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2 THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS 20 PAGES
3 NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 20
4

5 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
6 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
8 PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
9

10 STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL
11

12 Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
13 January 7, 2025, beginning at 1:36 p.m.
14

15 H e l d B e f o r e :

16 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, WPC CHAIRMAN (Outgoing),
17 and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN;

18 and

19 MARTIN HEFT, WPC CHAIRMAN (Incoming),
20 and OPM INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING
21 UNDERSECRETARY
22
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24
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1 **A p p e a r a n c e s (of record):**

2 **WATER PLANNING COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

3 **JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, Outgoing Chairman (PURA)**

4 **MARTIN HEFT, Incoming Chairman (OPM)**

5 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

6 **CHRISTOPHER ROY (DPH)**

7 **COMMISSIONER DAVID ARCONTI**

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

10 **CAROL HASKINS**

11 **DAN LAWRENCE**

12 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

13 **ALI HIBBARD**

14 **REBECCA DAHL**

15
16 **Staff:**

17 **LAURA LUPOLI**

18 **ALYSON AYOTTE**

19
20
21
22
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24
25

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

2
3 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Good afternoon, everyone, and
4 welcome to the Connecticut Water Planning Council
5 meeting for January 7, 2025. I'll call the
6 meeting to order.

7 The first order of business will be the
8 approval of the transcript from the December 3,
9 2024, meeting. Do I have motion?

10 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Motion made and seconded that the
13 transcript from the December 3rd meeting be
14 approved.

15 Any questions or comments?

16
17 (No response.)

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

21 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Opposed?

23
24 (No response.)

25

1 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: The motion carried.

2 Any public comment on agenda items?

3 Any public comment?

4
5 (No response.)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Seeing no requests for public
8 comment, we'll move on to action items on the
9 annual report.

10 You should all -- everybody should have
11 received the copy of the annual report as well as
12 the fact sheet.

13 MARTIN HEFT: Mr. Chair, if I may?

14 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Yes.

15 MARTIN HEFT: I'd like to make a motion that we accept
16 the annual report and the fact sheet that were
17 sent out. There were a couple of minor edits,
18 which I'll go -- I'm happy to go over, which were
19 just some spelling and clarification of a couple
20 of abbreviations that were made in it, but
21 otherwise, nothing in context of the annual report
22 that was sent out.

23 So, I'd make a motion that we approve both
24 the annual report and the fact sheet.

25 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Very good. Is there a second?

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: I'll second that.

2 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Motion made and seconded that the
3 Water Planning Council annual report and fact
4 sheet be approved.

5 Any questions or further comment?

6 MARTIN HEFT: The only comment I'd just like to make is
7 just to, once again, thank all of those that
8 worked on this. I know we have the
9 acknowledgements within the report itself, but I
10 do want to thank them. There's a lot of hard work
11 that has gone into both the annual report and the
12 fact sheet.

13 I appreciate everyone's time and energy they
14 put into it. I think it's a great document for us
15 moving forward, and really highlights this past
16 year. So, I do want to just add that into our
17 comments.

18 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: And I would like to echo that, and
19 it's very timely. Session starts tomorrow, and
20 we're getting them this report. So, I thank all
21 that participated in making this happen.

22 Any further comment?

23
24 (No response.)
25

1 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: If not, all those in favor signify
2 by aye.

3 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: The annual report and fact sheet is
5 approved.

6 MARTIN HEFT: And just, Mr. Chair, just to follow up on
7 that? I will -- after our meeting we will handle
8 a transmission of that to the proper legislative
9 bodies and such, and have it posted.

10 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Excellent. Thank you very much.

11 Next, we have WPCAG vacancies.

12 MARTIN HEFT: I don't think we received any requests
13 in. So, I don't think we have --

14 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Oh, yeah. Right. We have -- but
15 we did get one resignation. Correct?

16 MARTIN HEFT: Oh, you're right.

17 We did receive a resignation.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: And DEEP apologizes in advance for
19 that resignation, precipitating cause.

20 MARTIN HEFT: Yes, and I just can't find it off the top
21 of my --

22 CAROL HASKINS: I can help you out.

23 MARTIN HEFT: Oh, thank you, Carol.

24 CAROL HASKINS: It's Jason Rajesh from the Connecticut
25 Outdoor Recreation Alliance representing the

1 recreation category.

2 So, DEEP snagged him up -- so now we have a
3 vacancy.

4 Thanks, Graham.

5 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Yeah, Graham.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: I was not me. Sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: So, that's the only vacancy at this
8 point, Carol?

9 CAROL HASKINS: Correct.

10 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Okay. So let's move on to the
11 working group reports, Dan and Alicea.

12 Is Alicea on?

13 DAN LAWRENCE: Hey, Jack. How you doing?

14 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Hi, Dan.

15 DAN LAWRENCE: I don't know if she's on -- but I'm on,
16 so.

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I'm here, but my connection is very
18 unstable. I'm at the league summit, and I have a
19 lot going on behind me. So, I asked Dan if he
20 would take the report.

21 But I'm here, if anybody has any questions.

22 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Thank you, Alicea.

23 DAN LAWRENCE: So, the Water Planning Council advisory
24 group met on December 17th. We approved the 2025
25 schedule, discussed the changes in who's going to

1 be on the Water Planning Council for '25.

2 We went through the annual report, and then
3 we talked about the WUCC for a little bit related
4 to what's going to happen as we get ready over the
5 next couple of years for the WUCC update.

6 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Excuse me, Dan.

7 Somebody needs to put themselves on mute here.

8 Okay. Thank you.

9 Go ahead, Dan.

10 DAN LAWRENCE: (Inaudible.)

11 GRAHAM STEVENS: And Dan, you've muted yourself.

12 The power of the Chair.

13 DAN LAWRENCE: There we go.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: You've muted everyone.

15 DAN LAWRENCE: I'm back.

16 You muted everybody. That's usually what I
17 do.

18 Anyway, just -- you know the WUCC updates
19 will be in the next couple years, and so we've
20 been talking with the Department of Health and the
21 WUCC groups themselves about what changes might
22 happen, what kind of changes you might want to
23 have in the WUCC plans and the timing of that.
24 The WUCC itself has been pretty quiet based on the
25 reports for that.

1 And I see there's seven responses in the
2 Google form currently -- so, making some progress.

3 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Excellent. Thank you.

4 Outreach and education -- Denise cannot be
5 with us today. Ali, are you going to cover for
6 her?

7 ALI HIBBARD: I am, but there's not much to cover. We
8 have not met since the last Water Planning Council
9 meeting in December. We had to move our January
10 meeting. We will be meeting next Tuesday on the
11 14th at 9 a.m.

12 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Okay. This is going to be a very
13 quick meeting today, but that's okay. It's
14 January -- it's cold, it's windy. So, that's all
15 right.

16 Thank you, Ali.

17 And watershed lands workgroup, Kathy?

18 Is Kathy on?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 MARTIN HEFT: I don't see her, Jack.

23 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: I don't see her. Okay.

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Kathy is here at the summit, too.

25 So, she's probably -- probably not on.

1 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Okay. So, Alicea, as long as
2 you're on, do you have any update with
3 conservation pricing rate recovery?

4 ALICEA CHARAMUT: No, not at this time.

5 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: And source water protection
6 workgroup -- Denise is not on?

7 MARTIN HEFT: No.

8 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: I think this is going to be a
9 record-record. Before Commissioner Arconti leaves
10 it's going to be over today.

11 Becca? There's Becca.

12 REBECCA DAHL: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: So, Becca, tell us. Is there a
14 drought?

15 REBECCA DAHL: Yes, so we are still in a drought stage.
16 We're in stage two drought as of our last meeting.
17 We've got a lot of data to look at this next time
18 around. We did shift our IDW meeting from the 2nd
19 of January to the 9th so that we had a chance to
20 collect all of that data.

21 So again, we'll be meeting this Thursday the
22 9th, at 1 p.m. And I guess stay tuned. I'll
23 leave you on a cliffhanger there.

24 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: Okay. Thank you.

25 Carol just sent me a little note here. She

1 said we're just trying to make the last meeting
2 for me an easy one. Well, we appreciate that.

3 So, do we want to take a look at the 2025
4 work plan priorities before I turn the gavel over
5 to Mr. Heft?

6 **MARTIN HEFT:** So I would only just recommend -- I don't
7 think we need to go through it at this point, but
8 on the second page of today's agenda just does
9 have --

10 **CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI:** Yes.

11 **MARTIN HEFT:** -- the whole version of it there just as
12 a reminder. As Dan mentioned in his report of the
13 advisory workgroup, I did attend that meeting, the
14 last meeting that they had, and did also recommend
15 to them that they look through that list as
16 they're looking at things, upcoming priorities as
17 well.

18 So, I think that will be our, as we decided,
19 that's kind of our guide going forward and I think
20 we'll delve into that more at the February
21 meeting.

22 **CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI:** Very good.

23 So, next we're going to have the changing of
24 the guard. And do we need to -- do we need a
25 formal motion, Martin? No.

1 MARTIN HEFT: No, because we've already done that.

2 CHAIRMAN BETKOSKI: So, we did this already.

3 So, I just want to -- before I turn the gavel
4 over to Martin I want to say that It's been my
5 Pleasure to be -- I think except for one year,
6 I've been Chairman of this since its inception.
7 Dave LeVasseur, former Undersecretary of OPM had
8 it for one year and then I picked it up again.
9 So, it's a couple of decades plus.

10 And I can't thank all the present and former
11 members of the Council, Water Planning Council
12 advisory group, the implementation workgroup. And
13 we've done an awful lot when it comes to water.
14 I'm still as passionate about water as I was when
15 I started 28 years ago.

16 And I will be monitoring what everybody is
17 doing. Maybe I'll be back at a different
18 capacity. You never know, but I just want to say
19 it's been a wonderful journey. I can't believe
20 where the time has gone, but you'll be well
21 represented at PURA by my colleague, Commissioner
22 Arconti. And thank you all very, very much.

23 And with that I'm going to turn it over and
24 congratulate Martin Heft.
25

1 (Martin Heft assumes chairmanship.)

2
3 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Thank you, Jack. And I know I'm going
4 to speak on behalf of everybody that's here today
5 as well as those that aren't able to be with us
6 that have been part of the Water Planning Council,
7 the advisory groups and the implementation
8 workgroup, and everything else; is that as was
9 mentioned with your citation that we gave you on
10 behalf of the Governor, everything else, that
11 obviously you will truly be missed with the work
12 that you've done for us here and everything.

13 I will say that, you know, gee, the advisory
14 group does have some vacancies we're looking for
15 people for just as to throw it out there if you
16 need something to do in retirement. I'm sure
17 Carol can help you fill out the online form if
18 there's something you're interested in .

19 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: I'm sure.

20 CHAIRMAN HEFT: But all joking aside, you know we truly
21 appreciate everything you've done. I know, as you
22 said, you're not going away, you know, type of
23 thing on it -- that, because we know this is a
24 passion of yours, and we truly appreciate that.

25 And I know that anytime that I reach out to

1 you, anything, now or even in the future, that
2 you'll be there to assist and provide guidance or
3 anything else that way.

4 So, on behalf of all of us, I thank you once
5 again.

6 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: Thank you very much. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN HEFT: With that, our next meeting is
8 scheduled February 4th. Be advised, and when the
9 notice comes out, it will be on a different
10 platform. It will not be on Zoom. It will be on
11 Teams, because that's unfortunately what OPM
12 utilizes.

13 So we will be switching the platform, but
14 you'll all get invitations for that for the
15 meeting invites, and it will be on the agenda. So
16 just as a heads-up that way there. Just,
17 unfortunately, OPM doesn't have a Zoom license for
18 that. So, just be aware of that.

19 Is there other business to come up that
20 somebody has as the Council --

21 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: Martin?

22 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Yes.

23 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: If I may?

24 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Sure.

25 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: I forgot to thank Ali for all her

1 support to me and to the Council during my tenure.
2 Ali has been just tremendous.

3 And Laura, putting the agendas together,
4 coordinating things, helping get the reports in.

5 Many, many thanks to them. They're just
6 absolute delights.

7 There's Laura. Take a bow, Laura. Laura is
8 just terrific, and so is Ali -- and they never get
9 frazzled, and just have been a tremendous support
10 to the Council. They kind of make it -- makes the
11 Council tick.

12 So, thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Yes. And in case you couldn't see,
14 there are some people using some of the emoji,
15 little party things going off on their things, or
16 hand claps and different things going on, too.

17 So, echoing those remarks to both you, Jack,
18 and to the team there. So, thank you.

19 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: Very good.

20 CHAIRMAN HEFT: At this point, is there any public
21 comment?

22 Alicea?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Hi, I just wanted to point out -- and
24 Becca, if you don't mind if I put you on the spot
25 to give the details? And I apologize if this was

1 announced at the beginning in the meeting.

2 But there is a public hearing on the plan of
3 conservation and development on Friday, and I
4 think it's really important for this group to kind
5 of be aware of that because, you know, it's
6 another planning document that overlaps with
7 water.

8 So Becca, do you have the details on that to
9 give?

10 REBECCA DAHL: Yes, so -- and the details can also be
11 found on the CGA website, but that meeting will be
12 held. It's by the continuing legislative
13 committee on the state planning and development,
14 and that meeting will be held at 10 a.m., in the
15 Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, and it's
16 also going to be broadcast via the Planning and
17 Development Committee's YouTube, live.

18 So all that information -- I can drop a link
19 in the chat -- can be found on the CGA website as
20 well as on their calendar.

21 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Terrific. And thank you for that and
22 for bringing that up, since that's an important
23 document that has been -- I did put the link as
24 well to the whole plan. And then Becca will put
25 the link into the public hearing that takes place

1 on Friday. So, thanks for bringing that up.

2 Is there any other public comment?

3
4 (No response.)

5
6 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Okay. Not seeing any, it is 1:52 and I
7 would take a motion to adjourn.

8 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: So moved.

9 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Is there a second?

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Thank you.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: Is that your first so-moved, Jack, as
13 you're a former chair?

14 CHAIRMAN HEFT: It's the last official act.

15 Terrific. All those in favor?

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN HEFT: Okay. Terrific.

18 Thank you, everybody. Stay warm.

19 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN HEFT: And Congratulations, Jack, once again.

21 JOHN W. BETKOSKI: Congratulations to you, Martin.

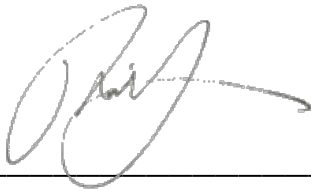
22 Thank you.

23
24 (End: 1:52 p.m.)

25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 18 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting of the Connecticut Water Planning Council, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, WPC CHAIRMAN (Outgoing), and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN; and MARTIN HEFT, WPC CHAIRMAN (Incoming), and OPM INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING UNDERSECRETARY, via teleconference, on January 7, 2025.



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

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3 (Unanimous Approval)

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