

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023
beginning at 1:31 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

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

Reporter: Vickie E. Wiechec, CVR-M, CCR 2237

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

Council Members Present:

JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN (PURA)

MARTIN HEFT (OPM)

LORI MATHIEU (DPH)

GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)

Water Planning Council Advisory Group:

DENISE SAVAGEAU

ALICEA CHARAMUT

ERIC McPHEE

MARGARET MINER

DAN LAWRENCE

Others Present (of record):

ERIC LINDQUIST

1 (Begin: 1:31 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone.
4 Welcome to the Water Planning Council meeting for
5 October 3rd.

6 This is a hybrid meeting and I want to remind
7 people that we are being recorded by CTN today. So if
8 you speak and you're not here in person, make sure you
9 put your camera on and tell us who you are. So, the
10 ground rules before we start.

11 So let's call the meeting to order.

12 And the first order of minutes is the approval
13 of the transcript from September 5th.

14 The motion.

15 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

16 MARTIN HEFT: I second that.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and second that the
18 September 5th transcript be approved.

19 Any questions or comments?

20 If not, all in favor signify by saying, aye.

21 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

22 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, I just saw that Graham --
23 Graham has joined us.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Grahams on here now? Good.
25 All right.

1 Good afternoon, Graham.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: Good afternoon.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: So correspondence -- We have
4 correspondence, but that will be taken under action
5 items.

6 The first thing under Item 4 is the discussion
7 of the -- Is there any public comment before I begin?
8 Any public -- Yes, Alicea?

9 Good afternoon.

10 ALICEA CHARAMUTE: So we were -- Virginia and I
11 were just wondering under -- she and I and Dan had a
12 discussion about integrating the groups and wondering
13 which part of the agenda you wanted to have us to give
14 us a report under? Would it be under the -- the
15 retreat or our --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Under your report.

17 ALICEA CHARAMUTE: Our reports? Okay. Thank
18 you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for clarifying.

20 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, just wondering if Alicea
21 could state her name for the record and who she
22 represents?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUTE: Sorry. Alisa Charamute,
24 Advisory Group.

25 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, but who do you work for?
2 I'm just kidding.

3 Okay. So any other public comment? Any other
4 public comment?

5 If there's no other public comment, we'll move
6 on to the action items discussion of the ESF 12 update
7 and request municipal assistant participation in this.

8 Lori is a member of that group and as is our
9 Chairman, Mercer Gillett. And at the last meeting,
10 there was some dialogue and discussion regarding the
11 municipal water company's involvement in some -- mostly
12 storm preparation, I believe, Lori?

13 LORI MATHIEU: Correct. Yes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to expand on
15 that, please?

16 LORI MATHIEU: Certainly. So the ESF 12 is the
17 emergency function that deals with utilities led by
18 PURA. And there's a subcommittee that was formed going
19 back some years to work together with power -- bringing
20 the power companies together with utilities, whether
21 it's water or wastewater. Ourselves, at DPH,
22 representing the drinking water regulatory areas. And
23 so I -- I've participated in those meetings along with
24 staff. Eric McPhee is a person who attends with me
25 from our staff at the Department of Public Health.

1 The last meeting where Eversource, UI, the
2 power companies, along with the -- the two largest
3 privately held utilities, Aquarian and Connecticut
4 Water Company, have been participating in this
5 discussion about critical -- critical facilities to
6 identify for power restoration programs, right, to
7 identify where those critical facilities are.

8 I know that there has been a list historically,
9 but what we're looking to do is to redefine what we
10 mean, be very clear about what we mean about critical
11 facilities and then work really hard to identify those.
12 So that, you know, between the water, wastewater and
13 power companies, that we have a very good list.

14 And so it was brought up at one of our last
15 meetings recently that we have Aquarian and Connecticut
16 Water represented, but that we should also be inviting
17 municipal systems, the larger municipal systems, which
18 there are quite a few in our state or on the public
19 drinking water side of things.

20 So I wanted -- I had mentioned that I would
21 bring this item up here, Jack and Martin and Graham,
22 for us to -- to think about it and how we could work
23 together. Because I know, Graham, on your side of it
24 with the wastewater side, how we could you know, work
25 to, you know, identify this opportunity for our

1 municipal utilities and how we could get them involved
2 and just wanted to put it on the, you know, on the
3 agenda and have some discussion about it.

4 I know that there's people that represent
5 municipal water systems and also I see others that
6 represent, you know, groups of, you know, eight
7 industry groups. So something that we thought would be
8 good to bring up here for some discussion and some
9 input.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham --

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: I m glad you raised this --
12 this, Lori. So DEEP is also participating and trying
13 to identify and prioritize it s critical facilities in
14 the -- in the sewer and wastewater world to ensure that
15 the, you know, the electric supply -- suppliers are --
16 are prioritizing the restoration of those facilities as
17 quickly as possible.

18 And obviously, wastewater would have an impact
19 on -- on drinking water and resources as well. So I
20 think it's a -- critical to make sure that all of the
21 -- the right folks are in on that conversation.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin?

23 MARTIN HEFT: I -- I think we talked -- Lori
24 and I talked a little bit about this today. And during
25 COVID, Lori headed up, as you know, almost weekly at

1 the beginning, cause -- checking with all of our water
2 -- wastewater facilities around the state to make sure
3 that they had what they needed. And during naturals,
4 storms, hurricanes and rainstorms and snowstorms, we
5 kicked that into effect as well.

6 But I think that, Lori, perhaps we should draft
7 a letter from the Water Planning Council saying --
8 asking people that are not participating to participate
9 in this -- hopefully, making this a movement.

10 Does anybody have any -- I don't know if we
11 want to make a formal motion or we just do that?

12 LORI MATHIEU: I'm also wondering if there s
13 anyone who wanted to, you know, speak. I know I see
14 Betsy's -- In the chat, I see Betsy Gara put a note in
15 the chat.

16 I don't know Betsy, if you wanted to say
17 anything --

18 BETSY GARA: Sure.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

20 BETSY GARA: Sorry about that. I don't know
21 why it s listing me as COST, but Betsy Gara, on behalf
22 of the Connecticut Waterworks Association.

23 We did have representatives from Eversource and
24 UI and Connecticut Water Company at our last Board of
25 Directors meeting and we had a very robust discussion

1 regarding the goals of the ESF 12 in terms of
2 identifying critical facilities. And I know Pat
3 Kearney was participating in that as well.

4 But we did agree that they would share a
5 template with us and we would encourage all of our
6 member municipal water utilities to complete that
7 template so that the information regarding critical
8 facilities is easily accessible to the power company so
9 that those facilities can be restored quickly.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's great. That's great
11 news.

12 Any other comments? Dan?

13 DAN LAWRENCE: Hello. This is Dan Lawrence,
14 Co-Chair of the Water Council Advisory Group and part
15 of Aquarion Water. During that meeting, I actually
16 brought up -- since we re going to be reaching out to
17 all the municipalities -- did you want to incorporate
18 wastewater and how would we do that because we re going
19 to reach out to all the water -- those that have water,
20 typically have wastewater.

21 So if there's an ability, Graham, or anyone on
22 our planning Council in that regard, it would be one --
23 you know it's going to be a -- a spreadsheet that they
24 can fill out. I don't think Eversource and UI are
25 distinguishing between water -- wastewater, per say, as

1 opposed to getting list of critical facilities.

2 So it may be an opportunity here just to
3 combine efforts and avoid doing it once and then doing
4 it again. Okay.

5 CARLOS ESQUERRA: Just a little --

6 DAN LAWRENCE: Go ahead, please.

7 CARLOS ESQUERRA: Yes. Good afternoon. My
8 name is Carlos Esquerra. I'm Connecticut DEEP
9 Wastewater. I work under Graham Stevens.

10 I just wanted to let you know that we've
11 already done some of the outreach that is being
12 proposed here. We've reached out to pretty much 100
13 percent of the municipalities that have a wastewater
14 treatment plant on site, in town as well as those
15 communities that rely or have collection system only
16 systems, that don't have a treatment plan in town.

17 And we are -- we have already collected a
18 significant amount of information on pump stations and
19 -- and obviously, we have already an existing database
20 with wastewater -- where the wastewater treatment
21 plants are located. So we ll be happy to facilitate
22 that information to the workgroup. But some of that
23 work, it s already being done by -- by Connecticut
24 DEEP.

25 DAN LAWRENCE: So just -- Again, Dan Lawrence,

1 Sorry. So Eversource and UI have this spread --
2 specialized template they re want -- they want
3 everybody to fill out. And so, maybe --

4 CARLOS ESQUERRA: Yeah.

5 DAN LAWRENCE: -- if we can get that over to --

6 CARLOS ESQUERRA: Yeah. The -- Yes. Yes. We
7 actually coordinated with Eversource and we already
8 collected some of the account information and so the
9 information that they essentially need to facilitate,
10 you know, response during that emergency. But we have
11 already collected some of that information.

12 DAN LAWRENCE: Okay. I just wanted to make
13 sure. Thank you.

14 CARLOS ESQUERRA: Yeah. You re welcome.

15 DAN LAWRENCE: Well, I --

16 LORI MATHIEU: And similar -- Jack, similar to
17 Carlos and DEEP, DPH, we ve -- we ve done that
18 historically. I think what -- one thing we d like to
19 do is just make sure that it's up to date with all our
20 municipal partners. I see Pat Kearney there from
21 Manchester. You know, we want to make sure that it is
22 what you would decide on as a municipality that is
23 important for your drinking water, you know, our side
24 is the drinking water.

25 So we -- we have an older set of data, but you

1 know, keeping that up to date and current is -- is
2 incredibly important.

3 And then I -- I think, you know, on -- on top
4 of that, is, you know, to -- we talk a lot about with
5 UI and Eversource, the coordination between water,
6 wastewater, at a municipal level and what is, you know,
7 what, in a municipality's idea of what are the
8 priorities, that, you know, we should have that laid
9 out and very clear, you know, as a -- in a coordinated
10 effort.

11 And that's the -- the -- that's the best
12 benefit of the ESF 12 effort that PURA leads.

13 So whatever we can do to put that information
14 together and be, you know, prepared in the best way
15 that we can with current information is just going to
16 be very helpful.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, was there a timeframe that
18 the -- your ESF 12 --

19 LORI MATHIEU: ESF 12 --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: -- group is --

21 LORI MATHIEU: Good -- good question. I think
22 that, you know, we met a couple of weeks back. I'm
23 going to look to Eric McPhee to see if he recalls a
24 timeframe.

25 I -- I know that it's just -- we were going to

1 bring it up here and -- at this meeting and then see if
2 we could -- and I think, you know, through Betsy's and,
3 you know, her efforts and what Dan also mentioned, Dan
4 Lawrence, that I think in the next couple of weeks it
5 will really be good to make sure that we have everybody
6 represented as far as on -- on the drinking water side
7 and to reach out to as many as we could, you know, with
8 Betsy's assistance and everyone else's assistance here.

9 Eric, I don't know -- see you there.

10 ERIC MCPHEE: Yeah, I -- I don't believe
11 there's been a timeframe. There's still quite a bit to
12 be done and I haven't heard any talk of a timeframe for
13 completion.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Eric. But what I'm
15 thinking is that -- I don't think that we need to go --
16 I don't think that we, as the Water Planning Council --
17 unless anybody disagrees with me -- need to do anything
18 right now. I think that we should just keep this on
19 the agenda, have people report back to us next month,
20 DEEP, DPH, and -- and Betsy see how things -- it seems
21 like things, mechanisms -- mechanism is in place right
22 now to get to groups it's looking for.

23 Is everybody -- councilmembers okay -- with
24 that approach?

25 MARTIN HEFT: Yes.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Very good.

2 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you all very much.

4 Next, we'll have -- it will be 2022 -- 2022
5 Drought After Action Report, Martin Heft.

6 MARTIN HEFT: Good after --

7 THE CHAIRMAN: You did a great job with those.
8 We had lots of water in the state of Connecticut.

9 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. So no drought stages.

10 So, the Interagency Drought Workgroup has been
11 putting together it's 2022 Drought After Action Report
12 as required by the Drought Plan.

13 I do want to thank and acknowledge our Drought
14 Coordinator, Becca Dahl, who I know was on the call, as
15 well as all of our agency team members who have worked
16 on this and their listed in the report of this that
17 have worked in putting this together, compiling our
18 kind of After Action Report.

19 Kind of goes through gives a history of the
20 2022 drought as well as going in -- looking at areas
21 that need further improvement as well as next steps in
22 the drought plan recommendations that the Interagency
23 Drought Workgroup will continue looking at and
24 reviewing as we continue moving forward.

25 This is a good summary to have documentation of

1 the 2022 drought and the Drought Workgroup did approve
2 at the September 7th meeting and requesting that the
3 Water Planning Council just accept our Drought Post-
4 Action Report at today's meeting.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to make that a
6 motion?

7 MARTIN HEFT: I will make that a motion that we
8 accept the Interagency Drought Workgroup s 2022 Drought
9 After Action Report as submitted.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second to that? Do I
11 hear a second?

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: I ll second.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and --

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: -- seconded.

16 Any -- any questions on the motion?

17 LORI MATHIEU: I have a -- a question.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

19 LORI CHAIRMAN: Could we place that report in
20 the chat?

21 BECCA DAHL: I -- I can work on that, Lori.
22 Hold on just one moment.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Just so that -- If so, Martin,
24 just so that everyone knows and can see what -- what
25 we're talking about here.

1 MARTIN HEFT: Yes. It -- it was sent out with
2 the agenda packet as well in the email agenda that was
3 sent out. So everyone should have it if you're on that
4 chain, but we can definitely get that into the chat for
5 anyone else who may not have it.

6 Thank you --

7 LORI MATHIEU: Great --

8 MARTIN HEFT: -- Becca.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Martin.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else? Any other
11 questions?

12 Thank you all for your work on this and all
13 those in favor, signify by saying, aye.

14 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion is carried.

16 Moving down to number five agency report,
17 status report and draft WPC Annual Report. Virginia,
18 Agency Team Members.

19 Virginia cannot be with us today. Is --
20 Anybody else that could give us any kind of update on
21 this?

22 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, I know that Eric Lindquist
23 is on.

24 Eric? I know he was prepared to say a few
25 words, if you --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh --

2 LORI MATHIEU: -- are okay with that?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: -- of course.

4 Eric? Hi, Eric.

5 ERIC LINDQUIST: Hi, Jack. Hi Lori.

6 I'm Eric Lindquist for the Department of Public
7 Health. I m -- I'm assisting as part of the workgroup
8 to prepare the annual report, WPC, this fall.

9 Yeah, just to recap on behalf of Virginia. So
10 our group just got together for our first meeting last
11 week. We had our first meeting on Wednesday and we
12 went over initial objectives and initial assignments.

13 We're right now in the process of revising and
14 finalizing the subgroup and committee reporting
15 template that we send to the chairs of all of the
16 advisory groups and -- and workgroups and so forth
17 under the WPC so that we can get feedback directly from
18 the chairs on what's been accomplished in the past year
19 and how those accomplishments are satisfying one of the
20 17 statutory -- statutory requirements listed under the
21 State Water Plan. And that way, we can distill all of
22 that information down into our annual report and get
23 that report over to the Council as quickly as possible
24 so that there's enough time to review.

25 Right now we hope to have feedback from

1 workgroup and committee chairs by the middle of
2 October, so within a couple of weeks or so, and then
3 have a first draft or actually, a final draft for
4 review by the Water Planning Council members by mid-
5 November so that there's enough time for agency review
6 and council review so that you can take action,
7 potentially, at the December WPC meeting.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. Any -- Thank you, Eric.

9 Any additional comments?

10 LORI MATHIEU: Eric, thank -- So, I know,
11 Martin, we had talked about a schedule during the last
12 Water Council Planning meeting and we -- we wanted to
13 be able to have a draft for the -- the next meeting so
14 that we could review that and then get our drafts to
15 our particular agencies. It -- it seems as though we
16 may not meet that schedule.

17 (Overlapping speakers).

18 MARTIN HEFT: Go ahead, Eric.

19 ERIC LINDQUIST: Go ahead, Martin. No, I'm
20 sorry. I was -- I was just going to say real quick, we
21 were discussing time frames and what was realistic to
22 be able to get accomplished by our group. And what we
23 had agreed upon was getting something completed by mid-
24 November.

25 However, if there s a willingness by council

1 members to want to expedite that, we can certainly work
2 within our group to try to get something sooner.

3 MARTIN HEFT: And thanks, Eric. I think,
4 ultimately, backing out, we have a -- to submit our
5 legislative report by January 1st. So that we've got
6 to -- you know, if we look at our timeline and back it
7 out, we'd have to have, you know, have a draft, you
8 know, for our November meeting, which I believe is,
9 what, November 7th --

10 ERIC LINDQUIST: Election day.

11 MARTIN HEFT: -- on that. And then that leaves
12 us time so we could do a final vote on our December
13 meeting, which would be probably the first or second
14 week of December in order to get it out by January.

15 I mean, obviously, a special meeting could be
16 called, but obviously, that's more trying to get that
17 accomplished and everything.

18 So anything that could be done so we'd have a
19 draft report, you know, as of November 7th, which
20 probably, you know, pushes it up about a week for, you
21 know, the team working on this and everything. From
22 mid-November would be you know, great, even if we, you
23 know, get it in the Friday before so we have, you know,
24 some time to look over and everything before the
25 meeting on the -- you know, on that Tuesday. That

1 would, I think, be the goal that we'd be looking for.

2 And that -- Those are my thoughts. I don't
3 know the rest of the council members.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: That sounds fine with me.

5 LORI MATHIEU: Martin, I would agree. So that
6 would be -- that would be November 3rd, if we could see
7 a -- a draft of -- of whatever you have, that would be
8 ideal.

9 MARTIN HEFT: And I think just maybe if I also
10 may just add, you know, we had preliminary talked at
11 previous meetings of keeping this annual report, you
12 know, simple, a two-pager, if you will, you know, type
13 of format that we're really just giving an update of
14 the big highlights of this year because last year's
15 report was kind of, you know, over the past like five
16 years, if you will.

17 So we really, you know, it's -- hoping, you
18 know -- and I'm not the one working on this. So I
19 thank, you know, all of you that are, that it shouldn't
20 be as, you know, needing to go in a -- in depth as we
21 have had in the past, you know, the past reports.

22 It's only going to be kind of a summary of our
23 highlights over the past year of what was done.

24 ERIC LINDQUIST: Yeah. That's a great point
25 Martin. I think our -- the members in our group, a lot

1 of them worked on last year's report, which was, as you
2 mentioned, it encompassed five years of time and it
3 was quite -- quite a heavy lift. It took quite a bit
4 of work to get all of that information gathered up and
5 -- and presented in what ended up being a -- a hefty
6 report.

7 But I think -- I think to your point, this time
8 around, we're only talking about summarizing the
9 activities over the past year. It should be much more
10 straightforward. Plus, we already have a process that
11 was established last year that we can follow.

12 So we'll -- our next meeting is tomorrow and
13 I'll bring that request back to the group. Then I
14 think we can work within that timeframe.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: That's great.

16 Any -- any further comment?

17 Thanks very much, Eric and thanks to the group.

18 Moving on to Advisory Group.

19 DAN LAWRENCE: Good afternoon. I'm Dan
20 Lawrence. We good? Everybody good?

21 Again, Dan Lawrence, Co-Chair of the Water
22 Planning Council Advisory Group and Alicea is here as
23 well.

24 So we spent the majority of the last meeting on
25 the Water Planning Council Advisory Group discussing

1 the combination of combining the -- implementation
2 workgroups and the Water Planning Council Advisory
3 Groups, that was the bulk of our conversation other
4 than, I will say, general updates in general on various
5 things. And I would say overall that group is in favor
6 of that particular action.

7 Many people serve in two or three functions, as
8 we all know. How that actually works, we did not spend
9 the time to do all the logistics, but rather, support
10 the effort. And a couple of other things that came up
11 over -- is really around would you incorporate agency
12 members into that group as well as members, not as
13 just, you know, present in the public, if you will, and
14 how -- how that happens.

15 But I -- I would say -- And, Alicea, I don't
16 know if you have anything else on this? This was our
17 major conversation.

18 But again, the group really felt like it was
19 the best decision to eliminate the fractions of what
20 are happening and hopefully, allow for some better
21 efficiency and use of people's time, so.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Alicea?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah. So we did have an
24 opportunity to speak with Virginia about, you know,
25 what an integration would look like.

1 As Dan said, there are still some questions
2 about, you know, about how certain things would work.

3 You know, at first it looked like a tri-tier
4 (phonetic) situation would -- would work out really
5 well, but if you look at the Water Planning Advisory
6 Group operational procedures, it does specify that
7 there needs to be balance between the Co-Chairs.

8 So, you know, we need to have a discussion and
9 -- and figure out what it would look like if there was
10 a tri-tier position and how we can continue to achieve
11 that balance when you have an odd number of people. As
12 well as you know, how -- as he said -- agency will be
13 integrated as well. And I know it was really important
14 that the agencies had a voting membership on the
15 implementation work group. And you know, we -- we --
16 It's just something we need to look at more closely as
17 we move forward.

18 And the next steps here, once we get some of
19 these things ironed out, is to change our operational
20 procedures to reflect what the new group would look
21 like. But I think -- And -- and I think we all agreed
22 that it was very important that implementation remains
23 a focus of, you know, at least part of the advisory
24 group or a -- a good portion of it.

25 And Virginia and I talked a little bit about,

1 you know, how, you know, things could be divided up.
2 And I know I've always viewed the implementation group
3 as implementing consensus recommendations of the State
4 Water Plan, and they've done that very well, and the
5 advisory group of taking, you know, some of the
6 pathways forward or discussing any other non-water plan
7 issue that -- that comes up and -- and sort of is
8 brought into the water forums.

9 So we still have to have some discussions, but
10 as Dan said, the Advisory Group from the last meeting,
11 there was consensus that we should merge. Virginia
12 said there's consensus from the advisory group that --
13 or the implementation group, that they -- they -- they
14 should merge. So it's just a matter of ironing out the
15 details from here.

16 And I'm not -- Does that answer all the
17 questions, at least preliminary questions, we had from
18 the last Water Planning Council meeting?

19 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah. Thank -- thank you both
20 and kind of follow up on that and I think we've got
21 later on the agenda under business, kind of going over
22 all of this. So this information's kind of helpful and
23 I think, you know, from the -- the retreat, workshop,
24 whatever we called it, you know, I think that
25 encompasses, you know, the discussions that were there

1 and some of the pieces that, you know, kind of need
2 those decisions, you know.

3 So appreciate you concurring, you know, that
4 that's kind of, you know, same concept we got out of
5 it, you know. I think talking -- I've talked with each
6 of the council members, you know, individually, just
7 different topics over the past month, you know. And
8 this being one of them, OF kind of laying out kind of a
9 plan which, you know, we ll go through later, which
10 will, you know, probably help us setting, you know, and
11 answer those questions that you have forward there.

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And I think one of the other
13 big questions that was brought up -- because, to me, in
14 my mind s, you know, why can t the -- the agencies be a
15 voting member? But I think there is still that
16 question of the agencies are going to be advising the
17 agencies?

18 So, you know, there s -- there's those
19 questions that come up where something seemed common
20 sense, but then on the other common sense side, it --
21 there are questions that are brought up, so.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I -- I see your point, but
23 there's no prohibition in the statutes --

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: -- about that and I can tell you

1 I m --

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: There s not.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: -- Chairman of the -- a hospital
4 board of directors, and there's doctors on that board.
5 So they re -- they're voting for their own -- I mean,
6 for --for their own agenda -- agenda at -- at times. I
7 -- I don't -- Personally, I don t see any problem with
8 it, but you know, we can discuss it more.

9 The other thing is that I did speak with Claire
10 Coleman from the Consumer Council this morning and she
11 is committed to getting somebody on the Consumer
12 Council as a working member of the -- of the Advisory
13 Group, which it could be herself, could be herself and
14 a designee, but it's going to -- it s going to have to
15 -- She s going to back to me.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well, that will be music to
17 Carol s ears.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: I know.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And she ll be giving an -- an
20 update here in a little --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I -- I --

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: -- bit.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: -- I know. Carol's been --
24 Carol s been asking me to get something done. So yes.

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And there was -- there was

1 one other thing. No. It's just gone from my brain. I
2 apologize. Yeah. But there was one more thing on this
3 subject.

4 Oh, and just something else I want to stress is
5 that -- So, you know, we also looked at both lists to
6 see, you know, how we can bring folks over to be sort
7 of either official -- have -- hold an official spot or
8 at least an alternate. But as always, whether someone
9 has an official seat on the Advisory Group, everyone
10 who s willing to contribute and work is always welcome
11 and is always welcome to speak up and contribute to the
12 conversation. And that will -- we will continue -- And
13 -- and it s been the case in the Advisory Group. It's
14 been the case in -- in the implementation group as
15 well. And we will continue to encourage that sort of
16 community and foster it as well.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent. Good.

18 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And with that, can I -- If
19 there's nothing else on this, I ll -- I'll hand it over
20 to Carol for the membership update.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 Carol?

23 CAROL HASKINS: Hi, this is Carol Haskins from
24 The Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition. And I m on
25 the Water Planning Council Advisory Group representing

1 water resources and I m also the Chair of the Water
2 Planning Council Advisory Group s Nominating Committee.

3 So we have -- Our committee has been working to
4 identify which members are up for term renewals and
5 working to fill vacancies within existing terms for
6 folks that are coming up for renewal, as well as other
7 groups that are kind of in between their terms.

8 And we brought this update to the Water
9 Planning Council Advisory Group at it s meeting last
10 month at the end -- third week in September and we did
11 not have a quorum. So this -- this group of nominees
12 has not yet been kind of endorsed by the Advisory --
13 Advisory Group members itself. So, we re a little
14 behind in terms of bringing a formal slate to you, but
15 we do plan to bring a formal slate to you in November.

16 And just quickly, we do have three members that
17 are planning to renew their existing terms -- or their
18 terms coming up for renewal in January. And we have
19 candidates other than the consumer group.

20 And I thank Jack for bringing forward an update
21 on conversations with Clerk Coleman at The Office of
22 Consumer Council.

23 So I can quickly just run down where we're at
24 right now. Group two are the folks that have renewals
25 coming up in January. And it's a four-year term

1 renewal.

2 Regional Water Utilities, the large scales, do
3 (inaudible) planning to renew. For Lakes and Ponds,
4 Sean Hayden is planning to renew. For Conservations,
5 Denise Savageau is planning to renew. Brenda Watson,
6 who s in the Consumer seat, was not plan to renew and
7 Land Protection is vacant and that was Karen Bernaskus
8 (phonetic) who has retired.

9 So for that particular group for Land
10 Protection, group 2, we ll have a nominee of Kathy
11 Zekiel (phonetic) who s the Land Protection Manager at
12 Save the Sound, filling a similar role to what Karen
13 was filling.

14 And again, group 2, Consumer, is working with
15 Jack on Office of Consumer Council.

16 And then our existing vacancies are in the
17 Business Industry Association category, which is a
18 group 3. So they would have terms coming up for
19 renewal next January, the following January. So
20 January 2025. So this is a vacancy where they'd be
21 filling a -- a one-year term.

22 And we're delighted that we have another member
23 from the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce that s their
24 Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Director, Steve
25 Delvecchio.

1 And in the recreation category, we have --
2 you'll have -- They re group one. So their terms
3 renewed last year.

4 As you know, Eric Camerlean (phonetic) has left
5 the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and has
6 moved on to Connecticut DEEP. And his alternate was
7 not interested in stepping up to fill the -- the full
8 seat, but Jeff Shaw has been contacted. He's the Vice
9 President of the Connecticut Outdoor Recreation
10 Alliance and his interest -- He's the Senior Policy
11 Advisor in his day job at Connecticut Community
12 Nonprofit Alliance.

13 So those are the folks whose names we ll be
14 planning to bring to you for an official nomination
15 next month.

16 MARTIN HEFT: Any questions?

17 Thank you, Carol, on that. And just to kind of
18 put a caveat on everything as we re going through
19 looking at consolidation, everything else, one of the
20 things may be that some of the work that you've done
21 might get curtailed a little bit, lack of better terms,
22 and we apologize in advance for that.

23 CAROL HASKINS: No, I understand.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Depending upon, you know, if
25 we're merging these two, it's going to change some

1 things with membership and everything else.

2 So, you know, the January dates are kind of
3 within a plan that, you know, I'll talk about later as
4 a, you know, start for, you know, accommodation groups.
5 So that may change some things, you know, in
6 membership, everything else of appointments,
7 everything. So just so you're aware of that because
8 I'd hate to appoint someone in November and then like,
9 January, okay. You're no longer appointed and we re
10 doing this instead.

11 So obviously, just want to, you know, put it on
12 the radar as we're, you know, moving forward with, you
13 know, consolidation, reappointing members, everything.
14 It all ties together.

15 CAROL HASKINS: Absolutely. I understand that
16 that may become moot for some -- some categories or
17 there may be a larger group altogether. So those group
18 assignments may change or I don't know how you're going
19 to frame it, but yes.

20 Certainly understand that and I also apologize
21 that I have not gotten to you the -- like basic -- an
22 overview of the nominating procedures. They -- they
23 kind of exist in snippets, but my -- my own
24 organization has taken priority this year with some of
25 our own internal challenges. So I've had to put some

1 of the Nominating Committee assignments on back burner.

2 MARTIN HEFT: Any other questions for Carol?
3 No worries, Carol. Being chairman of the Nominating
4 Committee is no small task. Believe me. It s always
5 difficult to -- to get the right people and be able to
6 make the commitments.

7 So Alicea, did you have something?

8 ALICEA CHARAMUT: And -- and also, just to
9 commend Carol on how organized she is.

10 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah.

11 ALICEA CHARAMUT: You should see her
12 spreadsheets. They re -- they're pretty top-notch.

13 But before we moved on to the Interagency
14 Drought Workgroup update, I just wanted to say thank
15 you. The Drought After Action Report, the stuff that's
16 in there, it took us, the -- the Drought Workgroup of
17 -- the Implementation Workgroup, it took us about two
18 years to put all that information together for the --
19 the droughts that we looked at because, you know,
20 things were here and there and people's emails.

21 So the fact that we have this is -- is -- is
22 just thank you for all the work that was put into this,
23 Becca. Really appreciate it because when we have to
24 look back, it's so nice having it all in one document
25 instead of 15 people s buried emails from years ago.

1 So thank you. It's appreciated.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alicea.

3 Any other comments on the Advisory Workgroup?

4 Alicea, all set?

5 I'm sorry. Who? Oh, Margaret.

6 MARGARET MINER: So Alicea is going to speak
7 for me.

8 ALICEA CHARAMUT: The Watershed Land s report
9 is further down on the agenda. I'll report then,
10 Margaret.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So, with the Interface
12 Workgroup, Virginia s not with us, but I think we all
13 kind of know where -- what's going on with that right
14 now.

15 So we're going to move on to the Drought
16 Workgroup, which it kind of

17 MARTIN HEFT: So, yeah. No -- Thank you for
18 the comments, you know, on the -- on the report that
19 was approved. This month's meeting is canceled.

20 As you can tell, after -- after we finish the
21 report and the amount of rain that we've received that
22 -- this year, this, you know, as I ll state that we
23 have not, you know, knock wood and all those other
24 lucky things, that we have not declared any drought
25 stages for 2023.

1 So that's all I have to report at this time.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Martin.

3 Any questions for Martin?

4 We ll move on to Outreach and Education.

5 Denise Savageau?

6 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Good afternoon, everyone.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

8 DENISE SAVAGEAU: The Outreach and Education
9 Workgroup met yesterday. And sorry for any conflicts
10 for people who didn t get the notice. I had sent out
11 an update to the calendar, I -- and then I don't know
12 if everybody got that calendar update. So sorry if
13 people did miss it. But we had a really good meeting
14 yesterday.

15 Eric Lindquist was with us and gave a great
16 presentation that we will be distributing on flash
17 drought, rapid onset drought, really important for the
18 work that our group is doing.

19 As you know, we've kind taken on the task of
20 getting information together on drought preparedness.
21 And so, in one of our main -- Our first focus is
22 drafting some fact sheets that we are -- have in draft
23 form now on private wells and what they should be
24 looking at, but we're also looking at like okay, how do
25 we integrate now some of this information that we got

1 from Eric when we're doing that?

2 And so we're going to be looking further about
3 that and sending that information out to everyone.

4 The other thing that we've been working on, as
5 you know, we have our workshops each year and we pick a
6 theme this year. So we've been talking about that.

7 The theme for this year, again, is Source Water
8 Protection with two significant milestones in
9 protecting drinking water. I put together a little
10 sheet on this and I did send it to the Water Planning
11 Council folks yesterday on that, but there's the 50th
12 Anniversary of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and
13 the 20th Anniversary of the Connecticut Act for
14 Protection Regulations.

15 So based on those two things, we're looking at
16 having programs the week of March 4th. So this is for
17 2024. The week of March 4th is Groundwater Awareness
18 Week. So we thought it would be a great week to
19 celebrate the Act for Protection Act.

20 The week of May 4th -- Excuse me, May 5th, next
21 year, is Drinking Water Week. And so, we thought we
22 would celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Safe
23 Drinking Water Act during that week.

24 And then wrapping up with the program -- And
25 really, with a big focus on Source Water Protection the

1 week of September 22nd through the 28th and that is
2 Source Water Protection Week.

3 The other thing we ll be doing, now that we ve
4 got some work that has been done on the website, we ll
5 be reviewing the website for relevant materials that
6 will support both these anniversary dates, but also the
7 topic of Source Water Protection.

8 And one of the things that we re looking at
9 doing is developing some type of a press release for
10 December 16th, which is the official date of the Safe
11 Water Drinking Act, and when it was -- when it was
12 first adopted.

13 So, love to hear if you have any comments on
14 this. If the Council feels that this is acceptable,
15 we'll move forward with this plan or we can amend it if
16 you have any thoughts. Obviously, it s a -- it s --
17 We re not saying what every program will be. This is
18 the baseline for them to develop the program. We re
19 looking at developing those one-hour workshops with
20 speakers and whatever. And once we -- you give us the
21 go-head that yes, this is kind of the -- the bones that
22 you want us to build off of, we will start looking at
23 the very specific workshops.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 Martin?

1 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you, Denise, for this, you
2 know, the work you're putting through.

3 Are you looking at doing those workshops during
4 those two particular weeks or those are just, you know,
5 references that the programs wouldn't be during those,
6 you know, two weeks like the March and the --

7 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah.

8 MARTIN HEFT: -- and the May week?

9 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. We re looking at -- at
10 trying to piggyback because it s be public -- There
11 will be a lot of public awareness around those weeks.
12 Usually the national organizations do work around
13 those. So, we ll look at having a workshop during
14 those weeks. So that, you know, then we could
15 basically say, hey, it's -- it s National Drinking
16 Water week and we're holding a program on and we can
17 kind of piggyback on that, kind of leverage the social
18 media and that type of thing.

19 MARTIN HEFT: Great. Thank you. And so,
20 reason I ask is because both of those dates, General
21 Assembly will be in session.

22 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Uh-uh [affirmative].

23 MARTIN HEFT: So trying to do something at the
24 Capitol, the legislative office building on this, so we
25 have awareness there.

1 The March dates are not a problem. The May
2 dates, the only thing I'll mention is that's the last
3 week of session, May 5th through the 11th, they finish
4 on that Wednesday. So it may be difficult to do
5 something that week on the legislative side to get, you
6 know, legislators or people, you know, involved that
7 week.

8 So it may be something to just look at if we're
9 looking at the calendars, but I -- Hopefully, we can
10 work with one of the, you know, committees or senator
11 representative to get a space in the legislative office
12 building or state Capitol to do the programs live, in-
13 person, so that way, we raise the awareness of the
14 Water Planning Council as well as the Outreach
15 Education, because we know that's one of our goals to
16 do.

17 And I'd be happy to, you know, to work with you
18 on getting, you know, contacts if we need to to try to
19 get a space to be able to run on hour program, you
20 know, at the, you know, Capitol itself.

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All right. Thanks, Martin.

22 I felt -- I think that that's a -- a good point
23 for us to think about, like okay, what we might want to
24 do at the Capitol. We had been, you know, kind of
25 working still with the virtual format, but we could

1 certainly go live and see what we want to do in
2 particular, with -- with -- Since we've got two pieces
3 of legislation we're celebrating, it may be that we --
4 we -- we look at that.

5 And thank you for letting us know about the
6 calendar. We'll double check on that. And it may be
7 like, okay, if we can't be right -- even though the,
8 you know, they may not be in session, it doesn't mean
9 stuff doesn't happen at the Capitol. So let's see what
10 we can do and we'll definitely take that into
11 consideration.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Great.

13 Thank you, Martin.

14 Graham or Lori, any comments?

15 GRAHAM STEVENS: Not really a comment, but just
16 to say thank you for the effort and the great thought
17 around, you know, linking those milestones to, you
18 know, the celebration periods and -- and, you know,
19 we're very appreciative of -- of this and we want to
20 amplify everything that the Water Planning Council does
21 from DEEP's perspective, as well as try to coordinate
22 on these outreach efforts and ensure that everyone is
23 there supporting the Outreach and Education Committee.

24 So thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori?

1 LORI MATHIEU: So, same thing. I'll echo what
2 -- what Graham just mentioned. Certainly, our
3 department will be putting together and is working on a
4 series of different events to celebrate throughout the
5 year on the 50th -- 50th Anniversary of the Safe Water
6 Drinking Act, which is significant for our department
7 and leading into this, as Denise mentioned, the
8 December signing date.

9 So -- so, Denise, I think we could coordinate
10 efforts and we're thinking of bringing back some of the
11 -- the past efforts that we used to do before COVID,
12 where during Drinking Water Week, we would present some
13 awards and do some other functions during that week.
14 So, Denise, thank you for your work and I think we
15 could work to coordinate --

16 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. Definitely we
17 anticipated particularly, you know, with -- with the
18 Act for Protection Act, I know Kim Zafar (phonetic) and
19 the work that, you know, obviously, DEEP does on that.
20 And then certainly, with the Safe Drinking Water Act,
21 Lori, we anticipated working on -- You know, I didn't
22 put DPH in there specifically. I put AWWA because
23 they're not necessarily on our committee, but DPH is.

24 So I was looking at, you know, this -- this
25 committee as, you know, as Water Planning Council

1 Committee, so all the agencies who are, you know,
2 involved and certainly, expect that DPH will be -- have
3 a huge role in -- in this. So I'll look for it.

4 And -- and also, with the Source Water
5 Protection being the theme, you know, using Source
6 Water Protection and the -- and the -- you know, the
7 Source Water Protection, you know, group that we have
8 established in the state of Connecticut, so. A Source
9 Water Collaboratives that we have. So how do we -- how
10 do we work on all of that, so.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. End of comments.

12 Denise, thank you very much. I know if it's --
13 the program is anything like what you have done in the
14 past, which we did virtually, was always well attended,
15 these will be a success as well. So it should be very
16 well attended in 2024.

17 If there's -- Alicea, you're up for the next
18 two.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Alicea Charamut, Water
20 Planning Advisory Group.

21 So the Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery
22 Analysis Workgroup, we met last month and we will be
23 developing a survey. What we want to understand is
24 what are the recent rate experiences for municipals and
25 small community systems and how often do they adjust

1 their rates?

2 We -- I'll be working with Marianne to sort of
3 put -- sketch out a draft survey that the group will
4 look at and hopefully, we talked about you know,
5 getting CWA involved in helping us get the survey out
6 and get responses. I hope that's not a surprise to
7 you, that the -- But it -- it's just important for us
8 to know and, of course, I kind of look at this as being
9 a -- an anonymous survey so we can get very honest
10 responses from, you know, municipalities as to -- to
11 what their experience is without worrying about, you
12 know, making their bosses mad. So -- that -- that's
13 our next step.

14 We are meeting on Thursday and Ali, I will get
15 that agenda to you today so we can get out in time and
16 are there any questions about that before I move on to
17 the next -- one of the things I forgot to mention
18 during the advisory group report was the Source Water
19 Protection White Paper. Right now several folks are --
20 are looking and editing. We are going to be putting
21 this out to a broader audience once we feel comfortable
22 with what's in the white paper. And -- and hopefully,
23 being able to put it by the -- the Source Water
24 Protection Group that works through DPH just to get
25 their feedback on it.

1 But I -- I think we're still, you know, we re
2 still at around 20-something pages. So, you know,
3 there's quite a bit of content there to look over.

4 And I believe that next meeting, Denise, is
5 some time in the next couple of weeks. I believe it's
6 the -- before the next Water Planning Advisory Group
7 meeting, that -- that morning at 9:00 o'clock.

8 For the Watershed Lands Workgroup -- Now let me
9 bring up my notes on that. So there were two big
10 discussions that we had at the last Watershed Lands
11 Workgroup. And there were two subjects that -- that we
12 talked about tackling and there was discussion around
13 whether we should do one or the other or both.

14 One of them was taking a good look at the
15 Aquaphor protection regulations and educate --
16 education about the regulations and enforcement as part
17 of that process.

18 The workgroup did decide to pursue that as a
19 workgroup and there was also a discussion about a focus
20 on drinking water, watershed land, not owned by water
21 companies and any state land conveyed in trans --
22 transfer that contains this sort of land and taking a
23 look at that process.

24 Now, there was a long discussion about this and
25 we concluded that there s -- there's a lack of well-

1 aggregated data for that. And so what the workgroup
2 will be doing going forward is monitoring any progress
3 on bringing that data together, whether it's a GIS
4 layer, but it's -- it's, apparently, the -- the way the
5 towns report up to the state, it's hard to parse out
6 that. It's not consistent. So that's an important
7 part of -- of that process.

8 And CEQ, actually, did take a look at land
9 transfers through the -- through the environmental
10 monitor, not the transfers through -- through
11 legislation. And they'll be bringing that data to the
12 next Watershed Lands meeting.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions?

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I'll -- I'll be getting a
15 text from Margaret if I forgot something.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Or else she'll just -- she'll
17 jump right in, I'm sure.

18 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Oh, she -- she says source
19 water forever.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We love it. Okay.

21 Thank you very much.

22 Moving on to other business, the Pass and
23 Mitigation Strategy. I believe we're still working on
24 getting responses from our respective agencies.

25 Martin and Lori?

1 MARTIN HEFT: That's my knowledge is that our
2 agency team members are working on that going through
3 responses and reviewing that and we'll have a further
4 report later.

5 LORI MATHIEU: That's my understanding as well.
6 Thank you, Jack and Martin.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

8 And we already talked about the report to the
9 legislature.

10 So let's move on to the Council goals and a
11 little bit about the retreat and I'm going to turn it
12 over to Martin for an update.

13 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. Good afternoon, again.

14 You know, at the last meeting, we discussed --
15 and I will kind of start out with you know, looking at
16 a -- submitting a midterm budget adjustment, you know,
17 for updating the State Water Plan on this, which we
18 actually looked at.

19 And going through to do the necessary
20 paperwork, the requirements for submitting such, you
21 know, through the whole entire process. Part of the
22 difficulty was and, you know, I talked with, you know,
23 secretary of OPM. I've also then additionally talked
24 with each -- you know, the members of the Water
25 Planning Council to give them this update, which I'm

1 going to providing to everybody here.

2 That was very -- I was finding it very
3 difficult to actually, you know, answer the questions I
4 needed to do. It's like, you know, responding to
5 overall, you know, okay, what has -- what have we
6 accomplished with this plan, you know, actually
7 particulars. What we planning to do with, you know,
8 with the update of the plan? Why is the need of the
9 plan -- I mean, certain things are, you know, aside
10 just statutory language, you know, of actually having
11 all of these proper items and everything else and
12 looking through all of that.

13 So kind of came up with a kind of an overall
14 plan to move us forward that incorporates a number of
15 things that came out of the retreat, including, you
16 know, budget. Some of, you know, overall goals. Some
17 we talked about already and then I'll kind of break it
18 down a little bit.

19 But basically, one of the overall goes -- goals
20 I think that the Water Planning Council needs to really
21 do is we need to, you know, solidify, if you will, or
22 build a more concrete base to work from.

23 You know, as we just talked about outreach and
24 education, we need to make sure that that is out there
25 for general public, our legislators, everything else,

1 to put a, you know, budget out where all the sudden
2 which happened last year. It s like no one knows what
3 the Water Planning Council does. No one's
4 understanding of, you know, why -- what s the need for
5 the funds? Why do we need to do this?

6 So it s making sure that we educate the proper
7 people and present them with that piece.

8 We ve talked about combining the Advisory
9 Implementation Groups, our annual report, having it be
10 a two-pager. The review of the water plan. You know,
11 right now we re at a five-year, you know, cycle. What
12 is that cycle that we should be reviewing that at?
13 Should we be doing, as we just did with the drought
14 plan, we went through it and we said, okay. Here are
15 the easy items, if you will, that we can do. We
16 updated up. We have some further recommendations, but
17 that might be a little bit longer-term.

18 And so, we did kind of, you know, an interim
19 update on the plan and then we're going to have a more
20 robust update as we get through the other
21 recommendations.

22 And then also look at establishing staffing and
23 we actually have a couple of good things, you know, on
24 that as we're looking at the budget.

25 So you know, part of this as I'm going to kind

1 of run through all of this and then have a -- we can
2 discuss and everything.

3 You know, the Advisory Implementation Workgroup
4 and thank, you know, both of them for their input and
5 everything on this.

6 We know that state statute allows us to do the
7 advisory group and the others, you know, are not
8 statutorily required, but we have the ability to do so,
9 you know, as a, you know, a council.

10 We know that, you know, the representatives,
11 you know, alls that we know is that they have to be
12 balanced between the consumptive and non-consumptive
13 interest. There is a suggested list in statutes, but
14 it s not -- it says may. It doesn't say shall, that
15 they'll have to be representative there.

16 We ve also talked about, you know, should state
17 agencies be on the advisory, you know, for that. Part
18 of my thoughts on that as, you know, state agencies,
19 the advisory board is actually advising the state
20 agencies where I -- personally, I think the state
21 agencies can be there representing, but they should not
22 be voting members because in order for them to vote,
23 you know, at least on my OPM side, for them to vote,
24 they're going to have to come back to the agency and
25 ask, if you will.

1 And I m -- I believe that's the same, you know,
2 for the other agencies. And, you know, because it is
3 the advisory to the agencies here, I think there's some
4 rationale for keeping them separate. Not that they
5 can't participate, but maybe they should not be voting
6 members.

7 We need to look at that full list of the
8 members. Currently, I think there's 20 members and
9 they are on some staggered terms. But I think we start
10 -- You know, I looked at it as a January 1st we start
11 new, if you will, looking at that with new terms for
12 everybody on staggered terms. You know, it should be
13 balanced, you know, three sets, if you will. If it's
14 going to be 18 members, 23 member -- whatever the
15 numbers should be, a third, a third, a third, to
16 stagger it so everyone s not coming off, similar as it
17 is now, you know, for that.

18 You know, chair, co-chair. I don't think -- we
19 didn't discuss tri-chairs at all, but you know, I don t
20 -- You know, it s kind of like co and co-chairs and
21 obviously up state -- updating the operational guidance
22 procedures. Obviously, that's a big part of it as well
23 as kind of that whole piece.

24 But I think, you know, if we set a target date,
25 you know, kind of January 1st, that in all essence, the

1 two existing kind of cease to exist, you know. Some of
2 those members will come over to a new advisory group
3 starting January 1st. Here are the new staggered
4 terms. Everything to go out. You may have some people
5 starting out that may be a one-year term in order to
6 get everybody on cycle-type of thing. That's, you
7 know, as I've had to redo groups over time, that's kind
8 of the way we've done in that way.

9 So it's kind of January 1st it all starts anew,
10 if you will, with an advisory group. Here's the
11 membership. Here's the new procedures, everything
12 moving forward.

13 I also think as part of that we need to re-
14 evaluate all of our sub-topical workgroups. Workgroups
15 that are there are all needed, are all a priority. And
16 that goes right down to the Interagency Drought to
17 Watershed Land, Source Water Protection, or are these
18 things the advisory group can do themselves or we have
19 procedures for setting up the workgroups and they just
20 beyond that. So I just think it's a good time to
21 review the whole process.

22 On the State Water Plan, I kind of mentioned
23 about, you know, the implementation and periodic
24 updates statutes allow for us to do that.

25 The plan, you know, was adopted in 2019. We

1 could do an in-term update, you know, for 2024, kinda
2 going through as we did with the drought plan. What
3 quick things do we need to change that aren't and, you
4 know, and what things are longer-term, you know, for a
5 major, you know, full update?

6 And I believe, you know, Water Plan Council can
7 ask the advisory group to review the recommendations,
8 the status. We could also look at research
9 opportunities to work within our college system and
10 interns to help go through this plan, everything else
11 as has been done in the past especially for UCON,
12 especially, I believe, Eastern did some work with us
13 previously as well.

14 And then looking at staffing. Under the
15 statutes, Office of Policy and Management is the one
16 responsible to engage any consultants or technical
17 assistance to implement the work program of the Water
18 Planning Council.

19 So looking at that, I've had some discussions
20 with the secretary. In the current budget cycle, I
21 have a position that's coming up next fiscal year '25,
22 and I've discussed about implementing part of that
23 person's time to be staffing for Water Planning
24 Council.

25 This is similar of OPM. We also staff the

1 advisory commission on intergovernmental relations.
2 And so we have a staff -- I actually have two staff
3 members that devote part of their time to doing so.

4 So -- and I am willing to have that person as
5 part of our Office of Responsible Growth that deals
6 with the water planning, you know, is Becca, as our
7 drought, you know, coordinator as part of my team and
8 so part of her time already, but we would commit part
9 of this new position that we'll in fiscal '25 to
10 working with the Water Planning Council.

11 I've spoken with Jack and I know you have
12 staffing that you do. In between the two, we do
13 actually have some, you know, a start anyways of some
14 staffing for this.

15 And then, obviously, as I've mentioned looking
16 at researching opportunities through partnership, UCON
17 Eastern, others that we may be able to pull in. Those
18 may not be aware some of the other, you know, water
19 planning around the nation, go through their university
20 systems, their land-use university systems, which for
21 us is UCON, and have a tie with them. We don't have
22 that tie, you know, direct tie. We have, you know,
23 ties with them, but not the tie that we need and I
24 think that we need to establish that.

25 And I believe by doing these things and moving

1 this stuff forward, it s going to build that concrete
2 base we need and be able to move the Water Planning
3 Council forward in the direction that we're all looking
4 at this being able to do.

5 So that's kind of a whole overall overview and
6 I'm happy -- I mean, I have notes on this, which I'm
7 happy to share afterwards, you know, on it, but these
8 are kind of just some of my draft notes that, you know,
9 I compiled with having to go through the budget process
10 of looking at it, going back through the retreat notes,
11 going back through the statutes, and kind of creating a
12 plan for us, if you will, you know, to move forward,
13 so.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I -- Thank you, Martin. I -- I
15 think it's very good, optimistic, well thought out and
16 addresses many of our concerns. And I would like to
17 get some feedback from Graham and Lori.

18 I think Graham gave a -- Did Graham give a
19 thumbs up?

20 GRAHAM STEVENS: I -- I gave Lori the floor,
21 but --

22 THE CHAIRMAN: No.

23 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- I ll go if -- if she
24 doesn't want -- want to go first.

25 But first I just want to say, Martin, I

1 appreciate the -- the energy that you put into
2 analyzing this and I appreciate you reaching out to --
3 to me on this matter.

4 Obviously, I think I see -- I can -- I think --
5 I think I can speak for all Water Planning Counselors
6 that, you know, we are -- we are very interested in --
7 in finding a way to, you know, further invest and staff
8 the Water Planning Council, you know, really to -- to,
9 you know, try to match the significant effort to take
10 over to put in, you know, on behalf of their interests
11 and -- and using their time to try to advance water
12 planning in the state of Connecticut.

13 You know, we are very eager to see your
14 proposal move forward and are, you know, looking
15 forward to opportunities to augment resources as well
16 to help move select initiative of the Water Planning
17 Council forward.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 Lori?

20 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, thank you, Jack.

21 Yeah, for us to represent the Department of
22 Public Health on -- and our thoughts and, Martin, thank
23 you for all of that. The idea of connecting with our
24 universities, you know, all of the brainpower that
25 exists in our students that are -- are at our

1 universities across the entire state would be amazing
2 for us.

3 And there are so many opportunities that are
4 there and then working closer with -- with the
5 University of Connecticut through their, you know,
6 through whatever means possible or others, you know, to
7 keep the -- our eyes wide open and to look at this at a
8 -- in a different way.

9 You know, the plan is -- has now aged. It is
10 now time for us to step back, you know, after COVID, to
11 step back and look at where we are and that -- the
12 retreat was a really great effort toward that end.

13 There s so many things that are new. We ve
14 talked about that before as well, that we re just sort
15 of struggling with, right, when the State Water Plan
16 was finalized, such as PFOS (phonetic) and the
17 challenge of PFOS, for instance, on -- on all of us.

18 And then other things and we've done a
19 tremendous on drought as we ve talked about a lot.
20 But, you know, now is the time to sort of step back and
21 look at what's going on with climate, climate change,
22 and -- and how nimble we probably need to be, right,
23 versus we do a lot of work on drought, but what about
24 floods and the impact with all this extreme weather
25 that we've had and how does that impact our water, our

1 water resources, our water supply?

2 And so, there s a lot to do and I'm -- I m
3 excited to work with you all to identify our best way
4 forward.

5 So thank you, Martin, for all of your work in
6 that area.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much and -- and
8 it's -- it really kind of -- You ve broken down towards
9 where what we came out with the -- the retreat, what we
10 need to be doing moving forward.

11 The fact that you are making progress within
12 the OPM budgetary world is very, very positive, I
13 believe, and that between our respective agencies, we
14 can probably get up to an FT that would be totally
15 supporting the Council, which is -- which is great
16 news.

17 Okay. Any other business? Any public comment?
18 Any other public comment? Given -- Alicea.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So, I -- I do have a question
20 about involving university students. The Yale
21 Conservation Scholar Initiative, they'll be opening
22 applications soon. And if -- The -- the big question
23 is so how does that work? You know, who would they
24 report to?

25 Say the advisory group had a very specific

1 project that would be beneficial to have a student work
2 on this to -- to move it forward, who would they report
3 to? What sort of -- what sort of clearance would we
4 need from whom? And, you know, because there's just so
5 many entities involved here. You know, how do we --
6 How would we move that forward if we wanted to -- to
7 get it done?

8 MARTIN HEFT: So I can tell you that, you know,
9 at least, you know, on the OPM side, I believe other
10 state agencies work the same as, you know, most interns
11 need, you know, a sponsoring agency.

12 So it would have to go through one of the four
13 agencies, you know, of the Water Planning Council for
14 that intern because they need, you know, the --
15 education needs someone to sign off on it. Who's
16 responsible?

17 We do intern programs all the time at OPM for
18 it. So, it would be, you know, OPM could host the
19 intern, you know, and everything else and, you know, we
20 would have to be the one as the, you know, the parent
21 agency, if you will, or whichever, you know, the area
22 of topic could be under if it's under DPH or DEEP, you
23 know, might be, you know, them that would have to do
24 it. But, you know, there is mechanisms set up within
25 -- within the state of how to do the internship

1 programs, you know, type of thing.

2 And I think, you know, we may not be there yet
3 to do that, but it s like we need to start exploring
4 those type of things. And that's really what, you
5 know, my overall piece is here is like we need to start
6 looking at all of this stuff, you know, and seeing.

7 And there may be that we can pull an intern
8 and to do some of this stuff and that we do once every,
9 well, I think, three times a year at OPM, you know,
10 that we actually post and everything else. But if, you
11 know, we don't have work for them, then we don't, you
12 know, bring an intern in. Because I m not going to
13 have them sit there not doing something, but if there
14 is work or something that comes out of here and that we
15 could say, yeah, okay. We could host them. We could
16 do that, you know. Then, you know, obviously then it's
17 the agency itself that has to, you know, sign off and
18 be the responsible party, if you will.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I think -- Yeah, I think -- If I
21 remember correctly, I think when Margaret was the
22 Executive Director, there was somebody -- several
23 people from universities worked through --through
24 Riverside Alliance, I believe. And I'm not sure -- I
25 mean, some of the work might have entailed the -- the

1 Water Planning, so.

2 But we have interns. I mean, we have people
3 that come here, too, as interns from law schools and
4 other universities and colleges, so. I think we could
5 probably work something out. Yeah. It s --

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: I -- I agree. And I think
7 there's other models like DPH and DEEP utilize other
8 models in trying to leverage some work in the -- in the
9 university sector and academic sector and are PFOS
10 efforts.

11 So I think that there's lots of opportunities
12 to -- to engage. I think if the state just puts out a
13 call for interested collaborators, we will -- we will
14 find a significant number of professors and students
15 who want to work with us.

16 It -- it does take some time, regardless of
17 how it's structured, but, you know, the more that you
18 flesh out what you re looking for, the better outcome
19 will be.

20 LORI MATHIEU: And I -- I -- I would agree. As
21 the Department of Public Health worked really hard to
22 restructure our internship program and on -- You know,
23 Alicea, those are great ideas, but I -- I think,
24 Martin, you said it best, are -- are we there yet to be
25 able to establish this? And maybe it's just gathering

1 -- right now, gathering all of these ideas from
2 different schools and colleges and creating --
3 gathering these ideas at this moment in time.

4 Because I don't know if we're at that stage,
5 you know, where we have project lined up -- You know,
6 as you said, Martin, you have to have a project. You
7 have to have a plan. You have to have somebody that
8 they go to every day, you know. And people that they
9 can interact with and make it a very meaningful project
10 for them, but also for, you know, for us as well.

11 MARTIN HEFT: If I may -- not on that topic, to
12 kind of go back to just our goals and everything
13 because I think part of that is as, you know, Alicea
14 and Dan brought up earlier, I think one part -- kind of
15 next steps on it that I would recommend or -- and ask
16 that the Advisory Implementation Group work to come up
17 with, you know, a listing of here -- You know, the
18 potential categories, even member names, you know, for
19 a new group as of January 1st. Kind of think of that,
20 you know, in that terms, you know.

21 And I -- I could talk to you off-line, if, you
22 know, structure, you know, type of thing. But, you
23 know, like combining those two groups. These are who
24 the representatives should be and everything else.
25 That way, looking at the staggered terms -- Kind of

1 just setting it up. Also, start looking at the
2 operational guidelines, everything else, you know, for
3 recommendations for changes and everything, to be able
4 to come back to us, you know. If it could be by the
5 next meeting, terrific. Because, obviously, we re
6 getting -- January 1st is, you know, may not be a
7 January 1st. It might be March 1st, you know.

8 So don't hold that deep in stone any place.
9 You know, I just picked X for the start of a new year,
10 you know, calendar year. But obviously, we can do it
11 at whatever point we are ready to do that.

12 But I think that looking at next steps, as
13 you ve kind of asked, that would be our next steps,
14 would be to start composing here s the new advisory
15 group makeup, you know, with the types of, you know,
16 who the -- you know, the stakeholders in it. Who might
17 be the representatives of it? And then looking at the
18 operational guides, you know, and also the workgroups,
19 kind of all that whole piece there, so.

20 And I'm happy to, you know, come to one of
21 you re meeting -- you know, next meeting, or whatever
22 else, if it's a joint meeting, something, and elaborate
23 more on some of my thoughts on it as well, if need be.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: And -- and then there s -- On
25 that point, so the reason you cannot send us

1 individually what -- what you're thinking and -- and we
2 can go to the meeting or just kind of get back to you
3 in what you re thinking in terms of the structure of it
4 all, so.

5 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Right. And on that note, it
6 would be helpful for us to know what each member of the
7 Water Planning Council, how they feel how the agency
8 should participate in what sort of category, you know,
9 whether it's an advisory member, nonvoting advisory
10 member, or it would be helpful for us to know from you
11 guys -- You know, I -- I -- I ve -- All right. We've
12 heard your -- your thoughts on it, but, you know, as
13 far as PURA and DEEP and DPH is concerned, it would be
14 helpful for us to know, you know, what you -- you re
15 your thoughts and -- and dreams are for agency
16 participation in -- in -- in a combined group.

17 MARTIN HEFT: And I might suggest, Alicea, on
18 that is to reach out to each individually and just say,
19 you know, give me your thoughts on people that might be
20 -- that way not doing it all of us as a group because
21 otherwise, it constitutes a meeting.

22 You know, but if you send to each individual,
23 to us, kind of that question, you know, what do you
24 feel about, you know, agencies participating or who do
25 you feel should be -- make sure that we are definitely

1 represented on the thing. Then we can each get you
2 back our own individual thoughts to help try to put
3 that together.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 Any other public comment? Any other public
6 comment? Any other public comment? If not, that
7 brings us to the conclusion of our meeting.

8 Our next meeting will be on November 7th.

9 Very good meeting today. We accomplished a
10 lot, covered a lot of ground.

11 If there's nothing else to come before us, I
12 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

13 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

14 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: So moved and seconded.

16 All of those in favor?

17 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Everyone be safe.

19 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

I hereby certify that the foregoing 63 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original notes taken of the Regular Meeting held by Remote Access of the WATER PLANNING COUNCIL, which was held remotely before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIR, and PURA VICE CHAIRMAN, on October 3, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Vickie E. Wiechec". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Vickie E. Wiechec
CVR-M, CCR 2237