

# **Draft Minutes: Statewide WUCC Implementation Meeting**

November 5, 2020

1pm Via Teams Meeting

## **Welcome and Introductions**

- Eric summarized the WUCC process, the WUCC Coordinated Plans, and the reason for this committee- implementing the recommendations of the Coordinated Plans.
- Lori Mathieu welcomed those in attendance and reiterated that these meetings are open to the public and all input is welcome.
- In Attendance:
  - Eric McPhee – CTDPH
  - Hetal Shah – Regional Water
  - Alicea Charmut – Rivers Alliance
  - Bob Boissevain - North Stonington
  - Cheryl Chase – CT DEEP
  - Chris Stone – MDC
  - David Banker – MDC
  - Chaz Evans – Bovin Engineering
  - Matt Tyler – Bovin Engineering
  - Melissa Czarnowski – CT DEEP
  - Dan Lawrence – Aquarion – Western WUCC Co Chair
  - Corrine Fitting – CT DEEP
  - Jim Ventres – East Haddam
  - Jon Avery – Jewitt City – Eastern WUCC Co- Chair
  - Josh Cansler – SCWA
  - Juliet Hodge – North Stonington
  - Ken Labbe – Consultant
  - Lynn Pike DeSanto – CRCOG
  - Mark Decker – NPU
  - Lori Mathieu – CTDPH
  - Mike Virgo – North Stonington 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen
  - Katie Milardo – UCONN
  - Patrick Kearney – Manchester
  - Ray Jarema – Berlin WCC
  - Sam Alexander – SECCOG
  - Sarah Ridyard – CTWC
  - Tiffany Lufkin – Regional Water
  - Tony Mitchell – Rivers Alliance
  - Peter Galant – Tighe & Bond
- Dan Lawrence began facilitating the meeting, including a review of the agenda and the main focus of the meeting – establishing workgroups for individual recommendations. Dan stated the importance of establishing work groups with regard to the priorities laid out in Table 12-1.

Attendees were requested to volunteer for participation in workgroups:

- Group – Interconnections/Regionalization Group Volunteers
  - J. Hodge
  - T. Luftkin
  - D. Banker
  - S. Ridyard
  - J. Cansler
  - S. Alexander
  - P. Galant
  - M. Decker
  - K. Labbe
  - Manchester Representative
  
- Group – Non-Community PWS Design Standards
  - K. Labbe
  - A. Charamut?
  - RWA representative
  - Manchester representative
  
- Group - Finding solutions to facilitate the connections of new/existing Non-Community Systems to viable Community PWSs
  - D. Lawrence
  - J. Hodge
  - J. Avery
  - H. Shah (or RWA rep)
  - J. Ventres
  - P. Kearney (or Manchester rep)
  
- Group - Conservation (focus: education, legislation, non-potable rates, toolkit/roadmap)
  - TBD staff from Regional
  - TBD from Aquarion
  - Sarah Ridyard
  - A. Charamut to appoint a representative
  - B. Boissevain
  
- Group - Drought (enforcement, restrictions)
  - RWA representative
  - A. Charamut
  - Aquarion Representative
  - J. Avery
  - T. Mitchell
  - P. Galant
  - Manchester Representative
  
- Group - Project Review Checklist for Town Planners
  - S. Alexander

- CRCOG Representative
- P. Kearney

**Discussion: Finding solutions to facilitate the connections of new/existing Non-Community Systems to viable Community PWSs**

- Cost difference between onsite source development and hookup is a significant impediment
- Existing feasible interconnection language in CPCN regs (16-262m-1 through 9)
- Interconnections are a public health and economic benefit in the long-term
- Problems and costs associated with onsite supplies are handed from the developer to the business owner
- Suggestion: increase fees on commercial PWS well permits
- Suggestion: can surcharges be paid over a period of time
- Suggestion: require a backup well to mimic redundancy that an interconnection comes with
- Suggestion: can the cost of interconnection be spread out instead of a large upfront cost
- Suggestion: Non-economic factors should be considered, incl. environmental impact
- Suggestion: include developers in this conversation
- Suggestion: mapping and education of local officials is important
- Suggestion: create public water expansion zone where any development must interconnect, incorporate into POCD
- Suggestion: expansion zone requirement may discourage development in that area
- Suggestion: identify or create loan, grant funding opportunities to facilitate interconnections

**Discussion: Interconnections/Regionalization Group**

- WUCCs bring together diverse stakeholders to address big picture goals/plans. Example: incorporating stressed basins into efforts
- Incorporate interstate regionalization into discussion?
- Resiliency must be part of analysis
- DBP formation, lead and copper, chlorine residual must be considered in regionalization analysis
- Ferrying fees and unnecessary costs should be part of the discussion
- How can regionalization projects be funded?
- Diversion permitting
- Must get past the “its our water” mentality
- DWSRF is a major reason for the success of the SECT regional system
- Must navigate different rules and regulations across borders, regions and states

**Discussion: Non-Community Design Standards**

- Suggestion: research what other states have
- Suggestion: get DECD involved as this effort is important to small businesses
- Must evaluate the difficulty, incl. at the local level, of incorporating green initiatives into design
- Non-community PWSs often don’t think of themselves as public water systems

- False assumption that there is adequate water everywhere
- Suggestion: develop a reward system for incorporating green elements into development
- Septic systems must be considered and coordinated review
- Consider stream segment ratings in development

**Open Forum:**

- K. Labbe: What linkages exist between develop of drinking water infrastructure and sewer/septic development? How is the WUCC involved in sewer/septic development?
  - SECOG has a regional wastewater plan

**Next Steps:**

- Reach out to workgroup members to initiate workgroup meetings/objectives
- Week of Feb. 15 identified for next implementation meeting
- Suggestion: hold WUCC implementation meetings quarterly; workgroups meet separately
- Suggestion: workgroup meeting dates, agendas and minutes be publicly noticed in the same manner as WUCC meetings