

**CERTIFIED
COPY**

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

STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held Via Teleconference on
June 1, 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 **DANIEL MORLEY (OPM Alternate)**

7
8 **ALSO PRESENT:**

9 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

10 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

11 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

12 **DAVID RADKA**

13 **MARGARET MINER**

14 **JOSH CANSLER**

15 **KAREN BURNASKA**

16 **MARY SOTOS**

17
18 **COUNCIL STAFF:**

19 **LAURA LUPOLI**

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 (Begin: 1:33 p.m.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: So why don't we call this meeting of the
4 Water Planning Council to order? The first order
5 of business will be the approval of the May 4th
6 transcript. Do I have a motion to approve?

7 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Second by Graham?

9 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Graham. Any questions?

11
12 (No response.)

13
14 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor signify by saying,
15 aye.

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: The transcript is approved.

18 I'm delighted this afternoon we're going to
19 have a presentation by Mary Sotos from the
20 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
21 I will ask Graham to introduce her.

22 Mary, it's great to see her. She was my
23 colleague over here at 10 Franklin square for
24 quite a number of times. So it's great to see her
25 again, and she's going to share some exciting

1 information with us this afternoon.

2 So Graham, I'm going to turn it over to you
3 for an introduction.

4 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Thanks so much, Jack.

5 Yeah, really happy to have Mary join us at
6 the Water Planning Council today to walk us
7 through some of the ongoing outcomes that are
8 coming up from Executive Order One.

9 Obviously, we'll continue to see some
10 significant conservation efforts, learn some
11 lessons with respect to managing such a large
12 portfolio, and how to really dig into some of
13 these case and site-specific issues that we have
14 uncovered. And you know Mary is a great expert in
15 conservation of water as well as, many of you
16 know, energy as well.

17 So we're really pleased that she's here today
18 to give us some insights into how the State is
19 tackling some water conservation issues. So Mary,
20 thank you very much for agreeing to chat with us
21 today.

22 **MARY SOTOS:** Thanks Graham, and I appreciate the
23 introduction. And yeah, happy to be here today
24 and talk to you a little bit about the progress
25 that we've made since, I think, maybe the last

1 time I checked in with this group.

2 So let's see if I can share my screen. I
3 have a few slides which hopefully will be a good
4 visual for some of the data that we've been
5 collecting.

6 Okay. So the initiative that I'm here to
7 talk about, we've put under the umbrella of
8 GreenerGov.ct, building on our history of
9 lead-by-example work. So this work tries to
10 encompass all sustainability operational
11 initiatives within the executive branch. So
12 that's 29 agencies within Connecticut, but also to
13 be leveraging work that's already been done by
14 institutions of higher education in Connecticut as
15 well as municipalities.

16 So I would welcome the input of this group if
17 you can identify things, and what you see that
18 we're doing across the executive branch that you
19 think could be enhanced by better, you know,
20 additional partnerships with other institutions --
21 yeah, we're trying to take the lead by example and
22 collaboration part of the initiative to heart.

23 So just as a refresher, Governor Lamont's
24 first Executive Order set up the three goals to
25 apply to executive branch agencies, the first time

1 we've had concrete environmental targets that
2 every agency is expected to meet. All of these
3 targets are tied to outcomes in 2030, but the
4 executive order also asked the steering committee
5 which is DAS, OPM, and DEEP, to think about
6 interim targets.

7 So this is the big picture of what we want
8 for 2030, but there may be some milestones along
9 the way that can help us be better on track to
10 meet these goals. And if, hopefully as you see
11 some of the trends in this presentation, if there
12 are opportunities to strengthen some of these
13 goals or to make more targeted specific actions,
14 or subareas that we think could be -- yet again
15 could help us accelerate the achievement of these
16 goals.

17 So just a quick recap of greenhouse gas
18 emissions, so that's going to be all the energy
19 that's used in state buildings as well as state
20 vehicles. Water reduction is 10 percent from
21 FY-20 which you'll see in a moment we've adjusted
22 that to FY-19 to better capture pre-COVID levels,
23 and a reduction in waste generated.

24 So that's the big picture of what we need,
25 but the first step of this initiative that I think

1 we shared a little bit last time is just the huge
2 hurdle of getting data. So if you have the target
3 that says you need to reduce a certain percentage
4 from a baseline, first you need the baseline.

5 So what we've done is we're using a software
6 solution called Energy Cap. So that allows every
7 executive branch agency for all of their
8 facilities to basically aggregate and upload every
9 type of utility invoice that they receive. So
10 whether that's electric, natural gas, water or,
11 you know, we've been starting to customize this
12 for other types of commodities that have an
13 environmental impact that we would also want to
14 track.

15 So I wanted to give a recognition to the team
16 that's been building this at DEEP. So that's
17 Rose, Nancy and Ryan here. They've just been
18 outstanding working with agencies to just create
19 this significant data infrastructure to allow for,
20 again creating the baseline, but also to make it a
21 tool that agencies can actually use along the way.

22 So what this does is this allows, basically
23 allows us to put together all the information
24 about energy use. It calculates the impact from
25 that. So one unit of energy has a certain type of

1 carbon emissions, whether it's tied to the grid or
2 tied to a fuel. So this software allows us to
3 calculate all of that.

4 Putting together the water baseline, which
5 we've been doing over this past year, has proven a
6 little bit challenging in part because agencies
7 have been mostly operating outside the office this
8 past year. So getting paper bills, having someone
9 go into the office, scan those bills, have them
10 uploaded has put us back a little bit in terms of
11 the overall initiative.

12 But we've been able to work with many of the
13 utilities to streamline more of that data so that
14 it can be essentially automatically uploaded. So
15 we've been able to do that through Eversource and
16 United Illuminating, and several of our water
17 utilities are also in conversations with us about
18 creating a similar system to help us do this with
19 a little bit more -- a little less effort on the
20 part of agencies, and more focus on the types of
21 analytics.

22 So once you've collected all that data, what
23 does it show us? The biggest insight that we had
24 from this effort was the three fish hatcheries
25 that DEEP operates account for the vast majority

1 of water that's drawn and used by state agencies.
2 And I think folks inside DEEP probably had an
3 instinct about that. And so I want to give credit
4 to Doug Hoskins who kept pushing us to get
5 additional data, better data from those
6 hatcheries.

7 The folks who are operating those facilities
8 on the ground had excellent records. The
9 challenge was just bringing it again into a form
10 that could be translated here, and put into the
11 context of all of the water that's used across,
12 again, 29 different agencies. So that's our
13 biggest impact by a long shot.

14 After that, unsurprisingly we would be
15 looking at our department of correctional
16 facilities. These are very resource-intensive
17 operations, and they've already identified many
18 upgrades to those facilities, and they've been a
19 major point of capital investment in terms of this
20 initiative over the last year.

21 So we're hoping to see some additional
22 reductions in water use just through more
23 efficient appliances, fixtures, stuff that we know
24 the technology, we know the intervention. We just
25 need to fund it and scale it up.

1 And then after you get past those two
2 agencies the rest becomes, you know, I think
3 mostly you'll see a mix of commercial buildings
4 and resident. You know Department of
5 Developmental Services also has residential group
6 homes, so we have some different residential
7 focused initiatives for that as well.

8 But this is our -- yeah, this is our snapshot
9 from FY-20, and I think that should give us a
10 place to start being able to track progress over
11 time.

12 And speaking of which, the difference between
13 FY-19 when we more or less started this, this type
14 of data collection, and then this past year where
15 we've captured, again FY-20 will get you about the
16 first half of last year. So the first portion of
17 the tele-work and COVID response, we saw water
18 usage go down significantly.

19 This is not surprising. These are
20 commercial. Again once you get past those two
21 biggest impacts, there are commercial facilities
22 that you know are going to have a strong
23 correlation between occupancy and water usage. So
24 I think what this tells us is, you know -- right?
25 According to this we've more or less passed the

1 10 percent reduction that would be required by
2 2030. However the type of, you know, significant
3 remote work that we've seen this past year is not
4 necessarily the operational plan for the next ten
5 years.

6 So we know that just reducing occupancy is
7 not the only strategy, obviously, to help us meet
8 those goals. So we're trying to work with
9 agencies to understand in a more specific way,
10 particularly for those commercial facilities,
11 office buildings, what their usage patterns really
12 were, how many people have been in the office.

13 Now that we have a return-to-the-office
14 vision from the Governor. We're going to be very
15 interested to see how that does change water usage
16 on a more regular basis.

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Mary, can I ask a question while
18 we're on that slide?

19 MARY SOTOS: Yeah.

20 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So I know that fisheries did some
21 extensive work on some of the wells, I believe it
22 was at the Quinebaug hatchery, and I can't
23 remember which fiscal year that was done in
24 because all the years seem to be bleeding together
25 right now.

1 But could that work that has already been
2 accomplished account for some of this reduction
3 that we're seeing here?

4 MARY SOTOS: That is a good question. I wasn't aware
5 of any major Quinebaug work that was done in this
6 time period, but I'll tee up a little bit later
7 some of the projects that they have been sort of
8 in the planning phase, and we hope to be a major
9 point of investment in the future.

10 But I don't know if there's anyone else on
11 the call from DEEP who would know a little more
12 specifically any trends in that time period over
13 the last two years.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: I can't think of anything. I
15 know that there are, like you alluded to, Mary,
16 some big projects planned on going forward, but I
17 can't think of anything.

18 MARY SOTOS: Yeah. But again, it's a great question
19 and our goal is now that we have all this data in
20 one place, to try and -- I mean, not only for us
21 sort of in a big-picture way to try and draw some
22 of these insights, but to also make it usable and
23 hopefully actionable for facility managers, for
24 agencies who are, again, looking to -- how are
25 they going to meet these goals to be able to

1 get -- to drill in a little bit more for each of
2 the sites to understand, what are the trends
3 happening at the site?

4 What can we attribute that to? What types of
5 projects would help us sustain a lower usage going
6 forward?

7 So with that in mind I'm going to highlight
8 two tools or initiatives I think that we've been
9 trying to focus in on the water side. So one is a
10 behavioral campaign called Fix a Leak Week --
11 well, I guess, behavioral and sort of minor
12 infrastructure.

13 We basically asked agencies to volunteer to
14 participate in this initiative, that it's a
15 national initiative that EPA sponsors/promotes.
16 So there's a checklist of different ways to spot
17 water waste, and I think they've designed it to be
18 pretty, pretty user friendly. You know you don't
19 need to be the most expert engineer to be able to
20 go through these steps.

21 So we've had four agencies volunteer to
22 participate in this. You'll see that two of them
23 are quasi-public agencies, so not technically part
24 of the 29 that are required to be a part of
25 Executive Order One, but we're really appreciative

1 that we -- again, we've designed this so that we
2 have a letter participation from other folks as
3 well.

4 And essentially it's like, when you run these
5 things you hope that there's the value at the end
6 of the day, and in this case there definitely was.
7 We estimated, or the agencies estimated that there
8 were over 400 gallons of water that were
9 essentially being wasted each day due to leaks.
10 And Department of Corrections, again the largest
11 contributor to that. A lot of old infrastructure
12 and lots of opportunities to make those kind of
13 small repairs. So this was positive.

14 I think our goal would be to expand
15 participation in future years so that more
16 agencies can see the value of identifying these.

17 And then the other tool is something that our
18 water project teams -- so this is a team that's
19 assembled of volunteers and issue area experts
20 across the executive branch who are interested in
21 water and want to help work on these types of
22 water strategies to meet the goals.

23 They put together essentially a sort of
24 customized water audit form. And so this is sort
25 of building on some of the small things that you

1 might find in a fix-the-leak approach, but much
2 more systematic throughout an entire building, you
3 know, identifying water that's used on different
4 meters, going through more of the systems, the
5 types of fixtures, and just being able to identify
6 where there are opportunities for things to be
7 upgraded.

8 So they put together the form. We've had
9 some agencies pilot tested. So we're taking that
10 feedback looking for additional ways to simplify
11 it, but really our goal here is to make water
12 auditing of a facility standard practice.

13 I think on the energy side this is a very
14 well-developed, I would say, sort of industry.
15 It's a tool. You know it's like an energy
16 conversation is going to start with an energy
17 audit where you look at all the different systems
18 in the building, and that's your basis for
19 identifying the most strategic investments.

20 So we really wanted to have a counterpart for
21 that on the water side. Hopefully in the next
22 year we'll develop a third counterpart for the
23 waste side so that agencies again can just have
24 this insight into where the opportunities lie.

25 And then I did also want to highlight the

1 Quinebaug project, which again you'll see --
2 because that is our, one of our biggest sources of
3 water use in the Executive branch. The team at
4 DEEP who manages this, this great resource, has
5 been identifying some opportunities to make both
6 improvements to the wells, but also it's a much
7 broader type of project.

8 So it's a whole recirculation system that I
9 think this has been a concept for a while.
10 Pinning down the exact budget for how much
11 something of this significance for cost has taken
12 a bit of time, but we've more or less, I think,
13 honed in on what types of things need to be done,
14 where the funding is hopefully going to come from.

15 And again, if this one project -- if we're
16 able to implement it in the next few years would,
17 again compared to an FY-19 baseline, get us at
18 least halfway to the FY-30 goals.

19 So again -- that, again that's a major
20 infrastructure project. A lot of these other
21 behavioral trends in our commercial facilities I
22 think we'll be tracking closely to see how those
23 trends also change over time, but this is one of
24 our, sort of, keystone projects for water
25 reduction.

1 And then in terms of how all these different,
2 the data, the strategies, the tools and hopefully
3 the funding, how all of that comes together will
4 be in these annual agency sustainability
5 performance plans.

6 So these are something we ask every agency to
7 put together where we basically summarize all of
8 the impact data; so all of their water use, energy
9 use, greenhouse gas emissions in one place. And
10 we give agencies their sort of space for them to
11 describe progress on projects that they have
12 already been working on, or that they committed to
13 in the prior year and then what their vision is
14 for the upcoming year.

15 So it's a way to be more transparent with the
16 public and with folks in their own agencies about
17 what they're planning to do. And I think
18 particularly we've seen for some of the younger
19 folks who are coming into state service,
20 sustainability is a significant value. It's a
21 priority. They're very interested to know what
22 their agencies and their facilities are doing to
23 be more sustainable.

24 So we hope that these reports are a way to
25 communicate that, and also a way for agencies to

1 be accountable. Because we know sustainability --
2 while we're really excited about it, it's not
3 every agency's first priority. They have many
4 other things that they're balancing all the time,
5 and we know from working with agencies it can be
6 hard to figure out how to prioritize these types
7 of ongoing, whether it's behavioral
8 infrastructure, operations and maintenance, just
9 keeping folks engaged on this.

10 So I'll show you. I think I have a link to
11 where all of the reports are. So you can, you
12 know, if you're interested in any particular
13 agency and how they're performing compared to
14 other agencies, we have all of that on our
15 website.

16 And I think just as a quick highlight, the
17 reports from this past year really, obviously
18 we're able to show how agencies have been
19 grappling with working remotely, what that means
20 for their operations, what that means for
21 sustainability, how they're going to be using
22 state assets.

23 So a number of agencies were reflecting in
24 this past year's report that they hope to continue
25 to hold virtual meetings, use it as an opportunity

1 to reassess some of their, whether it's their
2 occupancy in certain buildings, how they use state
3 vehicles, the role of tele-work as a regular
4 practice.

5 But I think on the water side, there were
6 also some public health interventions that also
7 had a water connection. So hands-free sensors was
8 something that came up a lot. And I think any
9 time we're thinking about these other trends, I
10 think we're trying to add to the lens of, how
11 would making these changes impact water use?

12 How are there ways to achieve some of the
13 public health goals that we have while also
14 advancing some of our conservation efforts?

15 So those are some of the things that we're
16 thinking about. And again, now that we have a
17 return-to-the-office date we really want to make
18 sure that we're engaging agencies in thinking
19 about, I guess, embodying sustainability in some
20 of the tools that we have as part of that return.

21 So we have a few ideas on how we're going to
22 do that, but stay tuned on how that goes.

23 And this is the website. And yeah, happy to
24 answer any other questions and point you to some
25 of the other resources we have.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Mary, thank you very much. I know there
2 was some chat during your presentation. So can
3 people get a copy of those reports and the
4 checklist on this website?

5 MARY SOTOS: Yes. Yes, it should be under agency
6 resources -- is where we have any of the tools,
7 documents, things that we ask agencies to use. We
8 should have copies of them there.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you so much. And I can tell you
10 here at 10 Franklin Square, as you walk around the
11 building we have hands-free urinals. We have
12 hands-free toilets. We have hands-free towel
13 dispensers. We have all new lighting. So people
14 are going to be in for a big surprise when they
15 come back here on July 1st.

16 So thank you. It was a great presentation.

17 Any questions for Mary from the Council or
18 for people?

19 Denise Savageau has a question?

20 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, just quickly. I was wondering
21 in terms of the water use if you have any
22 information on outdoor water use? Obviously, we
23 have a lot of buildings, and in a commercial
24 context there's a lot of water use inside. So
25 that's really, really important.

1 But from leadership, if you're looking at
2 outdoor water use and how we irrigate lawns on
3 state property?

4 MARY SOTOS: Great question. Let's see if I can scroll
5 back to it. The water audit form that we have --
6 so this one does have, like, if you were to keep
7 paging through this little screenshot that I have,
8 it does have a section to estimate the water
9 that's actually used for outdoor irrigation.

10 So we to identify that as -- or at least it's
11 one of the things we would ask agencies to
12 identify as part of understanding its overall site
13 water use. And we have a few ideas on how, I
14 guess, as sort of a broader planning, how can we
15 help promote low-water use landscaping or more
16 permeable pavement, other things that we know are
17 part of the picture for both reducing water use
18 and runoff, and some of the other effects that we
19 want to avoid.

20 I think the question is, as you might expect,
21 once we get to that level then we start looking
22 at, well, what are the operational requirements
23 for state agencies when it comes to those
24 services? How much flexibility do agencies have
25 to influence the design of their properties?

1 Many agencies, many agencies own their own
2 properties, but about 15 or so percent of the
3 commercial side of the executive branch, really
4 when you think of office buildings, about
5 15 percent of those are owned and operated by DAS.
6 So they also have tenant agencies who will be
7 occupants in those.

8 So part of the conversation is, well, who?
9 Who gets to control how things are planted, what's
10 planted? How much irrigation is used?

11 But we did have a chance to operationalize a
12 little bit of that last year during the drought
13 advisory. We actually sent a communication to all
14 executive branch agencies and facility managers to
15 ask them to curtail water use during that sort of
16 height of the drought period.

17 So we do always have that, that tool as well,
18 but it's sort of like you want to avoid getting to
19 that place if you can reduce the usage through
20 planning.

21 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

23 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I have a question Jack. This is
24 Virginia.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Mary, was there any attempt to split
2 out consumptive water use? I'm thinking
3 particularly of the fish hatcheries, and I'm
4 guessing that at least in some cases the source is
5 surface water, and then the water is returned to
6 the surface water source. And I would see that
7 differently than something that is more
8 consumptive.

9 Was there any look at that water?

10 MARY SOTOS: Good question. I think the folks at DEEP
11 who work most closely with those resources, they
12 do have a more nuanced way to describe that water
13 use. So that's actually a good point. That could
14 be something we reflect a little bit more in
15 our -- yeah, in how we calculate and present that.

16 So yeah, I think we'll take that back for
17 some additional thought.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And another curiosity question. I
19 know your focus was on state water use, but with
20 the reduction in water use of the state agencies
21 because people were working from home, has anybody
22 looked at the corollary increase in domestic water
23 uses for those people at home and see how that
24 balances out?

25 MARY SOTOS: Yeah, we have been trying to estimate

1 essentially the change in residential usage for
2 water, energy, vehicle miles traveled, you know,
3 as a way, and sort of allocate that to the
4 number -- and this is sort of a high-level
5 estimation, like, the number of state employees
6 who are working from home and the changes in those
7 things over basically the last year sort of how
8 much we can attribute to folks working at home.

9 So yes, that's some analysis that we're
10 trying to get at a high-level, because, yeah. I
11 agree. I think that that would tell a fuller
12 picture, let's say, of what's really happening.
13 And I think the analogy is that, like I've worked
14 on greenhouse gas emissions and corporate
15 sustainability prior to this role.

16 And we saw in the era where many companies
17 were outsourcing particular parts of their, sort
18 of, their business model -- you know it's like the
19 initial look says, oh, we've reduced our emissions
20 because we're no longer responsible for X or Y
21 manufacturing activities.

22 You say, well, but they're still part of your
23 supply chain. They're still part of how you
24 accomplish your organizational goal. So there
25 should be some way of taking some type of

1 responsibility for those impacts even if they're a
2 little bit more indirect or less within your
3 control. So that's something we're looking at, is
4 sort of at a philosophical level, like what
5 responsibility does the state public sector have
6 for the impacts, environmental impacts that take
7 place when folks are working from home?

8 We know the impacts when they're working at
9 an office, or at a field site, but it's that those
10 impacts totally go away when folks do the work at
11 a different location.

12 So I think the flipside of that is like with
13 good state policy; you have things, you have tools
14 and strategies that can help address residential
15 needs. Whether it's a residential home energy
16 audit, incentives to do upgrades and
17 weatherization at home, I think Connecticut is in
18 a really good place for some of those solutions.

19 But yeah. But we're trying to figure out how
20 do we -- yeah, how do we capture that, the
21 tele-work impact as part of this initiative?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: And thank you, Mary. Any other
23 questions for Mary?

24
25 (No response.)

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much for taking the time.

2 I'm sure we'll have you back in to give us a
3 progress report. And we appreciate you being with
4 us today, Mary. Thank you.

5 MARY SOTOS: Yeah, my pleasure. And thank you for the
6 great questions and ideas. I always learn a lot
7 and will have good, good ideas to bring back to
8 the group. So thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And we're in full compliment
10 now. Mr. Martin Heft has joined us. So let's
11 move on in the agenda. I don't believe there's
12 any correspondence. Let's go on to the state
13 water plan.

14 Virginia, Dave?

15 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Well, as you all know we have
16 two topical subgroups that have been working. The
17 group looking at the water quality of domestic
18 wells has completed their work. Their
19 recommendations, as we've discussed before are to
20 include uranium and arsenic in the required
21 analytes for new wells, and also to include those
22 two elements as well as the regular suite, the
23 whole suite of analytes that is used for new wells
24 in all real estate transactions.

25 So they have completed the report. They have

1 given it to the advisory group, and we will be
2 discussing it at our next meeting which will be
3 next week.

4 And then as you all know, the process is that
5 we will share it with the Water Planning Council
6 advisory group so they can advise us on any
7 unforeseen consequences, asking questions like,
8 does this make sense? Will it work?

9 And when we have heard back from them and
10 perhaps incorporated any issues that they have
11 come up with, we'll pass it along to you folks for
12 final approval. So that group has done an
13 excellent job and I commend Mike Dietz and
14 everybody working on that for their thorough and
15 efficient process.

16 We also have the group that was looking at
17 the 2016/2017 drought. They plan to get us their
18 final report by our next meeting next week. So
19 after we've had a chance to take a look at it and
20 gone through the same process I just mentioned for
21 the water quality and domestic well group we will
22 pass that along to you as well.

23 The other issue that came up that maybe
24 Alecia will be mentioning in the Water Planning
25 Council advisory group report is that there was a

1 request for some kind of follow-up survey from the
2 rates workshop that the Alliance for Water
3 Efficiency ran back in March.

4 As I mentioned to you before, in speaking
5 with Mary Ann Dickinson she said that they were
6 not planning to do it, but there was a request for
7 such a followup, and a small group of people
8 volunteered to work together to produce some
9 follow-up survey questions that presumably would
10 be done anonymously.

11 Because some of the issues that we would like
12 to hear about is asking whether or not they plan
13 to take advantage of the Alliance for Water
14 Efficiency rates model, which is available to, not
15 only the participants, but to everybody on the
16 website -- whether they plan to use it, and if
17 not, why not? And that's feedback that would be
18 important both for our work, and also ultimately
19 for the Alliance itself.

20 Dave, anything you want to add?

21 DAVE RADKA: Nothing at this time. Thank you,
22 Virginia. Was there questions for me from the
23 Commission?

24 LORI MATHIEU: I have a question Jack, if I might?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

1 LORI MATHIEU: So Virginia and Dave, for the private
2 wells sub team, was there anyone there from the
3 home builders association or the real estate
4 groups?

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I believe yes, they were identified
6 as part of the group. I don't know how regularly
7 they attended. Dave, do you know anything more
8 about that?

9 DAVE RADKA: I believe the real estate representative
10 attended more frequently. I'm not sure who they
11 may have had from the home builders association.

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: But those groups were reached out
13 to -- if that's the right word -- when they put
14 the group together, because it was recognized that
15 those important voices need to be in the
16 discussion.

17 DAVE RADKA: And I believe they were also on the e-mail
18 distribution list. So even if they hadn't
19 attended meetings, they should have been receiving
20 material. And Mike's group is very good about
21 recording video and audio, and then also doing a
22 brief summary of all the meetings and discussion.

23 To your point, Lori, it was acknowledged by
24 at least the real estate rep later on in the
25 process that this likely would be a -- I don't

1 want to say contentious issue, but it would
2 certainly be an item of discussion within the
3 industry if it was to be moved forward.

4 LORI MATHIEU: I'm just curious. Were they asked for
5 their opinion during the process? And did they
6 provide any input when they had the opportunity to
7 provide that input?

8 DAVE RADKA: To that same point, yes, I believe they
9 were allowed -- they were certainly allowed the
10 opportunity to participate and provide input.

11 Because as I said, there was at least one
12 meeting where the real estate rep said, all right.
13 By the way, they may have supported it themselves
14 personally, but they also wanted the group to
15 recognize that this would likely be an issue of,
16 again of some discussion within the broader
17 industry.

18 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And sort of to the broader point,
19 just to remind you all that the implementation
20 workgroup decided at the very beginning of the
21 process that, though we would acknowledge
22 potential logistical and political roadblocks, we
23 felt that it was our job to make recommendations
24 that the group thought were appropriate
25 recommendations.

1 And that then you folks, or the whole
2 political process would do with those
3 recommendations as they saw fit.

4 LORI MATHIEU: Are their recommendations part of this
5 document that you'll be sharing with us?

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Oh, yes. Absolutely, and also the
7 background of how they reached the conclusions
8 that they did.

9 LORI MATHIEU: No, I'm saying the dissenting
10 recommendations? Are the dissenting -- will they
11 be included? And will those be noted in any way?

12 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I have not read the document myself.
13 I would guess that they probably are, but I don't
14 know that for sure.

15 LORI MATHIEU: Well, the reason why I asked, we tried
16 this years ago. Something passed about 15 years
17 ago for about 6 months, and then it got detracted.
18 So we know that there's a significant concern, but
19 I really wish that these groups would tell us what
20 their significant concern really was.

21 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Understood.

22 LORI MATHIEU: I'd love to see it in writing. I'd like
23 to have it documented. I'd love to have a
24 conversation about it. You know it's one thing to
25 say, we're really going to have a problem with

1 this.

2 And it's another thing to say, well, what is
3 your problem? How can we work together to try to
4 address your problem now instead of having a fight
5 in the Legislature where you know how those things
6 go? Right? You never can tell. You never can
7 tell. Right?

8 I don't want to waste the time of everybody's
9 expertise for somebody just to come in after at
10 the last minute and say, I was never involved.
11 They never asked me my opinion. Yeah, I was
12 involved but, boy, they never asked for my
13 opinion.

14 You know those kinds of things are important
15 so that we can document the fact that they were
16 involved. They were included. They really didn't
17 speak up. They didn't give us their comments. I
18 wish that they would, because I've heard the same
19 thing.

20 Informally, I never see what the absolute
21 concerns are. Is it the cost to the homeowner?
22 Is it the unknown? What is it? What is the
23 concern? You know, banks -- banks want to know.
24 Mortgage companies want to know what the water
25 quality is in that private well. You know human

1 beings should also want to know what they're
2 drinking and putting in their body. Right? For
3 themselves and their families.

4 So I really, really would love to have that
5 document have at least something in it that talks
6 and speaks to the fact that these groups who were
7 included, involved, invited and what did they tell
8 us? That's all.

9 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah, understood. Thank you for
10 that, Lori.

11 LORI MATHIEU: Good work. I look forward to seeing it.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else? Any other
13 questions for Virginia? Comments?

14 MARTIN HEFT: Mr. Chair?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes?

16 MARY SOTOS: So just an update on the drought
17 workgroup, because I still haven't seen a report
18 yet?

19 VIRGINIA de LIMA: We expect to get the report before
20 our next meeting next week and we'll take a look
21 at it, run it through the advisory group to see if
22 they have any input to it and pass it along to you
23 folks.

24 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Thank you.

25 DAVE RADKA: Just, Martin, I don't know if you heard,

1 but they have finalized all of their
2 recommendations. They had finalized them probably
3 a good month ago. There are myriad
4 recommendations. As we've talked about, some have
5 already been adopted by your group and other
6 agencies.

7 So there will be in the report a note of
8 that, that it may have been adopted in whole or in
9 part at this point. But at this point they're
10 simply just trying to finalize their overall
11 report, which is quite lengthy, to make sure that
12 it passes muster with everyone.

13 But the recommendations themselves, they're
14 in full agreement. As I said, you should be
15 getting it before our meeting next week.

16 MARTIN HEFT: Okay. Thank you for the update.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia, David, is that it for your
18 group? Virginia, David, all set?

19 DAVE RADKA: All set. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your work.

21 Alecia, Josh?

22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So the new news from the advisory
23 group is that we have gotten feedback on the
24 outline for the white paper on source water
25 protection. We will be sending around to the

1 advisory group as well as the other groups and
2 networks working on source water protection
3 essentially a sign-up to help draft sections of
4 that white paper.

5 So I will be sending that around probably
6 early next week or later this week to give folks
7 an opportunity to sign up to draft pieces of that
8 so it's not all on the advisory group's shoulders.

9 So we'll be sending it to the agencies, to
10 everyone on this group, again to the other circles
11 that are working on source water protection to
12 give everyone an opportunity to help out with
13 that.

14 We also sent around essentially a workplan
15 for the solar siting stakeholder group. There are
16 some things that still need to be fleshed out. We
17 will have a small group working on that going
18 forward. We'll be sending that back up to the
19 Water Planning Council for you guys to take a look
20 at, because what we really need going into this is
21 some strong policy stances on what we would like
22 to see to help protect water through the solar
23 siting process. So you'll be seeing that probably
24 in the next month or two, probably the month after
25 next.

1 And I think Virginia covered the issue of the
2 survey. I don't have anything to add to that.

3 Although, Virginia, I think you did say you
4 were going to check in with Mary Ann one more
5 time. Am I waiting? Are we going to wait for
6 that, or are we just going to go ahead and press
7 forward?

8 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I have not yet checked with Mary
9 Ann. I was planning to do that just out of
10 courtesy before we did it, and I can certainly do
11 that in the next day or two.

12 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay. Thank you.

13 And did I forget anything, Josh?

14 JOSH CANSLER: No, that covers it.

15 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, I have a question, if I might?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

17 LORI MATHIEU: I was trying, trying last week to catch
18 up with Denise to talk about the emphasis of the
19 source water protection outline, which I started
20 looking at last week. And so I asked my staff if
21 they had input, and they can't quite recall.

22 So could I ask what the intent of the paper
23 is?

24 DENISE SAVAGEAU: You want me to take that, Alecia?

25 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes, go ahead, Denise.

1 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Okay. So I had asked the Water
2 Planning Council advisory group and/or the state
3 water plan implementation team to look at source
4 water protection. There were several reasons why
5 this kept coming up. One was the work of the
6 Governor's Council on Climate Change, where there
7 was a lot of emphasis on source water protection
8 and what we needed to do there.

9 Another piece was the work that the watershed
10 lands group was doing, and they were focused on
11 this but they were, you know, had some very, very
12 specific things. They were focused, but it became
13 obvious with some of that discussion that not
14 everyone was looking at source water protection
15 and what we needed to do.

16 And so I took a look at the state water plan,
17 and actually in some of the implementation actions
18 in the state water plan it talked about that we
19 needed to have a look at the federal -- the
20 Drinking Water Act as well as the Federal Clean
21 Water Act, and make a comparison between those in
22 terms of, okay. What does one require? What does
23 the other require? How do they complement each
24 other?

25 So putting all of those together, it was

1 obvious that we need to look at source water
2 protection, and how we could make sure that some
3 of the work that we're doing overlaps and
4 complements each other.

5 And so as we were talking about how to get
6 this done, Virginia and Alecia came up with, let's
7 do a white paper. And the intent of the white
8 paper is to say, here's what these two acts are.
9 Here's what the State is doing. Here is what all
10 of the Water Planning Council agencies are doing
11 in terms of source water protection -- and then to
12 see if there are any gaps.

13 We know that the lead for source water
14 protection is the Department of Public Health.
15 But there's a lot -- there's a big role for all of
16 the other agencies in source water protection. So
17 when you talk about source water protection, let's
18 say you're talking about drought, and OPM takes
19 the lead there. While you're talking about
20 drought and taking the lead, you know, that's a
21 quantity issue. And how do we protect our source
22 water during drought?

23 Obviously, DEEP has a huge a huge position
24 and role to play in source water protection with
25 their part of the Clean Water Act. And that's,

1 again how does the Safe Drinking Water Act and how
2 do the Clean Water Act complement each other?

3 And so the idea was supposed to take a look
4 at that and say, then how do these programs, when
5 we're talking about source water protection, work
6 together? And again, to identify any gaps and how
7 we can best support source water protection moving
8 forward looking at the work that the source water
9 collaborative is doing as well as some others.

10 And you know one of the reasons I am
11 extremely involved is that USDA and NRCS has, in
12 the farm bill, has identified source water
13 protection is a major effort that needs to take
14 place. So we've been working on that.

15 And we're also looking at the initiatives
16 nationally that's coming to the forefront, and
17 that's about one water. And that's about looking
18 at that. You know we can't separate out source
19 water and drinking water supplies with, let's say,
20 waters going into Long Island Sound or whatever.
21 We have to recognize it's all one water -- and how
22 does it interrelate? And that's the other thought
23 process with source water protection.

24 LORI MATHIEU: So I guess when I look at that outline,
25 I don't get all of that. And I wanted to tie it

1 back to the pieces and parts that are in the state
2 water plan and there's -- there's parts in
3 different -- on page 5-8, there's different
4 pieces.

5 And so I guess I would I would ask that you
6 look back, because part of it was to look at the
7 current laws, the current policies, but I can't
8 find it right now -- but there is a specific
9 pathway, I believe, that speaks to specifically
10 source water protection for drinking water
11 supplies.

12 And there was a recognition to look at
13 policies, federal, state, local, regional laws and
14 that's specific to drinking water. So that's all,
15 Denise, that I wanted to chat with you about, and
16 there definitely are gaps.

17 You know there used to be a strong policy
18 that said that we protected our drinking water
19 supplies under a multi-barrier approach. That
20 doesn't exist anymore, I don't think, but that's
21 something that we should look at, is the state C
22 and D plan.

23 We should look at current policies. We
24 should look at current laws. We should look at --
25 and that's, I would like to tie it back to the

1 state water plan and work toward that end, to
2 implement another area that we knew was
3 important -- but thank you for that.

4 So I did give you my comments, and I don't
5 know if you're going to be able to address them.

6 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. So I think that there's, you
7 know, anything that comes in, we put the draft out
8 as how to look at the report and kind of the
9 chapters of the report. The idea being that if
10 someone comes up with something, it's kind of --
11 the outline was kind of, if you will, almost like
12 how we expect to tackle the report, almost like a
13 table of contents.

14 Prior to developing that, I had actually sent
15 a letter to Alecia and Virginia and I forwarded
16 that letter to you so that you saw that's where
17 that came from. If other folks haven't seen that,
18 I can certainly make sure that we get that
19 forwarded.

20 I actually looked and saw that Bruce Wittchen
21 had sent it around -- or actually thought he had
22 sent it around, because it says, here's Denise's
23 letter. But when I clicked on it, it had a missed
24 link. It wasn't linked up to the right document.
25 So we'll make sure that everybody gets a copy of

1 that original letter, because that -- that informs
2 the outline.

3 And I guess what I would say about the
4 outline is we would not expect it to be a static
5 document. If there's something missing or if
6 there's something that, hey, this doesn't really
7 fit, we expect it to be a working outline, not set
8 in stone.

9 LORI MATHIEU: So is it specific to drinking water, or
10 not?

11 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Source water protection? Yes,
12 specific to drinking water.

13 LORI MATHIEU: All right. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else.

15 We're all set, Alecia, Josh?

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: We're all set. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Let's move on to
18 WUCC update.

19 Lori?

20 LORI MATHIEU: I don't have anything new from my staff.
21 We did have an implementation meeting on May 19.
22 It went well. The breakout groups are up and
23 running and focusing on their areas.

24 And again, the meetings are open to the
25 public. And when I see more details from my staff

1 I will forward it along so that everyone can see
2 them as an outcome of those meetings.

3 So I hope that you're all taking advantage of
4 the fact that these meetings are open, and you can
5 come and participate. And again, I'll share with
6 you the details when I get them from my staff.

7 That's all I have, jack.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

9 Watershed lands workgroup, we're going to
10 hear from Alecia and Josh today -- or Josh.

11 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I'm going to send another reminder to
12 Alley to move that back under the water planning
13 advisory group. There's no specific report on
14 that at this point. Is that correct, Karen?

15 KAREN BURNASKA: No, just one addition I would make --
16 that it is not. I think it should fall under the
17 WPCAG report.

18 I just wanted to let you know -- and I see
19 Margaret is on also -- that the watershed lands
20 group are Margaret and I, for the group, are
21 continuing to review the legislative process of
22 approving the conveyance of lands to make certain
23 that, not only legislators, but the public are
24 aware that transfers of land often -- or have in
25 the past and will continue to be source water or

1 aquifer protection Lands.

2 And concern that that information be made --
3 or is available, not only in the wording of the
4 legislation, but that people of the public and
5 legislators are aware of this land being proposed
6 for transfer.

7 And I see Margaret is there, and I'll let you
8 continue if you've got anything.

9 MARGRET MINER: No -- yes, hi. That's pretty much it.
10 We submitted some testimony on the conveyance act
11 just pointing out some of the basics that we're
12 missing from a public point of view, like what did
13 we pay for this land? And what are we going to
14 get for it?

15 But also pointing out that there's little --
16 well, actually no information on the natural
17 resources, the water resources.

18 I wanted to -- I think I've mentioned it
19 before, but there is legislation out there which
20 went through GAE unanimously -- and I've mentioned
21 the bill. But it actually transfers much of
22 the -- it transfers the Properties Review Board
23 over to under the Legislature, under the
24 administration of the Legislature. And it
25 broadens its review with respect to all agency

1 lands and what they can, what they're doing, what
2 they can do.

3 It becomes much more of a true administrative
4 agency, not just a review -- or let's say, a
5 review with more teeth, not an after-the-fact
6 review, which is what they mostly do now.

7 I found it extremely surprising that the
8 executive branch would want to cede this much
9 authority over -- state-owned properties over to
10 the Legislature. However, I understand some of
11 the advocacy behind it from the Governor's office.
12 From the point of view of tracking state land, who
13 owns it, what's happening to it, how is it being
14 conveyed.

15 This certainly changes the landscape, and I'm
16 surprised there's been so little comment. The
17 properties review board, with whom I've
18 communicated in the past very freely, hasn't been
19 responsive -- but I don't blame them.

20 I said, where are you? And am I
21 congratulating you? What's going on? And
22 understandably, they may not know what's going on.

23 So, I hope that OPM can perhaps clarify this
24 as -- maybe as it develops to see how it does
25 change things. But to me the Legislature already

1 has considerable powers in the regulatory realm
2 where, let's say, DEEP and DPH usually; in most
3 states they don't have to pass every single
4 regulation through the Legislature.

5 And now it appears to me that the Legislature
6 is going to have more authority with respect to
7 state owned properties. So, I'm a little
8 concerned that the separation of powers is
9 blurring. And in particular, we have to keep an
10 eye on watershed land properties. Who owns them?
11 Where are they, and who do we talk to now?

12 So that's my sideline sidebar on our
13 watershed lands concerns.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Margaret. Any questions for
15 Margaret.

16 MARTIN HEFT: Margaret, do you have the bill number for
17 that?

18 MARGRET MINER: I think I've given it to you, and I've
19 testified on it. And I don't have it right in
20 front of me --

21 MARTIN HEFT: That's no problem. I was just going to
22 look it up to see what the status was. I can.
23 I'll try to find it. Thanks.

24 MARGRET MINER: Yeah, it went through GAE unanimously.

25 KAREN BURNASKA: It is six-five-seven-seven.

1 MARGRET MINER: Thank you.

2 MARTIN HEFT: Thanks.

3 KAREN BURNASKA: And there was a considerable amount of
4 testimony. In fact, they even pulled in from OPM,
5 Martin, in opposition to it; the Connecticut Land
6 Conservation Council, from Forests and Parks
7 Association, and From the Department of
8 Agriculture.

9 And I wish I had the status of it also. I
10 did look. We're at six-five-seven-seven.

11 MARGRET MINER: So I assumed when I first read it that,
12 of course, OPM -- but I read the bill before I
13 looked at the vote.

14 I thought, well, of course the Governor won't
15 like this. Then I looked at the unanimous vote,
16 and I thought, hmm. Maybe somebody in the
17 Governor's office does like this. So that was my
18 confusion, and that's the situation now.

19 And I thank you for looking up where it is,
20 because I was trying to.

21 KAREN BURNASKA: And Martin, let me correct myself. It
22 wasn't OPM. I was looking right at you on the
23 screen. It was DAS who submitted testimony in
24 opposition. It wasn't OPM, Martin.

25 MARTIN HEFT: No, that's fine. Right now the bill is

1 still waiting it's table for the house calendar,
2 so we don't -- there's no action on it at this
3 time yet, so.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe it will just be tabled during the
5 week, Margaret. They've got a lot of work to do.

6 MARGRET MINER: Well, I'll take a look. I mean, the
7 Department of Agriculture -- aside from some
8 environmental groups, the Department of
9 Agriculture, I believe the Department of
10 Corrections, and of course the Connecticut
11 Lottery.

12 There was quite a range of stakeholders who
13 complained, and it didn't seem to make -- cause a
14 ripple in the politics, but maybe at this point
15 people will have slowed down and think about it a
16 little more.

17 I'll try and track it and see if we can do
18 anything helpful to -- what do they say these
19 days? For clarification. What are you doing?

20 I'll try to track it.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

22 Lori, the private wells update?

23 LORI MATHIEU: Private wells, let's see. I await the
24 report from the private well group with a lot of
25 anticipation. And for us, you know we have a

1 small program within the Department of Public
2 Health, and private wells are regulated directly
3 by local health.

4 We would really like to -- we're going to
5 take a very long hard look at, now that it's June,
6 we start coming up with concepts for the next
7 legislative session and during this month.

8 And so this is one thing that's under
9 consideration by us, is to move forward with some
10 minimal protection mechanisms for private wells.
11 So that's why I'm very excited to hear about your
12 report, and it would be even more exciting if I
13 saw that there was some active representation from
14 some of the opposition groups.

15 And we'd love their input directly, because
16 we know we will get opposition -- but for private
17 wells we're excited to see the report and move
18 something forward. Even if it doesn't even make
19 it out of our department, you know the information
20 that we've been able to pull together working with
21 the USGS that we hope to present on, I think not
22 next month, but the month after in August to this
23 group will be impactful.

24 And I'm glad the inclusion of uranium and
25 arsenic is an important factor. And the science

1 behind what USGS was able to put together with my
2 team is important. So more to come on private
3 wells.

4 And you know the emphasis on trying to put
5 together the data system is also very important as
6 well. And you know we continue to work on that
7 every day. And also there's some interesting
8 projects that are coming up. The uranium and
9 arsenic project has brought up some interest on
10 behalf of the Council of Governments and some
11 municipalities do want to do more with testing of
12 their private wells in their communities for the
13 benefit of their citizens.

14 So more to come, and I'm very excited to see
15 this report when it's ready. And I can't wait to
16 work with all of you on it. So thank you.

17 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Lori, since I spoke before I've
18 looked in the report itself, and there was a
19 representative from the real estate association
20 who was an active participant in it. I've also
21 left a message for Mike passing along your
22 question and your concern.

23 LORI MATHIEU: Great, thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori. Do you want us to put
25 on the agenda about the water conservation and

1 fixtures?

2 LORI MATHIEU: What? I couldn't hear you, Jack.

3 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I can't hear you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you hear me now?

5 LORI MATHIEU: Barely.

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: A little bit. A little bit.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you hear me?

8 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. Speak up.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: You wanted something about water
10 conservation fixtures on the agenda?

11 LORI MATHIEU: Oh, I did. Yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: So what would you like to talk about?

13 LORI MATHIEU: Well, I know that I don't want to forget
14 about it.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we're not forgetting about it. We
16 said we were going to work on it between now and
17 the next session.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Okay.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: We're not forgetting about it. Graham
20 and I had a meeting, as you know, with DAS and
21 Consumer Protection about looking at legislation
22 for next year.

23 So you just said they're coming up with
24 concepts for next year, so I imagine that that
25 would be one of the things we'll be looking at

1 based upon some of the information that came out
2 of the whole Mary Ann Dickinson thing.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: DCP, I imagine depending on how things
4 go, with recreational marijuana will certainly
5 have a lot on their plates. But certainly the
6 Water Planning Council might be able to provide
7 them with some assistance -- but time will tell.

8 LORI MATHIEU: So our colleagues at DAS last month
9 published the plumbing codes, as they are apt to
10 do. There they adopt the international plumbing
11 codes from time to time, and they just went
12 through that public process in May.

13 We've reached out to them and plan to chat
14 with them about the changes and how it affects our
15 work, but it strikes me as an opportunity because
16 it's DAS, that through the state building
17 inspector that moves these things forward.

18 So I don't know if it's worthwhile for us to
19 chat with DCP and DAS, and our four agencies to
20 talk this through this month so that we might tee
21 up a proposal that all of us might be able to live
22 with for the summer.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: It's fine with me.

24 If we can get a meeting set up?

25 LORI MATHIEU: Sure.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham and Martin, are you okay with
2 that? We'll have to notice the meeting.

3 And Graham, you seemed -- the last time you
4 facilitated, Graham. Could I delegate that to you
5 to set up a meeting, please?

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: Absolutely, I'd be happy to.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And again, it would probably be
8 obviously after next week, because we've got a lot
9 going on.

10 But Lori, you're correct. I mean, because
11 before you know it we'll be getting our
12 legislation submitted to OPM and the governor's
13 office, so we should move on this now.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Good. Excellent. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 And finally, drought workgroup update?

17 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody.

18 So with the recent rainfall it's been adequate to
19 restore a lot of our drought indicators at the
20 moment. We are not having a June meeting this
21 Thursday. It has been canceled, noticed one hour
22 earlier today.

23 Also we're still awaiting, as I mentioned
24 earlier, the report so we can finalize changes
25 that we're looking at in the drought plan in order

1 to move things forward. So that kind of is on
2 hold it right now. So that's the update I have
3 for the interagency drop workgroup.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much.

5 Any questions for Martin?

6
7 (No response.)

8
9 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Any new business?

10
11 (No response.)

12
13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Any public comment?

14 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI:** Yeah. Hi, I have a public
15 comment.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Sure.

17 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI:** So I have a question. Because
18 spring started and everybody is working from home,
19 the leaf blowers are making a lot of noise. And
20 the City of New Haven, we're looking into
21 legislation to prohibit the gas leaf blowers.

22 And I thought it was just a noise problem,
23 but apparently it's a pollutant. And I wanted to
24 know if the watersheds are protected from garden
25 equipment and from leaf blowers.

1 And there's a there's a report that I found
2 in an article that is reporting from the EPA from
3 1997, that a lot of gasoline is spilled into the
4 ground, and it's significant. I was not aware of
5 it.

6 So I wanted to know if this is on anybody's
7 radar, and if anybody checked this?

8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** I'm going to defer to Lori Mathieu on
9 that. The Department of Public Health. Are you
10 checking on that?

11 **IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI:** And this is also under the realm
12 of prevention, prevention of water pollution.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Right. Maybe either, I guess, Graham or
14 Lori?

15 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Yeah, I'd be happy to speak to that to
16 some extent.

17 So certainly DEEP does engage in spill
18 prevention as well as spill response. Now certain
19 businesses are required by law to have spill
20 prevention plans, but many of the uses that you're
21 speaking to, I believe, would be for either
22 personal use, or small enough contractors that may
23 not be required to have a spill prevention plan.
24 But certainly DEEP does engage at the national
25 level and the regional level on device

1 requirements with respect to gasoline.

2 So you might have noticed over the past
3 several years if your gas can -- if you had to go
4 and buy a gas can recently, that there's a lot of
5 new apparatus on there, which actually in my
6 opinion maybe causes more spilling than it
7 prevents, but it really was designed, I think, to
8 prevent vapor losses.

9 So we do get engaged in those discussions,
10 but that's more at a national level with respect
11 to container standards for gasoline.

12 When I used to work for a contracting company
13 they had the spill can. Now I think it's more of
14 a vapor issue -- but I think you bring up a good
15 point. Certainly -- maybe one thing we could look
16 at is trying to incentivize the purchase of
17 battery operated equipment. Certainly that has
18 become a more viable alternative for residential
19 use. Commercial, maybe not quite as much.

20 So this is one of those issues where you know
21 we need to look to ourselves to change some of our
22 behavior. And DEEP does work on campaigns to try
23 to promote elimination of, or reduction of
24 pollution to the environment or eliminating the
25 possibility of spills or how extensive they can

1 be.

2 So you bring up a really good point and
3 something I'll bring back to our waste team to see
4 if there's any campaign that they have in the
5 works in advance of the mowing season, which is,
6 besides my lawn, is already firmly in place as you
7 can all hear in the background. Which goes to
8 also fertilizing lawns. Right?

9 So that's something that's Lori and I talk
10 about a lot. And you know the less you fertilize
11 the better the grass you have. If you do water,
12 if you water it properly, and if you are planting
13 seeds that are more drought resistant, then maybe
14 you won't be cutting as much and maybe you won't
15 be using those small engines as often.

16 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: So can I just quote the number
17 that is in this article?

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Please.

19 IRIS HERZ KAMINSKI: So the United States refuels their
20 leaf blowers and lawnmowers; they spill
21 approximately 17 million gallons of gasoline onto
22 the ground each summer, gas that seeps into the
23 water -- okay? And that goes on.

24 And to put that into comparison, they
25 compared it to the Exxon Valdez oil spill from 1989

1 that dumped 11 million gallons into the Prudhoe
2 Bay -- the crude, near Alaska.

3 So I'm just giving the numbers. So it's true
4 that these are -- it's spread all over the United
5 States. It's not in one place, but you know, if
6 people use that in their lawn -- I don't know if
7 it's significant if somebody spills one gallon
8 near his well, if that's significant or not. I
9 just don't know, because it --

10 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** It absolutely is significant. And you
11 know it's a good point. I actually worked on a
12 case where -- I think it was in Canton where
13 someone was selling their home and they had put
14 the home on the market. They wanted to get it
15 nice, nice and clean and ready for showings.

16 They had a problem starting their lawn mower.
17 They flipped over the lawnmower to work on the
18 blade, emptied the gas and the mower by mistake
19 and they knocked out their well, and two or three
20 neighbors' wells.

21 And that wasn't discovered until the
22 transaction had occurred because the sample had
23 already been collected.

24 And to Lori's point, you know a potability
25 test, it does not require analysis for chlorinated

1 solvents or for gasoline compounds; no benzene,
2 toluene, xylene.

3 So yeah, we definitely are aware that even
4 little spills can cause big problems, and that's
5 something that we should really look at. So I
6 appreciate you bringing that to us. Trying to
7 make people aware that it's important to be safe
8 with your gas, and if you do spill it, to clean it
9 and how best to do that.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I have un-muted briefly to
11 underscore Iris's point.

12 GRAHAM STEVENS: I hear. I hear. I wonder why we all
13 have low level headaches all day. With the
14 noises, it's terrible. I cut my lawn when I do,
15 on the weekends. I don't have a service, so I
16 guess my neighbors are mad that I'm cutting my
17 lawn on the weekends when they have contractors
18 cut it during the week.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other public comments this
20 afternoon?

21 MARGRET MINER: I did, Jack. It's Margaret.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

23 MARGRET MINER: I'll send a memo, but it's really going
24 over a comment that I made in the Water Planning
25 Council advisory group, which started to get my

1 attention with the Aquarion diversion.

2 What caught my attention was that the people
3 concerned who are well educated, community
4 involved people, none of them understood or had
5 any familiarity -- and I'm not sure they easily
6 could have.

7 I said, well, have you spoken -- is it in the
8 WUCC plan? Have you spoken to your council of
9 governments? Have you seen the utilities water
10 supply plan? That would help you to understand
11 where these ideas are coming from.

12 Let me include legislators in people that
13 aren't familiar with these plans and have
14 difficulty, difficulty drawing information from
15 what they hear.

16 There was one man who wrote a very good
17 letter to the -- Peter McGuinness to the
18 Connecticut Post. And he made a serious effort.
19 He wanted to talk about the diversion and water
20 planning versus housing planning.

21 But he made a serious effort to go in. On
22 his own he found WUCC plans. He could not exactly
23 understand what they were, but he found them and
24 he commented. He commented on the number of
25 plans.

1 And when I talk to people and I said, well,
2 could you look at the plan? There's the WUCC
3 plan. There's the water supply plans. There's
4 OPM's overall plan. There's a state water plan.
5 There are DPH rules that apply to water planning.

6 There's separate drought plans in different
7 municipalities, and different utilities have
8 different plans. These plans, I can tell you
9 having worked on quite a few of them, are not
10 necessarily consistent. And it led me to think on
11 our 20th anniversary of doing planning, and I
12 would say perhaps the most intensive -- and
13 certainly the most economical planning was done at
14 the very beginning. Anyone who was around it -- I
15 think I know Virginia remembers this.

16 I think it was the summer of 2002, none of us
17 ever got outside. We did planning. We produced a
18 very nice plan -- that was the unanimous rejection
19 of recommendations to the Water Planning Council
20 group were not accepted. So that was back then.

21 But I'm looking at the thousands of hours and
22 into the millions of dollars that we've spent
23 planning since 2001. And what has changed in
24 terms of what happens on the ground? Certainly,
25 from the point of view of protecting natural

1 waters, practically nothing has changed.

2 The changes that are sort of pending are
3 changes that have come -- they may never happen,
4 but at least they're actionable that have come
5 from citizen action groups like the Shepaug River
6 advocates, like the advocates in Bloomfield. And
7 they've gone to the Legislature, and they've gone
8 to the courts. But what's coming out of the Water
9 Planning Council that is changing anything that we
10 do?

11 We have a multitude of plans that are not
12 necessarily consistent. I was further inspired by
13 Lori Matthew asking, what is Connecticut's water
14 policy? I think she meant for drinking water, but
15 where is it written? How do we know what it is?

16 Oh, we didn't get around to making that
17 clear. How many years? How many hours? I think
18 the cost benefit analysis, we would not get a good
19 grade.

20 In going through one of the technical
21 revisions, I took a look at what, you know, I went
22 back to the original state water plan statute,
23 because it was right there. And I didn't even
24 recognize it as a statute, because we're so far
25 away from having worked on it.

1 The first one is, they shall design a unified
2 planning programming budget. Do we have a unified
3 planning programming budget?

4 I know that the science is lacking. We're
5 still trying to get a water budget. The science
6 in the state water plan did not get us down to the
7 actual planning units, which are the subregional
8 watersheds, because they didn't have the time.
9 And if we wanted to get the science and the data
10 to look at the planning units, the subregional
11 units, they had other software for us to buy.

12 One of mine that I noticed in there was the
13 setup and conflict resolution process. That
14 should be simple. The Aquarion diversion, ideal
15 to be the kind of thing; you don't want to spend a
16 fortune on lawyers and going to adjudications.

17 At least you could attempt -- attempt
18 negotiation and reconciliation before going. I
19 don't say it should be required, but I think it
20 would have saved both sides money and maybe
21 sharpened up the arguments on both sides.

22 My question is, one reason I don't think --
23 we keep spinning our wheels and not really making
24 change, not addressing the problem, not changing
25 anything of the problems we've all identified, is

1 there is really nobody in charge. There's not a
2 lead, administrative lead or a lead agency.

3 You all have identified in the water plan
4 that the Water Planning Council is not a unit.
5 You are three separate agencies, and when
6 something like the dispute of the Aquarion
7 diversion -- and I have a few others in mind that
8 are coming along -- nobody says, oh, let's go to
9 the Water Planning council and see what they say
10 about this.

11 You know, you go to CEQ before you go to
12 Water Planning Council.

13 So my urging -- at least you had told me not
14 to be so negative. It's only 20 years -- seeing
15 her behind me -- and in 2023 we have a chance to
16 update the state water plan. Well, I think, oh my
17 God.

18 Kurt Westphal, by the way, told me he had
19 never worked in a state that had so many plans,
20 which on paper are all supposed to be consistent
21 with each other.

22 So we have an opportunity in 2023 to update
23 the plan. Thank you, Alecia, for that reminder.
24 I can't wait -- but let's please identify three or
25 four things that absolutely need to get done.

1 Even with drought planning, we've sort of improved
2 some aspects of it. But everybody agrees, it's
3 not organized between the utilities, the towns,
4 the State. That's still a catch-as-catch-can from
5 town to town.

6 So there are at least three or four -- I know
7 Dan Lawrence at the WUCCs are working on it, but
8 nobody knows what the WUCCs do. Nobody can read
9 their plans. They're incomprehensible to the
10 average person.

11 At any rate, please -- I hope that we'll
12 identify a few things. They've already been
13 identified one way or another in the water plan.

14 And try to get change. Try to have a clear
15 policy, a plan, something that people can read
16 and, you know, understand -- and that's not that
17 easy, but it could be simpler than what we have
18 now, and identify some steps for actually doing
19 something, which will probably require bumping
20 heads and will require someone who will have to
21 say to people like me or people like David Radka,
22 my friend, sorry. You're not getting what you
23 want here. This is what we're going to do. This
24 is what the State needs, whatever.

25 So I will send a memo outlining some of the

1 data on some of the information I was putting into
2 this speech, and also what I noticed in the state
3 water plan that we haven't done -- and hope that
4 we can pick up the pace of change, because we are
5 actually, in terms of water quality and water
6 security, our headwaters are a mess. They're
7 unprotected.

8 We're not making -- we're not doing what we
9 should be doing as a water planning council, but
10 the Legislature will be winding up. So we can fix
11 it all over the summer.

12 That's my speech of concern from an exhausted
13 planner. Thank you for your attention.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Margaret. I just want to
15 respond to you. I mean, one of the things that I
16 certainly am frustrated as a utility regulator
17 is -- you're right. We do a terrible job
18 educating the public.

19 PURA has finally -- over the last six months
20 we have a website, we have a twitter account. We
21 have a Facebook. When we do a decision we have Q
22 and A's after the decision.

23 And we spend all this time and money on
24 water, gas, electric, telecommunications, cable,
25 but we don't really get out there in an effective

1 way to the public. I can't agree with you more.

2 But we did spend a million bucks on a plan.
3 The Water Planning Council did get involved, if
4 you remember, with the whole sale of the quarry in
5 New Britain. I think that we were very
6 responsible for stopping that whole process.

7 We got involved with the whole dilemma they
8 had up in UConn in terms of interconnection. I
9 think we were very much a part of that process.

10 But like you said, we don't have the
11 legislative teeth right now to do it, and it's
12 something we could look at moving forward. I
13 think we have the four main agencies. We have the
14 advocacy group. We have everybody here to do it,
15 but it's just how we do it.

16 MARGRET MINER: You have the right people in the room.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: It's just how we -- I'm not disagreeing
18 with you.

19 MARGRET MINER: Okay. Thanks, Jack.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 THE CHAIRMAN: Now our next meeting on the agenda said
25 July 1st, but it should be --

1 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, can I make a comment? Maybe just
2 a little comment?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Very briefly, Lori, because I need to
4 get to a taping really soon. So make a brief
5 comment.

6 Lori, can you make a brief comment?

7 MARGRET MINER: He's teasing you.

8 LORI MATHIEU: So I remember the years, Margaret, and
9 Jack, before the WUCC was done that you would ask
10 me time and time again, when is the WUCC going to
11 get accomplished? What's the status of the WUCC?

12 And now that there is a WUCC plan, maybe what
13 we need to do -- because there is a beautifully
14 well written two-page document that summarizes the
15 whole thing.

16 And then there's another 10-pager that
17 Milone & MacBroom, and our colleague Dave
18 Murphy -- who we all love very much because he's
19 such the expert -- wrote a beautiful 10-page
20 document which in September, if everyone's so
21 willing, I can explain the WUCC process to the
22 world in about 20 minutes.

23 Because the list of the top ten items that
24 are needed across the state for water supply are
25 in that WUCC plan, the amount of investment that

1 is necessary to fix some of the major problems
2 that we have -- and I would love to talk to
3 anybody about what those are and how to solve some
4 of these problems.

5 So any time, Margaret, I think in September.

6 MARGRET MINER: Okay.

7 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, there's my one minute. So thank
8 you for that.

9 MARGRET MINER: Okay. Lori and Jack, the important
10 thing is to be in touch with the public when the
11 public cares. When they don't care about
12 something, when it's not on their horizon they
13 don't want general education.

14 There has to be a good way to connect with
15 them when there's something they care about and
16 then be able to explain to them, you know?
17 Preferably catch them up as early as possible, but
18 then --

19 LORI MATHIEU: I agree with you. I agree with you, and
20 that's the challenge of good brisk communication.

21 MARGRET MINER: Yeah.

22 LORI MATHIEU: And also I would say what's missing from
23 this proffer are chief elected officials, town
24 planners, zoning officials, inland wetlands,
25 chairs who don't know anything about wetlands and

1 get no education on it before they're in charge.

2 **MARGRET MINER:** I know.

3 **LORI MATHIEU:** I think they are missing that boat. Not
4 every decision maker is here. Not every decision
5 maker is here. If we had more decision makers
6 here who cared, then that would be -- we would we
7 would be able to get the word out more to more
8 people, you know?

9 **MARGRET MINER:** That's true.

10 **LORI MATHIEU:** We're missing that local input, so --
11 anyway, thank you.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** But you're absolutely right, Lori.
13 Lori, you have to have the council of governments
14 and the first selectmen, and the mayors and the
15 people that chair these local inland wetlands,
16 which you're been involved with for many, many
17 years.

18 The meeting is July 6th, not July 1st.

19 That's on our calendar. There was a typo on this
20 report.

21 **LORI MATHIEU:** July 6?

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** July 6 is the next meeting.

23 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Very, very, very quickly? Lori, I
24 heard back from Mike. The real estate agent
25 person who was there said that there were no

1 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Be safe, everyone.
3 Have a great 4th of July.

4

5 (End: 3 p.m.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

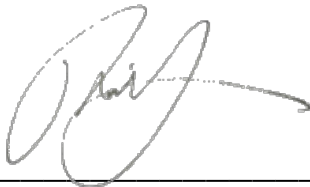
23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 72 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 June 1, 2021.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
BCT Reporting Service
55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A
Plainville, CT 06062

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 INDEX

2
3 VOTES TAKEN
(Unanimous Approval)

4 Description Page
5 5/4/'21 Transcript Approval 3
6 Adjournment 71

7
8
9
10 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

11 DESCRIPTION PAGE(s)
12 M. Sotos: Energy Cap, analytics, agency plans 4-25
13 Water plan, implementation update, survey 26-42
14 Watershed lands legislative process 43-48
15 Private wells, realtor question 48-51
16 Plumbing codes meeting 52-53
17 Drought workgroup update 53
18 Lf. blowers, plan; M. Miner: info, consistency 54-70
19 Realtor answer: no drastic concerns 71
20
21
22
23
24
25