

Meeting Minutes
Western WUCC Convening Meeting
Brookfield Municipal Center – 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT
December 12, 2017 10:00 AM

The Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) held a meeting on December 12th, 2017 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
Doug Arndt	Town of Bethel
Ray Sullivan	Brookfield Health Department
Russell Posthauer (Co-Chair)	Candlewood Springs Property Owners Assoc.
Keith Nadeau	Connecticut Water Company
David Banker	Metropolitan District Commission
Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Government
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Northwest Hills Council of Government
Tom Villa	South Norwalk Electric & Water

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

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Doug Hoskins	CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Gail Lucchina	CT Public Utility Regulatory Agency
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
David Murphy	Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI)
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 10:07 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 November Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lawrence asked if there were any comments or changes from the floor. No comments were made. Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Wozniak-Brown seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve. Mr. Posthauer abstained from the vote.

3. Review of Formal Correspondence

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

- 2017-12-08 – DPH copied the WUCC on Phase 1-A approval for a well at Cozy Hills Campground in Bantam.
- 2017-12-08 – The Metropolitan District provided figures summarizing the potential effects of Class 3 minimum streamflow releases on the MDC’s water supply.
- Mr. McPhee reviewed the Cozy Hills system development and asked the WUCC if DPH should continue to bring such items to the WUCC’s attention.
- There was consensus among members that a DPH discussion item would be added to agendas moving forward to continue to provide updates to WUCC members.
- A discussion of minimum streamflow analysis and results ensued after Mr. Banker discussed MDC’s submission.
- Mr. Rupar asked what the effects of minimum streamflow releases would be on WUCC water supplies.
- Mr. Banker stated that with class 3 releases, MDC anticipated the loss of between nine and ten million gallons per day of water supply, or approximately 12% of safe yield.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that Aquarion anticipated approximately 14-16 million gallons per day. His recollection was that this figure was more than the 10-11% figure provided by Ken Skov, and he reported that he would double check with Ken.
- Mr. McPhee stated that it would be beneficial if an average rate of supply loss could be projected across the WUCC’s surface water supplies to look at the effect of releases on water systems which have not responded to the data request.
- Mr. Hoskins added that not all water systems would be affected the same way, since minimum streamflow applies to surface water supplies, and does not apply to groundwater wells. Additionally, surface water losses may be offset by increased conservation.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that conservation cannot be counted on as an absolute, especially when planning out twenty or more years in the future.

4. Public Comment

The Chairs opened the public comment period. No public comment was received.

5. Integrated Report Review & Discussion

a) **Coordinated Water Supply Plan (CWSP) Schedule**

- Mr. Murphy reviewed the proposed schedule for review and comment on the draft coordinated water supply plan, which begins with a draft to active members on January 2nd, 2018.
- Mr. Lawrence expressed concern with the limited review time for members, since the WUCC would only have one week to review the CWSP before the January 9th WUCC meeting.
- Mr. Villa added that WUCC members would still have time beyond the meeting to comment, since the updated draft CWSP would not be issued until the end of January.
- After a brief discussion, there was consensus among members to keep the proposed schedule as is.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed the proposed layout of topics in the Integrated Report

b) **Review Projections**

- Mr. Murphy emphasized the need for current water demand and projection information and thanked the water systems which had provided it.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed projected water demand increase by town and ESA.
- A discussion of mapping color and shades occurred among the members. There was consensus that maps for demand in the CWSP should have different colors utilized to better express differences on the map. Additionally, the maps should show the change or increase in water demand over the planning horizon, rather than the total demand.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that recently water conservation in the southwest corner has been offset by growth in demand.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown stated that increased water demand in a town/village center may not show when this concentrated demand is averaged over a town, and asked if there is a better way to capture or portray this need.
- When discussing demand by ESA, Mr. Lawrence raised the issue of recent changes in water diversion regulations which may no longer allow the interconnection of different water systems within a single ESA and asked this issue to be considered in the CWSP.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed a map depicting where surplus available water based upon existing supplies is projected within the WUCC in the planning horizon.
- There was consensus among members that the map should show areas shaded in with color rather than the distribution system extents, which appear as dots for some of the towns due to the resolution of the graphic, and may have been better shown better in a margin of safety map included in a previous CWSP section.
- Mr. Rugar asked if issues and resolutions will be considered for adjoining communities across the WUCC borders.
- Mr. Murphy confirmed that issues/resolutions will be considered across WUCC lines.
- Mr. Budris added that the fixed MGD scale in the mapping reviewed did not show the differences in issues/scale between small and large water systems. He also suggested using graduated symbols to avoid potential problems when producing maps in black & white.

c) **Issues to Resolve**

- Mr. Murphy reviewed the limited data for anticipated minimum streamflow releases, as well as their effect on reservoir safe yield within the WUCC.

- Mr. McPhee asked if an average rate of 10% or 15% safe yield reductions could be applied surface water supplies within the WUCC for members who do not respond.
- Mr. Nadeau stated that CT Water is working to review the effects of projected minimum streamflow releases, but they are reviewing their systems from the east side of the state, proceeding westward. Overall, surface water supplies are seeing roughly a 20% reduction in safe yield.
- Ms. Rugar asked why the Metropolitan District is exempt from streamflow releases.
- Mr. Banker responded that it is on account of the releases made from West Branch Reservoir in accordance with the Upper Farmington River Management Plan.
- Mr. Murphy added that other water supplies are exempted from release by water diversion permits, including Wallingford and Danbury, but they are thinking about potential implications when permits are renewed.

d) Prioritization of Strategies and Actions

- Mr. Murphy reviewed a list of types of improvements to water supplies within the region and corresponding topics for the plan. This discussion included recommendations regarding interconnections, new or reactivated sources, challenged water supplies, small systems, new water systems, State Water Plan and policy/regulation recommendations.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that improvements in Aquarion's water transmission to the southwest corner are needed due to the unpredictable nature of precipitation there.
- Under new sources, Mr. Lawrence agreed with the potential development of groundwater sources in Wilton.
- Mr. Sullivan asked if the report would include recycling graywater for other uses, or the development of graywater piping networks
- Mr. Lawrence added that graywater systems most likely reuse the water on-site, but the report could include recommendations to reduce water consumption such as rain gardens, graywater or irrigation wells, which bring up other concerns. Mr. Murphy noted that these could be treated as offsets from public water system demands, as opposed to the report trying to come up with future non-potable demands. However, it is very difficult to plan for this.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown stated that the report could make recommendations for capturing rainwater and reusing on site, providing the example of a recent development in Morris and the LID regulations review that was funded by CIRCA.
- A discussion of Kenosia Lake occurred during the discussion of source challenges.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if Kenosia Lake is used as a water supply, then would recreation on the lake need to be stopped.
- Mr. McPhee replied that DPH has a memorandum of understanding with Danbury regarding the lake and its use as a water supply.
- Mr. Sullivan asked if its use would remove water from the Still River.
- Mr. Murphy responded that it would, just as the use of Danbury's existing reservoirs does.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if there may be situations like Kenosia in other towns, such as future potential withdrawals from Bantam Lake if treatment were available.
- During the discussion of small systems and classification of alternatives, Mr. Lawrence stated that most small systems would pursue acquisition prior to paying for an interconnection with another water system.
- Mr. Lawrence asked if there is the ability to create categories for when the creation of new public water systems should be considered.

- Mr. Posthauer stated that the plan could develop a list of areas with concentrations of small systems, contamination, etc. for consideration of new system and supply development.
- Mr. Murphy asked who should review and monitor such a list, need to identify when a small system should be developed. Attendees suggested that “ESA holder” be added to the list of who should monitor.
- Mr. McPhee stated that it should be linked to development based upon planning and zoning and the ESA holder should require the construction of the system. He suggested that the WUCCs could develop the thresholds that seem appropriate to trigger connection.
- Mr. Posthauer raised concern over the practicality and cost of new water system development placed upon a single developer/development.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed areas within the State Water Plan in which the WUCC could provide leadership and assistance.
- Mr. Murphy reviewed policy recommendations and asked members for additional topics to consider.
- Mr. Lawrence discussed emerging contaminants such as PFOA/PFOS which has arisen in neighboring states.
- Mr. McPhee brought up cyanotoxins in reservoir water supplies.
- Mr. Lawrence raised the issue of water testing in transient systems and the need for testing to match requirements for other types of water systems.
- Mr. Posthauer was concerned that some transient water systems serve the same customers daily, potentially leading to chronic exposure to water quality issues.
- Mr. McPhee stated that churches, country clubs, coffee shops and other types of businesses are all transient water systems which may serve the same customers daily;; however, the transient non-community water system is a federally defined water system with less risk due to smaller and less frequent exposure.
- Mr. Sullivan raised chloride contamination of groundwater as an issue for consideration.
- Mr. McPhee raised the issue of getting customers and small water system to connect to public water supplies once water mains are available in the roadway. Small systems which go through the certificate of public convenience and necessity can be compelled to connect, but others which did not and properties on private wells cannot be compelled to connect and may not know about the contamination.
- Mr. Sullivan expressed concern with private wells and water quality of owners who do not test their water.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked a question regarding the requirements for public notification of contamination to abutting property owners.
- Mr. McPhee discussed the requirements for notification of man-made contamination.
- Mr. Arndt expressed concern with the use of salt, salt products versus sand for ice melt on roadways. His concerns included the overuse of salt, the use of fracking waste/salt byproduct identified in a neighboring state and the ultimate fate of salt products versus sand in watersheds.
- Mr. McPhee discussed DPH’s efforts to pursue snow/ice removal certification of snow removal contractors to promote proper use of salt products and limit liability to reduce overuse.

7. Other Business

- No items were raised for discussion.

As there was no more business, Mr. Sullivan mad a motion to adjourn. Mr. Villa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting closed at 12:02 PM.

The next Western WUCC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 9th, 2018 to be held at the Brookfield Municipal Center at 100 Pocono Road in Brookfield, Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Banker, Recording Secretary – Western WUCC