

**Water Utility Coordinating Committee
Implementation Meeting
January 30, 2020
Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven**

The Eastern, Central and Western Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCC) met on January 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m to discuss implementation of the recommendation of the three WUCC Coordinated Water Plans. The meeting was held at the headquarters of South Central CT Regional Water Authority at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, CT. Prior notice of the meeting was posted on the WUCC page of the DPH website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/WUCC/Water-Utility-Coordinating-Committee>

The following people were in attendance:

Attendee	Affiliation
Rich Iozzo	CT DPH
Eric McPhee	CT DPH
Virginia de Lima	USGS
Alicea Charamut	Rivers Alliance/FAC/WPCAG
Judy Allen	Juniper Club Water Company
Bob Congdon	Preston/ Eastern WUCC
Sam Alexander	Southeastern CT COG
Keith Nadeau	CTWC
Ken Skov	AWC
Tiffany Lufkin	RWA
Sarah Ridyard	CTWC
Dan Lawrence	AWC
Ray Jarema	Berlin Water Control
David Radka	unaffiliated
Melissa Czarnowski	CT DEEP
Doug Hoskins	CT DEEP
Scott Bighinatti	MMI
Gail Lucchina	PURA
Matt Pafford	OPM
Lynne Pike Disanto	CRCOG
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water
David Banker	MDC
John Mirtle	MDC
Aaron Budris	NVCOG
David Murphy	MMI
Russ Posthauer	Western WUCC
Peter Galant	Tighe & Bond
Rob Longo	Bristol Water & Sewer
Mark Decker	NPU
Iris Kaminski	Environmental Advisory Council New Haven
Rose Gavrilovic	RWA
Brendan Avery	Hazardville WC/Jewett City
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville WC/Jewett City
Peter Hughes	Town of Marlborough
Jim Ventres	East Haddam
Jim Brinton	First Selectman - Washington

A copy of the meeting agenda is available here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/WUCC-Implementation-Meeting-1-30-20.pdf .

The following is a summary of the meeting:

1. Welcome/Introductions/Background/Concept

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Eric McPhee of DPH.

All in attendance stated their names and affiliations.

Lori Mathieu welcomed everyone and thanked them for their presence at the meeting. She commended all those involved on the progress that has been made thus far and encouraged everyone to continue the process. She noted the Dec. 2018 approval of the coordinated plans, what is important to do now: there are new documents (2 pager and 10 pager), 30 years in the making, next issue: next 30 years, pivoting to implementation, outreach and impact of WUCC, Why are we here? Three sections and consultant worked for 2 years to develop plans, including recommendations for actions. We are going to look at recommendations that were made, to compile, and move into a statewide coordinated action. Data in coordinated plans is a snapshot, and is now two years old. 10 year update, but more frequent updates would be good.

Eric McPhee noted the publication of the 2 page and 10-page WUCC Information documents on the Drinking Water Section webpage, then turned the meeting over to Dan Lawrence of Aquarion Water Company

2. Discussion of Table 12.1 in CWSPs, Description of 'Top 5' concepts and Identifying First Implementation Task(s)

Dan Lawrence provided an explanation to the group regarding Table 12.1 in the coordinated plans, and his color coding and reorganization of it.

- Green color indicated a task that would be done simultaneously with the State Water Plan
- Blue color indicated a high priority

Dan lead the group in a discussion of what the Implementation Group would be looking to accomplish. Five main topics came out of this discussion:

- Drought
 - The group felt there should be an ad hoc work group
 - Some items are specific to utilities and utility concerns
 - Drought is already a state water plan initiative and an interagency workgroup has been created
 - Reconcile legislature's priorities and utility and/or local issues
 - The group felt DPH should initiate legislation; Eric McPhee agreed however reminded the group that it can be long complicated process
- Design Standards
 - Should be updated

- Design Standards should be developed for TNCs
- Shorter term priority?
 - Can impact future designs and new systems, bring them to a higher code
 - DPH: difficult process to initiate additional regulations now
 - DPH is empowered to do this, may not align in timing
 - Involving and coordinating with town for approval process
- Conservation
 - Something you should be doing every day, not just during droughts
 - Modify rate structures that does not exclude conservation
 - Monthly billing puts conservation on the table
 - Political influence can be significant
 - Educating politicians was recommended
 - What are the priorities and needs
 - SWP: Alliance for Water Efficiency
 - \$50k grant to look at conservation (in WPC hands now)
 - Political push can be difficult for municipal or regional suppliers
 - Bristol: rate study and information sharing (bringing politicians onboard)
 - Especially for rate changes
 - Monthly billing can reduce usage
 - Public comment: tier pricing, incline rate structure,
 - Enforcement? Social changes
 - Role of government, regulations (ex: plumbing standards)
 - Potential WUCC task: creating toolkits (ex: how to change rate structures)
 - Lessons learned in CT: WPC advisory group paper?
 - CT data on what changes make an impact and how it effects revenue and use
- Interconnections/Regionalization
 - Where does interconnection or regionalization make the most sense?
 - Mark Decker, Norwich public Utilities, spoke of successful regionalization cases through DPH DWSRF funding options.
 - Moving water faces challenges: permitting, WQ, information sharing, evaluation of resources
 - Law change (2008) now mandates connection of new systems when water becomes available
 - Utilizes existing resources, rather than bringing new sources of supply online
 - Mitigates risk, increases “level of comfort”
 - Challenges: funding for non-revenue redundancy can be challenging, when balanced with other priorities
 - Groton funding assisted a lot (regionalization funding: 50% grant in SRF program)

- Can address multiple concerns: emergency, droughts, redundancy, non-community proliferation
- Non-Community Systems
 - Develop design standards
 - Central WUCC: non-community proliferation is priority
 - Can town support assist (collective issue), with town financial input? Local planning level? (Ray and Dave Radka)
 - Satellite systems?
 - Available water
 - Participant interest was not there for Central WUCC to move forward at that time

3. Discussion of Structure

Dan Lawrence handed the meeting over to David Radka to discuss the Implementation Group structure which would involve all 3 WUCCs and avoid overlapping

- David asked for volunteers and the interest they would have (see below)
 - Judy Allen – Juniper Club – Drought/Be Involved
 - Dan Lawrence - Aquarion Water Company - Leadership
 - Russ Posthauer – Candlewood Springs - Involved
 - Iris Kaminski – Public – Involved
 - Sarah Ridyard – CTWC – Involved
 - Ray Jarema – Berlin Water Commission
 - Jonathan Avery – Hazardville/Jewitt City Water - Administrative/Leadership
 - Ken Skov – Aquarion Water Company
 - Peter Hughes – Town of Marlborough
 - Peter Ventres – Town of East Haddam
 - Sam Alexander – SECCOG
 - Aaron Budris – NVCOG
 - Pat Kearney – Town of Manchester
 - Dave Banker – MDC

It was discussed at this time that all 3 WUCCs should meet, solicit more volunteers, and discuss the Implementation Group as a whole.

4. Outreach and Research

- How to encourage participants to attend and volunteer
- Communications need to be brief and succinct
- Website
- Email updates/minutes (Combined mailing list)

5. Public Comment

Eric McPhee asked if there were comments from the public. There were none.

6. Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02.

