET MINER:** Thank you, Karen.

14 Just to go back one second, at Alicia's rates
15 groups I'm looking forward to when municipals
16 are -- include a couple of those municipals,
17 because they'll be important. So I'm glad you're
18 looking at that.

19 Second, off topic -- at the very end, I could
20 do a quick update on what we found on bridges
21 under public comment.

22 **THE CHAIR:** Oh, good.

23 **MARGARET MINER:** Now, as for -- yes, I did a lot of
24 research on the Beacon, Beacon Falls, and I saw
25 several Betkoski's, Jack, that I started to write

1 you.

2 By the way -- well, two names, Betkoski. You
3 all have a superior, a superior plan of
4 conservation and development and a very good
5 watershed plan.

6 **THE CHAIR:** Yes.

7 **MARGARET MINER:** So I was really impressed.

8 The DES, I spoke to their legal department
9 who referred me to their legislative liaison. And
10 I've been telling them, please, if you're going
11 to, if you're going to try to kill this, or kill
12 it, let me know so I don't have to research it so
13 much.

14 He never let me know. So I did research.

15 I'm not sure they were aware, and you might
16 know this, Jack, that the Town had put in for the
17 conveyance. They seemed sort of blank when I
18 first asked them about it.

19 I think -- I think one of the problems,
20 correct me if I'm wrong, I believe money has been
21 bonded for the fire school, starting maybe with
22 Malloy. And Lamont turned up and he said, don't
23 worry, the money is coming. This was 2018 -- and
24 it's never arrived.

25 Is that the situation?

1 THE CHAIR: That's correct. I'm not a hundred percent.
2 And I don't think that the State knew -- I don't
3 think emergency services knew that that bill was
4 being put in. I think that they probably were
5 caught off guard, Margaret.

6 MARGARET MINER: Yeah, I don't think -- and I'm going
7 to -- I've been very polite, and only one phone
8 call to Scott DeVito. The rest have been e-mails.

9 But at any rate, that is one that I ticketed
10 as, and then I actually had started an e-mail to
11 you, because I know you live -- well, at any rate,
12 I knew you were near there.

13 There's some flooding in the area. It's hard
14 to tell from the map. So the forested land does
15 have streams running through it, and one thing we
16 would sort of be looking at is if there's an area
17 of flooding, is it better to have those trees
18 there? You know, I can't tell. So that's the
19 kind of environmental question that we had.

20 And I'm so glad that we -- that you have been
21 this involved, and we can check facts and
22 positions with you.

23 I should mention -- I guess one thing I'll
24 mention, not on the conveyance. We had in our
25 most maybe prominent loss of high-quality

1 wetlands, in a watershed has been the illegal --
2 or sometimes people say, unnoticed, or,
3 un-permitted quarry in Monroe.

4 And that's a quarry -- that is a project that
5 it's in a drinking water watershed for Aquarion
6 Water -- not with a direct hydrologic connection
7 at this point.

8 The original application was for a
9 commercial, to create a site for a commercial
10 building. That turned into a 39-acre quarry,
11 granite quarry, 60 feet deep in a couple of
12 places -- and there it is.

13 Finally, the activity stopped in 2021, '22,
14 under a new owner, but the same management. The
15 owner applied for a wetlands, an after-the-fact
16 wetlands permit, and got a plan for restoring the
17 wetlands that remain around the big hole, and also
18 applied again for a building permit.

19 And then both permits were appealed by an
20 intervener. We got a ruling from a very good
21 judge, Radcliffe, a few days ago. And to
22 everyone, in a very sort of surprising ruling he
23 approved the wetlands permit for restoring
24 wetlands, the remaining wetlands.

25 He did not approve it on the merits. He

1 approved it because -- because given that there
2 are two applications in play, one might affect the
3 other and cause a sort of endless cycle of
4 intervention.

5 So he approved the wetlands permit, but he
6 disapproved the planning and zoning permit, which
7 was for filling the hole and creating a building
8 site. In fact, the owners have gone ahead and
9 filled the hole anyway. So I have no idea how
10 this is going to play out.

11 But the bottom line is that this is a highly
12 valuable, undisturbed wetlands in a drinking water
13 watershed, with activity like this going on for
14 years, with, you know, the State being notified at
15 various times, and nobody seemed to be able to
16 stop it.

17 Nothing in the -- no fine has ever been
18 issued. Nothing in the judge's ruling relates to
19 penalties or compensation. Maybe that comes at
20 some later legal stage, if at all, but the end
21 result, or as close as we are to the end now, it
22 really -- I think it's our responsibility to take
23 a look at, we think we have a system for
24 protecting wetlands and aquifer protection things,
25 and this and that -- but out in the field, is it

1 really happening?

2 My sense is that, you know, we're losing
3 wetlands, and we're losing them, not always to
4 such an egregious, obvious violation, but we're
5 losing them in driveways that are way too big, and
6 two, when you could only -- only need one, and
7 sort of on a daily basis in our towns.

8 So I'm very concerned. We rely on local
9 regulations, state regulations to protect this
10 resource, and obviously in many significant cases
11 those protections just aren't there.

12 So that's my -- I was going to say something
13 about it just later, but that's really the news.
14 The judge's decision, I can send it around if you
15 want. It's extremely lucid. He's a very good
16 judge; he explains the facts very well, but it
17 kind of leaves us, or leaves everybody involved in
18 the case in a quandary.

19 I don't know what Monroe plans to do next, or
20 the owner, or the Intervener -- but I'm sure
21 they're talking to their lawyers at length.

22 That's the end of that story.

23 I could move on to something happier.

24 **THE CHAIR:** We like happy.

25 **MARGARET MINER:** Do you want me to move on to something

1 happier?

2 THE CHAIR: Yeah.

3 MARGARET MINER: Because -- but I do want to say, I
4 don't think just over and over again, we should
5 say, well, that's just the way it is. I think we
6 have to make it different from the way it is.

7 Okay?

8 Happier is the reports on bridges.

9 Martha, and I think Carol is on. Martha
10 Smith went down and looked at the work on the West
11 River Bridge, which was identified as one of the
12 worst paint problems. And she saw -- and she
13 might describe later, and got photos.

14 She talked to the men, men in hazmat suits
15 with a tarp underneath, collecting paint chips,
16 putting them in a big barrel, and repainting with
17 a different kind of paint. And that seemed to be
18 going well. On the other hand, it's not clear
19 that anyone in New Haven knew about it. And
20 certainly, the West River Watershed did not know
21 about it.

22 On the same theme, Carol Haskins, you know,
23 had also had paint work done in her Pomperaug
24 River Watershed, and that was sort of wrapping up
25 and we kind of knew -- and in that case,

1 apparently no one in the Town or the watershed had
2 been notified.

3 Nobody was complaining about the work as it
4 was done, but it seemed odd that nobody knew about
5 it until someone driving by, you know, asked and
6 called Town Hall and said, what's happening? And
7 Town Hall didn't know.

8 More, more significant, perhaps, Carol, while
9 kind of looking into this -- and I hope she's
10 on -- she came upon, kind of, by accident an
11 announcement from DOT about a big bridge. And
12 Carol, I don't know how this -- if it was a major
13 repair or a replacement, but this was a
14 construction job. And again, I'm not sure who got
15 noticed, but the Pomperaug River Watershed
16 Association did not.

17 They are drafting up some really very
18 important comments or suggestions for making the
19 project better. It shouldn't upset DOT -- they
20 don't have to accept them -- and would be a good
21 part of the process, I believe.

22 So what I have in mind, and Carol and Martha
23 might want to say something, is that what we seem
24 to have, whether it's paint work or
25 reconstruction -- and I had the same thing in my

1 town. One of our town officials came to me about
2 bridge work in a neighboring watershed because he
3 didn't know who else to go to. So he came to
4 Rivers Alliance. This was a couple of years ago.

5 Notice seems to be weak, inadequate, and
6 especially notice to whatever watershed group
7 really might have an interest. And they've put in
8 decades, you know, working to protect the river
9 under the bridge.

10 And so what I'm thinking we should be looking
11 at is -- maybe us bridge people, how can notice be
12 improved and who should get it? And what kind of
13 projects should there be an opportunity to make
14 suggestions for the replacement? I think they
15 call an actual public hearing, but you know, only
16 by chance did Carol find out about it.

17 So my happy news on bridges is that the paint
18 work, from what we've heard from a couple of
19 cases, seems to be being done very professionally.
20 We don't know about, you know, the bridge
21 replacement work or major repairs could perhaps
22 benefit from some recommendations. And could
23 watershed groups please get notice?

24 And finally, there are 365 town bridges --
25 and we don't know anything. We don't know

1 anything about that. I think sometimes these are
2 handled by local wetlands. I've seen that. So
3 that's another kind of loose end.

4 But generally speaking, I think it's happy --
5 happy-ish news on bridges. I don't know how much
6 lead paint is getting into the water, but I don't
7 know how you can measure it if there was any
8 problem. There DOT is doing a professional job.

9 So that's something that where I think
10 improved process and more notification would be a
11 good idea all around, but I'm not reporting as
12 before like a total water system has been ruined.
13 It is not. It's being protected.

14 That's all.

15 THE CHAIR: Sounds good. That's a happy note. A very
16 extensive, good report.

17 Any questions or followup for Margaret?

18
19 (No response.)
20

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

22 We'll move on to public comment. Any public
23 comment today?
24

25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIR: No public comment.

2 Our next meeting will be June 6th.

3 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, I think I see a hand.

4 Martha, Martha Smith.

5 MARTHA SMITH: Sorry.

6 THE CHAIR: Oh, I did not see Martha.

7 MARTHA SMITH: It took me a second to find the right
8 button to push. I just wanted to quickly -- just
9 one add?

10 So I'm the one that went out for the West
11 River Watershed Coalition, and this is the Route
12 15 Bridge that goes over the West River, and it
13 was marked as severe paint problems, and paint
14 was, you know, they identified paint falling into
15 the river.

16 I went out yesterday to look at it. Yes,
17 they're working on it. They're going to be out
18 there for about a month. I still don't quite --
19 there will be another consultant that comes out to
20 do some sort of remediation and testing, and I
21 don't know exactly what that is.

22 We have a West River Watershed Coalition
23 meeting tomorrow morning, so I'm going to talk to
24 the rest of the group and find out what we want to
25 do next, but that's kind of where that stands.

1 THE CHAIR: Thanks, Martha. I appreciate that very
2 much.

3 Any other public comment, please raise your
4 hand?

5
6 (No response.)
7

8 THE CHAIR: I guess not. Again, the next meeting is
9 June 6th. Appreciate everybody's participation
10 this afternoon. Quick meeting.

11 Motion to adjourn?

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

13 THE CHAIR: Second?

14 MARTIN HEFT: Second.

15 THE CHAIR: All those in favor?

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

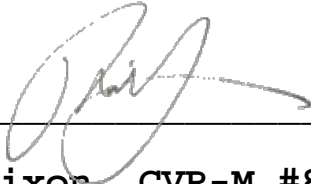
17 MARTIN HEFT: Good seeing everyone.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you all very much. Appreciate it.
19

20 (End: 2:15 p.m.)
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 36 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, via Teleconference on May 2, 2023.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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

1 INDEX

2 VOTES TAKEN
3 (Unanimous Approval)

4 DESCRIPTION	PAGE
4 4/4/'23 Transcript approval	3
5 Rebecca Dahl, as Statewide Drought Coordinator	5
5 Adjournment	36

6 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

7 DESCRIPTION	PAGE(s)
8 M. Heft: State drought coordinator	4-5
9 L. Stone: WUCC, July 19th in-person meeting	6
9 L. Mathieu: Priv. wells, Maven, lab reporting	7-8
10 V. de Lima: Workgroup co-chair vote	9
11 Water quality data, phase II	9-11
11 C. Bellucci: 5/22 meeting	11
12 M. Heft: Interagency drought workgroup	12
13 D. Savageau: Outreach & Ed, 5/23 workshop	12-15
14 Website recommendation, logo	16-18
15 A. Charamut: WPC advisory workgroup	18
15 Artificial turf, RFP comments	19
16 Conservation pricing analysis	20-21
17 K. Burnaska: Watershed lands workgroup	22
17 questionnaires, firefighter tower	23-25
18 M. Miner: Tower funding history, flooding	25-27
18 Monroe Quarry	27-30
19 Bridgework notification	30-34

20 PUBLIC COMMENT

21 M. Smith: Paint into rivers	35
--------------------------------	----