

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

The Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) held a meeting on October 10th, 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
Russell Posthauer (Co-Chair)	Candlewood Springs Property Owners Assoc.
David Connors	Connecticut Water Company
David Day	Danbury Public Utilities
David Banker	Metropolitan District Commission
Joanna Rogalski	Naugatuck Valley Council of Government
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Northwest Hills Council of Government
Tiffany Lufkin	South Central CT Regional Water Authority
Tom Villa	South Norwalk Electric & Water
Curtis Read	Western CT Council of Governments
Richard Nalette	Winsted Water Works
Jim Rollins	Winsted Water Works

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
Cameron Walden	CT Department of Public Health
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
David Murphy	Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI)

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

1. Welcome & Roll Call

The Chairs opened the meeting at 10:08 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 September Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lawrence asked if there were any comments or changes from the floor. No comments were made. Mr. Posthauer moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Read seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve; Ms. Rogalski, Ms. Lufkin and Mr. Lawrence abstained from the vote.

3. Review of Formal Correspondence

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

- 2017-09-21 – Joint letter from all three WUCCs requesting data and responses to integrated report modules
- 2017-10-05 – Response from Aquarion Water Company to the Western WUCC with answers to questions in modules 11-16.
- 2017-10-06 – Response from Woodlake Tax District for all integrated report modules.

4. Public Comment

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

5. DWSRF Funding Presentation by Cameron Walden, DPH

- Mr. Walden presented information regarding the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), including the pending hearing, revised ranking system, lead service line replacement, funds provided for grants and the payment process.
- Mr. Walden notified the WUCC of the planned hearing on 10/25/2017 at 10:00 AM at 470 Capitol Avenue in Hartford
- DPH is also accepting email comments until 10/24/2017.
- Mr. Day inquired about grant funds in the next cycle. Mr. Walden explained that small systems, distressed communities, and generators are all specific sectors targeted for subsidies.
- Only projects in the Intended Use Plan can be funded.
- Mr. Hoskins asked how DWSRF projects are rated for conservation.
- Mr. Walden stated that projects have been rated on their ability to reduce non-revenue or lost water via replacement of leaking/failed water mains, recycling of filter wash water, etc.
- Mr. Walden explained that regional interconnection projects that advance resilience are a key interest of DPH.
- Mr. Lawrence asked the best way to advise the WUCC membership of the DWSRF process and details.

- Mr. Walden stated that the WUCC could distribute DPH's circular letter regarding the DWSRF program to the WUCC membership.
- Mr. Posthauer stated that small systems would need more information to help them through the process, especially with some of the requirements such as American Iron and Steel.
- After a discussion Mr. Lawrence stated that the WUCC would distribute the circular letter to the membership and include links to additional information as well as Mr. Walden's contact information.

6. Integrated Report Modules Review & Discussion

- a) **Future Interconnections and Impact (including WQ) / Disjointed Service Areas / Integration**
 - Mr. Murphy reviewed existing and potential interconnections in the Western WUCC, challenges to interconnections and responses from members. He noted that the WSP (December 2016) included tables of existing, proposed, and potential interconnections as well as a table of adjacent utilities that did not have interconnections.
 - Mr. Lawrence stated that Aquarion's reason for seeking interconnections is often related to either water quality or water quantity. A change in a small system from non-community to community can also require new water testing, which may identify issues with the system's existing water quality. He stated that Aquarion maintains a written interconnection plan and attempts to complete one or two per year. The interconnection between the main system and the Newtown System is an upcoming priority, followed by an interconnection beneath I-84 from Newtown to Brookfield and New Milford.
 - Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if communities bordering other states coordinate and interconnect water systems.
 - Mr. Lawrence responded that Connecticut water systems are able to sell water to communities in other states, but Connecticut utilities are not able to buy water from other states, due to the ban in Connecticut on using surface waters which receive wastewater plant discharges, which is not a requirement in bordering states.
 - The WUCC discussed when an interconnection would be feasible and prudent. Ms. Wozniak-Brown stated that the new interconnections could be prioritized based upon need, population density and agreement with state and local Plans of Conservation and Development, as well as which permits are required.
 - Mr. Arndt asked what the economic model for interconnections is and who pays for the pipeline and other associated work.
 - Mr. Murphy stated that usually it is the utility in need of the connection. In southeastern Connecticut, the Mohegan Tribe was the primary impetus and funding source.
 - Mr. Lawrence stated that the interconnection pipeline in the southeast WUCC is a good example of a regional approach. The pipeline is now a benefit for supplying water, but it also offers other benefits for connected utilities in maintaining their systems, offering alternative sources for water supply and setting hydraulic grade of their systems.
 - Ms. Lufkin stated the WUCC could offer assistance in developing these interconnections to benefit multiple communities within the WUCC. Specifically, it can be challenging to connect distant utilities when there is one located between them.
 - Mr. Read stated that the WUCC should consider undeveloped future water sources within the WUCC and uses other than water supply.

- Mr. Murphy stated that the WUCC cannot consider future sources if they have not yet been identified in any water supply plan or the State's high quality source list, primarily because we won't have a mechanism to know about them.
- Mr. Murphy discussed updated demand projections from Danbury which show no need for new sources, but these projections do not include potential effects of minimum streamflow release.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that he believes that conservation is a critical component of offsetting demand increases moving forward and the WUCC should denser population areas with a need for water.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if the WUCC could consider water quality violations when reviewing future possible interconnections.
- Mr. Connors stated that some small water systems have water which requires treatment, but there are also systems which have limited water quantity.
- Ms. Lufkin suggested overlaying the heat maps showing arsenic and radionuclides with potential interconnections.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown stated that since there is no requirement for residential well testing of private wells, then many issues may go unknown. She also asked if towns have drought ordinances that affect public water supply sources located in those towns, and if the town ordinances match the utility's own drought response.
- Mr. McPhee stated that the WUCC should also consider the value in optimizing existing interconnections to ease the burden on existing sources when needed.

b) Impacts of Climate Change

- Mr. Murphy reviewed current and anticipated effects of climate change, consistency with the State Water Plan, consistency with the CIRCA resiliency study and responses from water utilities.
- Mr. Murphy stated that the recommendations in the integrated report should be reviewed to establish whether they are prudent in light of climate change or can mitigate potential effects from climate change.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if DEEP track storm water quality and assembles the data regionally.
- Mr. Hoskins replied that the data is not available.
- Mr. Connors stated that an unknown in climate change is the effect on groundwater; increased runoff could decrease recharge of aquifers. He noted that the west region is fortunate to have a lot of impounded surface water.
- Mr. Lawrence stated a larger margin of safety could be needed for small systems with well water. In recent years the groundwater level has been drawn down due to drought, which can have a significant effect on small systems.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if increased education on small system operation and conservation could be conducted for small systems using outreach at events or via regulators.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that the legal requirements are not currently in place to require conservation for small systems or individual wells.
- Mr. Posthauer stated that it is hard to have small systems understand the need for conservation. He noted that small systems do not have space for new wells.
- Mr. Read noted that private wells going dry could lead to more areas needing public water service.

- Mr. Murphy stated that the integrated report should test each recommendation against climate change and resiliency.
- Mr. Arndt asked if resiliency was a part of the WUCC planning. Mr. Murphy replied that it was and said that there would be coordination with the CIRCA/UConn study.
- Mr. Arndt expressed concerns with operational resiliency and the requirements for gas fueled generators at water facilities, the reliability of this equipment and stated that utilities should plan for the failure of critical equipment.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if the WUCC could invite a response/suggestions from the state's emergency planning response team.
- Mr. Lawrence stated that the WUCC will look into this.

c) Impacts of Existing and Future Regulations

- Mr. Murphy reviewed challenges, upcoming regulations and responses from utilities.
- Mr. Murphy asked the WUCC members for any data or reports to show the potential effects of minimum streamflow releases on their surface water supplies.
- Ms. Wozniak-Brown asked if there is a statewide requirement/enforcement for water conservation if a drought is declared.
- Mr. Lawrence replied that the state can declare a drought, but generally the enforcement for mandatory conservation is directed by water utilities working with local municipalities and is tied to utility drought plans. It was unknown if the state has authority to enforce statewide conservation, but this has not happened in the past.

7. Review Integrated Report Modules for the Next Meeting

- Mr. Murphy reviewed the list of modules for discussion at the November WUCC meeting, including any continuation of the current topics, Potential Impacts on Other Use of Water Resources, including WQ, Flood Management, Recreation, Hydropower, and Aquatic Habitat Issues, Regional Population and Service Ratio, Consumption by Demand Category, Safe Yield (Impacts of Streamflow Regulations), Excess Water and Consistency with other planning efforts.

8. Other Business

- Mr. Read raised the issue of conservation and the need to meter individual customers on small systems so that water is priced by usage to encourage users to track their individual use.
- Mr. Posthauer agreed, especially with systems which have seasonal and year round occupants, since it would unbalance the costs of operating the system by having seasonal and year round residents pay the same flat fee and not accurately assign costs.
- Mr. Hoskins agreed, but stated that the meters need to be accurately tested and calibrated.

No items were raised for discussion.

As there was no more business, Mr. Posthauer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Villa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting closed at 12:07 PM.

The next Western WUCC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 14th, 2017 to be held at the Brookfield Municipal Center at 100 Pocono Road in Brookfield, Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bunker, Recording Secretary – Western WUCC

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