

Meeting Minutes
Western WUCC Convening Meeting
Brookfield Municipal Center – 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT
February 13, 2018 10:00 AM

The Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) held a meeting on February 13th, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Brookfield Municipal Center at 100 Pocono Road in Brookfield, Connecticut. Prior written notice of this meeting was given via emails from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to eligible WUCC members, chief administrative officials, local health directors, town clerks, the Secretary of State, state agencies (OPM, PURA, DEEP, CT Office of Consumer Counsel, CT DOT, CT DECD, the Commissioner of Agriculture), and other interested persons. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the DPH website <http://www.ct.gov/dph/wucc/>.

The following WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetical order of affiliation):

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Dan Lawrence (Co-Chair)	Aquarion Water Company
Tom Villa	Town of Bethel
Russell Posthauer (Co-Chair)	Candlewood Springs Property Owners Assoc.
Keith Nadeau	CT Water Company
Mike Elliot	First District Water Department
Meghan Sloan	Metro COG
David Banker	Metropolitan District Commission
Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Government
Donna Culbert	Newtown Health Department
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Northwest Hills Council of Government
Tiffany Lufkin	South Central CT Regional Water Authority
Curtis Read	Western Connecticut COG

The following non-WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetical order of affiliation):

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Corinne Fitting	CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
David Murphy	Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI)
Len Dejong	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Steve Rugar	Tata & Howard

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. The chairs requested a roll call of attendees. Mr. Murphy provided a brief refresher of the process to date and an overview of the goals of the meeting.

2. Review of January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lawrence asked if there were any comments or changes from the floor. Mr. Villa corrected a statement in the minutes regarding streamflow, correcting his comment to state that “if a utility’s minimum RGQ 80 flow is below a specified amount, then it is exempt from streamflow releases”. Mr. Elliot moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Villa seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve.

3. Review of Formal Correspondence

Mr. Banker stated that one correspondence had been sent or received by the Western WUCC since the last meeting:

- 2018-01-29 – DEEP letter regarding the use of streamflow projections and MMADD available water projections.

Ms. Fitting was asked to provide a summary of the DEEP letter and the concerns expressed. Ms. Fitting provided a summary of the letter and the concerns with making assumptions of anticipated streamflow releases for utilities which did not provide data. She could not offer alternative solutions, but expressed the need to properly note these assumptions in the report.

Mr. Lawrence stated that Aquarion has provided the anticipated effects of streamflow releases on its systems and he believes that this needs to be addressed in the plan; however, DEEP’s concerns could also be addressed via a paragraph noting the assumptions made and DEEP’s concern expressed in the letter.

4. Public Comment

The Chairs opened the public comment period, no public comment was offered.

5. Review & Discuss Draft Integrated Report & Executive Summary

- Mr. Murphy reviewed the revised schedule for completion of the Integrated Report, which included the approval of the draft for public comment at the March 13th Western WUCC meeting.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed the contents of Chapters 1 & 2 of the Integrated Report, which were largely the same as they were previously discussed in the February WUCC meeting.

Chapter 3 Discussion

- Mr. Lawrence raised the issue of the use of “town” in the plan rather than “municipality”. There was consensus among the members to use municipality.
- Mr. Lawrence expressed concern with Table 3-3 and the use of 75 gallons per capita per day for projected water needs in this table, since demands per person in the southwest corner can be considerably higher due to irrigation.

- Mr. Murphy stated that the projections were a requirement of the plan, but Table 3-3 is standalone, and does not affect water projections, nor is it used elsewhere in the plan.
- Ms. Lufkin stated that she did not see the equivalent of Table 3-3 in the Central WUCC plan.
- Mr. Murphy noted her comment for further investigation.
- Mr. Murphy noted that projections in Section 3 include unaltered projections by utilities marked with “a” as well as projections with passive water conservation efforts undertaken by customers and reduction of unaccounted for water to 15% by utilities, marked with “b”.
- Mr. Lawrence noted that much of the water conservation to date has been achieved passively by the actions of customers.
- Mr. Murphy noted that the State Water Plan includes numerous recommendations to continue passive conservation (which is not passive from the perspective of the Water Planning Council) such as changes to the plumbing code to increase the standards for water saving fixtures and appliances.
- Mr. Dejong asked if the plan addresses the need for rate recovery means for municipal utilities, and urged that it should.
- Mr. Lawrence agreed with Mr. Dejong regarding the need to provide a means to decouple rates from consumption among municipal water providers. Also, there should be consideration for inclining versus declining rates, especially among customer classes with higher discretionary water use.
- Mr. McPhee stated that it may be worthwhile for the WUCC to consider/review municipal rate structures across the WUCC.
- Mr. Rupar commented that from Danbury’s point of view, the utility can already see the effects of passive customer conservation efforts taking effect.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that for Aquarion it comes to the prevalence of irrigation systems, so overall Aquarion has seen average day demands remain steady, but increasing maximum month/peak day demand.
- Mr. Banker stated that the Metropolitan District has seen an increase in peak demands in limited areas of its system; overall the average and max day demands have steadily decreased over the past ten years.
- Ms. Lufkin stated that Regional Water Authority’s average day demand has declined by approximately 1.5% per year for the past 10 years. RWA has tried to offset this decrease with other revenue streams that do not require charter changes, but other efforts such as changing the rate structure may require a change in their charter by the legislature.
- Mr. Nadeau stated that CT Water Company has seen a decline in consumption by customers, but WICA has helped offset the effects.
- Mr. McPhee suggested that the WUCC could use a bin structure for rate structures, similar to small systems.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that the report includes good recommendations, but these could easily get lost or buried in the report, and there is a need for a means to bring them to the forefront.

- Mr. Lawrence raised the issue of DPH's current method for calculating MMAD demand with surface water systems and the concern regarding apparent deficits shown, which are not necessarily true deficits.
- Mr. McPhee noted that the coordinated water system plan is just a plan, but a cohesive message may be helpful. He stated that the WUCCs could send a letter to Lori Mathieu of the Commissioner of public health regarding the need to address this MMADD safe yield issue.

Chapter 4 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed small systems. The chapter is largely the same as it was when discussed at the February meeting.

Chapter 5 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed interconnections.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that Aquarion's planning to interconnect their main system to Brookfield/Mew Milford are under way as well as efforts to increase the capacity of the Southwest Regional Pipeline.
- Ms. Lufkin asked where all of the smaller interconnections between systems are shown, which would be needed to support the larger regional interconnections shown on the map.
- Mr. Murphy responded that they are not shown in the map, but they are discussed in the text.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked what the primary drivers for interconnections are, is it growth.
- Mr. Murphy replied that the primary driver is resiliency and redundancy.
- Ms. Sloan stated that it would be beneficial to show with more detail an approximate map of water systems with different colors and an approximate location of suggested interconnections.
- Ms. Lufkin added that it would be helpful to show the adjoining Central WUCC for such interconnections.
- Mr. Dejong asked if the interconnection narrative discussed the environmental concern of transferring water.
- Mr. Murphy responded that environmental considerations are discussed in Chapter 8.

Chapter 6 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed joint use/management.
- Ms. Lufkin suggested that the section discuss how the WUCC could facilitate joint use/construction of infrastructure and water supplies, including interconnections.
- Mr. Dejong stated that the section should include CT Warn.
- Mr. Murphy responded that CT Warn is included in Section 6-3.

Chapter 7 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy discussed a focus on regionally significant potential water supplies, including the Housatonic Wellfield.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that Aquarion is looking for new groundwater supplies in southwest Fairfield County.
- Ms. Lufkin stated that the plan could include a discussion of the issues with small system water supply and the need to site backup wells within 250 feet of existing wells, which can be difficult, especially when responding to contamination events.

- Mr. Lawrence stated that emerging contaminants such as PFOS can rapidly push the need for new water supplies.
- Mr. Murphy asked if any specific information should be added. Ms. Lufkin responded that general statements would be appropriate, and that stating identifying needs is good.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked how the WUCC should start the process of identifying sources with towns.
- Mr. Lawrence replied that the WUCCs could start working with the towns through the COGs, reaching out to identify good quality and quantity sources versus bad and developing a plan to build or extent supplies as needed.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown suggested creating GIS mapping with water supplies buffered to provide to towns for discussion.
- Mr. McPhee suggested the use of DPH's water company lands GIS data, which is publicly available.
- Mr. Murphy stated that a recommendation could be added to the report.

Chapter 8 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed the impacts of use on water resources and factors considered.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown stated that recreation should include the impacts on Wild & Scenic designated rivers such as the Upper West Branch of the Farmington River and rivers that may apply for the designation in the near future.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that active diversion permit applications for Aquarion include an increase in diversion along the Southwest Regional Pipeline as well as the transfer of water between Newtown and New Milford.

Chapter 9 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy discussed minimum design standards.
- Mr. Lawrence expressed concern with different standards/design requirements among utilities.
- Mr. McPhee discussed the difference in standards between small systems and the cost to interconnect versus the cost to build a small system to a utility's standard. Often developers do not consider the long term cost of a small system compared to the cost of a water main extension.
- Ms. Lufkin asked if there has been a discussion of increasing the state's minimum standards for small systems.
- Mr. McPhee replied that the CPCN regulations create viable systems and the design standards may be appropriate but may not be the true issue; the issue may be that designs do not take into consideration the long term loss of well capacity, the need for SCADA hardware and software installation and the need for installations without confines space entry.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that the regulations do well, but detailed requirements such as metering and the type of meters used are not clear.
- Ms. Lufkin recommended increasing the level of detail in requirements and considering the long term operation of the small system in its evaluation. She also stated that the chapter could include a recommendation that the State's design criteria be periodically reviewed.
- Mr. Dejong asked if the intent is to make the three WUCCs Chapter 9 contents the same/similar.

- Mr. Murphy replied that the intent is to keep the three WUCCs consistent.

Chapter 10 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed other planning documents, comments in the review of this section are especially needed from the COGs, due to their familiarity with POCDs and other documents within their regions.

Chapter 11 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy stated that the chapter is about financial considerations, such as highlighting WICA funding.

Chapter 12 Discussion

- Mr. Murphy reviewed prioritization of projects and recommendations from the WUCC, stating that feedback is needed from members to assist with prioritization of specific projects, general recommendations, interconnections and handling unassigned ESAs in the Northwest portion of the WUCC.
- Mr. Murphy explained that the “Executive Summary” required by the regulations is actually the fourth of four complete CWSP documents, and not what we presently think of as an “executive summary.” Mr. Lawrence stated that a short executive summary is needed.
- There was consensus that a short 2 page summary should be developed for the plan, even if this document is separate from the required executive summary.
- Mr. McPhee added that each WUCC should have a two page summary, as well as a two page summary for the statewide plan.

6. Preliminary Integrated Report & Executive Summary – Vote to Release for Public Comment Period

- The vote to approve the Integrated Report and Executive Summary was postponed to the meeting scheduled for March 13, 2018.

7. Other Business

- Mr. Murphy requested comments from WUCC members on the Integrated Report by Tuesday February 27, 2018.
- Mr. Dejong asked when the document would be available for public comment.
- Mr. McPhee replied that it will be available on DPH’s website for one month after it is approved, which is scheduled for the March WUCC meeting.
- There was consensus among members to have a two page general directive document available at DPH’s table at ATCAVE.
- Mr. Murphy informed the WUCC about a CIRCA workshop regarding the Drinking Water Resilience Plan scheduled on Friday April 6th at UConn’s Avery Point Campus.
- No additional items were raised for discussion.

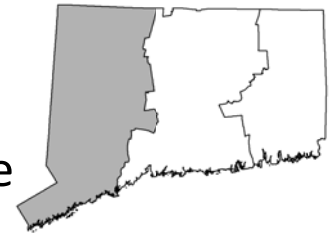
As there was no more business, Mr. Lawrence mad a motion to adjourn. Mr. Posthauer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting closed at 11:52 AM.

The next Western WUCC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 13th, 2018 to be held at the Brookfield Municipal Center at 100 Pocono Road in Brookfield, Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Banker, Recording Secretary – Western WUCC

Western Region Water Utility Coordinating Committee



Meeting Agenda February 13, 2018

Location: Brookfield Town Hall

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Russell Posthauer, Jr., Co-Chair
russellposthauer@ccaengineering.com
203-775-6207

Daniel Lawrence, Co-Chair
DLawrence@aquarionwater.com
203-362-3055

David Banker, Recording Secretary
DBanker@themdc.com
860-278-7850 Ext. 3650

1. Welcome & Roll Call (5 minutes)
2. Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)
3. Review of Formal Correspondence (5 minutes)
4. Public Comment (5 minutes)
5. Review and Discuss Draft Preliminary Integrated Report & Executive Summary (80 minutes)
6. Preliminary Integrated Report & Executive Summary Vote to Release for Public Comment Period (20 minutes)
7. Other Business, if time allows

If the meeting is postponed, the revised meeting date will be Tuesday February 20th.



79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

January 29, 2018

Water Utility Coordinating Committee Chairpersons
c/o Brendan Avery, Recording Secretary, Central WUCC, via email;
c/o Samuel Alexander, Recording Secretary, Eastern WUCC, via email;
c/o David Banker, Recording Secretary, Western WUCC, via email

RE: Preliminary Comments on Integrated Report

Dear Water Utility Coordinating Committee Chairmen and Members;

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been following the development of the WUCC Integrated Reports. We realize that the draft sections have not yet been released for public comment. From the WUCC discussions and minutes however, we are concerned about the potential for misrepresentation of the impacts of stream flow release requirements on Available Water and Margin of Safety for the public water systems in the state.

Analysis of how the required stream flow releases impact a particular public water system is very site-specific and varies widely. There are numerous exemptions that may apply; and current releases made in accordance with existing release requirements need to be accounted for. Meeting discussions have noted that few of the public water systems with reservoirs have submitted an assessment of the impacts of making the required releases to the WUCCs. Because of this, the proposal is for the consultant to estimate the impacts on the remaining systems using averages of those that have been submitted. Given the ranges submitted thus far, using an average would result in a meaningless analysis.

Further compounding the issue is the concern many utilities have raised with the recent revision in calculation of available water for Maximum Month Average Day Demand (MMADD) conditions, which results in significant "on paper" deficits for future planning periods. Not factoring in off-ramps and exemptions to stream flow releases adds to these deficits, thereby artificially exacerbating the issue and making planning targets extremely questionable.

We strongly urge the WUCCs to reconsider this strategy so that more considered and realistic water supply planning can take place based on hard facts. If you have any questions on the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 424-3724 or corinne.fitting@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corinne Fitting".

Corinne Fitting
Supervising Environmental Analyst
Division of Water Planning & Management
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse

Cc: Lori Mathieu, Chief, DPH Drinking Water Section