

UPPER CONNECTICUT RIVER WUCC
SOUTH CENTRAL WUCC
May 12, 2010

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A special joint meeting of the Upper Connecticut River WUCC and South Central WUCC was held at the offices of the New Britain Water Department, 1000 Shuttle Meadow Avenue, New Britain, CT on Wednesday, May 12, 2009 at 10:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order: Chairmen Bligh and Keefe called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. A copy of the attendance list is attached as Exhibit A.
2. Opportunity for Public Participation: None requested.
3. December 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting of the South Central WUCC were unanimously approved with no discussion.
4. May 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the May 14, 2009 annual meeting of the Upper CT River WUCC were unanimously approved with no discussion.
5. DPH Report on Status of Area-wide Supplement: Casey Fleming, DPH, noted that neither the South Central WUCC nor Upper CT River WUCC integrated reports had been approved by the Commissioner. Mr. Fleming further noted that the funding necessary to revise and update the plans was not presently available.
6. DPH Report on Status of Individual Water Supply Plans: Mr. Fleming indicated the Chairs were provided a handout, updated through May 11, 2010 and attached as Exhibit B, summarizing the status of all required individual water supply plans. In response to a question as to the status of one of the plan updates submitted in 2008, Mr. Fleming acknowledged the Department was backlogged due to staffing issues.

Mr. Alex Tabatabai, DPH, provided a brief overview of the working group formed to help streamline the water supply plan preparation and review processes. As noted by Messrs. Tabatabai and Fleming, the group's goal is to develop a uniform and simplified plan format by the end of the year that will ease plan updates and speed review and approval time. Upon discussion, the Department concurred that any new standardized format would be optional and that any plan update submitted after October 2009 need only provide revisions to those sections of the plan having changed. It was further noted that plan approval would be good for a minimum of 6 years and an extension to 9 years would be linked to water system Margin of Safety, the absence of consent orders, etc., with details to be forthcoming from the Department.

When entertaining additional questions from the assembled membership, DPH was asked how DEP's proposed streamflow regulations would affect the planning process. Following

some discussion, Mr. Guy Russo, Middletown Water, **moved that the chairs jointly submit a letter on behalf of the Upper CT River and South Central WUCCs to the Department of Public Health requesting that the Department advise them as to the anticipated effects the streamflow regulations will have on both the individual and coordinated planning processes.** The motion was seconded by Mr. West, Southington Water, and unanimously approved.

7. Discussion of Elections for WUCC Chairs: Chairman Bligh questioned whether there was a need to include the agenda item, whereupon Mr. Fleming explained that the Department felt it important for the WUCCs to periodically revisit their Chair and other Committee officer appointments. Mr. Fleming further explained that were a WUCC merger to occur, there would be a need to vote in new officers. Upon unanimous consent, agenda item no. 7 was tabled and agenda item no. 9 moved to the top of the agenda.
8. Discussion of Possible Options for Consolidation of the Upper CT River and South Central WUCCs (formerly agenda item no. 9): Mr. Fleming provided the following background:
 - a. DPH reviewed the WUCC coordinated planning enabling legislation and concluded it was possible to revise WUCC boundaries, up to and including the full merger of WUCCs.
 - b. Any boundary revision would require, at a minimum, a public hearing.
 - c. Were the WUCCs to consider merging, DPH would recommend that both WUCCs submit letters to the Commissioner to that effect.
 - d. DPH believes it possible for three WUCCs to be formed and/or merged, which would roughly divide the state into thirds. Under DPH's vision, the middle "third" would logically consist of the merged Upper CT River and South Central WUCCs; the eastern "third" would consist of the existing Southeastern and unconvened Northeast WUCCs; and the western "third" would be formed from a merger of the Housatonic WUCC with the Northwest Hills and Southwest water management areas.

Chairman Bligh noted that he viewed a merger of the Upper CT River and South Central WUCCs as an experiment that could lead the way for the remaining areas to consolidate. He also indicated a belief that consolidation would help prevent the WUCC process from fading; that it could serve to reinvigorate the coordinated planning process; and potentially exert a greater policy influence. Chairman Keefe noted his conceptual support for a merger, whereupon the agenda item was opened for discussion.

During discussion, the following items were raised and/or discussed:

- Mr. Erik Bernard, Aquarion Water, noted the Housatonic WUCC was facing similar issues and consistency between WUCCs would be an important goal. He requested and received from Mr. Fleming background information on the Commissioner's WUCC advisory group.
- In response to a question as to how DPH would merge WUCC areas, Mr. Fleming indicated that the Commissioner would make a determination following a public hearing and consultation with DEP, OPM and the DPUC.

- Chairman Keefe questioned whether it made sense to form a subgroup to look at the merger issue and develop recommendations for the WUCCs' consideration.
- Mr. Jonathan Avery, Hazardville Water, cautioned that exclusive service area boundary issues could arise if any new WUCC areas were unassigned.
- Mr. Russo suggested that rather than limiting discussion to a possible merger of the existing Upper CT River and South Central WUCC areas, consideration should also be given to the possible redistricting of boundaries held in common with the Southeast WUCC.
- Ms. Susan Bransfield, Portland First Selectwoman, voiced support for a public hearing process that would flesh out the concept and ensure issues were adequately considered.
- Ms. Virginia Mason, Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley, noted it would be good to have a better idea of the similarities and differences between the WUCCs prior to holding a public hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Carl Stephani, Central CT Regional Planning Agency, **moved that the Chairs' joint letter to the DPH Commissioner also request the Commissioner to outline the various steps needed to consolidate established WUCCs or otherwise re-delineate Public Water Supply Management Area boundaries initially established pursuant to the statewide coordinated planning process.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Russo and unanimously approved.

9. Old Business: None presented for either WUCC.

10. New Business:

- a. Chairman Keefe noted the South Central WUCC had received requests relative to three proposed public water system projects subsequent to the last WUCC meeting. These included a request for the installation of wells at Deer Lake camp in Killingworth; a proposed water system for a pavilion to be constructed at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bethany; and a proposed certificate project by the Town of Oxford at Jackson's Cove. As explained by Chairman Keefe, all three projects were reviewed with the ESA holder and/or proximate water supply system to determine whether an extension of service were feasible. Due to the distances involved, the WUCC recommended to DPH that a new system (or expansion) be allowed in all cases (see Exhibit C). Mr. Russo moved to accept the Chair's report, which motion was unanimously approved in a voice vote.
- b. A request was made for DEP to provide an update on the streamflow regulations. Mr. Rob Hust, DEP, noted that DEP's hearing officer was in the process of writing a report and that there would possibly be some changes made to the proposed regulations based on public comment received. Mr. Hust further noted the next step will be the Legislature's Regulations Review Committee. Finally, Mr. Hust stated his belief that there will be regulations of some sort imposed and that for future planning purposes the WUCCs should assume there will be an impact on water availability.

11. Date for Future Meeting: The next special joint meeting of the UCR WUCC and SCWUCC was set for September 22, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. for further discussion and consideration of a possible WUCC merger and the potential planning impact(s) of the proposed streamflow regulations. The meeting location was established as either Middletown or at the MDC training facility, with Middletown identified as the preferred location.

It was noted that agenda item no. 7 would continue to be tabled until the next meeting.

12. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Radka
UCRWUCC Secretary