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

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
March 5, 2024, beginning at 1:36 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

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

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

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

4 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

5 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

6 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

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

9 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI**

10 **CHRIS BELLUCCI**

11 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

12 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

13 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

14 **ALEXANDRIA HIBBARD**

15 **KIM CZAPLA**

16 **CAROL HASKINS**

17 **RICH HANRATTY**

18
19 **Staff:**

20 **LAURA LUPOLI**

21 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

22

23

24

25

1 (Begin: 1:36 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone, and
4 welcome to the Water Planning Council meeting for
5 March 5, 2024. We'll call the meeting in order.

6 The first order of business will be the
7 approval of the meeting transcripts. We'll first
8 approve the transcript for February 26, 2024.

9 Do I hear a motion?

10 MARTIN HEFT: I believe you meant February 6, 2024.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: What did I say?

12 MARTIN HEFT: I thought you said 26th, but maybe I
13 heard it wrong.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: February 6, 2024.

15 MARTIN HEFT: Yeah, February 6th. I'll approve the --
16 make a motion to approve the February 6th meeting
17 transcript.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Second, motion made and seconded.

20 Any questions on the transcript?

21 If not --

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah, a question. Jack, actually
23 could we -- I believe there was an issue with the
24 minutes with respect to Iris had to come online
25 and discuss the Yale Superfund Research Center and

1 1,4-dioxane.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it -- Iris, are you on call?

3 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: Yeah, it's just the acronym. It's
4 Yale Superfund Research Center. That's it.

5 And it's 1,4-dioxane. I think the four in
6 the transcript went to be for, as f-o-r; and it's
7 four, the number.

8 I could put it in the chat, if necessary.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Is the transcript as written correct
10 based upon what was said?

11 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: I believe it was.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

13 MARTIN HEFT: So it's just more of a clarifying point,
14 you know? That --

15 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: Clarify -- yeah, that could be,
16 yeah.

17 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

19 MARTIN HEFT: And that will just be noted in, you know,
20 the transcript this next time, the clarifying note
21 you just mentioned, Iris.

22 So I think we're fine to approve the minutes.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great. Any other questions or
24 comments?

25 MARTIN HEFT: No.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

2 All those in favor?

3 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

5
6 (No response.)

7
8 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion carried.

9 The transcript from the February 23rd meeting
10 is not ready yet, so we cannot act on it.

11 Public comment on agenda items?

12 Any public comment on agenda items?

13
14 (No response.)

15
16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Action items? We have been sent
17 out to us the USGS data collection workgroup
18 report.

19 Chris, do you want to talk about this?

20 CHRIS BELLUCCI: Sure, I could. I could do that,
21 Jack.

22 So I believe we trans -- or we gave the
23 Council the report in December. So the workgroup
24 was officially approved in September of '22. We
25 spent most of 2023 assembling the workgroup and

1 meeting to discuss the content of the report. In
2 the middle part of the year we put together the
3 report and subsequently got reaction from most of
4 the workgroup members, and then passed the report
5 through the workgroups.

6 And so we -- I'm happy to say that you know a
7 lot of work went into the report. We had 30 -- 29
8 to 30 members, I believe, participate in putting
9 together the report. So really good
10 representation from both the in-stream and
11 out-of-stream users. We feel that the report, you
12 know, does an excellent job of doing what we were
13 set out to do, and it comes up with a couple
14 recommendations. And number one to -- you know
15 it's a complex topic as we learned once we started
16 digging into it.

17 So the USGS network is composed of stream
18 flow monitoring, groundwater monitoring, and water
19 quality monitoring. We broke the report out in
20 that manner to try to describe it in that manner,
21 and each of them have different funding and each
22 of them have different data users -- so it's sort
23 of complicated.

24 We did our best to assemble that information
25 based on what we had, but we feel, you know, in

1 order to really get our arms around it we needed
2 probably a deeper dive into the networks and
3 really get at, you know, what the end users of the
4 data are seeking.

5 And then the second recommendation is to try
6 to provide a stable funding source for the data
7 collection efforts. You know, I think one of the
8 things that became apparent is the data needs are
9 different from all the people who provide funding
10 to the network, and nowhere is there a sort of a
11 stable funding source for any of the needs.

12 So you know, kind of what we have -- we're
13 fortunate in that we have a lot of long-term
14 record monitoring stations, you know, with
15 long-term records, but we did identify there's
16 different data needs for the users. So to really
17 go forward you know we should be thinking about
18 climate resiliency questions that we're going to
19 need answered in the future, and obviously coming
20 up with a stable funding source to do that.

21 So that's kind of a snapshot of what the
22 report says. There's obviously more detail in the
23 report, and I'll stop there and I'm happy to take
24 questions.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thanks, Chris. It's really a very well

1 written in-depth report, for sure.

2 Thank you, and the group.

3 Any questions or comments from the Council.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: I just wanted to add a little bit to
5 what Chris said. I think it's really critical
6 that you know we are making decisions based on the
7 best available science. And you know right now
8 the networks that we have in place are not what we
9 had in place even 15 years ago.

10 Obviously, the cost of everything is
11 increasing, but I think that it's imperative, you
12 know, for a lot of what we do to ensure that
13 there's, you know, a robust dataset that can be,
14 you know, both help us understand the current
15 state and predict the future state in Connecticut
16 in particular so that we don't have to rely upon,
17 you know, science that's not necessarily as
18 geographically focused.

19 And you know DEEP is very interested in you
20 know, looking for, you know, opportunities to, you
21 know, increase the robustness of all of these, you
22 know, datasets and monitoring networks.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham.

24 Any further comments?

25 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, just a quick thank you all for the

1 work on this. You know I am obviously on the
2 budget side -- obviously, concerned that, you
3 know -- obviously, looking at the cost numbers in
4 here, looking at, you know, about providing a
5 dedicated funding and realize that these are
6 recommendations. So I do, you know, realize that.

7 And I appreciate that further in the document
8 it actually explains some of the funding sources
9 and everything else that you know we can work with
10 and everything else, you know, for that -- but I
11 am concerned where, you know, partly through
12 their, you know -- some of the recommendations are
13 investigate funding source, but then the priority
14 wound up being provide a dedicated source, you
15 know.

16 And there's no thing about, you know,
17 investigating, you know, potential to provide a
18 dedicated funding source or something in that
19 language there. You know, so it kind of, you know
20 the recommendations within talk about
21 investigating funding. It also talks about
22 providing a dedicated funding, but I think the
23 joint piece is missing in the priority for future
24 actions.

25 LORI MATHIEU: Martin, I would agree with that.

1 And I also want to add, you know, going back
2 to the state water plan, my staff, I took a look
3 at the report, and gave me -- I wanted them to
4 pull out blurbs out of the state water plan where
5 this was mentioned.

6 And those of you who were around at the time,
7 you know there's statements in the state water
8 plan about how important and foundational this
9 information is. And that stream flow monitoring
10 is one of the most critical elements in water
11 planning, and if we don't have this network built,
12 we're really not -- as Graham had mentioned, we're
13 really not going to know impacts and understand as
14 much as we really should about the future
15 challenges and threats that we're facing.

16 So within the state water plan page 2-5, 5-1,
17 5-32 -- and there's a suggested policy
18 recommendation stating especially important is
19 maintaining and enhancing funding for existing
20 public and private partnerships concerning USGS
21 real-time and discrete monitoring programs,
22 including stream gauging, water quality, and
23 groundwater levels.

24 I know that any one of us who've been
25 involved with a drought during times where we

1 don't have that many groundwater monitoring wells
2 to be able to really look at, you know, regional
3 impact like we should.

4 I just came from a conference where over 700
5 drinking water people were, and they're still
6 there in Southington. Part of the conference is a
7 vendor expo. There's a lot of new technology on
8 monitoring technology within wells that is all
9 remote using AI. It's things that we should
10 really start investigating.

11 So my point in this is that this is
12 foundational to our work -- but also, Martin, I
13 would agree that maybe the words could be
14 investigation of a sustainable source of funding
15 that could give us a real-time network of, not
16 only stream gauges, but groundwater monitoring as
17 well, which is really important to all of our
18 work.

19 And I want to add something before I forget
20 it. My staff had mentioned that Ali Hibbard had
21 done an enormous amount of work here in drafting
22 and revising the report, as my staff had let me
23 know. So I just wanted to mention that and
24 acknowledge her.

25 But I think that this is something we should,

1 you know, make one of our discussion points about
2 how to find sustainable funding. You know, where
3 is that source of funding? And investigate this
4 new technology that is out there that's very
5 exciting that would probably reduce the cost of
6 some of these monitoring, you know, gauges that
7 are out there today.

8 So just my thought.

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

10 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** I think Lori makes a good point about,
11 you know, looking at technology, too, as a way and
12 a means to, you know, decrease some of the costs
13 and also increase the access to this information.

14 You know there's a, you know, national
15 crisis, you know, with certain types of, you know,
16 meters that all need to be replaced. And if we're
17 going to be upgrading, which we will be, you know
18 the technology at these, at these gauging
19 stations, then let's do so in a way that that
20 increases access to data and decreases -- not that
21 we dislike our friends at USGS, but decreases the
22 human component of needing to go out there to pull
23 the data loggers and pull these results on a
24 frequent basis.

25 I think that could really benefit us in more

1 real-time understanding of this data, and may help
2 us in other ways that we don't currently use this
3 dataset for, you know, but for the lack of
4 real-time information.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Denise Savageau, I see your hand is up.

6 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi. Yes, thank you. I just wanted
7 to mention because I agree, you know, the price
8 tag obviously is huge, and it's something that's
9 going to have to be considered. So I think
10 focusing on that is important.

11 What I wanted to point out is that there has
12 been kind of a shift where with USGS, at first,
13 you know, putting in this system and whatever, and
14 then there was a shift to, you know, more state
15 paying for different things as well as local
16 governance paying for different things in terms of
17 the monitoring. I know, for example, one of the
18 gauges in Greenwich, Connecticut, on the Byram
19 River was put in and the Town picked up the cost
20 of monitoring that, and that's how it was
21 installed.

22 What I wanted to say is that, this is
23 critical and I think we -- I think it would
24 behoove us to also have a discussion with our
25 federal congressional people. You know we always

1 think about here we can only go to the State, but
2 if our senators and our representatives don't know
3 about this report and don't know how important
4 USGS is to the work we do here, they don't know
5 enough to ask for more funding.

6 So I think sending this report, even with the
7 tweaked language if you want to do that, but
8 sending it to them and/or inviting them to a
9 meeting and having a discussion with them about
10 how important USGS is to the work we're doing and
11 protecting the public drinking water supply and
12 water resources in our state is really, really
13 important.

14 And if we don't let our folks know, then it's
15 a matter of asking USGS kind of to toot their own
16 horn. Besides them, we need to do that. It can't
17 be -- we can't be asking USGS to kind of lobby for
18 themselves. It's kind of the way you guys have to
19 lobby up at the Capital for yourselves.

20 But this is a unique situation, so I'm just
21 putting that out there that I think it would be --
22 it's really important for us to let our federal
23 legislators know. And my guess is,
24 collectively -- I'm just putting this out there,
25 that collectively we're not the only state who

1 needs these resources. So how do we make sure
2 that this is a network that's happening and that
3 they start paying more attention to USGS and the
4 funding that is needed for monitoring water
5 resources?

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And I see Virginia's hand.

8 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, just one point of order before we
9 go on? Since we're -- you know, and I appreciate,
10 you know, the comments, Denise, and everything
11 else, but that's kind of like the scope of
12 implementing the recommendations and everything
13 moving forward -- which is terrific, and don't
14 disagree with you on it, but you know we have a
15 motion, you know -- or I don't even know if we
16 have a motion.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: We did not make a motion yet to accept
18 the report.

19 MARTIN HEFT: So we want to keep the focus on the
20 report itself, not the implementation of
21 recommendations and everything, if we can.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So Lori, when you were talking
23 before, you weren't suggesting that we make
24 revisions to the report?

25 LORI MATHIEU: I -- maybe I am. One thing, just the

1 technology and to Martin's point about funding,
2 we've got to really take a hard look at there's a
3 reason why this hasn't happened for a while. It's
4 expensive. These are expensive technologies.

5 And so maybe stepping back and asking the
6 group to take a look at that a little bit, about
7 technologies that are out there, different
8 technologies, and/or maybe adding a piece on the
9 next part of this investigation would be to look
10 into that to see how you could reduce the cost,
11 but then also, you know, increase our ability
12 while costs are getting reduced through the use of
13 new technology.

14 And maybe that is a recommendation to make a
15 change. Right? That's sort of off of what Martin
16 was saying, you know, about we should go seek
17 funding. Well, we should also be, you know,
18 fiscally responsible, too, to make sure that we
19 are knowledgeable about the best technology at the
20 best price.

21 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So are you suggesting that we make a
22 motion to approve this report, but with the caveat
23 that there's some more work that needs to be done
24 in terms of getting a dollar amount so then we can
25 move ahead in a lobby for this?

1 LORI MATHIEU: Well, I don't know if our role is also
2 to lobby. I mean, that's the other, you know, are
3 we --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, our role is not to lobby. It's an
5 age-old question we go through here. We're four
6 agencies here, so we can't just unilaterally go
7 lobby Congress, or whatever. We have to figure
8 out how to do it.

9 I'm going to let -- take a chair prerogative.
10 I see Virginia is jumping out of her seat there,
11 so.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Just to that -- my original comment
13 was responding to Denise, but I'll keep that for
14 the public comment later.

15 But just in my understanding of the role that
16 the implementation workgroup has played these last
17 five years is that we submit -- we create a
18 report, submit it to you. The report as such
19 stands as the IWG report. How you folks go about
20 implementing that, to pick up on what Martin said,
21 is certainly your prerogative. It's just the
22 recommendations are coming from the IWG, and then
23 if you do something different with that, that's to
24 be expected.

25 So I would propose the report stay as is and

1 not be modified. And yet when you implement it,
2 you can do what you'd like.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: So Jack, I was thinking along the same
4 lines. I think there's been, you know, at least
5 at DEEP and I'm sure, you know, at DPH and
6 potentially OPM as well, discussion about, you
7 know, what's the next step, you know, in finding
8 the money, and making it -- to Lori's point, like
9 a more sustainable investment?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: And ensuring that, you know, we
12 balance the, you know, equities here and the needs
13 for any investment. And I would almost suggest
14 that that might be, you know, the charge of the
15 next group to really pull that together.

16 And you know it may need to -- you know
17 because some of it is outside of the scope of, you
18 know, the advisory capacity. It may actually, you
19 know, analysis may be sent to the Water Planning
20 Council, but it may be, you know, rest with the
21 councilors to make the actual implementation
22 recommendations just because it involves state
23 budgeting.

24 It involves, you know, discussion with our
25 congressional delegation and federal agencies, but

1 I would see that as a potential step, and a second
2 step.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I would suggest we entertain a motion to
4 accept the report as presented, and then it can be
5 used as a framework moving forward. And we can
6 then look at some of the things Lori talked about,
7 and Martin.

8 If I can have a motion to that effect?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved, to that effect.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Who made the motion?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham.

12 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

13 MARTIN HEFT: I'll second it for discussion purposes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded.

15 Discussion?

16 LORI MATHIEU: I would still make an addition of
17 investigation of sustainable sources of funding to
18 be noted within this report.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So do you want an amendment to the
20 motion to accept the report to include that?

21 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, I think so.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin?

23 MARTIN HEFT: I'll second the amendment.

24 So now you're on the amendment first.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll vote on the amendment first.

1 Right?

2 Any questions, questions on the amendment?

3 Everybody knows what the amendment is?

4 Graham?

5 GRAHAM STEVENS: I see that as a friendly amendment.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I think Lori is being friendly here.

7 All those in favor of the amendment please
8 signify by saying, aye.

9 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is accepted. Now we go
11 for the motion as amended. Any questions on this?

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: No.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: It's not, all those favor signify by
14 saying, aye.

15 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

17
18 (No response.)

19
20 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. And again, thank
21 you to the workgroup on this.

22 Workgroup reports? Lisa, Dan, advisory
23 workgroup update?

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So outside of anything else that's
25 going to be reported today, and discussion about

1 how we're going to move forward with membership,
2 we did have a discussion on legislation. And at
3 the time, SB-11, which is an Act Coordinating
4 Connecticut Resiliency Planning and Broadening
5 Municipal Order Options for Climate Resilience;
6 and SB-5170, which had to do with the training of
7 wetlands, inland wetlands commissioners, were the
8 only two water related items that were available
9 at that time.

10 So those two were brought up, but other than
11 that we will be getting reports on the reports at
12 the Water Planning advisory group meeting.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Let's go to Denise.

14 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Hi.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Hello, Denise.

16 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** How you doing?

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Good.

18 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** So the outreach and education
19 committee met today. Many of you know that we --
20 our first item of agenda on our agenda was really
21 this workshop that we have.

22 Laura, thank you very much -- sent out an
23 updated notice on that. We have over 50 folks
24 registered right now. We're expecting a few more
25 to be registered. I'm putting the registration in

1 the link for that workshop. Again, that's going
2 to be held tomorrow starting at noon. And the
3 focus is on the Aquifer Protection Act and the
4 20th anniversary of the regulations there.

5 DEP took the lead on this program. They put
6 a great job together. Kudos to Kim, Kim Czapla
7 and Ali Hibbard for really shepherding this
8 through; and again, to OPM for Lori and Ali at OPM
9 for making sure that we have, you know, all the
10 logistics in place for registration.

11 So that's taking place tomorrow.

12 The other thing that we're working on is the
13 Safe Drinking Water Act. And I sent an e-mail to
14 Lori. And I know Lori and I -- and she's looking
15 at her staff having a meeting. So we'll be
16 following up on that to continue our work on the
17 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
18 So stay tuned on that.

19 And then a couple other things -- a drought
20 fact sheet. We've been working on this for a
21 while. Mike Dietz has that now, and one of the
22 discussions we had at this meeting was whether we
23 should do this fact sheet kind of -- so understand
24 that Mike works for, you know, the UConn
25 cooperative extension and the Institute for Water

1 Resources. And he's looking at having his people
2 really work on this and help us with this.

3 So we're looking at having this as a
4 co-branding opportunity with the state water plan
5 as well as the UConn extension Institute for Water
6 Resources brand on this, and just wanted to make
7 sure that the, you know, folks here were
8 comfortable with that. But we're moving forward
9 with having, you know, a fact sheet that basically
10 has both of those brands on it, UConn cooperative
11 extension Institute for Water Resources as well as
12 the state water plan.

13 And again this fact sheet is on private wells
14 and we are getting ready to send that around for
15 draft comments. We're in the process of getting
16 it formatted and around for draft comments.
17 Probably in the next month or two that will be
18 submitted to you. At this point it's been an
19 internal document working with all the folks who
20 are on the outreach and education, but we should
21 be getting that out soon.

22 But just from a formatting perspective we
23 were looking to see if you had any problem with us
24 doing a co-branding with cooperative extension and
25 in the state water plan.

1 Any comments on that from anyone?

2 **MARTIN HEFT:** I would just reserve until we see the
3 document and see what material is in it, and then
4 we can look if we want to have, you know, multiple
5 agencies or multiple, you know, organizations on
6 the document. I'm not opposed to it, but
7 obviously want to see, you know, what it is.

8 I'd also ask that, you know, I know you're
9 doing, you know, the drought fact sheet, but we
10 also have the interagency drought workgroup which
11 would be more than happy to participate -- but
12 have not been asked at this point yet.

13 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Yeah, Becca Dahl has been involved.
14 She's on our workgroup, and so she has, you know,
15 she's aware of this. So that, we will be
16 sending -- but we will be sending it out to
17 everybody. Right now, like I said, it wasn't in
18 any form to send out. Now it's getting to the
19 fact that it's going to be, you know, that we can
20 ask for comments from folks on this.

21 And again, because the interagency drought
22 workgroup doesn't necessarily -- this one is very
23 specific on private wells. So I just wanted to
24 mention that fact, so. And not that you don't
25 deal with private wells, but this is -- that's why

1 one of the reasons we took this one is it's not
2 one of the ones that -- the areas that people
3 focus on.

4 So the other thing that we finished up was we
5 have the logo and guidance. And again Ali Hibbard
6 worked really hard on this. And the guidance, she
7 sent that to you today. So we, you know, made
8 that decision. So she sent that out to you and
9 we're looking for comments from you for next time.

10 So if you could take a look at that, or you
11 could send any comments to me and Ali, but also if
12 you want to have that for discussion at your next
13 meeting just let us know how you want to handle
14 that.

15 The guidance is in two, two things. One is,
16 who could use the logo? Kind of that bigger --
17 that issue. And then also, how to use logos? So
18 like you know, making sure that it's the right
19 color and, you know, so you don't kind of mess up
20 the logo. You know if it's going to be a brand
21 thing it needs to be -- we need to follow
22 guidelines. So there's those guidelines on that
23 as well as policy.

24 And this came mostly out of DEEP's shop, and
25 thank you, Graham, and for your folks really

1 working so hard on this. We really appreciate it.
2 And I think this is the last leg of the logo
3 branding thing that we're working on.

4 MARTIN HEFT: Denise, if I may on that?

5 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Uh-huh?

6 MARTIN HEFT: And I know I did receive it this morning,
7 so thank you. Has any of that been reviewed with
8 the state brand guidelines that are out there?

9 Because this is, you know, with the state
10 brand that we have, you know, with the new CT
11 Connecticut logos, everything, there may be some
12 terminology things of that that could be used as a
13 reference. I don't know if you know there is, if
14 some of that's been done.

15 I see some of the things in there were like
16 the fonts and everything follow the new CT
17 branding, but I didn't know if they had actually
18 looked through the brand guidelines. And I could
19 provide that link if, you know, if it hasn't been
20 done.

21 Maybe your staff, Graham, at DEEP did that
22 with this, but I'm just inquiring whether that was
23 done.

24 DENISE SAVAGEAU: I'll defer to Graham --

25 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'll put Ali Hibbard on -- and maybe

1 Ali can answer that question. I believe
2 (unintelligible) --

3 ALEXANDRIA HIBBARD: I can check with Joe Cunningham on
4 the actual brand guidelines for the terms of usage
5 policy. Kim Czapla and I put an e-mail blast out
6 to state employees involved in this workgroup from
7 DPH, OPM, and PURA, although PURA used the same
8 usage policy that we use over here at DEEP.

9 So that's how, how we developed that using
10 individual state agency terms of usage policies.

11 MARTIN HEFT: Great, thanks. And --

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: And for the technical, to the
13 technical work, Martin, the person who completed
14 this for us is, you know, implements our brand as
15 well as is the web content manager for the State,
16 you know, for DEEP's webpage.

17 But we can double check and have that
18 reported back to all of the councilors before we
19 entertain evaluating this at our next meeting.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. Anything else, Denise?

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, just a couple of things. We
22 also have been -- or have the workgroup that's
23 kind of looking at the website. And I think I
24 reported that there was an outreach and education
25 page, which we're starting to get some traction.

1 And if you google it, now it will come up if you
2 google the state water plan outreach and education
3 page. So thank you again to Kim and Ali and Becca
4 on that.

5 But also looking at that, as some of you
6 know, the state websites are going to be migrating
7 to another, a new platform and it's called BITS,
8 B-I-T-S is my understanding, and there's a
9 workgroup that's on that.

10 And one of the things that we're looking at
11 is folks -- I know Ali and Kim and some other
12 folks have been touching base with the folks at
13 BITS. And because this is a four-agency, you
14 know, the Water Planning Council involves four
15 different agencies, it may be that -- and water is
16 so important we may be able to request that we get
17 updated in the queue to update the state water
18 plan section of this.

19 So my understanding is that it would be a
20 good thing if the Water Planning Council gave
21 direction to -- I'm not sure if it would be, you
22 know, whose staff would want to handle this. I
23 know basically it has been Kim and Ali and Becca
24 have been working on this. But basically if we
25 asked as a water planning council that we might be

1 able to get updated -- excuse me, be moved up in
2 the queue for the update to the new platform.

3 So just putting that out there and whether
4 you wanted us to -- whether you wanted to direct
5 us to further ask on behalf of the Water Planning
6 Council.

7 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** And I would just ask if either Kim or
8 Ali could provide a little bit more context on the
9 transmission of the state webpages? It's
10 happening on an agency-by-agency basis, and I
11 think certain aspects of the DEEP webpage may be
12 up first.

13 **ALEXANDRIA HIBBARD:** So Kim and I reached out to BITS
14 which is the State of Connecticut's agency-wide IT
15 department, and Tyler Technologies, which is the
16 company contracted to manage the State of
17 Connecticut website. And they are slowly
18 upgrading the State of Connecticut pages. The
19 Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of
20 Labor are two agencies that have made the
21 transition. So you could go to their websites to
22 see how our website will eventually look.

23 Kim Czapla made the requests to make sure
24 that the Water Planning Council webpages are on
25 the queue. Because it is a multi-agency webpage,

1 multiple agencies have access, we don't want it to
2 fall through the cracks. It is also a group of
3 webpages -- it's a small group of webpages
4 compared to other state agencies like DEEP. When
5 DEEP makes a shift there's going to be hundreds of
6 pages that need to be updated, but for the Water
7 Planning Council it will just be a handful.

8 So we're hoping we can move up in the queue.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you Ali, Kim.

10 Any questions?

11 So it sounds like this is a whole transition
12 process that we have to stay on top of and make
13 sure we're playing by the rules. We don't want
14 BITS to get upset with us, so.

15 LORI MATHIEU: Ali, what was the other -- you said
16 Department of Motor Vehicles.

17 And who was the other agency?

18 ALEXANDRIA HIBBARD: The Department of Labor.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Labor? Okay. That's an interesting
20 webpage. It looks really interesting, different,
21 which is nice.

22 VOICES: (Unintelligible.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Kim, go ahead.

24 KIM CZAPLA: I guess the correspondence we had back and
25 forth with BITS is that they politely added us to

1 the queue. They understand the Water Planning
2 Council is multi-agency and its work is
3 far-reaching, and that this new platform would
4 allow us to provide content in a way that's more
5 user-friendly with the topics of interest.

6 And our intent is to bring in more volunteers
7 to work on the workgroups and do the work of the
8 Water Planning Council. And if we can expedite
9 the webpage updates, perhaps by a request by the
10 Water Planning Council to BITS, then we might move
11 up in the queue faster, and therefore our work
12 would be able to be expedited as well.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know -- thank you for that, Kim.
14 I don't know if we -- it's this age-old thing we
15 always go through. Can we do that, Martin?

16 I mean, because we're not really a state
17 agency. We're several state agencies.

18 MARTIN HEFT: Well, we are, you know, a -- I don't know
19 what the proper term is. I don't want to say
20 subsidy of -- you know? But we're kind of --

21 GRAHAM STEVENS: (Unintelligible) -- mentality of the
22 State.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Right, yeah. I mean, we are a state, you
24 know, agency committee, you know.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Set up by statute.

1 MARTIN HEFT: A council set up by statutes and
2 everything else that way. I'm actually working
3 with the same group as they are with a couple of
4 other organizations that OPM actually appoints
5 everything to get them dedicated pages, that type
6 of thing to get them off of OPM's page, because
7 you know they're not under us.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

9 MARTIN HEFT: So on that we can help. I mean,
10 obviously that's on OPM's list, obviously, because
11 you know we partly help minister those pages. So
12 we have it, you know, kind of ticked on our list
13 there once our own stuff gets moved over and
14 everything else, that we know we have a couple of
15 others, including like the Advisory Commission on
16 Intergovernmental Relations, you know, which we
17 staff -- but they're their own entity.

18 So there's several pages that are tied to
19 different things. So we, you know, are aware and
20 keep it in the forefront as we're going through.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: And to your other question, Jack. I'm
23 happy to put in, like, a personalized request to
24 our BITS liaison just to let her know that -- not
25 that Kim and Ali haven't done so already, but just

1 because, you know, I have a certain title.

2 Hopefully, that will help expedite it.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** That would be great.

4 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Because I think, you know, if we're
5 going to be making the investment in our webpage
6 for the Water Planning Council, let's get the
7 change sooner rather than later so we don't have
8 to redo it, because you know Kim has put in -- and
9 Ali have put in a tremendous amount of work on
10 that website.

11 And you know the new webpage -- I agree,
12 Lori, like, Labor's looks like really interesting
13 and modern. And there's a ton of content shoved
14 in here in a way that doesn't make you feel
15 overwhelmed. So you know, and it's thoughtfully,
16 you know, laid out.

17 And these are just -- these contractors have,
18 like, templates and formats and they understand
19 how everything works, how people think, you know,
20 and that's why they get paid the big bucks. They
21 know where people click. And you know, let's see
22 what we can do to get ours put in this format.

23 It's a simple -- right? Content-wise webpage
24 right now and it will be more complicated the
25 longer we wait.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Sounds good. Denise?

2 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. Yeah, and that's so -- and
3 just our next meeting is April 2nd. And
4 otherwise, I don't have -- unless anybody else on
5 my committee, if I missed something, let me know,
6 but otherwise we're good.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Denise. Thank you and your
8 committee for all your work.

9 Conservation pricing?

10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So the Water Planning Council
11 actually got the report from our last meeting at
12 your last meeting, because our last meeting was
13 before your last meeting. And so we don't have a
14 meeting until after this meeting.

15 So there is no report.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: But I do see that there isn't enough
18 state of -- the process for membership. Do we
19 want to just do that really quickly just so that
20 everyone knows how --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Yes. Yes, please. I was going to
22 do that, yes.

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. So Carol, do you want to take
24 this? Do you want me to do it?

25 CAROL HASKINS: I can grab it. I'm going to drop a

1 link in the chat with a note to provide some
2 instructions.

3 And so thanks to the Council for their
4 special meeting about a week and a half ago here,
5 and really coming together and providing clarity
6 on what the nomination process should look like
7 for basically appointing a new, quote-unquote, new
8 Water Planning Council advisory group that
9 integrates members of the state water plan
10 implementation workgroup who are giving their
11 final report today.

12 And a call was put out for interested parties
13 to submit a resume statement of interest up to
14 Jack's office and to help streamline the process.
15 The nominating committee suggested a Google form
16 would be a helpful tool to capture the interest of
17 the existing Water Planning Council members,
18 alternates, implementation workgroup members, and
19 others who may be interested. And so that was
20 sent out yesterday by Laura Lupoli. So thank you
21 for support on that, and Becca, for integrating
22 that on to the website to provide that link -- and
23 I've already seen some folks populate that.

24 So the timeline now going forward has been
25 extended to March 11th to submit your interest,

1 and the nominating committee will be meeting again
2 on March 12th to review the interested parties and
3 try to develop a nomination slate which we'll
4 bring to the Water Planning Council advisory
5 group, at their meeting, the current advisory
6 group that isn't fully disbanded yet until the new
7 one is appointed on March 19th, that Tuesday.

8 And then we'll be sending hopefully an
9 endorsed slate up to the Water Planning Council
10 for approval and making those appointments at
11 their meeting on April 2nd.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

13 CAROL HASKINS: And thanks to Martin and Lori for their
14 input on the form as well as the fellow nominating
15 committee members, and Virginia de Lima who did a
16 first pass on reviewing the questions and all that
17 good stuff, so.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Carol, thank you for your leadership on
19 this. It's coming together very nicely. I think
20 we've got a good plan of action here for the
21 WPCAG. So thank you very much.

22 CAROL HASKINS: We do, and you're welcome.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Alicea, anything else?

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Well we do have the watershed lands
25 report, and Rich is here to give that.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: There's Rich up there.

2 RICH HANRATTY: Yeah, hey everybody. So our next
3 quarterly meeting is this Friday at 9 a.m. The
4 agenda should be going out soon, definitely within
5 the next day. We'll have a presentation by the
6 Western Connecticut Council of Governments on
7 various zoning regulations around the state and
8 how they impact watershed land protection. So
9 that should be interesting.

10 Other than that and the upcoming meeting,
11 nothing really new to report. Thanks.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Rich.

13 And now we should have a drumroll here for
14 Virginia. Virginia are you there?

15 This is a drumroll -- it's Virginia's.

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I am.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: It's the final report of the
18 implementation work we should -- yeah, we should
19 have.

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes, final report of the soon to be
21 moribund implementation workgroup, or perhaps it
22 already is. We were actively involved in working
23 on the application for the positions on the water
24 plan about the planning council advisory group.

25 I forwarded the request for those

1 applications to, not only the members of the
2 implementation workgroup, but also to what has
3 always been my CC list of people who have
4 expressed an interest in being included on that
5 communication, and people who have participated in
6 the meetings, even though they haven't been an
7 official member, encouraging them to apply as they
8 are interested.

9 I don't believe that we will be having any
10 more meetings. I don't see a need for it. I did
11 put the question out there if there are people on
12 the committee who would definitely want to meet,
13 that I wouldn't be opposed to doing that next
14 week -- but I think the motivation of a lot of
15 folks was to eliminate a meeting. And so I doubt
16 that anybody is going to take me up on that offer,
17 but it's there.

18 So this -- I thank you all for your support,
19 your interest, your participation, and your
20 encouragement in the workgroups that we've done
21 over the past five years, which if you go back and
22 look at it -- so I don't have a list in front of
23 me, but they're myriad. And those recommendations
24 were all made to you for potential action.

25 So thanks for the support that we've gotten

1 from everybody on this call, support and
2 participation.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: And Virginia, thank you for your
4 leadership and all the members of the
5 implementation workgroup. I can't believe it's
6 been the five years, and what has transpired and
7 really helped us lay a foundation for the state
8 water plan moving forward.

9 So thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Any
10 other comments?

11 MARTIN HEFT: No. I will just echo those remarks,
12 Jack. Thank you on behalf of, you know, Water
13 Planning Council.

14 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Well, you're very welcome.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Appreciate it very much.

16 And let's see. Now the drought -- do we have
17 a drought? My god. Is it ever going to stop
18 raining?

19 MARTIN HEFT: No. So very short, short report, because
20 we've had plenty of rain on it, that this week's
21 interagency drought workgroup meeting is canceled,
22 but the staffing of our different agencies are
23 planning to meet to continue working on the
24 tabletop exercise. So it will be a working group,
25 you know, meeting of, you know, team members

1 there.

2 Obviously any members are more than welcome
3 to attend as well, but there will not be an
4 official meeting of the workgroup.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Great. Any other public comment? Any
6 other public -- oh, Virginia, you had public
7 comment? You had your hand raised.

8 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Yes, thank you. This is a comment
9 on the comments that Denise was making earlier
10 when she was talking about the USGS and funding,
11 and the possibility of contacting our legislative
12 delegation.

13 As a former USGS employee I certainly support
14 contacting the delegation. I do want to say that
15 the funding program, the USGS funding program that
16 supports the data collection, most of it is from
17 what's called the cooperative water program and
18 that program mandates that no more than half the
19 funding come from the USGS. In other words, it's
20 dependent on outside funding from state agencies,
21 local municipalities and other entities as it's
22 indicated in one of the in -- or in all the pie
23 charts in the report itself.

24 So extra money is always welcome, but just
25 understand that by law it has to be no more than

1 half of the total funding.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Virginia.

3 Denise, do you want to add to that?

4 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, just quickly. And I think that
5 is my point, is that our legislators are there to
6 set policy and set legislation and although USGS
7 has a mandate, the mandate can be changed so that
8 it could allow for a 75/25 split rather than a
9 50/50 split when it comes to, you know, resources.

10 So I'm just putting out there that there's
11 discussions that could be had and in terms of what
12 USGS, you know, can bring to the table and the
13 federal government can bring to the table.

14 And I think when it comes to water resources,
15 there's a lot of focus on the Clean Water Act and
16 the state revolving fund and the Safe Drinking
17 Water Act, but I think that this is one of the
18 opportunities to talk about from a monitoring
19 perspective and the work that USGS does, that's
20 it's just so vital to have a different discussion
21 with our federal legislatures on this.

22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia?

24 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I don't want to get into a prolonged
25 discussion of this. I just want to say that

1 historically that program was established in
2 recognition of there were things that the states
3 could be doing themselves, and to sweeten the pot
4 and get them on board this program was committed
5 that the USGS would help out.

6 So there's no reason why we can't change
7 things, but it had been recognition that this was
8 the State's responsibility.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other public comments?

10 Oh, Carol did you have your hand up?

11 CAROL HASKINS: Yeah, I just wanted to offer in the
12 implementation of streamflow gauges we are
13 fortunate to have three in our very small
14 watershed here, and they have been the outcome of
15 some unique funding mechanisms in terms of private
16 development activities that have happened within
17 our watershed, that those funding mechanisms were
18 included through Siting Council approvals and/or
19 diversion permit approvals through DEEP. And that
20 has allotted a certain timeframe for funding from
21 a developer.

22 So there, you know, if you want to look at
23 some interesting case studies of how to, you know,
24 generate some alternate funding streams, our
25 watershed is certainly one that can be used as a

1 model in that regard.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Denise, is your hand still up?

4 DENISE SAVAGEAU: (Inaudible.)

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We can't hear you.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: You're on mute, Denise.

7 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. Just one comment is, one of
8 the things, if we -- when we look at an
9 alternative models, I just want to put out there
10 is that we do need to pay attention to
11 environmental justice communities. One of the
12 things we know that is when we look at other types
13 of models it's like it's pay to play.

14 You know Greenwich could afford to put in a
15 stream gauge, so we did. We have better lobbying,
16 so -- which the Pomperaug has. So I think that we
17 need to really pay attention when we're doing this
18 to making sure that everyone has access to the
19 types of, you know, models, what we're putting in
20 place and that it's not just the affluent
21 communities that have the benefits of three, you
22 know, three in their small watershed versus some
23 parts of the state. Look at Eastern Connecticut
24 and see how many stream gauges are in Eastern
25 Connecticut, for example.

1 So I think we need to be, you know, really
2 paying attention on how do we get this done across
3 the State and in making sure that we're funding
4 this, you know, across all parts of our state
5 without ability to pay. Thank you.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you.

7 Graham, do you want to say something?

8 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Yeah, just to respond to Denise's
9 comment there. And DEEP acknowledges that there
10 is a need to ensure that the gauging stations are
11 covering all areas of the state. Right now we're
12 looking at alternative funding sources to keep one
13 gauge for the Rooster River functional.

14 And that the Rooster River, for those of you
15 who don't know, kind of forms the boundary between
16 Fairfield and Bridgeport, and there's a lot of
17 water quality and water quantity issues in that
18 said watershed. So I totally agree with you,
19 Denise.

20 And I think that as the next steps moves
21 forward I think that will be part of the
22 conversation and, you know, obviously ensuring,
23 too, that the funding is sustainable. I think we
24 can accomplish both if we work together.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Very good.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Jack?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Lori?

3 LORI MATHIEU: If I could? To Denise's point and
4 Graham's point, it just brought to my mind the
5 discussion way back on the Park River which runs
6 behind our building here in Hartford, which is
7 buried, and the forgotten rivers that run through
8 our disadvantaged communities.

9 And you know those, those should not be
10 forgotten about as well, because you know water
11 quality and quantity. It's just a good point,
12 Denise, because where these are located they're
13 there for a reason because there was an issue.
14 Either a water company funds it, UConn is funding
15 it or, you know, Pomperaug you know has people
16 funding it because of the focus in that area.

17 But the one thing that comes to mind is the
18 need for someone -- maybe it's interns for the
19 summer -- to take a look at what other states do,
20 and how they found sustainable funding. Right?
21 Is there a really great example of another state
22 that is really making this work, and how are they
23 making it work? Right?

24 And I'll keep adding on this new technology
25 idea, you know, but it would be great to get

1 somebody to take a look at that because you've got
2 to know there's a great example out there
3 somewhere, that it's found, you know, a source of
4 sustainable funding and is doing this statewide
5 and has a great network. And we just have to
6 discover that, find out, study and understand how
7 they're doing it. Maybe it would help us answer
8 some of the questions that we have.

9 Just a thought, but thanks, Denise and
10 Graham.

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

12 Any further comment? Any further public
13 comment before we adjourn? Any other business?

14 **MARTIN HEFT:** Is Denise's hand still up, or is that no?

15 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** Yeah, I just had one comment and that
16 was on Senate Bill 11. Some of you know that
17 Senate Bill 11 is the Governor's climate change
18 bill looking at climate resiliency. And
19 subsection 32 -- or section 32 of that bill very
20 specifically talks about the Water Planning
21 Council.

22 So folks should be taking a look at that if
23 you haven't looked at Senate Bill 11 -- and it,
24 you know, and making sure it talks about updating
25 the state water plan and making sure we include

1 climate change, and I think it's a perfect
2 opportunity to open up a discussion on funding for
3 the state water plan.

4 Thank you.

5 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you.

6 Jack, if I may? I had a comment.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

8 MARTIN HEFT: And you know, as you noted, Denise --
9 thank you -- Senate Bill 11 is the Governor's bill
10 on climate change. The language itself just says
11 that when the state water plan is updated that it
12 must consider climate change as well, as mostly
13 all the other state plans that are out there.
14 That is kind of the standard language that is in
15 there throughout.

16 And as you're aware, that we are, you know,
17 looking at for the next biennial budget that we
18 would be looking at, you know, putting a proposal
19 in for updating, you know, our interim update or a
20 full update of the state water plan. So that will
21 be something that I know the Council will be
22 discussing over the next month. So thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Alicea?

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So Rivers Alliance is party to three
25 applications in the Bristol inland wetlands --

1 Bristol, the Municipal Inland Wetlands Commission.
2 For New Britain -- the New Britain Water Company
3 is doing to rehab their wells in the White Bridge
4 well area.

5 DEEP, they are within the regulations. So
6 DEEP does not have to -- cannot ask them to
7 convert to a permit. And here's just a little
8 background -- I think all of you were around for
9 this, but in 2015 there were sections of Copper
10 Mine Brook that dried up.

11 It has been documented that Copper Mine Brook
12 has had low flows since. Copper Mine Brook is on
13 DEEP's list for impairments, impaired for flow
14 modifications and it is my understanding that
15 there was/is some sort of condition in the state
16 revolving fund agreement to ensure that Copper
17 Mine is not dried up.

18 However, I won't say -- I just would like to
19 express my level of frustration in trying to make
20 sure this doesn't happen again. Right? And there
21 are all sorts of things -- and this also kind of
22 relates to what Margaret had talked about several
23 times with the Wykeham Rise project in Washington
24 where there are things in statute and policy that
25 the towns should be doing.

1 But without proper guidance from the agencies
2 when it's needed, or proper -- and I'm trying to
3 find the word for this. That any sort of --
4 anyway, that the -- I'm sorry. I'm having a hard
5 time with words today, but it's really difficult
6 when a letter comes down from an agency, and in
7 some cases it is fairly clear that the agency is
8 just saying it's not their jurisdiction. But it's
9 very easy for the applicant to say, we've been
10 told we can do this.

11 And I'm not saying this is the case with
12 White Bridge. This is what I see regularly, but
13 however if I was not there at this, these
14 commission meetings, there would be a lot of
15 misunderstanding at what DEEP has jurisdiction
16 over. As the applicant's attorney told the
17 commission that flows were DEEP's problem, and if
18 I wasn't there to explain to them because this is
19 a registered diversion and groundwater does not
20 fall under streamflow regulations, that stream can
21 go dry.

22 And there's really -- I mean, DEEP can do
23 something about it, but legally under the law it's
24 not under DEEP's jurisdiction. There has to be
25 folks coming together to try to persuade folks not

1 to do that. There's nothing legally binding, and
2 I really, really hope, considering Copper Mine was
3 a big subject of conversations during the
4 development of the state water plan, that we
5 don't -- that Copper Mine Brook isn't worse off
6 after this work is done, and I'm doing my part to
7 try to stop that.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thanks, Alicea.

9 And just for everyone, you know, a little
10 background on what Alicea is speaking to, the New
11 Britain Water Company has registered wells that
12 are registered under the Diversion Act that are,
13 you know, permitted to withdraw certain amounts of
14 water for the purposes stated in the registration.

15 And they have sought from DEEP clarification
16 on whether they can reinstall those or replace
17 those wells which have been subject to issues,
18 maintenance issues. And under the statute they
19 are permitted to do so without triggering the need
20 for a water diversion permit. Right?

21 So they have this registration which predated
22 the requirement for obtaining a permit. And in
23 this case that is, you know, that is the extent of
24 our authority and with respect to those wells.

25 You know we're hopeful that, you know, the

1 City of New Britain manages this resource in a
2 reasonable manner, and that the new installed
3 wells -- obviously, we will ensure that the newly
4 installed wells don't exceed their registered
5 diversion limits, you know.

6 However, you know we understand that this is
7 a resource which has had issues with flow in the
8 past, and you know we don't have all of the
9 regulatory tools that everyone would like us to
10 have with respect to, you know, managing all water
11 resources in Connecticut.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Can I ask a question? Alicea, is this
14 part of the Quinnipiac Basin?

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No, it's the Farmington River.

16 LORI MATHIEU: This is Farmington River?

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yeah.

18 LORI MATHIEU: So again, I'm going to go back to the
19 state water plan. Right? So in section 6, page
20 6-2, if anyone remembers or recalls a discussion
21 about future water allocation principles and
22 identifications of basins which clearly
23 demonstrate the need for the plan's policy
24 recommendations -- and what we did in table 6-1
25 was identify high-risk basins for future policy

1 implementation.

2 And why I asked if that was in the Quinnipiac
3 is because I thought maybe it is, but, yeah --
4 you're, you know, it flows in the other direction.
5 But the southwest, western basin Norwalk,
6 Quinnipiac and Quinebaug were identified as high
7 risk, not satisfying all current and future needs
8 in all places and times under all conditions.

9 You know the idea -- to your point, Alicea,
10 was to bring up areas of concern, and a lot of
11 that concern has to do with registrations that
12 exist, that the law hasn't changed. The law is
13 what it is since 1982. And you know that, you
14 know, in here there was that notion in that
15 section of what the future pathways could be.

16 So you know, when you were talking about
17 this, and because, you know, when there was a
18 concern with Copper -- I went out there and I
19 talked to both water utilities. And they both
20 said what they wanted to do to make sure that they
21 were working together to, you know, come together
22 and understand how those well fields intersect
23 with one another and may interfere with one
24 another, and may interfere with streamflow and the
25 water quantity within those, that basin.

1 But I think that, you know, there are a lot
2 of good plans within our state water plan that we
3 probably need to get back to as a priority.

4 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I had actually gone to those basins,
5 that basin data as well, Lori, to refresh my
6 memory. And remember, the problem with the
7 Farmington River basin is that it's so skewed to
8 one side because you have -- MDC has the largest
9 surface water resources in the state. Right?

10 And so you know it's so it really kind of
11 masks any issues in the smaller basins or even in
12 a smaller utility like New Britain Water. And you
13 know there's no way to know through this process,
14 meaning the inland wetlands commission process,
15 if -- because it's really hard to convince the
16 Commission, or even if they do have the right to
17 look at that as reasonable and prudent
18 alternatives because it is really outside of their
19 jurisdiction, and DPH doesn't necessarily look at
20 their methodology.

21 And so we, you know, there is a question of
22 whether -- they can do all of this work. They can
23 do all of -- now they are going to create some
24 flood storage and expand the wetlands, and someone
25 can, you know, there was always the argument that

1 our engineered wetlands affected it. But that
2 aside, all of this work could get done.

3 In the last level A mapping that was done New
4 Britain couldn't even get anywhere near their
5 registered diversion. And so there are still
6 questions about will this even meet the needs they
7 have for emergency and redundancy? And all of
8 these millions of dollars put into this, the
9 potential for the impairments in Copper Mine Brook
10 to get worse, and all that if they -- if it
11 doesn't essentially meet their needs.

12 And so there's a lot of concern there, and
13 you know that data wasn't given to the commission
14 because this is all about their wetlands work.
15 Right? But that higher question exists, and at
16 this point if there are low flows the only thing
17 that could trigger that is some sort of condition
18 in the inland wetlands permit, that that's the
19 only thing that could trigger action at this point
20 and -- and a requirement to monitor flows.

21 Because outside of that I don't know if there is
22 any other requirement, unless it's in the SRF
23 agreement.

24 LORI MATHIEU: And what the state water plan was trying
25 to do was identify these areas where there are

1 these concerns. And because they know that
2 jurisdictions, because of the registrations there
3 was concerns there and that the idea that we would
4 be setting up groups to have a some sort of
5 watershed team that would assist, you know, across
6 town boundaries, maybe within regions based on
7 watersheds to focus and to help, you know, local
8 folks and regional planners to, you know,
9 understand more.

10 So that, you know, the idea that was built
11 into the state water plan that I think sort of
12 tried to capture, Alicea, what you're getting at
13 here because of the, you know, the concern that
14 there still is about the registrations.

15 So I'd like to -- personally, I'd like to see
16 more done when we identify where these areas are
17 and what we can do around it to be able to help
18 and educate and, you know, share information and
19 be able to identify where these areas, these
20 high-stressed basins are, as that was one of the
21 foundational pieces of a state water plan.

22 So I'll stop. I'll stop.

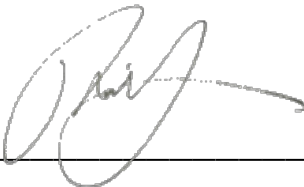
23 Alicea, thank you for bringing that forward.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Thank you, Lori.

25 And thank you, Alicea.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 56 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting of the Water Planning Council, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN, via teleconference, on March 5, 2024.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M #857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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