Water Planning Chief

Job Description

Background:

A State Water Plan (Plan) was approved by the Connecticut Legislature in June, 2019. The Plan was developed under the auspices of the Water Planning Council (WPC), as directed by enabling legislation. The overarching goal of the Plan is to balance the use of water to meet all of Connecticut’s water resource needs and, as such, the Plan provides technical information as well as myriad recommendations to achieve its primary goal. The WPC is tasked with overseeing implementation of the Plan and authorized formation of an Implementation Workgroup that delves into the plan’s various recommendations and provides specific suggestions to the WPC for consideration. Given the scope of the Plan, however, implementation would be greatly facilitated by appointment of a “Water Planning Chief”: a position tasked with advocacy, oversight and coordination of Plan implementation, serve as a liaison between the WPC and the legislature, and provide a point of contact and coordination for the myriad of water planning efforts across the state.

Primary Tasks:

* Provide oversight and coordination of Plan implementation between the WPC and the WPCAG and Implementation Workgroup
* Serve as a Liaison between the WPC and CT Legislature
* Potentially function as non-regulatory member of the WPC to avoid potential for tie votes
* Coordinate Tracking and prepare reporting on Plan implementation, including annual report to Legislature (as required by statute)
* Seek, obtain, and administer funding for Plan implementation
* Facilitate priority setting by WPC and work to ensure those priorities advance
* Recruit expertise for work groups to address Plan recommendations
* Facilitate meetings
* Facilitate periodic update of the Plan
* Chair of IWG?
* Facilitate Coordination of water planning efforts across state agencies
* Administrative:
  + Oversee website maintenance
  + Oversee meeting logistics, including posting of meeting notices, minutes, etc., in accordance with FOIA requirements
  + Handle correspondence to WPC by drafting responses for WPC, etc.

Qualifications:

* Foundational competency in
  + Water resource management
  + Water utility management or regulatory oversight of water utilities
* Familiarity with regulatory constructs of DPH, DEEP, PURA
* Familiarity with climate change and resiliency science for water resources
* Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
* Negotiation skills, including mediation between multiple interests
* Familiarity with CT Legislature and its operations
* Experience obtaining funding, grant writing

Position Logistics (Not sure what to call this):

* Where would position reside? Possibilities:
  + At one of WPC agencies (need to be careful of agency biases)
  + Under a Legislative office (OLR? One of the Committees?)
  + Outside consultant to WPC
* Durational position for Plan implementation, such as 5 years?