

**Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
November 14, 2018 1:00 p.m.**

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on November 14th, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments offices at 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT. Prior notice of the meeting was posted on the DPH website, Eastern WUCC webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/wucc/>

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

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Ken Skov	Aquarion Water Company
Rick Stevens	Groton Utilities
Jonathan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Mark Decker	Norwich Public Utilities
Samuel Alexander	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Jim Butler	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Derek Albertson	Town of Montville WPCA
Bob Congdon	Town of Preston

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

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Melissa Czarnowski	CT DEEP
Rich Iozzo	CT DPH
Scott Bighinatti	Milone and MacBroom, Inc.

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. A copy of the presentation given at the meeting will be available for download from the Eastern WUCC webpage.

The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 PM by Tri-chairs Mark Decker (Norwich Public Utilities (NPU)), Bob Congdon (Town of Preston), and Jonathan Avery (Jewett City Water Company). All in attendance stated their names and affiliations.

2. Approval of May 31, 2018 Meeting Minutes

There were no comments on the May meeting minutes Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jim Butler (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Comments Received on Eastern WUCC Plan & Status

Samuel Alexander (SCCOG) described the correspondence related to the Coordinated Water System Plans (CWSPs) of the three WUCCs.

- Mr. Alexander listed individuals from whom comments were received: Betsy Gara, Connecticut Water Works Association; Tyler M. Stober, citizen, West Haven; Tiffany Lufkin, Regional Water Authority; Denise Ruzicka, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP); Margaret Miner and Tony Mitchell, Connecticut Rivers Alliance; Dan Lawrence, Aquarion Water Company; Scott Jellison, The Metropolitan District; and Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman, Town of Portland, and Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager, Town of East Hampton.
- Mr. Decker asked Rich Iozzo (Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH)) if the comments will be posted to the WUCC webpage.
 - Mr. Iozzo stated that the comments will be posted.
 - Mr. Congdon asked if comments could be incorporated into the plans if CT DPH feels it were appropriate.
 - Mr. Iozzo stated that the comments could be incorporated into the plans.

4. Status of Statewide WUCC Plan

Mr. Decker explained that the CWSPs for the three WUCC regions have not yet been approved by the Commissioner of CT DPH.

Mr. Decker transitioned to speaking about the Connecticut State Water Plan (SWP), which is a product of the Connecticut Water Planning Council (WPC), not the WUCCs. Mr. Decker explained that the SWP was submitted to four legislative committees for recommendation, but none of the committees took action; subsequently, Governor Malloy issued an Executive Order to return the SWP to the legislature with no modifications, so it may be approved, and directed the WPC to begin enacting the recommendations of the SWP.

Mr. Decker explained that the status of the SWP becomes relevant to the WUCC because many of the plan's recommendations affect the WUCCs and utilities. Mr. Decker stated that, in completing the SWP, the WPC identified priorities and ten overarching recommendations, which Dan Lawrence of Aquarion Water Company compiled into a spreadsheet, showing sub-topic areas. Mr. Decker continued, stating that the chairmen of the three WUCCs met with officials from CT DPH to discuss WUCC members' roles in implementing the SWP. Mr. Decker explained that the chairmen of the three WUCCs discussed prioritizing recommendations and creating working groups focusing on those recommendations.

Mr. Decker clarified that the Executive Order issued by Governor Malloy causes the WPC to begin implementing the SWP in its current form, which is why the WUCCs must now begin to look at areas of the SWP for which they are responsible.

- Scott Bighinatti (Milone & MacBroom, Inc.) clarified that the SWP included “top-ten” themes of the plan, and several goals, sub-topics, and recommendations flowing from those themes, with different implementation schedules. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the table made by Dan Lawrence of Aquarion Water Company visually summarized the recommendations of the plan, to create a path forward for WUCC members to begin implementation.
 - Mr. Bighinatti added that Milone & MacBroom prepared two-page and ten-page summaries of the CWSPs, which effectively summarize the three documents to form a statewide CWSP, for informational purposes.
 - Mr. Decker explained that he was anticipating going a step further summarizing recommendations of the SWP prior to sending the table to the WUCC memberships.

Mr. Avery asked if members should begin considering whether or not they would like to serve on different committees. Mr. Avery also added that the Water Planning Advisory Council is meeting next Tuesday, and will begin putting together an implementation committee.

Mr. Congdon clarified for the membership that there are two parallel processes, the SWP and the three CWSPs that overlap with one another in certain areas.

- Mr. Decker stated that WUCC members, as utilities, have priorities that differ from other SWP stakeholders. Mr. Decker suggested that it will be important for the WUCC to maintain a presence in the SWP implementation process. Mr. Decker reiterated that there will still be at least one more step before committee membership is solicited: the WUCC chairs will need to further consolidate recommendations of the SWP into individual committee responsibilities.
- Mr. Congdon reminded the members that the CWSP still needs to be signed by the Commissioner of CT DPH, and with a newly elected governor, there could be a new Commissioner.
 - Mr. Decker asked Mr. Iozzo if he perceives any issues with the CT DPH Commissioner approving the CWSP.
 - Mr. Iozzo explained that the Commissioner is expected to sign the three CWSPs in December. Mr. Iozzo added that CT DPH staff prepared reports for the Commissioner, relative to the CWSPs, which are currently being reviewed by the CT DPH legal office.
- Mr. Congdon added that he felt hopeful about continuing to work on a statewide basis after attending the WUCC chairs’ meeting.
 - Mr. Decker added that the three CWSPs, after being signed by the Commissioner, will be consolidated, for informational purposes, into a statewide CWSP, which is a summary of the three documents. Mr. Decker stated that despite representing three distinct geographies, the recommendations and the three CWSPs are very similar.

5. CPCN Projects

Mr. Decker explained that the WUCC officers get copied on administrative CT DPH approvals (Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs), and pre-requisite approvals) of non-community systems, which do not require action by the WUCC. Mr. Decker explained that CT DPH has handled numerous applications in the region; however, he did not believe any applications involved system ownership or operational support from the Exclusive Service Area (ESA) holder.

- Josh Cansler (Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)) added that SCWA would be tentatively operating a non-community system in Ledyard, Thames Aquatic Center, if the organization is able to drill a well with enough yield.

6. Review of Implementation Schedule

Discussed under Agenda Item 4.

7. Activities in Member ESAs/Towns

Mr. Decker asked if the WUCC members would like to give updates on projects within their ESA or service area.

- Rick Stevens (Groton Utilities (GU)) stated that GU is currently working on interconnections with Ledyard WPCA and SCWA.
- Derek Albertson (Montville WPCA) explained that he began as Montville WPCA Superintendent on October 29th. Mr. Albertson stated that he feels fortunate to begin working in Montville due to the existing staff and the strong legacy by his predecessors. Mr. Albertson congratulated the WUCC on its success with such an innovative, regional approach to water planning.
- Ken Skov (Aquarion Water Company) noted that a couple of CPCNs have been issued for projects in the Aquarion Water Company ESAs throughout the region.
- Mr. Avery explained that natural gas expansion in Jewett City is revealing inconsistencies between the actual location of old infrastructure and old records of their locations. Mr. Avery added that this challenge is common amongst utilities in cities, where infrastructure has existed for a long time.
- Mr. Butler explained that SCCOG has initiated a Regional Wastewater Management Plan, which will be a high-level analysis of the region's wastewater management capacity, needs, and operations, concluding with recommendations for system expansion, improvement, and efficiency. Mr. Butler added that Milone & MacBroom was retained as a consultant, and Mr. Bighinatti will be acting as the project manager. Mr. Butler explained that meetings will be held with utilities, at the SCCOG offices, on December 5th and 6th.
- Mr. Decker explained that NPU is hoping to establish an emergency interconnection with the water system owned by Sprague Water & Sewer, in Sprague. Mr. Decker added that the project would soon go before CT DPH for final review, with hopes of construction in spring; the project will involve roughly 10,000 linear feet of water main.

8. New Business

None.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Next Meeting

The WUCC discussed establishing a schedule for upcoming meetings and alternative dates for the next meeting. The WUCC chose not to establish a schedule of regular meetings at the time, but generally felt that quarterly meetings would be appropriate given expected business. The WUCC decided to schedule a meeting, at a date determined by the Tri-chairs, following the CT DPH Commissioner's endorsement of the CWSP.

Mr. Bighinatti stated that the Integrated Report contained 64 recommendations, some of which involved annual updating of information. Mr. Bighinatti suggested that the WUCC develop a schedule for discussing these items.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Congdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 PM. Mr. Butler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary