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6	STATE OF CONNECTICUT
0 7	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
8	PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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10	STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL
11	
12	Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
13	June 6, 2023, beginning at 1:30 p.m.
14	
15	Held Before:
16	JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, WPC CHAIRMAN,
17	and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN
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1	Appearances:
2	WATER PLANNING COUNCILMEMBERS 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	VIRGINIA de LIMA
10	KELSEY SUDOL
11	MARGARET MINER
12	DENISE SAVAGEAU
13	RYAN TETREAULT
14	KAREN BURNASKA
15	MARGARET MINER
16	DAN LAWRENCE
17	
18	
19	
20	Staff:
21	ALYSON AYOTTE
22	LAURA LUPOLI
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1	(Begin: 1:30 p.m.)
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3	THE CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the
4	June 6, 2023, meeting of the Water Planning
5	Council. We'll call the meeting to order.
6	The first order of business is to approve the
7	May 2, 2023, meeting transcript.
8	Do I hear a motion?
9	MARTIN HEFT: So moved.
10	GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.
11	THE CHAIR: Moved and seconded.
12	Any questions on the motion?
13	
14	(No response.)
15	
16	THE CHAIR: If not, all those in favor signify by
17	saying aye.
18	THE COUNCIL: Aye.
19	THE CHAIR: Motion approved.
20	Any public comment on agenda items?
21	
22	(No response.)
23	
24	THE CHAIR: Any correspondence?
25	

1	(No response.)
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3	THE CHAIR: I have none but we're going to move to
4	action items; Water Planning Council advisory
5	group representative Kelsey Sudol.
6	Virginia, would you like to talk about
7	Kelsey?
8	VIRGINIA de LIMA: Sure. I can. I can mention that
9	we're very pleased that she is going to be
10	she's proposed as the representative for the Water
11	Planning Council advisory group.
12	And she is here, and I've asked her just to
13	take a few moments and introduce herself and tell
14	you all what interests her about water planning.
15	THE CHAIR: Hi, Kelsey. Please do.
16	KELSEY SUDOL: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for
17	having me. So my name is Kelsey Sudol. I am on
18	the Water Planning Council advisory group as an
19	alternate for lakes and ponds. I work for the
20	Lake Waramaug task force and I also work for the
21	Northwest Conservation District where I focus on a
22	lot of watershed planning and lakes.
23	I also have been a member of the
24	implementation workgroup's education outreach
25	and education subgroup for last year, and so I'm

1	really excited, hopefully, to step into this role
2	and be officially a part of the implementation
3	workgroup, and look forward to it.
4	Thank you so much.
5	THE CHAIR: Welcome, and very much thank you for your
6	interest.
7	With that I would entertain a motion that
8	Kelsey be nominated for the WPCAG group?
9	LORI MATHIEU: So moved.
10	MARTIN HEFT: I'll second that.
11	THE CHAIR: Virginia, what's the matter?
12	VIRGINIA de LIMA: I believe you meant a position for
13	the implementation workgroup.
14	MARTIN HEFT: Correct, Virginia, IWG nomination.
15	THE CHAIR: Yes, that's correct. Yes, yes.
16	Right, yes to a motion. We have it
17	seconded. And I'm just looking at the way this is
18	written here but that's correct. That's our
19	understanding. Any questions?
20	MARGARET MINER: E-mails would be in correspondence.
21	THE CHAIR: Margaret is talking about an e-mail being
22	correspondence. We'll have whatever Margaret
23	has a question about, we'll have her bring it up.
24	Any questions?
25	

1	(No response.)
2	
3	THE CHAIR: If not, all those in favor signify by
4	saying aye.
5	THE COUNCIL: Aye.
6	THE CHAIR: The motion is carried.
7	Congratulations and welcome, Kelsey.
8	KELSEY SUDOL: Thank you very much.
9	THE CHAIR: Look forward to working with you and we
10	really appreciate your interest.
11	LORI MATHIEU: Kelsey, thank you for volunteering. We
12	appreciate that very much.
13	KELSEY SUDOL: No problem.
14	LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.
15	THE CHAIR: So we also have under action items, WPC
16	members discuss and review priorities.
17	Unfortunately, this year we did not we came up
18	with no money moving forward.
19	So I think, Lori, you asked that that go on
20	the agenda.
21	LORI MATHIEU: I did.
22	THE CHAIR: I was thinking when I went over the agenda
23	this morning I mean, we're almost to a point
24	where we have to have some type of planning
25	retreat or something again to see where we're

1 going, to take a look at the plan. And I guess 2 we're going to have to be innovative and creative 3 in terms of how we're going to get the funding. 4 And so I think maybe we should have some type 5 of retreat maybe in August, before. 6 Anybody have any opinion? 7 LORI MATHIEU: I like that idea, and I wanted to add it 8 to the agenda because we're in this position now. 9 This plan is getting older and you know we're 10 approaching some critical points, especially with 11 climate, impact on water. It's important for us 12 to look at. There are a number of things that we 13 may want to undertake in some sort of combined 14 effort, and so I just thought it would be good for 15 the four of us to talk about what we should do. 16 I like the idea of a retreat. I think the 17 last time we did that was a while ago. 18 I think Virginia facilitated our retreat. THE CHAIR: 19 LORI MATHIEU: It was a long time ago -- five years 20 ago, maybe? Right. We were just -- we were very much 21 THE CHAIR: 22 in the beginning stages of the plan. 23 But I think in lieu of the fact that we 24 didn't get any funding at this point, and I talked 25 about in the past of perhaps doing something

through the PUC funds, but you know that doesn't happen overnight. And there's a process we have to go through for that. And quite frankly, with rate cases right now coming in here, and it's kind of sensitive to be looking at that at this particular time.

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Now that being said, in the past I did talk to some companies and some companies were willing to put some money towards the plan, so -- but I've got to check it out with legal and all that kind of thing.

Graham, do you want to weigh in on this, or Martin?

GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. No, I'm definitely supportive
 of looking into any funding opportunity we could
 come up with that could move the ball forward,
 Jack.

MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, and I'm in agreement as well. I
know, you know, last year we looked at the federal
grant. You know we've had -- you know, fortunate
we've had some other grants. You know our \$50,000
grant we used for some pieces.

23 So you know, looking at any options, there 24 obviously is the best thing to do, you know, in 25 the interim as we continue to pursue funding, you 1 know, for potentially for the next midterm budget. 2 GRAHAM STEVENS: Right. And to that point, Martin, 3 working on establishing some metrics that really 4 show the value, or the lost value of an effective 5 or not fully effective Water Planning Council б would be imperative to any budget request -- and 7 that that's something we'd have to start now, I 8 think if we wanted to be successful.

We've socialized the issue, and now we need to circle back and provide more clarity on why, on the why.

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I'm thinking -- I'm just going to throw 12 THE CHAIR: 13 this out for consideration, that maybe in lieu of 14 a regular meeting on July 12th, we might want to 15 look -- and of course, everybody on this call 16 definitely might want to look at having some type 17 of retreat planning session instead of waiting 18 until the people are around. I know for people 19 it's vacation time, but I'm just throwing that out 20 for discussion.

Instead of a meeting, we have that scheduled. We can turn it into -- kind of come up with some items. I'd ask Councilmembers come up with some items for discussion. Of course, I think first and foremost would be the whole budgetary

1 challenge that we have, but. 2 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, and I think DEEP would be 3 willing to offer up one of its facilities if you 4 want to have an off-site dedicated session. 5 I wasn't here five years ago, so I'm not sure exactly how you guys handled the retreat, but we 6 7 have some facilities with meeting spaces around 8 the state that we could offer up. 9 LORI MATHIEU: We went to your beautiful Fort Trumbull 10 for our --11 GRAHAM STEVENS: I was just going to say Fort Trumbull. 12 So yeah, we'll have to come up with a new one 13 then. I love that one. 14 LORI MATHIEU: Beautiful. It's beautiful. 15 THE CHAIR: No, we can go back to Fort Trumbull. 16 That was great. 17 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. 18 THE CHAIR: But Martin -- are you going to be around, 19 Martin? 20 MARTIN HEFT: Yes, depending on -- what date are we 21 talking on? I'm sorry. 22 THE CHAIR: I'm talking about instead of the next 23 regular meeting, instead of having a meeting we'll 24 have a retreat, slash, planning session, and we'd 25 probably start earlier in the day.

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1	LORI MATHIEU: Is that on the 12th, Jack?
2	MARTIN HEFT: July 12th?
3	THE CHAIR: Yeah.
4	MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, then I'm around. So that's not an
5	issue on my part, yeah.
6	THE CHAIR: And Graham, that works for you? Lori?
7	GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, I don't go anywhere.
8	This is my vacation, right here.
9	Yeah the 12th? Did you say July 12th?
10	THE CHAIR: Yes.
11	LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.
12	MARTIN HEFT: That was when we scheduled the July
13	meeting because of the July 4th holiday and
14	everything. For some reason that's the date that
15	got chosen.
16	GRAHAM STEVENS: For some reason I didn't put it on my
17	calendar. Great.
18	THE CHAIR: So then what I'm thinking is that if we
19	started earlier if we just want to start, we
20	could start it, maybe have a lunch.
21	And I'm thinking this is inclusive of our
22	support groups, the implementation group and the
23	WPAG as well if that's okay?
24	GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, and depending on the number of
25	people, you know, Fort Trumbull may not be

1	sufficiently sized, but.
2	LORI MATHIEU: So Jack, are you thinking that we would
3	go there for, say, one o'clock and block off the
4	afternoon?
5	THE CHAIR: Yeah.
6	LORI MATHIEU: Okay.
7	THE CHAIR: July 12th?
8	July 12th I have as a Wednesday.
9	GRAHAM STEVENS: Correct. We have the same calendar.
10	LORI MATHIEU: I'm checking to see if I have the same
11	calendar. Hold on.
12	Yes.
13	THE CHAIR: Why don't we have it on I'm just curious
14	why we don't
15	GRAHAM STEVENS: Probably because I have a recurring
16	meeting on Tuesday afternoons, on the second
17	Tuesday of the month.
18	THE CHAIR: WPC is on my meeting on the 12th, so it's
19	on my calendar already.
20	MARTIN HEFT: And I know that on the 10th, that Monday
21	was an issue, because I know there's a commission
22	on Connecticut's development in the future that
23	would conflict with me. So that may have been a
24	reason we looked.
25	And then there was conflicts Tuesday.

1	We wound up on Wednesday maybe.
2	THE CHAIR: Virginia would you be able to make it?
3	VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes, I would. And if you were so
4	inclined, I'd be willing to help facilitate as
5	well.
6	THE CHAIR: Well, you did a great job last time.
7	MARTIN HEFT: Accepted.
8	THE CHAIR: Actually Virginia helped me out some of
9	you know, involved with the multiple sclerosis
10	society, and she helped me out with a great job
11	with that as well. So thank you.
12	You're hired, Virginia. All right. We'll
13	talk.
14	So Okay. This is good, and we might start it
15	a little bit earlier on the 12th, but Allie and
16	I'll let you know. Okay? Great.
17	LORI MATHIEU: So Jack, just some agenda items is to
18	sort of look back. If you recall, a big part of
19	the discussion that we all had, and Martin and
20	Graham, you were not there but we all knew at
21	the time that to undertake implementation we would
22	need, you know, a water chief and that's a big
23	part of the implementation items.
24	So you know, Graham, to your point about
25	metrics, I think we should take a look at, first

and foremost, you know, development of, you know -- look. Read those sections of the state water plan, put down some ideas.

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You know, try to absorb what was said in the past about the need for this, this water chief to help with implementation; sort of, glean out of the plan those items. And you know that would be the first agenda item, really would be to take a look at what the plan said about that.

10 Because it was recognized -- and Jack, you 11 were there. So maybe you could weigh, and the 12 others that were around at the time, we really 13 knew that we couldn't have stepped forward without 14 the need for somebody dedicated to do this work. No doubt. No doubt about it, and 15 THE CHAIR: 16 unfortunately -- you know we've managed to keep 17 the wheels on the bus all these years, but we 18 still have to figure out how, how to do it. And 19 hopefully at this retreat planning session we can 20 come up with some ideas moving forward and move 21 towards how we might get some funding.

As was said earlier by a Martin and Graham --Graham, we did. We did apply. We really made a valiant effort to get money from the feds and through the state budget, but unfortunately it wasn't successful.

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I think Denise Savageau has got her hand raised. Denise?

DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, I just want -- and I'm just going to put something in the chat for you just for information, is that Senate Bill 998 passed. This was a substitute bill, so the title of the bill has nothing to do with what is in the bill.

9 But section 515, line 698 talks about 10 establishing a department or a program on 11 responsible growth and includes funding for staff 12 to support a couple of different agencies, 13 including the Water Planning Council. So I just 14 wanted to bring that to your attention, that that 15 legislation passed, and I put the information in 16 the chat for you.

THE CHAIR: So tell me a little bit more about it. So
 what is this again?

DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. So the bill says it's an act establishing a tax abatement for certain conservation easements, but that bill was substituted for a bill that had multiple things in it -- including the new section that I'm talking about is, there shall be an office of responsible growth within the intergovernmental policy

1 division of the Office of Policy and Management. 2 And then within that section it says that it 3 will provide staff support to boards and 4 committees and other groups deemed appropriate by 5 the secretary of OPM such as the advisory б commission on intergovernmental relations and the 7 State Water Planning Council. 8 Martin Heft, have you been holding out on THE CHAIR: 9 us? 10 MARTIN HEFT: No. So what that is -- to clarify, is 11 the Legislature decided to codify the Office of 12 Responsible Growth, because the Office of 13 Responsible Growth is done by Executive Order 15 14 by then Governor Rell. 15 They decided to codify the Office of 16 Responsible growth, and that just outlines the 17 duties and responsibilities of that office which 18 is providing staff support to the Water Planning 19 Council among other items. So that's what the 20 reference there is. It has nothing to do with the 21 budget or anything else. 22 It just codifies one of the units in my 23 division into state statute.

GRAHAM STEVENS: It's not passed on -- it's not passed an agreement. So it was passed by the Senate,

1	amended by the House.
2	MARTIN HEFT: Correct.
3	GRAHAM STEVENS: Now it's gone back to the Senate.
4	MARTIN HEFT: Correct.
5	GRAHAM STEVENS: So it may not survive.
6	MARTIN HEFT: Right, but all that language does is
7	codifies one of my units, instead of it being
8	under executive order
9	THE CHAIR: Got it.
10	MARTIN HEFT: it puts it into state statute.
11	THE CHAIR: But when it says that it would provide
12	staffing for the I mean, we all know. It could
13	say all at once, but if you don't have the money
14	attached to it we're still back to square one.
15	Correct?
16	MARTIN HEFT: Exactly, and that's not the relevance of
17	what it is, you know, for staffing of water chief
18	and all that other type of stuff. It's staffing,
19	you know, of the staff support as each of us have
20	for Water Planning Council.
21	THE CHAIR: Got it. Okay.
22	DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. I think the point being
23	however, is it's something to build on. Now they
24	have that, Water Planning Council needs staff in
25	there and needs staff support, and I think it's

1 one of those things -- like, okay. Let's go the 2 next step, so. 3 THE CHAIR: Very good point and something we can 4 certainly talk about at the planning session. 5 Okay. So we're all set for the planning retreat on the 12th. We'll get back to you with 6 7 additional information. If you have any 8 thoughts -- and Virginia, you and I will have to 9 get together to kind of come up with an agenda and 10 take it from there. I'm very excited about this, 11 so. 12 Okay. Anything else before I move on? 13 14 (No response.) 15 16 THE CHAIR: Let's move on to WUCC. Lori? 17 LORI MATHIEU: Could I do private wells first, 18 because that's what I have teed up in front of me? 19 THE CHAIR: Yes, you may. Yes. 20 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. So thank you, Jack. So private 21 well update -- we last time, we've been talking 22 about the progress of completion of the database 23 project that we're undertaking to identify results and have results come into the Department as of 24 25 October 1 of '22, which was under the public act

that passed.

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So we're continuing to work on our Maven database system for private well information. We are focusing right now with our -- working with our DPH information technology team and a contractor to develop this even further.

Laboratories, environmental laboratories have been attaching lab reports and sending them to a dedicated DPH e-mail account. To date we've received over 9,000 lab reports from private well and semi-public well tests and results that we've received. So that's over 9,000, which is a lot.

What we are doing right now -- because we still have an electronic process that we have to -- these are coming in, into e-mail. We have to manually enter these into the Maven data system. So that's where we are at this point and moving into that electronic reporting system will allow the reports to come in electronically into Maven.

So continue to work on that, and that is the report for private wells.

23 THE CHAIR: Any questions for Lori?

(No response.)

THE CHAIR: Okay.

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2 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack.

And for the WUCC, the next WUCC implementation meeting is scheduled for July 19th at one o'clock at the MDC training center in Hartford, the south end of Hartford.

The items for the agenda items, a number of items are updating on the sale of excess water permitting process for emergency interconnects; updating the diversion permit general -- diversion permit, general permit for emergency interconnects; updating on municipal education materials; discussion on outreach and communications.

A discussion of the proposal by the Connecticut section of AWWA to assess available water and margin of safety calculations -- which has been an ongoing discussion for a while, and also hazard mitigation. A Resilient Connecticut presentation, I guess, will be provided.

And again that is the next WUCC implementation meeting. You're all invited. That's July 19th at one o'clock, MDC training center. And when we have it, we have the actual agenda, we can, you know, share that.

1	We will post it.
2	And that's all that I have for these two
3	items.
4	THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Lori. And what's
5	it? July 19th at what time?
6	LORI MATHIEU: July 19th at one o'clock, and I see that
7	online is Ryan and possibly Lisette. I know Eric
8	couldn't make it today actually I don't see
9	Lisette.
10	So Ryan, is there anything that I missed or
11	anything that you'd like to add to what I provided
12	for private wells?
13	RYAN TETREAULT: That was that, Lori.
14	Thank you for the update.
15	LORI MATHIEU: Sure. Thank you. That's excellent, you
16	know, just thinking about 9,000 reports being sent
17	and all coming in, you know, electronically, you
18	know, through e-mail. And then we have to take
19	that, put that into a data system. It's a lot of
20	work, but Ryan has been working really hard to
21	move on to the electronic system.
22	So just a lot of work there but thank you,
23	Ryan.
24	THE CHAIR: I see Virginia's hand up.
25	VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah, I've got a quick question,

Lori.

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Do you have a way of assessing whether -what percentage of the total the 9,000 represents? I mean, do you have a way of counting who's done it and who hasn't done it?

LORI MATHIEU: I'll send you the total -- Ryan, do you want to take that one?

RYAN TETREAULT: Yeah. Are you asking about which properties with wells have tested, and have not tested?

Now we still don't have a good number on -or a good mapping representation of where all private wells are in the state. I think that's one of our projects where we're looking to further refine with maybe a GIS later that has each private well parcel identified.

And then from there maybe we can do some 17 18 future address matching with the water guality 19 database of results we're getting from labs to see 20 a better idea of who has tested their well and who 21 has not. So there's a lot we can do with this 22 data in terms of identifying who is doing testing, 23 where we need to do more outreach and education to 24 try to promote testing and to see what people are 25 testing for.

1 Maybe there's certain contaminants of concern 2 in certain areas that people are not testing for 3 and we can target outreach and education on those 4 areas for those parameters. And also we can do a 5 better job looking at the data itself to see where б there might be elevated levels of certain 7 contaminants in certain areas to see if there's 8 any land use activities that might be associated 9 with those contaminants being elevated. 10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you. 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ryan. 12 Any further questions for Lori or Ryan before 13 we move on? 14 15 (No response.) 16 17 THE CHAIR: Okay. We'll move on to item number seven 18 the agenda, workgroup reports. And we'll start 19 with the implementation workgroup. Virginia? 20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Well, we've already welcomed 21 Kelsey. And I'm also very excited to say that 22 Mike Dietz has volunteered to co-chair the 23 workgroup with me. 24 THE CHAIR: Excellent. 25 VIRGINIA de LIMA: So we're very pleased about that,

and he will be presumably starting next week.

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In terms of activities going on, we are going to be looking at a proposal to start a new topical sub workgroup looking at the website. This is something that has been -- this was under the recommendation of the outreach and education group. It's something that's been under their umbrella, but as you know they're doing so many other things that we felt it was appropriate to set up a focused workgroup looking just at website issues and website potential improvements.

And so a draft of that proposal has been put together. We will be discussing it next week, and then obviously forwarding it on to you for concurrence and for blessing so that we can go ahead and establish that workgroup. So that's ongoing.

In terms of the data collection workgroup, the USGS data collection, basically they have looked at the surface water network. They've looked at the water quality networks, plural, both the DEEP biological networks as well as the USGS chemical network, and in their most recent meeting were focused on the groundwater.

And so they are capturing their thoughts as

they go through this process and will be putting it all together. And they will be using the template that we established last fall for the reporting, the annual reporting to the Legislature because ideally as each workgroup uses that template, pulling together the annual report will become just plunking it in if it's already in the right format. And so we will make that whole process as efficient as possible. So we're looking forward to that work that they will be doing over the next -- through the summer and into the fall.

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The tracking and reporting workgroup, as we've mentioned before, we're looking at a phase two of that which will focus a lot on simplifying the process as well as making it more electronically based so that, as I just said, the creation of the annual report can be facilitated.

And also ideally we'd like to come up with a way of including work that's been done by NGOs and the state agencies that are pertinent to the state water plan. And that's going to take some discussion, because for instance the drinking water group at the Department of Health could say, everything we do is related to the state water

plan -- and DEEP could say the same thing.

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And so we'd have to find some way of capturing things that might be of importance to communicate to the legislature and not just say, you know, see our -- see the whole agency's report. So that's going to be part of those discussions.

We've been a little bit challenged in that we have not yet had a chief of that. I have had a volunteer of somebody to lead that group who is not a member of the implementation workgroup. As you may recall, in our founding documents that we said that each workgroup would be chaired by a member of the IWG. That's something that we want to discuss at the last meeting to see if we think that that's important to stick with that constraint -- or if anybody that's familiar with the process could take on that, that chair position. And obviously we will share with you the results of that discussion for your input and approval, if we decide to make a change.

So that's -- we are at a stage now that we are soliciting interest in being on that group, and all those things are slowed up by the fact that we haven't had somebody chairing it. So

1 that's where we're at. 2 Anybody else from the group that's on the 3 call who wants to add anything else? 4 5 (No response.) б 7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Questions? 8 THE CHAIR: I think we're good, Virginia. Thanks. I'm 9 very excited that Mike Dietz has agreed to be the 10 co-chair. That's a great addition. He'll be a 11 big, big, big help. Thank you. 12 Interagency drought workgroup, Martin? 13 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Good afternoon, everybody. We 14 have our regular meeting on this Thursday at one o'clock via Teams. Don't worry -- the agenda, and 15 16 that's going out later today if you haven't seen 17 it yet, but you should have it on your calendar. 18 Continuing, obviously watching the drought 19 conditions, we'll take any necessary actions at 20 the meeting. Also be getting a draft of our after 21 action from the post 2022 drought report that all 22 of our agency staff has been working on. 23 And we're going to be receiving a 24 presentation from Eric Lindquist from DPH on the 25 flash drought workshop that he attended. He's

1 going to do a nice little, you know, short 2 presentation for us just to update us on that 3 information. So that's what we've got going on 4 this week, and otherwise things are status quo. 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Martin. Any questions for б martin? 7 8 (No response.) 9 10 THE CHAIR: Okay. Outreach and education, Denise 11 Savageau. 12 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi, yes. We had our meeting this 13 morning. And where we didn't hold our second 14 workshop this spring -- we were having trouble 15 with some of the speakers. Our theme, or our 16 topic for the May workshop, it was going to be on 17 forests and water and forest health, and how that 18 is going to be impacting drinking water and water 19 resources. 20 And it seemed like there was a lot of 21 forestry work going on in May. And so we had a 22 little trouble -- but we did get our fisheries 23 done. We're having a little trouble getting our 24 forestry people lined up. So we're in the process 25 of rescheduling that for sometime either in

September or October, and we'll see if we can round some of those forestry people up since they were having a busy May.

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The majority of our workshop focused on a couple of things, and one was talking about drought and messaging. We've been taking on this topic of drought education, and it was brought up that we really probably need to look at this as kind of a standing topic so that every year we're prepared to come out with information and provide information on drought.

So we're going to be looking at what's already on our websites and how do we make sure that that's all linked to the Water Planning Council website, but also look at where we need some fact sheets. And then now that we have our new label -- we hadn't gotten any fact sheet development, but now that we have our logo and whatever we're prepared to do that, and we were thinking of starting again with that, private wells.

Because that's that, you know, the water utilities is doing a pretty good job obviously with their folks and talking about drought management, but the big questions tend to come

around people who are on private wells. What do I do as I want -- I'm on private wells. So we're looking at getting information on that.

And we have reached out. Unfortunately, Mike Dietz did not make our meeting today. He was out in the field, but he is reaching out to CIRCA. And again, we've been reaching out to Sue Quincy to see what we have -- but we're going to step up that, this, the work on this a little bit more so that we'll be prepared, because we just know this is going to be an ongoing theme.

And then the other thing we talked about was a theme for next year. And a couple of things have been thrown out, but we usually establish the theme for our 2024 in, you know, in the fall. And so we started to throw out some ideas on that including source water protection, including aquifer protection.

But if there's any particular topics that
 people have for, you know, from the Water Planning
 Council they'd like us to focus on, please share
 those and we'll be --

23 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Yes, Denise.

24 **DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yes?**

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²⁵ LORI MATHIEU: Jack, if I might? Right?

1 THE CHAIR: Yeah.

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LORI MATHIEU: So next year is a big anniversary for the Safe Drinking Water Act.

DENISE SAVAGEAU: Oh, okay.

LORI MATHIEU: Right? And it would be lovely -- like everything you just said, you could have, you know, four presentations or four events that deal with drinking water, you know, talk about aquifer protection, talk about source protection. Talk about, you know, public health and drinking water, something like that.

You know there's going to be major rules rolling out, you know, PFAS, the next phase of the lead and copper rule. There's going to be a lot of discussion about lead and lead service lines, and the inventories. You know it's been 50 years, and so there's a lot going on with the drinking water rules, and the Safe Drinking Water Act in general. Cyber security is another one.

So you know we could celebrate Connecticut and all the beautiful things that we've done that are unique that are protecting our drinking water supplies that we all do and uphold very, very much that's unique, like water company land regulation, land that is held by utilities, all of the good

1 work by the utilities they do, you know, to be 2 good stewards of the environment; the things that 3 we need to continue to work on for the next 50 4 years, you know, that kind of thing. 5 So it would be lovely to work on that, you б know, to celebrate Connecticut and all that, all 7 that we do under the state water plan to, you 8 know, protect our drinking water supplies and 9 provide for a balance. So you know there's a lot 10 there. 11 So that, again that would be my suggestion 12 for next year. 13 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thanks, Lori. And we had it in our 14 notes that Lori has a suggestion for us, but I 15 couldn't remember what it was because it was in my 16 e-mails. So thank you for putting that back on 17 That's that. our plate. 18 So the anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water 19 Act is definitely something we'll consider. And 20 this also happens to be the anniversary of the 21 Aquifer Protection Act. 22 THE CHAIR: Excellent. 23 DENISE SAVAGEAU: So it seems like we're going to have 24 a lot to celebrate on the drinking water supply 25 So that -next year.

1	LORI MATHIEU: Great. Thank you.
2	DENISE SAVAGEAU: So stay tuned. We'll get we'll
3	probably try to wrap that into one theme for next
4	year. We'll have a discussion on it and get back
5	to you.
6	THE CHAIR: That sounds great. Thank you, Lori and
7	Denise.
8	Any questions for Denise?
9	
10	(No response.)
11	
12	THE CHAIR: Okay. Move on to the Water Planning
13	Council advisory group. Dan, are you talking for
14	Alicea today as well?
15	DAN LAWRENCE: So Alicea cannot be here today. She had
16	some personal issues to address, the family.
17	THE CHAIR: Okay.
18	DAN LAWRENCE: So yes, I will provide an update.
19	We met on May 16th. It was a good meeting,
20	well attended. We actually just reviewed a couple
21	of items that I had written down in terms of
22	outreach and education thank you, Denise, for
23	doing that noting that the conference for the
24	drought would be postponed into the fall.
25	We did schedule for June 16th. We're going

to start having meetings run, by myself in this case, about state water planning in terms of priorities. So that's kind of coincidental to the -- what you guys are thinking as well, trying to figure out what we missed the last time and what is new that needs to be added. So that will be our first meeting on June 16th.

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And then there's been quite a few legislative updates with a lot of action in the sessions, as we're all pretty much aware. So Alicea has been providing those legislative updates. I'm not going to go through them. I'm sure many of you know what they are.

And then watershed lands group -- and Karen, if I get something missing, please correct me -but been following the MDC Colebrook situation, and then also the land conveyance process and making -- a little bit concerned with how the process does not find the future condition of a sale by the State, or future use. It's being sold with no limitations. Depending on the type of private property that could be problematic.

And lastly, for me at least, the conservation pricing group met on May 4th. The last meeting had to be canceled because Alicea has some issues,

1 but we're working through that. And there was --2 so that's been two meetings. I know they're 3 trying to get some different utilities to join and 4 help. 5 So that's where we are. I don't know if б Karen or Margaret has something to say on the 7 watershed lands group. 8 THE CHAIR: Yeah, thanks. Any questions for Dan? 9 10 (No response.) 11 12 THE CHAIR: We're going to transition over to the 13 watershed lands workgroup. And I should say, 14 Margaret -- I heard Margaret say something about 15 an e-mail that I might have overlooked. So Karen 16 or Margaret, could you give us a report? 17 KAREN BURNASKA: Well, I see Margaret going -- yeah, I 18 don't know. So I'm going to give you the general 19 one, and then I'm going to turn it over to 20 Margaret who will give you the specifics on the 21 e-mail I think that she wanted to send. 22 And thank you, Dan. Dan hit it, hit what the 23 watershed lands group was up to -- but I wanted to definitely tell everyone here that the watershed 24 25 lands workgroup is meeting this Friday June 9, 9

a.m., via Zoom -- and everyone is invited. What we're planning on doing, besides we will also have a legislative update, we will have an update on what's going on in the WUCCs and various other topics that we've been following.

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But one of our major issues is we will be discussing the charge that the Water Planning Council gave us when it established the watershed lands workgroup in 2012. We're going to be discussing that charge, which actually reads -very quickly -- the Water Planning Council advisory group watershed lands group was established by the Water Planning Council in 2012 to review and determine the adequacy of current statutory and regulatory provisions to protect public drinking water supplies, and maintain class-one and class-two lands as well as comparable lands that are not owned by water companies.

So for over the last 10 years we have -- and for those -- I'm certain Graham is aware. I don't know if Martin is. We do not -- we are not a voting body. We have no set membership. Anybody who wants to come can come and speak, and we come up with consensus, consensus items and ideas and send them to the Water Planning Council advisory group, who then, if they vote on them, they have forwarded things onto the Water Planning Council.

And we've done everything from -- and I think maybe Lori will remember way back, and I think it's 2014 when we worked with DPH and people at New Britain Water Company to change the statute. We didn't, you know, we recommended it that when a water company sells land, their class-two land to a municipality, another water company or land trust; prior to 2014 they had to have some class-three land included. That was taken out with the support of water companies and with DPH.

And we've done everything have informational meetings on the New Britain Tilcon quarry situation that existed in the past. We had many of our people work on the development, with personnel on the development of the state water plan. And we've done things like having in -when they were discussing, we had lots, several meetings on solar installations on watershed lands including having a Siting Council member come and speak with us along with solar installers. So we're doing that.

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We've also done recently -- we've looked at

the GAE conveyance of lands that, although not with the Water Planning Council's support, we had requested that they include the supplemental questionnaire supplement to the legislative request questionnaire, too, so that legislators would have to submit that with environmental information when they requested lands.

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They did it. They have been very -- the GAE community has been very helpful in posting all of this information prior to the public hearing and various conveyances. We've looked at other -- the transfer of state surplus land.

So we've done a lot and we want to get some ideas from maybe some new people on what they think are activities or projects that they would like to see this group do in the future. And then we will bring that back to the advisory group who, if they see fit, will forward it onto the Water Planning Council.

So that's -- we have a big meeting on Friday morning. It won't be long; 9 a.m. via zoom but we hope to get a good participation and good input.

And I see Margaret has clinked down a couple times. So I'm going to turn it over to Margaret, because I know she has other things she'd like to say.

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THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Karen.

MARGARET MINER: Not really -- I don't know if you have questions of what Karen outlined.

It should be. It's a meeting we need. I'm really looking forward to it. I want to again thank the GAE committee. They really did a good job this year of getting the information out early and giving advocates a chance to comment early. And they appeared to be even listening to some of our comments now. So it was very successful.

Jack, I had e-mailed in a question that can relate to drinking water watershed lands, but it's really a bit broader. Do you want me to do -quite a bit broader. Do you want me to raise it now, or wait for the public?

THE CHAIR: Yeah, please -- well, please raise it now. MARGARET MINER: Okay. So this question came into sharp focus in a hearing in Washington, Connecticut, that's been going on conservatively this phase for two years, almost 20 years altogether.

And this is an application for -- Washington,
 Connecticut, is a small town. This is an
 application for the largest project they've ever

seen. It's going to be an inn, a spa, a
restaurant, tennis court -- I don't know -swimming pool. It's on the site of the old
Wykeham Rise School. Beautiful building, burned
down about a year and a half ago -- still
smoldering.

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In this application, as in many, the question of the water supply -- what is the water supply going to be for this project, comes up early/often -- and often, you know, when a sort of answer is often informally.

But often the question is never taken up, and I'm personally -- I've sat in all kinds of subdivision meetings and wetlands meetings where sometimes the agency says, oh, that's not our job, or they may say, you know, they may get some information and say it looks good; done informally.

In this recent hearing -- and the hearing was about a week ago -- this is a zoning hearing on this highly controversial subdivision -- sorry, project, hotel project. It's been litigated all the way up to the appeals court. There's still litigation going on. There have been multiple lawsuits. Everybody is watching it.

From the beginning Rivers Alliance said, when you get to it, if you get to it, this is -- and Dan Lawrence was in on this from the beginning. This is well known to be something of a water challenge neighborhood. It was managed by a small water company, Judea Water that really wasn't able to keep up with the infrastructure. Aquarion took it over I think about four years ago, so it's managed by Aquarion now.

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And at the very first meeting almost two years ago Rivers Alliance -- and I think I said this -- did say, when you get to the water this looks like there's a problem, and we're not quite sure about the septic either.

Neighbors have continued to raise this water question whenever there was an opening, and even when there wasn't. And Aquarion has been responsive, sometimes ambiguously, sometimes giving some information, but nothing that is absolutely clear or binding. And let me say they've been a lot more responsive than another utilities might have been in this situation.

But as at the last meeting, again a neighbor -- oh, in the meantime the neighbors and Rivers Alliance to some extent did calculations of how much water they thought this big huge complex would need, and also that it looked like that the application underestimated the amount of water it was going to need.

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So my question was from the beginning, even using her application it looks like you might be short of water, much less in real life if it ever gets built. The zoning has said over and over again but sometimes letting the subject be discussed we are not in charge of water supply. And so this question has been raised over two years, who's in charge of guaranteeing? Is anybody in charge of guaranteeing that the water supply is available, that by the way, won't drain the neighbor's wells -- is available for this big project?

Finally, the other night Nick Solley who's been head of zoning in Washington forever, or ZBA or one of the other, he's always busy -- said very loudly, we do not -- we are not responsible for water. The State is responsible for water. If you have a question about water supply go to the State.

And then a little bit later he said, look, if you have a question -- and he didn't know where to go with the State. Neither do I. He said go to DEEP, go to DPH, go to the health district, but we are not -- we have nothing to do with water supply. Don't bring us water supply questions.

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So it appears that in local hearings there has been no opportunity for the citizens and the interveners and the plaintiffs, all of whom have asked this question, to get a clear answer who's in charge. Who signs off and says, yes, there is enough supply for this project?

Now I raised well -- I thought, oh well. There's the WUCC. And Dan reminded me of one of my least favorite part of the WUCCs. Oh, because this project is within our ESA we don't have to have a hearing or anything about it. It's automatic. We're responsible to supply it. We think we can. You know that kind of varies how -and so we think we can, but it's not on our agenda.

So what we're looking at now in Washington is the most high-profile project the Town has had in years multiply litigated, everybody asking for water from the beginning, and there appears to be no place at the local level for citizens to ask questions, and no responsibility to guarantee the

water supply -- except maybe the WUCC, but the way the WUCC is set up, there's no opening there for the public.

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Now I know Aquarion, and you know they're very responsive. They might hold a meeting, but -- and they might be helpful. They try to be reassuring, but there is no clear -- as far as I've been able to see, there is nothing in the law or the processes in which one person, one agency is responsible to listen to people's questions about water supply, look at the water supply, answer their questions, and say, yes or no, the water supply is adequate here.

So the public has basically been closed out for two years, and at least on paper and in process I think they're closed out of the WUCC as well. And when Nick Solley says, go to the State, I didn't -- I don't know where to tell people to go.

So that this is not actually a new question, it's just a question -- and over many years I've heard fudged in various hearings. You know wetlands might say something. Planning might say something. The water company will say, oh, we're reviving our well field. The WUCC law is fairly new, but it's never to me been clearly answered and I think it's time to take a look at it. The Wykeham case is a marvelous case I think because the zoning -- the question has been posed. It's been posed articulately with data. Nobody is responsible for answering that question.

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So that has been bothering me for quite a while, and this issue in Wykeham in Washington really underlined it. I'm not imagining it. There seems to be a lot of vagueness about who actually guarantees water supply. So that's what I brought to the Water Planning Council.

Sometimes these problems are in watershed lands, drinking water, watershed lands, sometimes not -- but it's in my experience it's a question that's been in the background a long time, and I don't know what the answer is.

So you all will. Right?

THE CHAIR: No -- well, I'm going to ask Dan or Lori to weigh in on this.

DAN LAWRENCE: This is Dan. I'd be happy to weigh in.
 So Aquarion does have the exclusive service area
 for that particular location. We did have an
 applicant request water service, and we go through
 what's called a will-serve process determining

whether we have enough water.

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2 At the time of the original application a few 3 years ago we did not have enough water. We told 4 the developer we would need to develop our water 5 or a well field a little further in order to have б that. They provided us the computations on what 7 they thought would be the water they needed. We 8 used that; we worked on our well field. So yes, 9 so Aquarion is responsible for making sure 10 whatever we accept and serve can be served by our 11 system. 12 To say, I didn't know what was going on, 13 Margaret, is a misstatement. We've been involved 14 with this --15 MARGARET MINER: (Unintelligible.) 16 DAN LAWRENCE: You said I didn't -- didn't have it on 17 our radar is not a true statement. 18 MARGARET MINER: I didn't say that. 19 When did I say that? 20 DAN LAWRENCE: Anyway, so we have been working with the 21 developer. And I will say this, we do not promote 22 or work with developers in intents of getting them 23 to buy our water. So it's quickly in response to 24 a development request, and their suggestions. So 25 as they've worked through the zoning process and

whatever other processes, they've come back with questions.

The zoning, we have told the inn, proposed inn that we cannot provide them fire protection. Questions came back from zoning, some telling them maybe that we had to -- Aquarion had to provide fire protection. And we have told them we cannot provide fire protection, because the system is not designed for fire protection.

So there's been a number of issues, but in
 the end Aquarion is responsible as the exclusive
 service provider for that area to ensure adequate
 water supply.

14 MARGARET MINER: Let me just --

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DAN LAWRENCE: I don't really want to -- Margaret, I
 don't really think this is the place. If you want
 to have a lengthy conversation, we can do that
 some other time.

MARGARET MINER: Okay. I just posed the question. I don't think -- I just want to emphasize that I have tried to say that I thought Aquarion has tried to be well responsive even what it didn't have to be.

THE CHAIR: Okay. So I know from my experience in my
 hometown, when there's a development going in the

zoning definitely looks at the potable water supply.

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So Margaret what's the -- they've not approved the zoning application. Have they not? MARGARET MINER: They do note -- zoning says it will not provide assurance that -- the questions as to whether the application is accurate. There's enough -- all those questions relating to supply are not zoning. It is not their responsibility to either look at the data or answer the question. If the neighbors have questions they could go to -- they should go to the State.

Now this wasn't like an obscure case, you know, that nobody will read about. It's a high profile case and the neighbors are being told, your data, your questions or whatever, we can't answer them. We're not responsible for water supply. Go to the State.

So that is -- and I don't know. I mean, I've seen it where zoning and planning have sort of fudged. I've seen it where they've said, see, I think I've told you in one case, you know, they approve an application. The applicant leaves the room and the planner says, oh, good luck getting water up there.

1 So I think it's been an open question. It 2 still is, where do people go? This application 3 has changed multiple times. The numbers have been 4 all over the place. So where does an applicant 5 go -- I mean, where does a neighbor go? 6 Lori, would you like to? Lori, would you THE CHAIR: 7 like to weigh in on this? 8 LORI MATHIEU: You know, for me, I -- again, I don't 9 want to openly debate anything that I'm unaware of 10 the details here and would like to catch up on the 11 details. I haven't seen anything from anyone 12 approaching me on this, but I need to catch up 13 with my staff and find out where we are if we have 14 any information on this. 15 If, you know, as Dan mentioned, they start 16 the process they are responsible as the ESA 17 provider to start working on water supply for, you 18 know, the plan development. 19 But I -- without the details in front of me, 20 which I'd love to gather and pull together, I 21 mean, ultimately the review and approval of any 22 new system that gets built and redeveloped comes 23 through the Department of Public Health for 24 drinking water. 25 DAN LAWRENCE: Yeah. So Lori, it's just a new service

1	connection.			
2	LORI MATHIEU: Just a new service connection. Okay.			
3	So I don't know			
4	DAN LAWRENCE: And I would agree it's a big one for the			
5	neighborhood, but it's a service connection.			
6	It requires			
7	LORI MATHIEU: Any new well, any new source of supply			
8	there's a process and a review that takes place			
9	for any new well, for siting a new well, for the			
10	location of the new well.			
11	The well gets drilled, we review the water			
12	quality, the water quality and the quantity			
13	information come in. We have a three-step process			
14	for that for any new source of supply that is			
15	going to be consumed as a public water system.			
16	So any questions on that process, certainly			
17	more than willing to speak to anyone about how new			
18	sources of supply are developed and how			
19	calculations are done.			
20	THE CHAIR: Okay. I think that, Margaret, we			
21	appreciate your comments. I think that perhaps			
22	you and Dan and Lori put your heads together			
23	offline.			
24	MARGARET MINER: Thank you. I do appreciate the			
25	comments. Lori did provide some clarity, and my			

concern is on this type of situation the public seems to be closed out.

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3 I know the DPH and Aquarion will provide as a 4 courtesy information when asked, but there's no 5 automatic way for the public to weigh in. So б that's my concern, and thank you, Dan and Lori. 7 And I look forward to learning more. Thank you. 8 THE CHAIR: Okay. Any other questions for the 9 watershed land workgroup? As they have indicated 10 they will be moving it to Friday at nine o'clock 11 and everybody is invited to attend that via Zoom. 12 Do we have any public comments before we 13 adjourn? Any public comment before we adjourn? 14 15 (No response.) 16 17 THE CHAIR: So our next meeting is going to be -- and 18 we will get back to the details. Virginia and I 19 will be meeting in the very near future to be 20 coming up with an agenda, and I would urge my 21 fellow Councilmembers to e-mail and let me know 22 what you'd like to incorporate in that. 23 And Graham, you'll get back to us with the 24 site for that day? 25 I'll come back with a few options. GRAHAM STEVENS:

1	THE CHAIR: A few options? Okay. And I'm thinking we		
2	should start. What's the pleasure of my		
3	colleagues in the Council? What time would you		
4	like to start that day?		
5	GRAHAM STEVENS: Ten o'clock.		
6	THE CHAIR: Ten o'clock?		
7	GRAHAM STEVENS: 10:30 to 2:30.		
8	THE CHAIR: 10:30, and we'll get lunch and all that		
9	good stuff. Okay.		
10	LORI MATHIEU: Is that good with Martin? I don't know		
11	if I've budgeted the whole day. I just blocked		
12	off a half a day. I'd have to look.		
13	A whole day might be difficult, so I was		
14	thinking more of we would meet, have lunch, and		
15	then spend the rest of the day there. That was my		
16	thought, and that's what I budgeted my time, but		
17	I		
18	THE CHAIR: Like twelve o'clock? Twelve o'clock on?		
19	LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.		
20	THE CHAIR: Martin, does that work for you?		
21	GRAHAM STEVENS: What about eleven to two? I'd like to		
22	try to be back to the Hartford area by as the		
23	father of small children who go to school. Is		
24	that school? Is school over?		
25	Yeah, school is over.		

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1	LORI MATHIEU: School is over.			
2	GRAHAM STEVENS: That might make it harder. That might			
3	make it harder with camps.			
4	MARTIN HEFT: I'm adjustable that day, so I could do			
5	wherever just obviously, where we're traveling			
6	to, so.			
7	GRAHAM STEVENS: Well, how about this? How about this,			
8	Jack? I get some options?			
9	THE CHAIR: Yeah.			
10	GRAHAM STEVENS: Get distances, meeting rooms census.			
11	THE CHAIR: Okay.			
12	GRAHAM STEVENS: And then I can reserve on those.			
13	THE CHAIR: Okay.			
14	GRAHAM STEVENS: We can make a decision. I don't know			
15	if we can make that via e-mail.			
16	LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, maybe closer to Hartford might be			
17	better so we don't travel going to the coast.			
18	GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah.			
19	LORI MATHIEU: You know?			
20	GRAHAM STEVENS: We don't have a lot of facilities			
21	close to Hartford, but maybe we could find			
22	something within the state system.			
23	LORI MATHIEU: Okay.			
24	THE CHAIR: All right. Okay. Thank you all. We			
25	appreciate everybody's participation today and I			

1	wish everybody a happy beginning of summer and I				
2	have good 4th of July. And we'll certainly be				
3	contacting some people in between this meeting and				
4	the next.				
5	So if there's no further business to come				
6	before us, I would entertain a motion to adjourn?				
7	MARTIN HEFT: So moved.				
8	THE CHAIR: Second?				
9	GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.				
10	THE CHAIR: All those in favor?				
11	THE COUNCIL: Aye.				
12	THE CHAIR: Thank you all very much.				
13	MARTIN HEFT: Thanks all.				
14	THE CHAIR: Have a good evening.				
15	LORI MATHIEU: Bye.				
16	GRAHAM STEVENS: Take care, everyone.				
17					
18	(End: 2:35 p.m.)				
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20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

1	CERTIFICATE				
2					
3	I hereby certify that the foregoing 54 pages are a				
4	complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of				
5	my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting				
6	of the Connecticut Water Planning Council, which was				
7	held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA				
8	VICE-CHAIRMAN, via Teleconference on June 6, 2023.				
9					
10					
11					
12					
13	-70				
14 15	Opit				
16	Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857				
17	Notary Public				
18	My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025				
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20					
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