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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on  
May 4, 2021, beginning at 1:35 p.m.

H e l d   B e f o r e :

JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN,  
and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN

1     **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2     **WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

3             **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

4             **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

5             **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

6  
7     **ALSO PRESENT:**

8             **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

9             **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

10            **DAVID RADKA**

11            **MARGARET MINER**

12            **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI**

13            **BRENDA WATSON**

14            **JEFF HOWARD**

15            **JOSH CANSLER**

16            **KAREN BURNASKA**

17            **GANNON LONG**

18  
19     **COUNCIL STAFF:**

20            **LAURA LUPOLI**

21

22

23

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25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone and  
2 welcome to the meeting of the Water Planning  
3 Council for May 4, 2021.

4 We have a quorum. It's a busy day. Graham  
5 has to leave us for a commitment at two o'clock,  
6 and Lori is going to be joining us a little bit  
7 later, but we do want to proceed with the meeting.

8 At this point I would entertain a motion to  
9 approve the minutes of the transcript for the  
10 April 6th meeting, please?

11 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded that the  
14 minutes of the transcript of the April 6th meeting  
15 be approved.

16 Any questions or comments?

17  
18 (No response.)

19  
20 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by  
21 saying, aye.

22 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

24  
25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved.

2 I just got a note. Please mute yourself if  
3 you're not going to be speaking, because we tend  
4 to get feedback -- so appreciate that.

5 I believe we have some correspondence that  
6 Virginia will take up in the water plan.

7 Now we have an Operation Fuel presentation.  
8 Brenda, are you prepared to do that now?

9 BRENDA WATSON: Sure.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Why don't we do that, start with  
11 that now, please?

12 BRENDA WATSON: Okay.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And then we'll continue with the report  
14 of the workgroup after that.

15 BRENDA WATSON: All right. I'll go ahead and share my  
16 screen, if that's okay?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 BRENDA WATSON: Can you all see that?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

20 BRENDA WATSON: Great.

21 So I'm going to quickly go through the Low  
22 Income Household Water Assistance Program that was  
23 newly established by the federal government,  
24 called LIHWAP. So LIHWAP is a  
25 temporary (unintelligible) appropriated \$638

1 million for emergency water and wastewater utility  
2 assistance for (unintelligible) --

3 **THE REPORTER:** This is the Reporter. I'm having a  
4 little trouble hearing you. Is there a chance you  
5 can get closer to the microphone?

6 Sorry to interrupt.

7  
8 (Pause.)

9  
10 **BRENDA WATSON:** This temporary legislation provides  
11 emergency assistance to low-income households that  
12 have a high proportion of their income going  
13 towards water and wastewater utility services.

14 Grantees of the program must provide funds to  
15 owners or operators of public water systems. So  
16 what that means is if DSS happens to be the place  
17 where there will be funds, the funds must go from  
18 there, a designated agency that DSS works with  
19 directly to the utility company.

20 So recently a survey went out across the  
21 nation. The feds want us to collect information  
22 from current water advocates as well as water  
23 utilities on how this program should operate the  
24 flow. Operation Fuel shares that survey with the  
25 water utilities that we currently partner with.

1 That includes the MDC, Connecticut Water and  
2 Aquarion.

3 We do not have a formal partnership with the  
4 regional water authority, but we have been in  
5 conversations with them. So I included them in my  
6 advocacy just trying bring attention to this  
7 program.

8 The Governor's office has submitted a terms  
9 and conditions letter to the Fed last month. The  
10 deadline was April 27th, and I think, you know, we  
11 got it in just before that deadline. Allocation  
12 to states will be determined by the percentage of  
13 LMI households in the state as well as the number  
14 of LMI households that are paying more than 30  
15 percent of their income on the house.

16 For funds (unintelligible) the same process  
17 as the LIHEAP program, which is the Connecticut  
18 Energy Assistance program, also know as CEAP. And  
19 the LIHEAP program annually brings an average of  
20 80 to 90 million dollars to the State for home  
21 heating for low-income housing.

22 Right now that program goes through the DSS  
23 process in which they partner with the community  
24 action agencies at work. There are nine community  
25 action agencies across the state, but they are the

1 administrators of the LIHEAP program. So we here  
2 at Operation Fuel believe that the LIHWAP program  
3 may go through that same structure.

4 The funds will be distributed to the States  
5 by the end of May. Funds must be used by the end  
6 of December 2023. I'm anticipating that  
7 Connecticut will receive an average of 2 to 6  
8 million dollars out of the 638-million dollar  
9 allocation based on (unintelligible) and  
10 population size as well as the number of LMI  
11 households.

12 It's just a guess. I don't know for sure if  
13 that is the number, but that's my best guess based  
14 on my experience with the LIHEAP program.

15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Brenda, you've got a pop-up box  
16 that's blocking a good portion of the slide. Is  
17 there any way you can -- oh, thank you.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: And Brenda, you could hit the ellipses  
19 and I think you can hide presenter view, the three  
20 dots. The last little thing under --

21 THE REPORTER: This is also the Reporter. I'm really  
22 straining to hear her. I can just barely hear  
23 her. Her voice goes in and out. I have my volume  
24 on maximum.

25 If you're speaking away from the microphone

1 and turning your head, if you can speak directly  
2 into the microphone that would be helpful.

3 Thank you. Sorry to interrupt.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: That's okay.

5 Brenda, I have to say at one point you must  
6 have been right into the microphone, because I  
7 could hear you very clearly.

8 BRENDA WATSON: All right. I'm not moving, but --  
9 yeah, I apologize for that.

10 So per the survey, the Fed was looking for  
11 critical means info such as cost, quality -- I  
12 would assume of water, or the program. I'm not  
13 sure what any of these definitions will mean, but  
14 I think that this is the type of perspective they  
15 were seeking from states; safety disconnection  
16 policies, like the homeland and delivery  
17 assistance.

18 And I highlighted delivery assistance because  
19 again, I just wanted to emphasize the fact that  
20 Operation Fuel has a delivery system currently in  
21 place for water utilities. So we're hoping that  
22 Operation Fuel is designated as the grantee for  
23 this program because we can easily get this money  
24 out to customers.

25 You have a public portal that allows us to do



1           that, and we also have a fuel bank network which  
2           allows for folks to make an appointment if they  
3           should need one.

4   **THE CHAIRMAN:**   Brenda, my apologies.   It's Jack.

5           Lori -- oh, okay.   Just, Lori was trying to  
6           get into the meeting.   And as I interrupted  
7           Brenda, she says she's now into the meeting -- so  
8           sorry about that.

9   **LORI MATHIEU:**   Thank you.

10   **THE CHAIRMAN:**   I'm sorry.   Lori is in here now.

11           Okay.   Go ahead, Brenda.   Thank you.

12   **BRENDA WATSON:**   Not a problem.   Not a problem.

13           So yeah, I went into the fact that Operation  
14           Fuel has established a water program beginning in  
15           2018.   Our first partner in those days was the  
16           MDC, where we're now partnered with Connecticut  
17           Water and Aquarion.

18           In this fiscal year we served 370 households  
19           so far, and we're prepared to continue to expand  
20           upon that if Connecticut receives an allocation  
21           from the Fed for this program.

22           And again, the public portal allows for folks  
23           to apply for our assistance without having to make  
24           an appointment or try to, you know, make phone  
25           calls for people to make an appointment.

1           And here are some resources that, you know,  
2           are available or can be found at the LIHEAP  
3           website. The slides that go into further detail  
4           about this, this temporary program are also  
5           available on that website.

6           And in 2015 Operation Feel studied home  
7           energy affordability along with water utility  
8           affordability, and this is just one of the main  
9           points that came out of that study.

10          And the reason why I bring this up now is  
11          because I'd really like for us to have a  
12          conversation about an expansion of that study,  
13          because in my advocacy to the Fed and to other  
14          water utility companies in trying to ensure that  
15          Connecticut gets an allocation of the \$638 million  
16          I didn't have an aggregate number of what the  
17          water utility or wastewater community debt is in  
18          Connecticut, what that aggregate number is.

19          That would have made a significant difference  
20          in our application in that we could have  
21          justified, you know, what the need is in our state  
22          for this particular issue.

23          So I just want to throw that out there. I am  
24          looking to also get the support of our partner  
25          water utility companies to support this study as

1 well.

2 So I'm happy to go back, Lori, if you have  
3 some questions about the temporary LIHWAP program.

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thanks Brenda. This is Graham  
5 Stevens. I'm with the Department of Energy and  
6 Environment Protection and I'll love to -- you  
7 know, maybe we can circulate your slides as well,  
8 because I think this is a great program  
9 particularly now.

10 And I'm sure that -- I don't want to speak  
11 for Lori, but I'll try -- I'm sure that the State  
12 would love to partner with you to provide you  
13 additional information if we have it so that if  
14 this program does become permanent that could  
15 bolster your application for the funds.

16 And when you partner with these water  
17 utilities do they advertise this service to their  
18 right-paying members?

19 BRENDA WATSON: Yes, they do. In fact, we do that  
20 together in that the social media -- we've done  
21 radio and television ads promoting the programs.

22 And we're in constant communication with our  
23 water partners to ensure that information  
24 that's -- or decisions that are being made within  
25 PURA are also shared with our customers. So the

1 partnership has worked very well and we just want  
2 to continue to, not only expand upon it, but to  
3 further study this issue in the State.

4 LORI MATHIEU: So Graham, I think maybe before your  
5 time -- Brenda, I forget how we met, but I think  
6 you may have been presenting somewhere at the  
7 Legislature, and I think that's the first time you  
8 and I met each other.

9 And I think you were presenting on the  
10 program you had and you still have with MDC and,  
11 you know, I think you and I met each other and we  
12 talked about the Water Planning Council, and you  
13 met Jack. And then Jack invited you to our  
14 meetings.

15 And so we really want to continue with public  
16 water systems, we want to work with you on this  
17 effort in any way that we can.

18 And I apologize for being late.

19 So I wonder if you have the timeframe on this  
20 funding and the application for the funding, and  
21 that sort of thing?

22 BRENDA WATSON: Yeah. So the timeframe according to  
23 the Fed is money will be distributed to states at  
24 the end of this month, and we have until the end  
25 of December 2023 to spend it all.

1           But I wanted to go back to when we met. You  
2 were so humble in that you presented at our water  
3 roundtable -- I think it was in 2018 at the  
4 Legislature. And you presented on different, many  
5 different water utilities in the state and the  
6 structure of our water utilities.

7           And I learned a lot from you that day. And  
8 since that time we've actually assisted customers  
9 who are not in our partner network; presented with  
10 various situations with seniors who have high  
11 utility -- high water utility debt. And you know,  
12 in this COVID year I've just been granted  
13 case-by-case exceptions to eliminate some of that  
14 debt for folks.

15           One example I can think of at the top of my  
16 head is in the City of New Britain. I believe  
17 they have their own water utility services and we  
18 assisted an elderly woman who lives in New Britain  
19 with her water debt that's in collections and we  
20 paid it for her.

21           We're thinking about moving forward in fiscal  
22 year 2022 earmarking a small allocation to address  
23 those particular issues where customers are at  
24 risk of, you know, foreclosure or debt going into  
25 credit or collections because that's becoming

1            increasingly emerging for folks that  
2            (unintelligible).

3    LORI MATHIEU:    And thank you, Brenda for reminding me  
4            what I was doing.    I can't quite remember that,  
5            but it's -- you know COVID has clouded my memory  
6            tremendously.    But Brenda, I'm just so happy to  
7            work with you on this, and maybe we can chat  
8            offline about how we can partner even more.

9    BRENDA WATSON:    I continue to allocate for federal  
10           funds.    That's what I -- so the goal for us here  
11           is to assist customers who are on well water  
12           systems and to (inaudible) city or municipal for  
13           private water.

14                    And 2020 to, you know, 2021, it's really  
15                    quite amazing that some folks are still using well  
16                    water, and we know what the health hazards are  
17                    associated with that, and that is another piece  
18                    that I learned from you also.

19    THE CHAIRMAN:    Brenda, thank you very much for the  
20            presentation.    You've been very involved with us  
21            since we met you at the initial meeting at the  
22            LOB.    But you made a point -- I see Alecia has got  
23            a question, too.

24                    You made a point about we needed more  
25                    information, more information in terms of how much

1 debt we have out there in terms of infrastructure  
2 between the various state agencies, the State  
3 Drinking Water Act, what DEEP puts out, what  
4 economic development puts out. You don't have a  
5 hard and fast dollar figure for what we've spent  
6 and what we need.

7 Is that what you're looking for?

8 BRENDA WATSON: Yeah, it's -- you know, with energy,  
9 energy has been -- there there's been a response  
10 to energy affordability for a long time, for about  
11 40 plus years. So there's a lot of information  
12 and data that's been collected around the  
13 aggregate debt in regards to energy.

14 And water utilities just happened to be the  
15 utility that was the most affordable, and the  
16 issue around affordability hasn't been trending  
17 until maybe about the ten years ago.

18 So being able to study this issue along with  
19 the impact to the environment and water resources  
20 under protection, I think all of those pieces need  
21 to come together in one study so that we can  
22 address this issue. Having that information  
23 allows us to plan around how to solve it.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, Lori and I -- public health,  
25 PURA we have a challenge constantly about these

1 small little water companies that need  
2 infrastructure money to upgrade their system, and  
3 if we can try to keep them on their own it's going  
4 to cost them more money. If we try to put them  
5 with the regulated companies it's going to cost us  
6 more money.

7 So I think we have some potential assistance  
8 here, Lori, looking forward.

9 LORI MATHIEU: We do. We absolutely do. It's one of  
10 the things that of those 330 small community-based  
11 systems that we talk about quite often that we do  
12 see in the takeover process the peril that they're  
13 in because they have kept their rates low forever.

14 And then the water system has aged over the  
15 last three, four decades. And you might say, all  
16 right, DPH. Why don't you issue them a new  
17 order -- and where are the violations?

18 Well, the Safe Drinking Water Act is more  
19 reactive than proactive. Right? Oh, you've got a  
20 problem. There's a problem. Fix it. You've got  
21 a water quality issue. Fix it. There's  
22 nothing -- there's not much that is proactive to  
23 say, you have an aging infrastructure; let's work  
24 on that.

25 We have the SRF loan, but you know some of



1 these small systems, they have a hard time even  
2 applying. And these people in the more rural  
3 areas, and they're spread out throughout our  
4 state.

5 So there's a good example. As Jack  
6 mentioned, when you look at this people get into  
7 shock when we're talking about, you may have to  
8 pay twice the amount for water. And that may go  
9 up even more as the years go on because of the  
10 costs involved.

11 And Brenda, I'm more than willing to work  
12 with you on this. Affordability is a real concern  
13 when it comes to -- not only this, but you know as  
14 you mentioned, private wells and areas that we  
15 have concerns about water quality and quantity,  
16 so.

17 BRENDA WATSON: I agree, and I'll read this final  
18 comment in that in 2018 I was able to, on C-SPAN,  
19 watch Mitch McConnell on the House floor advocate  
20 for federal water infrastructure assistance to go  
21 to his district.

22 And Dave Kaminsky and I had a few really good  
23 conversations about that, and we were going to go  
24 to D.C. together in 2020 and advocate for that  
25 same sort of assistance with our delegation and

1           then, you know, for the kind of stopgap and all of  
2           that.

3           So that's something that we're still going to  
4           continue to pursue, and I would love to talk more  
5           with folks about that.

6   **THE CHAIRMAN:** Alecia has been very patient waiting.  
7           She's got her hand up.

8           Alecia, would you like to -- do you have a  
9           question for Brenda?

10 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** I'll lower my hand right away so I  
11           don't create any confusion.

12           Brenda, thank you for bringing this here. I  
13           have two questions. One, the amount of money --  
14           and I forgot. I did write down what you had said,  
15           but my first question is, how much do you think  
16           that's going to meet the need here in Connecticut?

17           And my second question is whether any of the  
18           funding you currently have or any future funding  
19           that comes could also be used for assisting  
20           customers with leaks and upgrading fixtures in  
21           their own homes.

22           I know I feel like sometimes I  
23           single-handedly put my plumber's kids through  
24           college living in an old home with old pipes,  
25           because you know just having plumbing work done is

1 extremely expensive. And that going forward will  
2 help keep water costs down just through passive  
3 conservation, through repairing lakes and  
4 upgrading fixtures.

5 So I'm wondering if some of that money can be  
6 used that way in the future just like, you know,  
7 energy costs were brought down for a lot of the  
8 aid programs and, you know, putting in new windows  
9 and so forth and insulation.

10 **BRENDA WATSON:** Well, those are really great questions.

11 I'm so excited that you asked them, because I  
12 think in being able to study this issue what we  
13 should be doing is (unintelligible) taking a look  
14 at weatherization and rating together the services  
15 of weatherization to address water reduction in  
16 people's homes.

17 And you know, I'm spending some time also  
18 trying to convince my board of how important it is  
19 for us to address the water issues because they're  
20 concerned that, you know, our resources and all  
21 are going towards water utilities and hurting  
22 folks who are struggling with energy -- but we,  
23 we're able to do both, that we are doing both.

24 And I would like to at some point expand upon  
25 a program, our current program to address those

1 internal infrastructure issues within the home.  
2 That that's going to take some time to get  
3 approval the way that our programs are currently  
4 structured right now, but absolutely I want to  
5 address barrier homes, quote, unquote, barrier  
6 homes so that you no longer have to support your  
7 plumbers.

8 ALICEA CHARAMUT: What was that term?

9 BRENDA WATSON: Barrier homes is what the utility  
10 sector defines as homes that have asbestos and  
11 mold or vermiculite, lead paint, things like that  
12 and remediating those issues.

13 So it's the same with the customers who will  
14 have well water, but some of those other issues  
15 that you just mentioned, leaks and things like  
16 that, absolutely Operation Fuel wants to expand  
17 our services to address those issues for people,  
18 because everyday folks struggle with the ability  
19 to maintain some of those very expensive costs,  
20 and that's where folks find themselves getting  
21 into trouble.

22 You know, once you have one issue you're  
23 diverting what money you have left to try to  
24 address it, and you might be taking money away  
25 from your rent or your mortgage payment and that's

1           where people start to get themselves in trouble  
2           financially.

3   ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you, Brenda.

4   LORI MATHIEU: And something, Brenda, if I could add on  
5           to it? Because part of my branch is working on  
6           lead. And when you said weatherization, it really  
7           hit home to me because our program has been  
8           talking with the people in energy and about the  
9           issues that you also find when you're trying to  
10          replace a window; you might also find lead on that  
11          windowsill.

12                 So it becomes just this compounding issue and  
13                 of course, you know, as a health person you want  
14                 that lead gone off of the windowsill. Or you  
15                 know, coated over or covered in the appropriate  
16                 manner so that a child will not be harmed.

17                 But the unfortunate case in our state is that  
18                 children are still being harmed by lead and lead  
19                 paint, and lead dust in those situations because  
20                 there's lead still. And you know we could talk  
21                 all day about that -- but yes, I'm pulling all  
22                 these items together. And working on it together  
23                 makes a lot of sense so that we don't have people  
24                 that have all of these issues and they compound on  
25                 top of each other.

1           And obviously the elimination of, you know,  
2           or encapsulation of the lead paint is an important  
3           item to protect children's health.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Lori.

5           Iris has been waiting.

6 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI:** Yeah -- oh, I didn't see how I  
7           look. Anyway, I have a question about the money,  
8           too. So with debt relief I didn't understand if  
9           some of it will go directly to homeowners who have  
10          incurred a lot of debt because they couldn't pay  
11          their water bills at the start and they have  
12          penalties, and that they may lose their homes.

13                 So is that -- that debt also? Or just debt  
14          for the State?

15 **BRENDA WATSON:** So according to what I know so far  
16          funds can be used for households who are defined  
17          as LMI, low to moderate income. And I believe  
18          that number is 150 percent federal poverty level  
19          and below, and/or households that pay --  
20          low-income households that pay more than  
21          30 percent of their income on housing.

22                 So far that's all that I know, and I believe  
23          that once the money comes down and the agency  
24          that's identified as the administrator program,  
25          there will be more, more details about that in the

1 workplace.

2 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: Okay. Thank you.

3 BRENDA WATSON: You're welcome.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other questions?

5  
6 (No response.)

7  
8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Brenda. Appreciate  
9 that, and we look forward to continued dialogue.  
10 And this is very important and something that  
11 certainly has been sidestepped for a long, long  
12 time. So we look forward to working with you.

13 BRENDA WATSON: Thank you. Thank you, Jack.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So let's move on to the state  
15 water plan and the implementation workgroup  
16 update.

17 Virginia and David, please?

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Well, thank you very much.  
19 And Brenda, thank you.

20 Graham had mentioned perhaps distributing  
21 your slides. I would ask that at a minimum you  
22 put the various links into the chat so that we can  
23 have access to them, and that wouldn't be  
24 necessary if you are going to be disturbing the  
25 slides -- but I would like to follow up on those.

1           So with the implementation workgroup I had  
2 sent you an e-mail that had multiple attachments  
3 summarizing the work that's been done by the  
4 Alliance for Water Efficiency, including the  
5 breakdown of how the \$50,000 was spent, and some  
6 of the materials that were related both to the  
7 bathroom fixture efficiency information and also  
8 the workshop.

9           So I guess I'll just ask if there are any  
10 questions related to the e-mail that I sent?

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any questions from the councilmembers?

12           Thank you for sending that to us.

13 **DAVID RADKA:** This is David. The other reason that we  
14 wanted to keep you all, that is -- it's not just  
15 because we had promised at the last meeting a full  
16 accounting, but we thought it would set a good --  
17 be a good example for how we could document the  
18 work of the implementation workgroup going  
19 forward.

20           As you know we're about to form a working  
21 group that could set up a process for tracking of  
22 the implementation efforts, and as I said, this  
23 is -- hopefully it will be a type of thing you  
24 want to include in that effort.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent.



1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, David. We had discussed  
2 at the last meeting the fact that you folks have  
3 reached out to DCP and DAS in terms of the  
4 plumbing fixtures, and that it's something that we  
5 might look to -- or you all might look to as  
6 several agencies to propose in the next  
7 legislative session.

8 I have made a little note to bug you about  
9 that perhaps in August. Is that the timeframe  
10 that you feel is appropriate?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to ask Martin who is an  
12 extension of the Governor's office when we should  
13 really get that ready for primetime review?

14 MARTIN HEFT: So typically we'll start reviewing in  
15 probably the end of summer, you know, on it. So I  
16 think August, you know, early September is best if  
17 we're going to be looking at something.

18 This will take a little bit longer as well if  
19 it's something that the Council is going to be  
20 presenting, because obviously we've talked with  
21 four separate agencies that it would have to be  
22 done in that sense -- or if we're going to  
23 recommend that one agency, you know, take a look  
24 at that. So -- but I think that August timeframe,  
25 August/September is good at this point.

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Good. Thank you for that.

2 And as you well know, currently that  
3 responsibility lies with DCP. And so one of the  
4 things that you folks might want to discuss is  
5 whether that you want this to move forward as a  
6 Water Planning Council initiative, or have it be a  
7 request the DCP do it as their own initiative. So  
8 that's something that you would be discussing and  
9 making that decision.

10 So just a couple of comments about the rates  
11 workshop that we held back in March. There it was  
12 very well attended. There were 85 people there,  
13 plus 58 people have viewed the first day's  
14 information on their website and 82 have viewed  
15 the second day's information. So it did gain a  
16 lot of interest.

17 Also I got confirmation from Marianne that  
18 people who did not attend the workshop are more  
19 than welcome to download materials off the  
20 website, listen to the tapes, to the recordings of  
21 both of those days. And so we should be  
22 distributing that information as widely as  
23 possible. I'll try to get that together in a  
24 concise, easy to follow e-mail that can be sent to  
25 the larger group of people, not only who attended,

1 but also who are interested in water issues.

2 One of the things that came up at the last  
3 Water Planning Council meeting was if there had  
4 been any kind of official followup. There was not  
5 any survey sent out at the end of that workshop,  
6 and the only industry that has reached out to the  
7 Alliance for Water Efficiency is the Regional  
8 Water Authority.

9 As you may recall, it was the Regional Water  
10 Authority that was the case study for the rates  
11 modeling that was presented at the workshop, and  
12 they've asked Marianne to continue that dialogue  
13 with your company.

14 One thing that came up that I actually would  
15 like to hear some feedback from you on the  
16 Council, if possible today, is Margaret Miner  
17 mentioned that Rivers Alliance had ran a similar  
18 workshop two years ago, and it was a good workshop  
19 and nothing came of it.

20 So how can we ensure that there is some  
21 outcome from what we're doing now that ensures  
22 that if something actually happens, that we can  
23 move this issue forward? And so I certainly would  
24 be interested in hearing your thoughts on that.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** So what you're saying in terms of coming

1 up from a rate perspective, how we can look at  
2 water rates as it relates to conservation  
3 programs?

4 Like for example, in the electric sector  
5 right now we're looking at the possibility of  
6 low-income electric rates, economic viability  
7 rates, and others; economic development rates,  
8 low-income rates, and a rate to enhance  
9 development of alternative electric resources. So  
10 we're looking at different rates.

11 So I guess what I'm asking from you more  
12 specifically, what specifically do you want us to  
13 do? I mean, when it comes to water rights you  
14 know we're guided by statute in terms of how we  
15 develop water rights as we are with all -- you  
16 know we regulate private utility companies.

17 The issue that we always have is the fact  
18 that we don't regulate MDC. We don't regulate  
19 regional. We don't regulate Waterbury. We don't  
20 regulate a lot of these other companies. So they  
21 would have to have their boards of directors buy  
22 into whatever we're trying to do.

23 And the hopes, I guess, would be -- I think  
24 what I'm hearing is that the Water Planning  
25 Council craft some type of legislation that could

1 be replicated for these, for these other companies  
2 that are not nonregulated. I think that's what  
3 I'm hearing.

4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: That would be something -- I can  
5 talk more explicitly to what I don't want to have  
6 happen than what I do want to have happen, because  
7 I don't have any of the answers. And I'm looking  
8 to you folks and anybody to come up with  
9 proposals.

10 I don't want to have happen the equivalent of  
11 writing a report that ends up on a shelf. We  
12 can keep having workshops. That we have a  
13 workshop and then it's over, and everybody goes  
14 back to what they were doing and that's the end of  
15 it.

16 And so trying to come up -- whether it's  
17 crafting new legislation to include the municipal  
18 and the regional water companies in some kind of a  
19 follow-on process, similar to what you do with the  
20 investor-owned companies, that's a possibility.

21 If there is a way of encouraging, if there  
22 are carrots to be put out there to encourage,  
23 there are water companies to explore this. I  
24 thought that there would be more interest  
25 generated by the workshop itself, that the

1 Alliance for Water Efficiency may have gotten  
2 several requests for, hey. This is cool. We want  
3 to do it. How do we start? How can you help us?  
4 And was disappointed when Marianne told me that  
5 there has not been this kind of response.

6 So granted there's a lot on everybody's mind  
7 because of the pandemic and trying to come out  
8 about that and maintaining their wholeness, if you  
9 will. But I'm open to ideas on how we  
10 can encourage moving forward with this, because I  
11 think it can make a lot of difference.

12 Just very simplistically one of the biggest  
13 concerns in the water industry in terms of having  
14 fostering conservation is that it affects their  
15 bottom line, and that's certainly valid. How can  
16 we convince people to understand that there are  
17 ways of doing the conservation without losing out  
18 financially?

19 David, do you have any comments along these  
20 lines?

21 DAVID RADKA: Well, you and I haven't really discussed  
22 this, but just replying to what you had originally  
23 asked, Jack, when you addressed the Council.

24 I think probably what is doable would be to  
25 try to get -- garner interest by utilities and at

1 least using the resources that AWE offers, like  
2 their tool. And that obviously would not require  
3 legislation or anything, but it means keeping this  
4 out in front of people and helping to communicate  
5 better perhaps to the decision-makers why this is  
6 important and why they should at least be making  
7 some effort to see what, as I say, what resources  
8 are already available through AWE that would help  
9 with the sustained -- sustainability of their  
10 operations around this rate conservation issue.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other councilmembers want to weigh  
12 in on this?

13 Lori? I know that Graham has left, but Lori  
14 or Martin?

15 LORI MATHIEU: You know, I always have something to  
16 say, Jack.

17 So Virginia, there's a lot. There's a lot  
18 there. I think we have to sit back and think  
19 about the question that you asked. I guess I  
20 would ask the question to the group.

21 Why was there no interest?

22 You have to ask yourself. You know, it  
23 generated a lot of excitement, but for those of us  
24 that have been around for a long time there's  
25 reasons why things don't get done. It's not like

1 there's no interest. There's probably an enormous  
2 amount of financial issues to deal with.

3 And sort of seeing the benefit as you do may  
4 not be as clear from somebody who sits within a  
5 utility because they have so many other things  
6 to -- other pressures.

7 And by the way, you know COVID is not over.  
8 So you know there still are many things that we  
9 have to worry about with that. You know May 19th  
10 is coming and that's great, but we still have to  
11 be concerned and there's a lot of tracking still  
12 going on. And we hope that it goes away over the  
13 summer and never comes back, but that's still is  
14 weighing on people's minds.

15 And so what's the new normal going to look  
16 like? So why didn't it capture everybody's  
17 attention? Well, there's a lot of other things  
18 that are going on that are capturing people's  
19 attention.

20 I think that, you know, Virginia, I was just  
21 looking through all the items that you shared on,  
22 you know, the plumbing code and I wonder if --  
23 there's a few things I'm thinking about. One, I  
24 think how to keep the ball rolling would be to  
25 continue to talk and maybe even next month as



1 Martin said, like, look we need items teed up by  
2 August really for legislation. So if we could get  
3 a group together to start to include DAS, DCP;  
4 talk to them about the plumbing code.

5 Right now there's an open look in May in the  
6 plumbing -- I think it's DAS -- unless I'm wrong.  
7 Someone correct me if I'm wrong. DAS has an open  
8 look at the plumbing code. They are adopting all  
9 kinds of international standards right now. And  
10 if someone can bring up that webpage -- I'm trying  
11 to find it. I can't find it.

12 When I do find it -- we were just chatting  
13 about it. I think there they might even be  
14 adopting some new water conservation standards,  
15 because that's how they do this.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, I don't mean to interrupt you, but  
17 we did have a discussion with DAS and DCP, and  
18 they were talking about exactly that. And they're  
19 not going to put anything into effect until the  
20 next legislative session.

21 LORI MATHIEU: But I think we have to be careful to  
22 watch what they're adopting right now, and that's  
23 what we're looking at right now. They're adopting  
24 all kinds of codes from across the world and we  
25 want to watch what they're adopting, because I

1 think if someone could look at that we are looking  
2 at it internally, and in what are they adopting --

3 But I would think -- Virginia, my thought.  
4 Get together a group, talk to DCP and DAS  
5 specifically and do it sooner rather than later,  
6 because I think to keep the ball rolling on that  
7 and the discussion going and fresh, I think is  
8 important.

9 But one thing that I wanted to bring to your  
10 attention is that all of you -- we were planning.  
11 We were approached by EPA to hold a workshop in  
12 September for drought, and it's specifically on  
13 drought -- but we're interested in conservation  
14 and bringing that to them.

15 Now yeah, it's another workshop, but it keeps  
16 the ideas fresh. We've thought to include  
17 possibly bringing in Regional Water Authority and  
18 maybe Aquarion to say a few words about what  
19 they're doing as a follow-on to the March, you  
20 know Marianne's workshop -- so to keep it fresh.

21 And that's one way to keep it fresh, is to  
22 keep talking about it and to get an update from  
23 where the utilities are and the good work that  
24 they're doing, and what they're studying. So just  
25 a couple items just thinking about it, Virginia,

1 to your question.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

3 Alecia?

4 ALICEA CHARAMUT: In regards to the workshop, you know,  
5 one of the things that we heard from two different  
6 folks during the two days was the rate recovery  
7 mechanism only works with sufficient oversight and  
8 regulation, and this is something that we really  
9 need to get together and talk about, and figure  
10 out how we're going to move forward so that  
11 utilities can take advantage of these types of  
12 programs.

13 Because when we go into the drought, or even  
14 just for everyday water use we keep hearing  
15 this -- it all comes -- (inaudible).

16 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Alecia, you must have hit --

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I did hit my mute button. Let's see.  
18 Did you read my lips during that? The utilities,  
19 and it's not nefarious on their part. They can't  
20 lose revenue. They have to be able to meet their  
21 bills for infrastructure and operations, and I get  
22 that.

23 But it's just so foundational that we -- that  
24 decoupling this is very foundational, otherwise  
25 we're going to find ourselves in the same place

1 with every single drought that, you know,  
2 utilities put off mandating conservation or  
3 they're not willing to incorporate everyday  
4 conservation programs which are going to be  
5 extremely important to prepare for climate change.

6 And you know, this, this workshop was  
7 supposed to be the savior. We had \$50,000 for  
8 implementation and I really -- I am not feeling  
9 like we are any farther along. I think that that  
10 conversation needs to be had about how these  
11 different entities that we have in Connecticut,  
12 Connecticut can take advantage of these programs.

13 And I think we need to do a survey to find  
14 out, you know, do it. Do it anonymously for those  
15 who attended it. Do they plan on using any of  
16 these tools? If so, why not?

17 Because otherwise we're not -- if we don't  
18 know why not, we're not going to be able to move  
19 forward.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Alecia.

21 Further questions or comments?

22 **JEFF HOWARD:** This is Jeff Howard. I'm new to  
23 Connecticut. I've only been here six years, but  
24 my experience in New Jersey; I think the politics  
25 plays a lot in this in some of these. You know,

1 in the end you need to get the first selectman or  
2 the mayor to support this, because the water  
3 operator has got to, you know, he or she has to  
4 have a very, very strong conviction to do this and  
5 go through all the hurdles because they've  
6 got to -- in the end the town is looking for them  
7 to cover their cost, or in some cases, provide a  
8 profit to the rest of the town.

9 And so I think -- in New Jersey we had a  
10 thing called the League of Municipalities and that  
11 was a conference that happened every year, and you  
12 know, Maybe that's something you can use to start  
13 doing sessions and things like that, to try to  
14 get -- there's probably a few first selectman or  
15 mayors out there that had had, you know, would  
16 have an interest in this.

17 But you've got to get them on board to kind  
18 of push their water operators as well. You know,  
19 we've been fortunate. You know, from the private  
20 side it was kind of the owners of the company as  
21 well as PURA pushed it, but if you don't get those  
22 decision makers, you know, on board -- it's tough  
23 to push it from the operator level up or the, you  
24 know, the water system up.

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Jeff, I think that was the point that

1 was being made about oversight and tight  
2 regulation. That is that it's really hard to get  
3 those municipal leaders on board -- if someone is  
4 smarter than them about these things is watching  
5 it closely.

6 Because your municipal leaders, they don't  
7 know. Most of them don't know the first thing  
8 about how to, you know, the ins and outs of  
9 running a water utility.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I can tell you this. From my  
11 experience -- and Alecia, your point is well  
12 taken, and so is Jeff's. I mean, from Jeff's  
13 perspective you have to get organizations like  
14 cost and CCM and some of the key leaders there on  
15 board.

16 But I can tell you when we go through rate  
17 cases -- and some of you on this call have gone  
18 through rate cases -- I mean, CEOs and towns  
19 complain about higher rates, and rates in  
20 general -- and streetlight rates, and everything  
21 else. So we have a lot of education to do when  
22 we're going to change the way, especially if it's  
23 a municipal water company, to educate them.

24 Alecia, you're absolutely correct.

25 All right, Virginia. Let's --

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Let me just do a quick  
2 summary of some of our topical workgroups. The  
3 drought workgroup -- I should say, the workgroup  
4 looking at the drought plan has committed to  
5 getting the implementation workgroup a draft  
6 report by our next meeting, which is next Tuesday.  
7 So that is coming to a close. They've done a lot  
8 of work and I think it's going to be an  
9 interesting and meaningful report that we will  
10 take a look at and then share with you after we've  
11 had a chance to digest it.

12 I'm just trying to find my place here.

13 The other workgroup that has been moving  
14 along is looking at the water quality of wells.  
15 We discussed this a little bit at the last Water  
16 Planning Council meeting, and they are all in  
17 agreement that we should be adding the uranium and  
18 the arsenic to the required analytes for, not only  
19 new wells, but also any kind of real estate  
20 transaction. And they are still discussing the  
21 idea of radon being included.

22 As you may recall from last month, Lori felt  
23 very strongly that it should be included in the  
24 requirements because it is a health issue. And  
25 that, that is certainly true.

1           On the other hand, because there it would be  
2 very hard to track because there are not accepted  
3 standards for radon in water it might kill the  
4 entire effort. And so whether it gets split into  
5 two different recommendations is something they  
6 still want to be talking about, and certainly want  
7 to be getting input from the Department of Health.

8           They're working on the justification for the  
9 arsenic and the uranium focusing primarily on the  
10 public health aspect of it. And so they are  
11 getting -- part of their justification will be  
12 including appropriate references that talk about  
13 the dangers of both arsenic and uranium.

14           You may be very well aware that the primary  
15 concern with arsenic and bladder cancer, though it  
16 also can cause lung cancer and skin cancer. And  
17 with uranium it's much more that it affects the  
18 kidneys. And so part of their justification will  
19 be, as I said, focused on the public health part  
20 of it and getting the appropriate references to  
21 support what they are saying.

22           So we look to have a further update on that.  
23 And as I said, they do want input from the  
24 Department of Health into their discussions.

25           Any questions?



1 LORI MATHIEU: Just a quick one, Virginia? When you  
2 say, Department of Health, you mean the State  
3 Department of Public Health or local health?

4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: State.

5 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. And part of that group -- isn't  
6 some of my staff part of that group?

7 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yes, and Ryan has said that he wants  
8 to set up a meeting with you to discuss this  
9 further. I also think it would be appropriate --  
10 this is just me speaking. It's not coming from  
11 the group, but I think it might be appropriate if  
12 your radon folks were to meet with this group and  
13 continue with the discussion.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that it, Virginia?

15 VIRGINIA de LIMA: That's it.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. But before we move onto the Water  
17 Planning Council advisory group, I just want to  
18 follow up on two items that you brought up -- so  
19 we don't forget and don't go home on it.

20 So to follow up to the rate workshop, Alecia  
21 said -- I think everybody said that we should have  
22 some type of survey to go out to people that  
23 attended. I think there might be a little bit of  
24 money left to send out the survey -- there's no  
25 money left?

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Correct.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, somehow we have to figure  
3 out. I mean, I think it's important that we do a  
4 follow-up survey. It's just a matter of how we're  
5 going to get that out to people.

6 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, if I may?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MARTIN HEFT: So a survey could be done through Google.  
9 It could be done through Survey Monkey at  
10 literally no cost. You know, it just gets sent to  
11 all of the participants. So it's just someone's  
12 time to be able to set up, you know, either a  
13 Google survey with whatever questions you want on  
14 it, and then it just gets e-mailed out and you  
15 give a timeline for responses back. So I don't  
16 think that, you know, it would be just someone's,  
17 you know, time to be able to develop that.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: And it doesn't have to be that  
19 extensive.

20 Alecia or Virginia, would you be willing to  
21 work on that? I know you're both very busy.

22 DAVID RADKA: We can also connect with Marianne again.  
23 She's been very helpful about, even in her  
24 retirement, offering to continue to help in this  
25 area. With minimal effort she'd probably be

1 willing to help in that regard.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I talked to her several times. I'm sure  
3 she would. If we could do that -- I mean, she  
4 probably has from previous workshops something  
5 ready to go.

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I think that's a good idea and I'd  
7 certainly be willing to work with Marianne. And  
8 Alecia, if you want to be involved as well, that  
9 would be good.

10 One of the things that I took away from this  
11 is, not only that survey, but also getting the  
12 website and the information in terms of invaluable  
13 resources on Alliance for Water Efficiency's  
14 website, as well as the recordings of the  
15 workshop; getting that out to the widest bunch of  
16 folks.

17 I also took away from Jeff's comments that  
18 perhaps we need to reach out more -- aggressively  
19 has the wrong tone to it, but reach out to the  
20 COGs, to COST, to CCM, and perhaps encourage them  
21 to be working with the local folks for the  
22 municipal systems, and use them as an advocate to  
23 support this kind of work.

24 JEFF HOWARD: One other thought I had is I think you've  
25 got to go one by one. If you can find one system

1           you think is open to the idea and has the  
2           commitment to try it and move forward, it's going  
3           to be hard to get ten of them to try it. I think  
4           you need one or two to take an interest and kind  
5           of go through the process and then show whether,  
6           you know, then have a good outcome, that's the way  
7           to get some momentum behind it.

8   **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'd have to say that, not to pick and  
9           choose, the Regional Water Authority is very  
10          innovative and creative in their thinking. I was  
11          on a call this morning with Larry Bingaman, their  
12          CEO who's very instrumental, something you may or  
13          may not know in terms of the utility management  
14          program that's been set up at Gateway Community  
15          College in Southern Connecticut so people can  
16          actually get a degree in utility management. And  
17          Larry was part of that process. So they're really  
18          out-of-the-box thinkers -- so they might. Just  
19          throwing that out.

20                 So okay. Anything further?

21   **DAVID RADKA:** Before we move on, you know, we gave you  
22          an update on drought and I think from Virginia and  
23          my perspective, we're very aware of the length of  
24          time that workgroup has been taking. And we  
25          discussed essentially our failure as cochairs to

1 help manage that process, and we talked about ways  
2 to improve it going forward.

3 And I guess we also remarked -- because I  
4 know your review of the drought planning process  
5 is kind of also waiting on this work product. So  
6 he's saying we've got a commitment from them. He  
7 does give us a draft product by the end of the  
8 week, I think, or next week and he will expedite  
9 that out to you then.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Thank you very much.

11 Alecia? We're on to you and Josh.

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Just a quick reminder in transition,  
13 I guess. A good portion of the reason why a lot  
14 of these take so long is because it is done  
15 entirely by volunteers. So you know, sometimes  
16 things move at kind of a slow pace -- because  
17 we've all got jobs.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: I know the feeling.

19 ALICEA CHARAMUT: We're all committed to trying to get  
20 something done here, but it can be difficult when,  
21 you know, where we're our own admin and everything  
22 else.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate that.

24 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So we had a discussion about some of  
25 the legislation that's out here, out there

1 currently relating to water and I think there are  
2 probably about ten bills that specifically pertain  
3 to water. And really we are moving forward on  
4 getting comments on the outline for the source  
5 water protection white paper and also putting  
6 together some materials now for reaction on things  
7 we should be bringing to the solar siting  
8 stakeholder group when it's formed. And you know,  
9 we haven't heard anything on that -- so I'm not  
10 sure.

11 Graham, do you know how that's moving along?

12 I think we've lost Graham.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham is off to another meeting.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: He's gone.

15 So really other than the watershed  
16 landscape -- and Margaret has actually put  
17 together an excellent report on the progress of  
18 the Cheshire lands conveyance recently, which I'm  
19 not sure, Margaret, if that was meant for me to  
20 send along up to the Water Planning Council. Do  
21 you want to give a quick update on that?

22 MARGARET MINER: I can give a quick update, but I think  
23 the memo -- can you hear me okay?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

25 MARGARET MINER: I think the memo should go out because

1 it took me -- it's not easy to put all the little  
2 pieces together, but as you know this was first  
3 proposed in 2018. And if you read the testimony  
4 in 2018 then it was a straight giveaway of 48  
5 acres to Cheshire aquifer protection land. The  
6 environmental groups made it clear this was a  
7 highly valuable property ecologically in terms of  
8 wetlands, woods, habitat and we now know drinking  
9 water.

10 It did not go through that year. It came  
11 back in 2019 and the testimony of rivers alliance  
12 emphasized that this is aquifer protection land,  
13 all of it, in addition also a tributary to the  
14 Quinnipiac River.

15 As far as I can tell, neither in 2018 or 2019  
16 did anyone pay any attention to any of this. The  
17 votes were pretty much unanimous to move the  
18 conveyance forward. In 2019 it was changed from a  
19 straight giveaway to Cheshire, to require Cheshire  
20 to sell the property for development, economic  
21 development.

22 And when they do that, to give the revenue  
23 back to the DOT fund, which is a good fund --  
24 really, other than Rivers Alliance basically in  
25 2019 it was actually OPM and -- I'm trying to

1 think of the other agency that objected -- DOT put  
2 in some objections saying they thought they were  
3 losing too much control of what happened on this  
4 property. They weren't particularly happy with  
5 it, with the bill as it was written, but they were  
6 willing to settle it.

7 Interestingly, the bill went up to both  
8 chambers. It looks to me like it was passed both  
9 chambers and then it was derailed at the last  
10 minute by something called interruption. I think  
11 it was called a disagreeing action. At the very  
12 last minute it was derailed in the regular session  
13 of 2019.

14 But as you all know -- or I actually learned  
15 a little bit more. It came back in the special  
16 session under a different bill number. We, by the  
17 way, now have two public acts 1904, one for Hamden  
18 and one for Cheshire -- just in case you can't  
19 find what you're looking for.

20 It came back under a different bill number  
21 and it went through under the emergency  
22 certification procedure.

23 This was so urgent to someone for some reason  
24 that this procedure, which isn't always reserved  
25 for emergencies but it's supposed to be -- was



1 used to put this conveyance through without  
2 discussion; without anything really it goes  
3 through on the consent calendar.

4 Now, emergency certification requires pretty  
5 much the cooperation of leadership and the  
6 Governor. So I assumed that everyone was very  
7 happy with conveying away this land, or at least  
8 enough people were to get it done.

9 Our purpose in the watershed lands group is  
10 to try to see that this doesn't happen again. I  
11 have to say that with this kind of the history of  
12 this -- it's not just not happening again in the  
13 future. This Cheshire deal itself could be  
14 changed at any future session of the Legislature.  
15 It could get better from our point of view. It  
16 could get worse.

17 Whatever -- Alecia was mentioning volunteers.  
18 I was thinking particularly of 2018 all of us  
19 going up there and sitting there for hours giving  
20 our testimony. We might as well, as they say,  
21 have dropped, you know, rose petals into the Grand  
22 Canyon. There was no interest in protecting this  
23 land.

24 So if we want to actually protect drinking  
25 water watershed lands, we have a lot to do. And I

1 know that we're working on it with the white  
2 paper. I'm very gloomy about the possibility of a  
3 comprehensive good outcome when -- given the  
4 history of what I'm looking at.

5 There's one more thing that happened while we  
6 were in between then and now. Maybe you've seen  
7 Bill 65-77. It moves -- oh, and by the way, I did  
8 the -- it appears that the conveyance is  
9 completely done.

10 Shawn Wooden was very nice. He said, I know  
11 he'll be disappointed, but I have no reason not to  
12 sign this.

13 I'm not sure it's entirely complete. I have  
14 a sort of ambiguous communication from the  
15 properties review board, but there is news on the  
16 front of the properties review board in Bill  
17 65-77. The authorities of that board are greatly  
18 expanded, and the board is moved under the  
19 administration of the Connecticut General  
20 Assembly.

21 It seems to me that we have a fairly weak  
22 separation of powers in Connecticut and this will  
23 make it a little weaker. However -- however, it  
24 appears that move is considered a good idea by at  
25 least some members of the administration. And

1 there was strong testimony against it including  
2 from, like, the Department of Agriculture; like  
3 this is going to make our life more difficult.

4 A farmer who said, this is going to make --  
5 when I want to save my farm, this is just going to  
6 be one more thing. Now I have to go to the  
7 Legislature and deal with that layer of oversight.

8 So I mentioned it's something that would be  
9 relevant in terms of protecting land, protecting  
10 state-owned land that has valuable water  
11 resources; that the authorities, if 65-77 goes  
12 through, it will be a different configuration of  
13 the authorities that oversee that.

14 So that's my report. I found it rather  
15 depressing, but I like it that I'm happy that we  
16 are at least going to do a white paper and  
17 presumably make some effort to -- or a stronger  
18 effort to protect these resources.

19 We seem to be easily knocked over when  
20 there's an adverse wind, so I'm hoping for better  
21 news as we go forward. Thank you.

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Josh, have I missed anything?

23 JOSH CANSLER: No. I mean, we covered a lot of stuff  
24 at the last meeting, but I think you've hit on all  
25 of them. I think Karen is going to talk about the

1 watershed lands group later, so.

2 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I don't know if there's a further  
3 report on watershed lands group. Is there Karen?

4 KAREN BURNASKA: No, I think Margaret said at all. She  
5 hit the integrated resources task force with the  
6 siting of green energy projects on watershed land,  
7 and she talked about the Cheshire conveyance.  
8 There were a lot of questions.

9 I mean, I have to compliment Margaret on her  
10 yeoman's job of tracking this all down and  
11 touching each department, whether it be the  
12 properties review board, DOT; she has spoken with  
13 everyone, put it together, put together  
14 information. And there are some, you know,  
15 there's some concerning parts and there is  
16 definitely the concern of what can be done, or  
17 what can we do as an advisory group of the Water  
18 Planning Council to make certain that key and  
19 critical source water lands are protected, or  
20 source water.

21 So no -- as I said, I wouldn't say anything.  
22 Margaret said it all.

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you, Karen. I think that's it  
24 for the advisory group.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alecia, Josh, Margaret,

1 Karen.

2 And thank you, Margaret. I know that you've  
3 sent me e-mails talking about your research. And  
4 if you want to get to the bottom or something give  
5 it to Margaret, for sure.

6 KAREN BURNASKA: Hear, hear.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay let's move on to old business.

8 WUCC update, Lori?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Jack.

10 So not much has changed from last report of  
11 last month. There is an upcoming meeting in May  
12 of, I believe, May 19.

13 So we have four workgroups focusing in on  
14 specific topics. One is interconnections. The  
15 other is water conservation and drought. And I  
16 know there's a lot of items being teed up there  
17 specifically. So any of all of you who want to  
18 participate are more than welcome to do that.

19 And again, Eric McPhee from DPH and in my  
20 group, is the lead person. And if you want to  
21 reach out to either me or him, and you can attend  
22 those sessions, you're more than welcome to come  
23 and participate in those items.

24 So that's all that I have for WUCC.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: And we must go right to the private well

1 update, Lori.

2 LORI MATHIEU: So from last time I know that we -- or  
3 maybe have mentioned the study that DPH conducted  
4 with USGS on arsenic and uranium. It was an  
5 update and a refinement to the study that was  
6 conducted again jointly between our agencies back  
7 in 2018.

8 I have asked to get on the calendar, I think,  
9 or the agenda for either June or July, or August,  
10 to have USGS come along with our department and  
11 present on the details for about 15, 20 minutes so  
12 everyone has a moment to think about the science  
13 and the layers and layers of information that have  
14 been pulled together.

15 And I think it dovetails nicely with what  
16 Virginia was speaking to and the work of the  
17 private well program, along with the work that she  
18 is conducting, working with, you know, the same  
19 people Ryan Tetreault and Tiziana Shea. So for  
20 private wells, one thing that we are considering  
21 is and we'll be looking for input and areas that  
22 we should focus on.

23 But one item of consideration is for water  
24 quality with private wells. And I've asked my  
25 staff to pull together a work plan and a stepped

1 approach on water quality and quantity for private  
2 wells just at the highest level.

3 Given what is noted in the state water plan  
4 and the issues and concerns that we have with  
5 people not testing their water quality, what can  
6 we do?

7 I think a lot of what I've heard over the  
8 last hour and 15 minutes is a lot of frustration  
9 on behalf of everyone saying, there's so many  
10 things that we are trying to do, but we don't get  
11 too far -- or we feel like we make two steps  
12 forward and take ten backwards, or you know we're  
13 not taking 10 backwards because somebody is  
14 pushing us backwards.

15 So that frustration is certainly felt when it  
16 comes to private wells -- for people to understand  
17 what they're consuming is important, and we're  
18 taking a thoughtful approach to understand the  
19 information that we do have and the information  
20 that we need to pull together, not only within our  
21 state, but what other states do across the country  
22 with private wells so that we can carefully step  
23 into the future.

24 So I know it's a very high level point of  
25 view, but it's purposeful because I want our staff

1 to be thinking about within our Department of  
2 Public health, working with local health in a  
3 different way and working with all of you in a  
4 different way when it comes to private wells. And  
5 I think some of this takes us to step back and  
6 think about why is it that things haven't changed,  
7 and you have to look at those in a strategic  
8 fashion.

9 So I'll just leave it at that and welcome any  
10 questions or comments on private wells always.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much, Lori.

13 Any questions, comments to Lori?

14  
15 (No response.)  
16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other -- okay. Onto Martin. Talk a  
18 little bit about this interagency drought  
19 workgroup?

20 MARTIN HEFT: Sure. A short report because we did not  
21 have a meeting last month, as was reported at this  
22 meeting. We are meeting this Thursday.

23 The plan is -- or that we're working on right  
24 now is the dashboard presentation by DPH to the  
25 whole group. We are continuing reviewing the plan



1 as was mentioned, obviously awaiting the workgroup  
2 report before we can finalize any recommendations  
3 back and everything. And I'll obviously continue  
4 to monitor the situation.

5 So that's basically it.

6 ALICEA CHARAMUT: The meeting at two o'clock on  
7 Thursday?

8 MARTIN HEFT: Standard time, yes.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other old business?

11  
12 (No response.)

13  
14 THE CHAIRMAN: New business. I want to say that thanks  
15 to Bruce we have -- Brenda's great report has  
16 already been posted on our website.

17 And also for the next meeting we're going to  
18 have executive order number one updates for the  
19 next meeting. Thanks to Graham, Mary Sotos will be  
20 there and she'll be there in the June meeting.  
21 And in the July meeting we'll have the GC3 update  
22 from Rebecca French.

23 So thank Graham for setting it up. It's nice  
24 to always -- we're going to try to do that. We  
25 had talked about that, trying to get a guest

1 speaker for the meetings, as we have Brenda today  
2 which was really excellent. So we're going to try  
3 to keep on doing that.

4 Is there any other new business?

5  
6 (No response.)

7  
8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any public comment?

9 **LORI MATHIEU:** So Jack, I have one piece of new  
10 business. I mentioned it previously but would  
11 like to say it maybe again, is that we will be  
12 holding a drought workshop, our department along  
13 with EPA, and it's the third week in September.

14 We're looking at the dates of the 23rd and  
15 24th of September. And it's two half-day  
16 sessions, and the focus on one day is for large  
17 public water systems. The second day is for small  
18 systems. And about 2.5 to 3 hours apiece for  
19 these, for these two workshops.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Are they funding this workshop? How  
21 does that work?

22 **LORI MATHIEU:** Yeah, the EPA approached us and they  
23 have a contractor to help us put the work  
24 together.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Good.

1 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. And we've asked -- again, I've  
2 mentioned we've asked a few people to help and  
3 present, and we're working on arrangements. We've  
4 also invited our colleagues from, I believe, OPM  
5 and DEEP, too, and I think PURA to join us in the  
6 planning efforts with EPA.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you.

9 DAVID RADKA: Hey, Lori? This is David.

10 Is the focus for the larger utilities to be  
11 about drought planning or drought mitigation? Or  
12 do you have a sense at this point in time?

13 LORI MATHIEU: No.

14 DAVID RADKA: Oh, okay. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

16 Anything further? And I'm going to ask if  
17 there's public comment again. Any public comment?

18  
19 (No response.)

20  
21 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, our next meeting will be June  
22 1st --

23 GANNON LONG: I'm sorry, sir. Can I make a quick  
24 public comment?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course.

1 GANNON LONG: This is Mrs. Gannon Long. I'm the Policy  
2 and Public Affairs Director with Operation Fuel,  
3 and I just wanted to thank everybody today for  
4 your great work and for your support, and also  
5 just wanted to extend to Virginia and Alecia or  
6 anybody who's working on the survey, I'd be glad  
7 to help out with that if I can share some of the  
8 workload.

9 And you can reach out to me at  
10 Gannon@OperationFuel.org.

11 It's G-a-n-n-o-n @OperationFuel.org.

12 So again I'd be glad to work with you on it  
13 and thank you all again so much for your work.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Gannon. Appreciate that very  
15 much.

16 Any other public comment, further business?

17  
18 (No response.)  
19

20 THE CHAIRMAN: With that, I will entertain a motion to  
21 adjourn.

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Second.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded. All those in  
25 favor.

1 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Thank you all very much. See  
3 you all next month. Appreciate all your efforts.  
4 Be safe.

5

6 (End: 2:36 p.m.)

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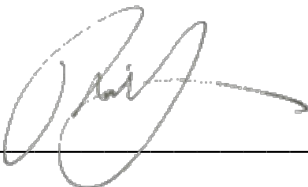
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**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing 61 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting of the WATER PLANNING COUNCIL, which was held before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA VICE-CHAIRMAN, via teleconference on May 4, 2021.



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**Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857**  
**Notary Public**

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