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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
September 7, 2021, beginning at 1:30 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 (on record):**

8 **REP. MARY MUSHINSKY**

9 **MARGARET MINER**

10 **JOSH CANSLER**

11 **KAREN BURNASKA**

12 **MARY ANN DICKINSON**

13 **GANNON LONG**

14 **FRANK GREENE**

15 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

16 **DAVE RADKA**

17 **DARREN HOBBS**

18 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

19 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

20 **ERIC McPHEE**

21
22 **COUNCIL STAFF:**

23 **LAURA LUPOLI**

24

25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. And I hope
2 everyone had a happy and healthy Labor Day
3 weekend. We are here for the Water Planning
4 Council for September 7th. I call the meeting to
5 order. The first order of business will be the
6 acceptance of the August 3, 2021, Meeting
7 transcript.

8 Do I have a motion to approve?

9 LORI MATHIEU: Motion to approve.

10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion to approve the transcript from
12 the previous meeting. Any questions on the
13 motion?

14
15 (No response.)

16
17 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
18 saying, aye.

19 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is approved. Thank you very
21 much.

22 This afternoon we're going to have some
23 informational discussion on a legislative proposal
24 regarding plumbing fixtures and standards. And
25 we've talked about this quite a bit over the last

1 year.

2 Before we go any further, is Representative
3 Mushinsky with us?

4
5 (No response.)
6

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay, we'll stand and look out for
8 Representative Mushinsky. If somebody sees her on
9 the screen before I do, just chat me here.

10 Oh. By the way, we're also being recorded by
11 CT-N today as well, so everybody be aware of that.

12 So we're going to have our presentation to
13 kind of set the tone -- who we've heard from in
14 the past, Mary Ann Dickinson is going to give us a
15 little bit an overview in legislation that's
16 happening in other states, I believe, and things
17 of that nature.

18 And then I'm going to open it up for people
19 that might want to comment on it, people that
20 might be here from other agencies. And then we're
21 going to go into our regular agenda. And at the
22 end again we'll have an opportunity for public
23 comment, as we always do at the meeting. So I
24 just wanted to make sure everybody knows what the
25 agenda is for today's meeting.

1 So with that, Good afternoon, Mary Ann.

2 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Hey there. Hello, everyone.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Nice to see you.

4 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Good to see you too.

5 I think I can share my screen. Does that
6 kind of work?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Okay. Let's see. I've got too
9 many windows open here.

10 Okay. So can you all see that slide?

11 LORI MATHIEU: Yes.

12 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Okay. So we have talked about
13 this quite a bit and I'm not going to spend a lot
14 of time here. I've only got, you know, four or
15 five slides. So we can go through this pretty
16 quickly.

17 But I thought it would be helpful if I just
18 set the stage and just talked a little bit about
19 what we've been discussing in the past.

20 As I think you all know, there are standards,
21 federal standards in the energy -- that were
22 passed in the Energy Policy Act in 1992 that set
23 minimum flow rates for various plumbing fixtures
24 that are typically used in homes and in
25 businesses.

1 The standard was set at 1.6 gallons per flush
2 for a toilet, 2 and a half gallons per minute for
3 a showerhead at 80 PSI, and 1 gallon per flush for
4 urinals. Those are the main ones.

5 And Connecticut over the years adopted those,
6 incorporated the federal fixture standards in the
7 law. And there's the link to it in 21a-86. So,
8 Connecticut follows the federal standards that
9 were passed in 1992.

10 But as we've been discussing, if Connecticut
11 were to mandate reduced fixture flow rates, there
12 would be a considerable amount of water and energy
13 that could be saved that would be at no cost to
14 water utilities that would be occurring as people
15 purchase products in the marketplace and
16 retrofitted in their houses.

17 And what we were discussing was developing
18 standards that would set and correspond to the
19 EPA's, Environmental Protection Agency's
20 WaterSense program. Like, it's a labeling program
21 like Energy Star. It's a water label that
22 certifies fixtures that use water, but they must
23 use 20 percent less water than the federal
24 standard under which they operate.

25 (Interruption.)

1 LORI MATHIEU: Can we mute everyone?

2 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

3 So the standards for WaterSense are basically
4 20 percent reduction off of the federal standards.
5 So toilets are 1.28 gallons per flush; showerheads
6 are 2 gallons a minute; urinals a half a gallon a
7 flush.

8 And although there there's always a question
9 about, well, is it really worth doing it? Don't
10 we already have everything at the federal
11 standard?

12 We did a little bit of work, as you'll
13 remember last year. We looked at Connecticut
14 state level census data and we saw that there's a
15 considerable number of high-flow fixtures that are
16 still in use. Almost half a million single-family
17 3-and-a-half gallon or more toilets, you know, a
18 quarter of a million 3-and-a-half gallon toilets
19 in multi family, and you know, close to 100,000 in
20 commercial and industrial of toilets and urinals.
21 So these are opportunities as these fixtures get
22 retrofitted and replaced for continued savings.

23 And Connecticut would not be alone. In fact,
24 Connecticut is now an outlier. Massachusetts last
25 year passed WaterSense standards for their

1 plumbing fixtures. Maine did the same. They
2 passed WaterSense standards for toilets, but they
3 went even further and adopted California standards
4 which are deeper than WaterSense for showerheads,
5 urinals and lavatory faucets. And so both
6 Massachusetts and Maine did that last year as part
7 of their climate change initiative.

8 New York has passed WaterSense standards.
9 They adopted theirs in 2019 and they're now
10 looking at the California standards as well.
11 Rhode island last year adopted WaterSense
12 standards. Right?

13 And Vermont adopted WaterSense standards,
14 except for toilets in 2018. So they, they still
15 have the federal standard for toilets at 1.6, but
16 they've adopted WaterSense standards for
17 everything else. So only Connecticut and New
18 Hampshire are the only states in the Northeast
19 that haven't gone in this direction.

20 So how much water and energy can be saved?
21 You know, again we've done some
22 back-of-the-envelope calculations at the Alliance
23 for Water Efficiency. You know, these are rough
24 numbers, but we estimated that Connecticut could
25 save 20 percent more water from adopting the

1 standards. Almost 2 billion gallons of water per
2 year could be saved, which is, you know, enough
3 for quite a number of households -- that could be
4 provided, water to those households.

5 But also more importantly for climate change
6 policy, water/wastewater utilities are saving
7 energy from the water that is not delivered and
8 from not being used by consumers.

9 And so we've figured out that it would be
10 probably, you know, close to 7.85 gigawatt hours
11 per year that would be saved, with a total carbon
12 emission reduction of over 4,000 tons of CO2.

13 So you know, they're not huge numbers, but
14 they -- they matter. And I think these numbers
15 can help create the argument that as the Governor
16 is moving forward with his climate change
17 initiative, this is an important contribution to
18 that.

19 So as I said, I didn't want to take up too
20 much time, but what I wanted to also show you was
21 we have a spreadsheet -- which I'm happy to send
22 out. We have updated this spreadsheet. I think
23 you might have seen something like this in the
24 past -- but I can send it out to everyone so that
25 you have it as part of the Water Planning Council

1 materials after the meeting.

2 But it summarizes all the states, not just
3 the Northeast, but it summarizes all the States.
4 It lists when it all went into effect and, you
5 know, statute sections where it's relevant and
6 appropriate.

7 And as I think you all know as well, we
8 worked with the implementation workgroup to
9 develop a one-page fact sheet on it. And so
10 that's still kicking around and available for use.

11 So that's all I wanted to do to sort of
12 kickstart the conversation. I'll turn it back
13 over to Jack.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mary Ann. Mary Ann, I got a
15 chat. Would these slides be made available to the
16 extent --

17 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Absolutely. I will. I will send
18 them, absolutely.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Send them to Alley or to Laura so we can
20 get them -- these are really good. I mean, you
21 really zeroed in on the impact of this, and very
22 interesting.

23 I'm sure Graham might want to add to this,
24 but DEEP came out with a press release today that
25 we're not doing as well as we ought to be in terms

1 of reducing emissions here in the State. That
2 again. So you might say it's not a lot, but
3 everything -- everything adds up.

4 So thank you very much for that presentation.
5 We appreciate it.

6 Any our guests wish to speak today? I know
7 we have some people available.

8 Is Mary Mushinsky with us yet?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If you're going to speak today relative
13 to this topic, and -- again.

14 (Interruption.)

15 **LAURA LUPOLI:** Please mute yourself if you're not
16 speaking.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Okay. So does anybody wish
18 to -- anybody from one of our sister agencies with
19 us today that wishes to speak?

20 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Frank -- I know that Frank Green has
21 joined from Department of Consumer Protection, and
22 Darren Homes might also be on from the Office of
23 State Building Inspector.

24 I'm not sure if either Frank or Darren have
25 any comments, but I just wanted to, Jack, just to

1 comment on your intro remarks.

2 And Mary Ann, your comment that it's not a
3 lot, but certainly, you know, every little bit
4 helps, whether it's for water conservation or
5 energy conservation.

6 You make a great point with respect to the,
7 you know, the cost and the energy that the water
8 utilities need to spend in order to deliver this
9 water. It's also the private homeowners who have
10 wells who, you know, have higher energy bills.
11 And some of these fixtures rely on hot water,
12 which just really exacerbates the energy needs and
13 may not be the most efficient source to heat water
14 as well.

15 So really from my perspective this is
16 something that's important, particularly when you
17 think about the regional marketplace and all of
18 the other states except for New Hampshire, you
19 know, putting these restrictions in place.

20 You know, I've heard discussions of what
21 happened in the 'nineties and, you know, everyone
22 was trying to avoid some of these marketplace
23 dumps of fixtures that were not as efficient.

24 And when it comes down to it, at the end of
25 the day they may be slightly more expensive upon

1 original purchase, but they have great savings for
2 those that install them over the long term.

3 Many of us have older homes. We know the
4 difference you can see in your water bill when you
5 finally replace that old toilet. So yeah. Thank
6 you very much, Mary Ann, for the remarks, and
7 definitely something that you know DEEP is
8 supportive of.

9 You know we've tried to push forward energy,
10 an energy bill that did have water efficiency
11 standards in it as well. Certainly, we want to
12 acknowledge the important role that Department of
13 Consumer Protection plays with respect to the
14 framework and regulations in place for water
15 picture standards.

16 **FRANK GREENE:** So do you want me to speak or -- this is
17 Frank Greene.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Go ahead, Frank.

19 **FRANK GREENE:** No, those are laudable goals. You know,
20 laudable goals save, save energy. I can't, you
21 know, I don't know if my department has got an
22 official position on anything at this point in
23 time. So I can't say that's official, but I can't
24 see where there would be an objection.

25 So, no. I think this is great. It's great.

1 That's all I have to say.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And Frank, thank you very much for that.
3 And our audience should be aware today, the Water
4 Planning Council can weigh in on legislation, but
5 we cannot introduce. We are not statutorily
6 authorized to introduce legislation.

7 What we can do if DEEP, DCP, DAS, we can go
8 up as a group, the four of us and if we're all in
9 agreement, testify. That we absolutely can do as
10 we have done in the past.

11 But we're here basically today as, again as a
12 fact-finding mission, if you will, to see -- again
13 to hear from Mary Ann, to hear from others that
14 might want to weigh in on this.

15 And I was hoping Mary Mushinsky would be
16 here, because I believe she tried -- she's been
17 trying to get something like this done for
18 quite -- she's the Dean of the Legislature now.
19 So she's been trying to get stuff like this passed
20 for quite some time.

21 Anyone else wish to speak?

22 Lori? Lori or Martin?

23 **LORI MATHIEU:** Thank you. Thank you, Jack. Yeah, if I
24 could? You know at the highest level of the
25 Department of Public Health, in their oversight,

1 in our oversight of public water systems statewide
2 is very supportive of any measures to help, help
3 water conservation move forward.

4 And this is one down -- given the slide Mary
5 Ann -- and thank you for your slides. It was very
6 telling to see Massachusetts, Maine, New York,
7 Rhode Island and Vermont all in lockstep except
8 for us and New Hampshire.

9 Many, many years ago we were ahead of the
10 game as a State with minimum standards here, and
11 now we have not evolved to these new standards.
12 And I think it's something that the state water
13 plan, that the Water Planning Council is
14 responsible to oversee and implement. This is an
15 important step, one of the many steps that we need
16 to move forward.

17 You know the Department of Public Health had
18 a retrofit program in the early 1990s -- if anyone
19 recalls that. We helped get people to that next
20 level to help save water back in the early 1990s.
21 And I think now, you know, in a year when it's
22 been -- we've had plenty of water, put it that
23 way -- but in a year? Now is the time to plan,
24 and now it's the time.

25 You know as Graham spoke about energy, I

1 think about the sources of supply where that water
2 comes from and the amount of energy and movement
3 of that water through the pipes to get to the
4 homes that utilize the water, I believe that
5 energy is one of the top expenses that water
6 utilities have.

7 And to move the water from the reservoirs
8 through the pump stations into the water systems
9 and to customers' homes and their taps, it is an
10 expense. But the source of supply itself, to
11 conserve that source of supply, that is invaluable
12 to all of us across our state that consume public
13 water. This will also help people in private
14 wells as well.

15 And to conserve that water is really very
16 important because not every year is going to be a
17 year like we've had today, or like we're seeing
18 today, what we're seeing this past season. You
19 know it's unpredictable what will happen in the
20 future given climate change. So we are quite
21 interested in seeing how we can move this effort
22 forward at the Department of Public Health.

23 So Jack, thank you.

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

25 Martin?

1 MARTIN HEFT: I'm all set. Thank you, Jack.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you, Graham. Any
3 further --

4 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Could I just make a comment, Jack?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure, Mary Ann. Please do.

6 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Since Mary isn't here, the reason
7 Mary is interested in this issue is some of you
8 may remember that she carried the original
9 legislation in 1989 that had Connecticut adopt the
10 1.6 gallons per flush toilet. That was before the
11 federal standards were passed in 1992.

12 So Connecticut and Massachusetts where two
13 leaders in the country at that time that adopted
14 that standard, and Mary carried that bill and
15 remembers, you know, all the work that went into
16 putting it together, and has indicated she's
17 willing to work with us to make it happen again.

18 And so we had hoped she might be here to talk
19 about that, but perhaps at a future meeting we can
20 have her do that.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: And thank you, Mary Ann. Maybe she'll
22 join us later on, but we will keep this ongoing
23 dialogue on our agenda here, for sure, and go back
24 to our respective agencies and report back that
25 the clock is ticking.

1 October 1 is right around the calendar, and
2 right around the corner, and that's usually when
3 legislation starts, I know.

4 Martin, what's usually the deadline at OPM?
5 Is it right around then?

6 **MARTIN HEFT:** Yes, agencies have been asked to get OPM
7 their legislative proposals by October 1st.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. So it is. It's right around the
9 corner. So thank you. The timing of this today
10 has been very good.

11 Any other comments relative to this topic,
12 please? Any other comments?

13 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** Jack, I think Darren, Darren Hobbs
14 wants say a word, which would be great.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Sure. Hi, Darren.

16 **DARREN HOBBS:** I'm sorry. Thank you. I was trying to
17 find -- I'm not familiar with Zoom. I was trying
18 to find a little icon to raise your hand. So I
19 did it for real rather than virtually. Apologies
20 for that.

21 I'm Darren Hobbs. I'm from the Department of
22 Administrative Services Division of Regulatory
23 Compliance. Part of our responsibility is the
24 State Building Code. We're in the process of
25 changing our State Building Code right now.

1 We're moving to what's known as the 2021
2 plumbing code portion of our State Building Code.
3 And that plumbing code also has targets
4 categorized in the same way that Mary Ann set out
5 here, but they do have different values. And I
6 was trying to capture those values at the same
7 time as I was reading the code on the screen. I
8 didn't capture them all, but it looks like some of
9 what Mary Ann is setting out there is more
10 stringent than what we would require through the
11 new State Building Code going into effect about a
12 year from now.

13 So I'd like to take it back, if I may, and
14 just, you know, do a more detailed comparison and
15 perhaps take it to the subcommittee that works
16 under our codes and standards committee and the
17 workgroup that looks at plumbing issues; and see,
18 see how they feel about these, these targets and
19 whether it's something that we could, you know,
20 consider as part of our new state building code.

21 Going forward, you know, we're always in
22 favor of doing things through code rather than
23 statute or regulation, because as we increase our
24 targets in the future they're easier to, you know,
25 move them rather than have to go back and change

1 statute or regulation. It's much easier to do
2 through code. That's always our preference, but
3 absolutely, we're, you know, in favor of anything
4 that does -- pushes our agenda forward in terms of
5 conserving our resources and setting more
6 stringent targets.

7 But we do that through consultation with the
8 broader industry, of course, as well as home
9 builders and the like -- but if that could be
10 included as we go forward on the sharing the
11 slides and other information that were very
12 helpful to us?

13 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. I appreciate you
14 being here. And I see my former colleague who I
15 had the distinct pleasure of serving with for ten
16 years in the State Legislature.

17 Representative Mary Mushinsky, who is Dean of
18 the House, I believe. Mary, Good afternoon. I'm
19 glad you're with us. Could you say a few words
20 for us on this subject?

21 **REP. MARY MUSHINSKY:** I just joined you, and I'm going
22 to have to listen first before I comment. I just
23 got off a vote doing water testing. So, I'm
24 interested in whatever we can do to at the
25 Legislature to conserve water, stretch out our

1 supplies and conserve.

2 MARY ANN DICKINSON: So Mary, what I did a little bit
3 ago before you got on the call was I did a little
4 presentation that explained that there are a
5 number of northeastern states that have already
6 adopted WaterSense level standards which are
7 20 percent more efficient than the federal
8 standards. And Connecticut and New Hampshire are
9 the only ones in the Northeast that haven't done
10 that.

11 And so I also set out in the slides what the
12 amount of savings that would occur, and I sent you
13 a copy of them, the savings that would occur in
14 water and also in carbon reductions, in energy.

15 And Just a very brief outline, and I think
16 that's all we were beginning to discuss was how to
17 move this forward.

18 And I did tell the group that you had carried
19 the original 1989 legislation when Connecticut and
20 Massachusetts were the first states in the
21 country to adopt the 1.6 gallons per flush toilet.

22 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: Okay. And that was a big fight,
23 by the way. That was a huge debate between people
24 who produced and worked with the previous standard
25 and the, you know, it went on for six months at

1 least. So we can -- I think we can anticipate
2 another fight, but I hate being in the company of
3 New Hampshire as the last state to do something in
4 New England.

5 MARY ANN DICKINSON: Well, the good news, Mary, is that
6 the standards that Connecticut would be looking at
7 have been well documented over the past 20 years.
8 All the fixtures that are labeled with WaterSense
9 have gone through performance testing.

10 So all those performance issues when people
11 thought that the 1.6 gallon per flush toilets
12 didn't work in 1989, that all those issues are, I
13 think, largely behind us.

14 Even the Plumbing Manufacturers International
15 supports states going to WaterSense. They just
16 don't support going lower than that.

17 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: Okay. Good to know. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mary. Appreciate it. And
19 we'll keep you -- Mary, we've said the
20 administrative agencies, DAS and Consumer
21 Protection are looking at this, and DEEP.

22 As we move forward, October 1 is the deadline
23 for legislation to OPM. So we'll keep you
24 apprized of how things are moving along.

25 LORI MATHIEU: And I was wondering, Jack, now that Mary

1 is on -- Hi, Representative. How are you? It's
2 Good to see you. Thank you for being here.

3 The impetus of doing what we did and what you
4 did in 1989, was it the '80/'81 drought? Was it
5 along with the water resources task force?

6 Could you expand a little bit on that, if you
7 can recall?

8 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: I think the drought helped,
9 certainly it helped. And the other thing was '89
10 was also the year I did the climate change
11 legislation for the first time, and then another
12 one in 1990.

13 And I had just come back from being briefed
14 by Dr. Hanson who was the first one that briefed
15 Congress about climate change. And it was, it was
16 a scary report.

17 So I came back trying to get the state ready
18 for that, and that was one of the ideas that came
19 out of both climate change and also the drought we
20 had just experienced.

21 The rainfall will be erratic and it won't be
22 as uniform around the year as it was in the
23 historic past.

24 MARY ANN DICKINSON: And Lori, if you'll remember, 1989
25 was also the year that water conservation programs

1 were mandated for all utilities that served 10,000
2 or more customers, not connections, but customers.

3 And so as Dave Kuzminski will remember,
4 that's when we set up that statewide programs
5 through the Connecticut section AWWA committee
6 that you folks had affirmative health approved for
7 the whole state.

8 So that, that was that -- seen here, that was
9 in response directly in response to Governor
10 O'Neill's drought declaration.

11 LORI MATHIEU: So there was a lot going on in the
12 1980s, the '80/'81 drought, and then the water
13 resources task force report, and a lot of work and
14 many laws that were created in the 'eighties along
15 with aquifer protection. That was another good
16 1989 law.

17 But Mary is saying that -- I don't know if
18 you were on when I spoke about the Health
19 Department's role way back when, but we are
20 obviously in support of water conservation and
21 water conservation efforts.

22 They're still part of individual water supply
23 plans now for our larger utilities and the efforts
24 that we need. Because as you just said, Mary,
25 climate change is a scary proposition. We're

1 seeing it front and center, whether -- whatever
2 you wanna call it, we're seeing erratic extreme
3 weather events one after another. And to be well
4 prepared and well positioned is the thing to do,
5 and to have good plans in place, and then to
6 implement those plans.

7 Water conservation is a big part of our state
8 water plan. So I think this effort, in the
9 effort, I'm glad to have our colleagues from DAS
10 and Consumer Protection along with us just to
11 think about where we need to go as a state.

12 So Mary, thank you for being on. I really
13 appreciate that.

14 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: I'm glad you guys are working on
15 this. I'm glad you're being proactive and we
16 don't want to be -- we definitely don't want to be
17 last after New Hampshire. We want to go ahead of
18 them.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: That is for sure. Thank you,
20 Representative.

21 Any other comments before we -- Graham are we
22 missing -- is anybody else on that we should ask
23 to weigh in here?

24 GRAHAM STEVENS: No. I think I appreciate Frank and
25 Darren joining us and listening in on the

1 dialogue. Yeah, I think that covers it very well.

2 Thank you, Jack.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mary. And thank
4 you, everybody, for being here. And Darren and
5 Frank for being with us today. We appreciate it
6 very much. And again, this will be front and
7 center between now and October 1 for sure.

8 So Mary, thank you again.

9 We all know Mike Dietz. Mike is in the front
10 page of the Connector Post this morning. It had a
11 great article about the storms and climate
12 change -- and very, very well written, I think.
13 You can see that. Take a look at that in the post
14 this morning.

15 Okay. Let's move on to the implementation
16 workgroup. Virginia and Dave?

17 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, Jack. We spent a lot of
18 the time in our last meeting talking about the
19 possibility of having some kind of a lead for
20 water. A water director perhaps would be a title,
21 and we did some brainstorming on what types of --
22 of the duties that person would take on, and
23 perhaps what a reporting structure would be and
24 what their responsibilities would be, what their
25 authority would be.

1 And so as part of the discussion we reached
2 out through Tom Tyler to Dave Silverstone who is a
3 consumer counsel, if you will, for the MDC, and
4 also got some job descriptions from some other
5 sources.

6 And so this small group has been working on
7 putting together a job description, a potential
8 job description for that, which we're going to be
9 getting input from the implementation workgroup as
10 well as from the Water Planning Council advisory
11 group, and then sharing it with you folks to see
12 if this is something that is feasible and that we
13 might want to pursue -- and obviously open to any
14 changes in the structure and tweaking of a
15 potential job description.

16 So we're starting that discussion because as
17 you may recall it's come up repeatedly. It was a
18 recommendation in the state water plan and then
19 has periodically come up in various discussions
20 and workgroups over the past three or four years.
21 And just to have somebody who is tasked with
22 keeping on top of this whole process.

23 All of us, all of us on these screens today
24 have other full-time jobs. And so it's not the
25 primary focus of anybody, and we really feel that

1 it would be good if it were somebody's primary
2 focus. So that was a lot of the discussion that
3 we had at our last meeting, and I shared with you
4 a list of some of the ideas that had come up
5 through a brainstorming session as part of that
6 meeting where we were just throwing out thoughts.

7 And the list that you all have was not in any
8 way ranked. It wasn't grouped. It was just the
9 raw information of comments that were made during
10 that. But again, I want to stress that this is
11 the beginning of that discussion and the beginning
12 of that process.

13 We also talked quite a bit about the new
14 implementation tracking and reporting workgroup
15 that we are establishing. Dan Oban and Corinne
16 Fitting are chairing that group. And as you know,
17 we're planning a brainstorming session to focus on
18 that on September 28th, and you all got that
19 invitation.

20 One of the things that we neglected to put in
21 there -- and I may, we may send out another note
22 asking people to let us know if they plan to
23 attend. The number of participants is going to
24 affect how we actually structure the Zoom call,
25 how we facilitate that discussion. It would be

1 very different with 10 people versus 45 people.
2 And so it would be good to know approximate
3 numbers.

4 And also one of the things that I'm
5 considering -- I haven't decided yet, but I'm
6 considering in terms of a format -- would be
7 sharing people's ideas electronically. And for
8 that we would need to give people permission to be
9 part of the -- it actually would be through Google
10 Docs, part of that. So we would need to have the
11 e-mail addresses of the folks who are
12 participating.

13 As I said, we haven't decided yet whether
14 that's a way we would do it, but if we do, it
15 would be important. So I will send out -- I'll
16 resend the invitation requesting that people let
17 us know if they plan to attend.

18 And if anybody in this call forwarded that
19 invitation to other people, I would appreciate
20 that the follow-up notice be forwarded as well.

21 (Interruption.)

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excuse me, Virginia.

23 Please, if you're on the call today and
24 you're speaking to someone else, please put your
25 phone on mute. (203)209-6320, put your phone on

1 mute, please?

2 Virginia, why don't you just tell Mary,
3 Representative Mushinsky very briefly what this
4 tracking group is all about, this tracking
5 workshop that we're going to have?

6 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Well, this again was a
7 recommendation that came out of the water plan
8 itself and we want to come up with some mechanism
9 that at a minimum, absolute minimum, would
10 facilitate reporting the progress of the Water
11 Planning Council's work on implementing the state
12 water plan to the legislature, which as you well
13 know is a requirement, but also would be something
14 that would be useful to agencies and
15 nongovernmental groups of all sorts, whether they
16 be watershed associations or whatnot.

17 And so some of what we need to figure out is
18 what kinds of things we will be tracking. Who is
19 the potential audience? Who will be responsible?
20 How do we capture other ancillary information from
21 agencies or other groups that are working towards
22 implementation of the various things in the water
23 plans who actually will do it?

24 What kind of platform would we be using? Are
25 there any policy or confidentiality concerns?

1 These are some of the questions that we would be
2 addressing through the brainstorming sessions so
3 that we have a sense of the big picture, and then
4 can better formulate a process of going forward
5 and actually capturing what the progress is.

6 Because it would be nice to know if we're
7 moving in the right direction. It would be nice
8 to know if some of the things that are proposed in
9 the state water plan are reasonable or
10 unreasonable, and that maybe we should be tweaking
11 some of the focus.

12 So that's essentially what we're going to be
13 looking at on the 28th, and welcome all, any
14 participants. And we certainly would welcome
15 professionals who have experience in progress
16 reporting or tracking in whatever fields.

17 And I can think certainly say that there are
18 programs within the Department of Health, there
19 are programs within the Department of Social
20 Services that are looking at evaluating what their
21 programs are doing, and that kind of expertise
22 would be welcome in this discussion.

23 **DAVE RADKA:** Virginia, Jack, Graham, Lori, Martin, we
24 picked the date at our last meeting with the hope
25 and expectation that you all would be available

1 and willing to participate. Is that going to work
2 for you?

3 We probably should have been verified
4 before --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I believe it's my calendar.

6 GRAHAM STEVENS: It's on mine as well. I will be
7 there.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin?

9 MARTIN HEFT: Yes.

10 LORI MATHIEU: So we would have to publish this as a
11 Water Planning Council meeting then if all of us
12 are joining?

13 VIRGINIA de LIMA: It would be, yeah. It would be an
14 announced meeting, and if it's because all of you
15 are on it and it's called the Water Planning
16 Council meeting, I think that's great.

17 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, could I ask Virginia a question?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

19 LORI MATHIEU: Virginia, could you explain a little bit
20 more about what you said? My understanding is
21 that this was to develop a tracking mechanism for
22 the work that's being done. You had mentioned
23 just briefly that you were looking for people to
24 come to the table to maybe look at what's in the
25 plan and maybe say something if there's

1 disagreement on that, what's in the plan or make
2 changes.

3 Could you expand on that a little bit? Or
4 maybe I misunderstood.

5 VIRGINIA de LIMA: You may not have misunderstood me,
6 but it was also something that I was sort of
7 saying off the cuff, not something that we have
8 actually focused on.

9 But down the road, not at this meeting, but
10 down the road I think as we get into planning a
11 tracking system and getting input from other
12 people who have done these kinds of analyses in
13 their own programs, it might bring up issues that
14 we would look at in any revisions to the plan,
15 because I think revisions would need to be taken
16 up by the council themselves.

17 DAVE RADKA: Oh, certainly. Certainly, yeah. Anything
18 that we would do would be a recommendation to the
19 Council itself.

20 LORI MATHIEU: Jack, Mary has her hand up. I don't
21 know if you can see that. Mary Mushinsky.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I can. Mary?

23 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: Yeah. I'm just -- you may have
24 already covered this, but there's federal money
25 coming our way for resilience and infrastructure.

1 I'm wondering if any of the Water Planning
2 Council -- or if any of the water plan projects
3 could be done with resilience money from the
4 federal government, because if there are some that
5 could be done we probably should give a short list
6 to the Governor's office and try to get it funded.

7 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Mary, is there a good working
8 definition of what would be authorized under that
9 type of funding?

10 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: All I know is it's fairly vague,
11 and that part of it is supposed to be for
12 resilience and planning, and adjusting to climate
13 change. And that portion I think would suit what
14 the Water Planning Council and the state water
15 plan tries to do.

16 It's worth a try. We've got federal money
17 coming. If we're better prepared than someone
18 else we might be able to fund something in the
19 water plan that isn't being done right now,
20 because we don't have the funding, especially a
21 one-shot thing. Especially something that we're
22 setting up.

23 DAVE RADKA: Isn't the GC3 better suited for that
24 purpose to pull items out of that?

25 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: I'm not sure. I'm giving you, as

1 an example, I have a hospital in my town that is
2 trying to get funding for a patient tracking
3 system that they probably would have liked to have
4 anyway, but there they're writing this up as a
5 COVID related project in hopes of getting funding.

6 And what we're doing here is planning for the
7 future under climate change and for water supplies
8 in the future. I think that fits under
9 resilience.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** And there's all sorts of pipes in the
11 state that still need to be replaced and it's an
12 astronomical figure when it comes to that, and
13 we'll still dealing with that.

14 We've done a lot through the water
15 infrastructure conservation adjustment charge in
16 support of WICA, but I mean that alone we should
17 take a survey of the utilities and see what kind
18 of dollars we're talking.

19 So I think your point, your recommendation is
20 a good one.

21 **REP. MARY MUSHINSKY:** It's a one-shot. You know it's
22 something we could do this year. It might not be
23 available next year, but if there's something we
24 could do and be done with it and protect ourselves
25 in the future, this might be a good time to ask.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Agreed, Representative Mushinsky. And
2 just from DEEP's perspective -- and I know other
3 agencies are looking at federal dollars as well.
4 You know we are analyzing pots of money that could
5 be used for resilience projects.

6 And later on the agenda I think we're going
7 to discuss, to Dave's point, the nexus between GC3
8 and the state water plan, because there there are
9 overlaps, there are areas of the joint interest,
10 just like the water fixtures discussion we had
11 earlier. You know, energy and water conservation
12 are often hand in hand.

13 So we're definitely looking at opportunities
14 to maximize the federal dollars which will be
15 coming to Connecticut to achieve aspects of the
16 state water plan of the GC3 plan, and all of the
17 other plans that we have.

18 You know, these are dollars like you said,
19 that are kind of a slug or one-time increase in
20 funding or potentially competitive pots of money,
21 and we want to ensure that however those dollars
22 are spent they are spent on projects that are well
23 conceived and that achieve hopefully multiple
24 objectives for the State.

25 Even when you talk about the transportation

1 dollars, that that undoubtedly are coming to DOT,
2 you have to think about how those monies are going
3 to be spent and how we're going to use those
4 monies to further make our transportation systems
5 more resilient.

6 LORI MATHIEU: So Mary, that's a really good point.
7 And in the GC3 last year, during COVID we had
8 quite an effort for public health and safety, and
9 produced a very comprehensive report.

10 Part of that report is now encompassed in the
11 Governor's January report, specifically
12 recommendations 51, 52 and 53 within the
13 Governor's report -- specifically 53 in
14 particular.

15 Maybe we will go over this later on the
16 agenda, but 53 focuses in on water. There was a
17 number of recommendations that came out of the GC3
18 public health and safety workgroup that I
19 cochaired last year, and there was also a
20 workgroup, a work team that looked on
21 infrastructure.

22 So the merger of those items are under
23 recommendation 53 -- that could be found in some
24 others, but specifically we're talking about
25 resiliency. We're talking about planning and

1 implementation of plans that are meaningful for
2 public water supply.

3 I'll give you one for example, and Jack
4 mentioned this about water pipes that are
5 necessary. We can't move water from west to east
6 or east to west across the shoreline. If we ever
7 had a major category two or three hurricane that
8 hit us hard, we wouldn't be able to share water
9 between New Haven and New London, or vice versa.

10 There are pipes that are missing, and that
11 infrastructure and the planning for that
12 infrastructure is within the work plan, which
13 you'll hear Eric McPhee talk about. Those are the
14 types of investment that are tens of millions of
15 dollars and the connections that should be --
16 should be in place.

17 So that if -- if and when we are ready for a
18 major hurricane to hit us on our coastline, or
19 anywhere else, that water could be shared north to
20 south and east to west. Those are the types of
21 things that the WUCC plan has done, and is now all
22 in one place.

23 So we also have a drinking water resiliency
24 plan that we work with CIRCA on. So there's a lot
25 of plans that are out there -- and even the

1 drought plan. So we're very lucky to be in this
2 position. I think we're well positioned as a
3 State to be able to implement our plans, including
4 the GC3 under the governor's direction and DEEP
5 direction.

6 You know we're in a good position. Now we
7 just have to work to implement. So good point,
8 Mary. Thank you.

9 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Mary, you mentioned that the
10 guidelines for the federal dollars are fairly
11 vague and broad. Is it possible to use some of
12 those funds as an incentive, if you will, as like
13 a matching situation, but not as if it's a
14 required match to partner with other agencies or
15 groups?

16 And if they come up with a good idea, some of
17 these monies would be used to partially fund that
18 idea. Sort of like, you know, if you're bicycling
19 and a fundraising thing, and you're told your
20 contribution is going to be matched, you're going
21 to probably get more.

22 REP. MARY MUSHINSKY: I don't know, because I'm a state
23 official, but the reason I brought it up was this
24 is all happening at the moment. Like, right now
25 people are trying to maneuver to request something

1 that has to do with resiliency, and they will try
2 to get the attention of legislators on the
3 Appropriations Committee, and they'll try to get
4 the attention of the Governor to show why their
5 particular project fits this definition of
6 resiliency.

7 So if we had something that we thought was
8 ready to go that was already in the plan we could
9 package it up as an item, and then shop it around
10 and try to get the support of the Appropriations
11 Committee, legislators and the Governor.

12 It's just a really good time right now to
13 package something up and turn it in. They may be
14 meeting even in September later this month. They
15 may be meeting, the Appropriations Committee, to
16 start looking at this, possible uses of the
17 federal money.

18 So we ought to be ready for that, is what I'm
19 suggesting. Let's find something in the plan that
20 we could fund and try to get it funded with this
21 one-shot money.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Denise Savageau just sent us a link.

23 There's still ARPA -- and there's still, like, 25
24 million, she's saying, in that, that particular
25 funds. So the regulated private investor-owned

1 water companies they have at their disposal what
2 they need for capital.

3 DENISE SAVAGEAU: If I could Jack? Just quickly, the
4 ARPA funds is a lot of dollars that came into the
5 State. What I put in was the link on what they
6 proposed to use it on at this point. My
7 understanding is they're still looking at
8 25 million. That will be going through the
9 Legislature, as Mary mentioned.

10 And there is definitely in the plan, in terms
11 of what are eligible, you can use it for water
12 supply. You can use it for water resource
13 management. And the Connecticut plan doesn't
14 use -- in terms of Connecticut, not what went out
15 to municipalities. This is just what the State
16 has, not what municipalities have, which is a
17 whole other large amount of money. But what the
18 State has, none of it went towards Water
19 resources, which I was a little bit disappointed
20 that no one did this.

21 And one of the things I'm concerned about is
22 the discussion that Virginia had earlier is that
23 because we don't have one person in charge here,
24 unless one of the agencies on the Water Planning
25 Council takes the lead and says, we're going to do

1 this as a priority for their agency, it's not
2 getting done.

3 So therefore, some of the stuff in the water
4 plan, because it's relegated to this Council and
5 not necessarily an individual, the Department
6 unless they -- unless there's individual pieces
7 they see there, that some of the work that could
8 be happening with the Water Planning Council, like
9 for example, funding, you know, some type of
10 tracking system -- unless someone says, oh, my
11 agency thinks that's important and we're going to
12 put the dollars in, no one is doing that.

13 So that that's another reason for what
14 Virginia said. If we had someone who was working,
15 if you will, for the Council, even if it was
16 through a different agency or however we handle
17 it, they would be saying like, oh, I could put
18 this in and we could do this.

19 So I'm just putting that out there, that we
20 don't have someone really looking at it from that
21 perspective. And I think it's a great example of,
22 you know, how -- how do we get things done and why
23 we think we need this staff person that kind of,
24 you know, puts those priorities in place?

25 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Denise.

2 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think Martin has his hand raised,
3 Jack. He's been waiting very patiently.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin?

5 MARTIN HEFT: Thanks. Thanks, Graham. I'm trying to
6 use the protocols of raising the hand there.

7 So Representative, great to see you. And
8 Denise, thank you for your comments on that as
9 well. I just wanted to kind of tie all us
10 together.

11 As everyone knows, you know one of my jobs
12 that I do is handle the money back to the
13 municipalities regarding the ARPA funds as well as
14 the previous Cares Act funds on that.

15 So municipalities, as has been mentioned by
16 the Representative, as by Denise and others,
17 municipalities get a chunk of money which they can
18 use for water/sewer infrastructure type projects,
19 which is allowable.

20 The State also has that pot of money, if you
21 will. And actually we had a meeting last week
22 internally with some of my staff and some of the
23 people that have helped put together the
24 Governor's plan looking at -- okay. What types of
25 water/sewer type projects might be out there?

1 Part of the problem is that US Treasury has
2 not released guidance yet on this aspect of it.
3 So we are still awaiting guidance of what things
4 will be allowable and what will not be. So we're
5 kind of in a holding pattern.

6 So I just wanted to let people know that it
7 is being looked at, but we are still awaiting
8 information from US Treasury, which unfortunately
9 has been slow. It was supposed to have been out
10 two weeks ago on this particular guidance, but I
11 think some of those recommendations, if they do
12 have them -- feel free. Funnel it back through to
13 myself. I can make sure it gets to the team here,
14 at least on our side.

15 Part of the thing is, we're looking at if
16 it's State funds, do we have to use it on
17 state-owned facilities, versus can it be done
18 through regional water authorities or things of
19 that nature -- so. And that's all part of the
20 guidance that we're waiting for.

21 But if we have that listing, as the
22 Representative has said, then we have something at
23 least to work with once that guidance comes out,
24 and we can move forward with that.

25 So I just wanted to add that into it.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Martin.

2 Anybody else want to weigh in on this topic,
3 and anything else for the implementation workgroup
4 update?

5 LORI MATHIEU: I do, Jack -- if I can get my camera
6 back on.

7 So for the ARPA money that's already been
8 allotted out to towns, we've received at least two
9 to three reach outs from town officials that wish
10 to enact some planning to help water system
11 interconnects or other projects that they've been
12 putting off for decades.

13 So the program that has the funding has been
14 provided out to towns, as martin mentioned.
15 There's towns thinking about how to utilize those
16 funds for water. Obviously, there's many ways
17 that those funds can be used, but we've received
18 at least three separate reach-outs about the use
19 of the funding and how it could be used to help
20 smaller water systems, town systems, smaller
21 private systems to help interconnect or upgrade
22 their system. So there has been discussion toward
23 that end, so.

24 But thank you for mentioning that.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

1 Virginia, anything further?

2 VIRGINIA de LIMA: I'm all set. Thank you, Jack.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, you and David and your group.

4 Is Karen Burnaska with us today?

5 KAREN BURNASKA: I'm the terrible person that thought I
6 was a mute, and wasn't.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: That's you, Karen?

8 KAREN BURNASKA: Oh, I'm so sorry.

9 I couldn't get in and I was once again -- I
10 think I've said this to you once before. My
11 thanks to Laura Lupoli for sending me the call-in
12 number. I could not get into the Zoom meeting.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: No worries. Nice to have you with us,
14 Karen.

15 KAREN BURNASKA: And I have to tell you -- and also I
16 did not hear much of Mary Ann's presentation, but
17 Laura was very good enough to send around the
18 slides -- which I hope if everyone doesn't have
19 one, they do get them.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: They're excellent.

21 KAREN BURNASKA: Anyway, quickly from the watershed
22 lands. Just I believe, Margaret Miner at the last
23 month -- your last month's meeting did mention to
24 you that in our reaching out to the GAE Committee,
25 and Senator Flexor, her aide had responded to us

1 positively regarding the possibility of putting an
2 addendum onto the existing CGA, the legislature's
3 request form for conveyance of properties; and
4 including an addendum that will provide
5 information on whether the land is an aquifer
6 protection area, watershed land, has streams,
7 springs, and a lot of environmental information
8 that is not required now.

9 So we're very pleased with that. We have
10 been working -- Margaret and I have been working
11 with Senator Flexor's aide, and we hope to move
12 this forward and have more information for you at
13 the next meeting.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Karen.

15 Margaret?

16 **MARGARET MINER:** Yeah, just two notes. So Alecia is
17 writing a thank you to the Chairman on behalf of
18 the Water Planning Council advisory group. And we
19 have alluded to but haven't pressed the point that
20 it would be desirable to have the addendum, the
21 answers to the addendum available to the public if
22 they're researching a particular conveyance.

23 That was left kind of up in the air, so that
24 may be a loose end that we take up later in the
25 year.

1 You know, they said the forum would be
2 public. And I guess the next thing was, well,
3 will the answer be public? I'm not -- Karen, I
4 don't think we really got an answer to that, so.
5 But we were too busy thanking them to pursue that.

6 KAREN BURNASKA: You're right, Margaret.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Margaret and Karen.

8 Any questions on that?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Water Planning Council advisory
13 group update. Do we have -- is Alecia with us?

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I am here. I apologize.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: That's okay. I apologize that my
17 camera is off, but my bandwidth, it's a little bit
18 limited today.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: You sound fine. We like your logo.

20 ALICEA CHARAMUT: So the drafts of the source water
21 protection white paper are due in mid September.
22 And we also had an in-depth discussion about
23 resiliency funding, which you all have already had
24 that discussion here.

25 But other than that, I think everything else

1 from the Water planning Council advisory group has
2 already been reported on in other areas here. So
3 Josh, unless I'm forgetting anything?

4 JOSH CANSLER: I agree. Everything been covered
5 already. It was what you just mentioned.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Any questions?

7
8 (No response.)
9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Lori, we have
11 under the first two, WUCC update and private well
12 update.

13 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack. I'll take WUCC update
14 first. So I have with me one of my staff Eric
15 McPhee who is the supervisor of the source water
16 and planning unit within our branch,
17 environmental, health and drinking water.

18 So there's -- I'll mention one thing, there's
19 an upcoming meeting on September 15th at one
20 o'clock. Everyone is welcome to the WUCC
21 implementation planning meeting. Now you may want
22 to join this because we could add an item to talk
23 about implementation of the variety of needed
24 infrastructure projects that are part of the WUCC
25 plan.

1 We do have a summary document -- and Eric,
2 you could add that to a link. We do have two
3 summary documents for the WUCC plan. There is a
4 simple two pager, but there's also a document that
5 gets into more details and shares actual projects
6 that are in the WUCC plan.

7 The WUCC plan, again is made up of three
8 regions, but the summary document is a great
9 summary, and it summarizes every infrastructure
10 project -- you could call them all resiliency
11 projects -- across the state of Connecticut for
12 public drinking water supply.

13 So Eric, why don't you to take it away? And
14 if you could add the link to those documents in
15 the chat, that would be wonderful. Eric?

16 **ERIC McPHEE:** Yeah, I can add those documents after I'm
17 done with my spiel here, but just to let everyone
18 know the agenda and the posting for the September
19 15th meeting is in the chat. So you can click on
20 that. It's a Teams meeting. The Teams link will
21 be in there and as well as the agenda.

22 Just for just a quick general overview. The
23 WUCCs, as you all know, it's a regional planning
24 effort to help municipalities and water utilities
25 make smart decisions about regional and statewide

1 water supply efforts, and how we can chart a path
2 of viability moving over for water supplies.

3 So to that end, we've moved now from creating
4 these comprehensive plans to implementing the
5 plans and working with the membership. We've
6 prioritized some recommendations for planning and
7 we're now working to achieve some of those, those
8 goals.

9 So just a couple of ideas for what we're
10 doing now to give people a sense for what we're
11 doing. We're talking, making a roadmap for
12 interconnections both for active and emergency
13 interconnections, talking about the implications
14 of interconnections.

15 Are they needed? What are the costs
16 involved? What are the permitting, you know,
17 permitting implications both with DEEP and DPH,
18 and active versus emergency, and trying to put all
19 that information on the table so people can make
20 water utilities and COGS and municipalities to
21 make informed decisions about what smart
22 interconnections there are.

23 The other thing we're working on is a
24 guidance and SOP and information to work with
25 municipalities when a project is proposed within a

1 drinking water watershed or APA.

2 So under 83i and 25-32f if an action or an
3 activity is proposed within a drinking water
4 watershed or APA, the applicant is required to
5 notify the water utility, notifying DPH. And the
6 guidances that we're working on would help
7 municipalities make informed decisions about
8 things that might, not only impact water supplies,
9 but might impact them as well and have them have
10 the tools at their disposal to help make informed
11 decisions about actions that might be happening
12 within their town.

13 So a couple of examples about what we're
14 talking about. There are five prioritized
15 recommendations that we're working on. We're
16 talking about conservation and drought
17 implications for public water systems. We're
18 talking about finding ways to get water main
19 extensions to serve these developments.

20 We don't want a new development that's 65
21 feet away from existing infrastructure, existing
22 service area to have to develop a satellite
23 system. We want to find ways to make it not cost
24 prohibitive, or prohibitively difficult to
25 connect. And then we're talking about improving

1 the standards for small water systems and the
2 development of small systems.

3 So contact me directly if you have any
4 questions, or please come and listen in, or get
5 involved in the conversation on September 15th.

6 Thanks.

7 And I'll drop the -- Lori, I'll drop those
8 two things into the chat.

9 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Eric, and if you could drop
10 in the agenda, too, for the meeting --

11 ERIC MCPHEE: That's already done. If you look there,
12 in that one link it's both. The date and the
13 agenda are right in there.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. Thank you so much.

15 So as, Mary -- Representative Mushinsky, to
16 your point earlier about we need projects, the
17 WUCC plan is being implemented and that's a
18 perfect place to start.

19 There are good resiliency projects within
20 that plan as well as the drinking water
21 vulnerability and resiliency plan that we worked
22 on sort of at the same time as the WUCC plan. So
23 we could share with you a lot of great information
24 from the WUCC plan itself.

25 And we're working -- as Eric, one of Eric's

1 primary work functions is to implement the WUCC
2 plan. So in his work teams and everyone on this
3 team, everyone is welcome. It's a public meeting
4 on this, on the 15th of September. We welcome
5 everybody's input and thoughts, because the
6 funding is out there and we do want to be
7 aggressive and pursue funding that we need to make
8 sure that our State is ready for what we see
9 coming in drought, as well as other climate change
10 challenges that we're going to have.

11 So the next item, Jack, is private wells.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 LORI MATHIEU: So we've been talking about the efforts
14 on private wells. It's part of my
15 responsibilities now under our branch of
16 environmental health and drinking water.

17 We have a small team and one thing that we're
18 taking a critical look at is possibly supporting
19 the efforts that Mike Dietz and his team pulled
20 together in their white paper moving forward with
21 possibly on, you know, what to do with what's a
22 big part of the state water plan about private
23 wells and the lack of testing requirements, any
24 testing requirements at all other than when a
25 private well is initially drilled.

1 There's some basic testing requirements that
2 goes back many decades -- here to upgrade those
3 testing requirements and to make sure that
4 information is gathered, collected and analyzed
5 and then shared back with everybody.

6 So our department is working toward that end,
7 and more to come. We all, as Martin had
8 mentioned, there's due dates and deadlines to get
9 information to different -- so we're on to
10 starting a long road of talking and having a lot
11 of sharing information internally at DPH and more
12 to come.

13 I can share with you that our department
14 supports the effort in general where it goes
15 within our department and further. There's more
16 to come on that. And I can't really let you know
17 because I have many, many levels of approvals to
18 many people to talk with.

19 But the effort is generally supported. I
20 think the devil is always in the details. We want
21 to know specifically what other states are doing
22 with private well testing. There's a lot of good
23 information there. We're gathering that
24 information.

25 It is very important. As you heard Mary Ann

1 Dickinson talk about the conservation initiatives
2 and what's going on around New England, New York,
3 New Jersey; it's always one of the questions that
4 comes up. So it is important.

5 And then who pays? Who can afford this? If
6 people can't afford it, how can they afford it?
7 What are we talking about to help people test
8 their wells? Affordability can be a question.
9 It's these costs, the cost has come up. You know
10 the cost of some of these tests can be in the
11 hundreds of dollars. So that's another thing that
12 we're looking at as well.

13 But we do appreciate the work of Mike Dietz
14 and the team that pulled together the white paper
15 on private wells, and we're looking to move the
16 effort forward. And more to come. When we can
17 let you know, we will.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori. And thank you very
19 much, Eric. Appreciate a lot is going on with
20 WUCC and the private well.

21 Next, any questions, councilmembers?

22
23 (No response.)

24
25 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, water conservation and fixtures.

1 Graham, I think we've covered that pretty
2 extensively already.

3 Let's move on to the IDWG update. Martin
4 Heft, I know you had a meeting last week.

5 **MARTIN HEFT:** Good afternoon, all.

6 Yes, we had a meeting even despite all the
7 rain that we've been having. So fortunately we're
8 not in a drought at this point. We do continue to
9 monitor it every month. We have not had meetings
10 the past couple of months.

11 We did have a meeting last Thursday, which
12 was a very productive meeting. We did start
13 taking a look at the report that was forwarded to
14 us from the Council here regarding the drought,
15 from the workgroup.

16 We have come up with a plan of how we are
17 going to go through that, basically kind of doing
18 a matrix chart, if you will, going through each of
19 the recommendations under each of the four
20 charges; looking at each one of those, seeing
21 which ones are completed, which ones may need
22 to -- that there's an agreement to include, or
23 recommend to be put into the drought plan, or ones
24 that we need to look forward to, kind of
25 prioritizing them.

1 We will be setting up some additional
2 meetings between now and our next normal monthly
3 meeting to start taking on each of these
4 individual charges, if you will, separately and
5 reviewing each of the recommendations. So we are
6 moving forward and working together as a great
7 team with all the agencies to review all these
8 recommendations, and then make a final
9 recommendation back to the Water Planning Council
10 for any updates that we see in the drought plan.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Martin, thank you for your leadership
12 with this. And any questions for Martin?

13 You know he's right. When it's raining,
14 raining, raining, God knows we've gotten more rain
15 the last several weeks, but you know that next
16 year at this time we could be in a drought. So
17 you always have to stay on top of it. So thank
18 you very much, Martin.

19 On the agenda we have water conservation
20 figures in small letters, Graham and Jack, but I
21 think we talked about that this afternoon --
22 unless you have something to add?

23 **GRAHAM STEVENS:** No, I think it's well covered, Jack.

24 **THE CHAIRMAN:** But you are next on the agenda under GC3
25 reporting as it relates to the state water plan.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Yeah. This, this goes I think to
2 earlier conversations that we had regarding the
3 intersection between the GC3 and the state water
4 plan. And under the GC3 initiative there is the
5 requirement for an analysis of how the
6 recommendations and initiatives under GC3
7 intersect with other state plans, in particular
8 Executive Order One calls out the state water
9 plan.

10 So there is a reporting requirement for the
11 member agencies of the GC3 at the end of December,
12 and I wanted to let the other Water Planning
13 Councilors as well as those in attendance today
14 know that the DEEP is going to take a first cut at
15 looking at the intersection between GC3 and the
16 state water plan, and other, other plans, and
17 provide that to the Water Planning Council for
18 review and consideration before the final report
19 is completed in December.

20 So really just a note for the counselors as
21 well as for others, particularly those that have
22 been involved in the GC3 and know that their
23 report requirement is coming. It does speak to
24 the member -- the requirement is actually to the
25 member agencies at GC3, but we will have, as the

1 DEEP put together a strong proposal for the Water
2 Planning Council, deliberation, discussion and
3 consideration hopefully well in advance of the
4 deadline so that we can ensure that you know all
5 the intersections, as we've been discussing a lot
6 at this meeting between climate and water; to make
7 sure that they make their final report.

8 I don't know if anybody has --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for Graham.

10 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah. So hi, Graham. This is Lori. So
11 if you need any support from our agency -- because
12 I know that you may have quite a few items in
13 there that crisscross the state water plan.

14 So if you want to maybe partner together on
15 that and we could be of assistance there, I would
16 be more than willing to help on that if you think
17 that that's helpful.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: No. I mean, I think that that's very
19 helpful, Lori, and much appreciated. I will
20 definitely circle back with Rebecca French from
21 the DEEP who is leading that initial effort to put
22 together the draft proposal, and share that with
23 her. Thank you.

24 LORI MATHIEU: Excellent. And then just -- well, maybe
25 Jack next -- and Graham, about climate change,

1 specifically our department will be able to make
2 an announcement maybe next Water Planning Council
3 meeting about a wonderful grant that we applied
4 for that we believe that we have received a formal
5 notice on -- and it's a CDC grant, known as the
6 BRACE grant. I still have that acronym down. I
7 have to look at my white board to see what it is.

8 Building resiliency against climate effects.
9 Building resiliency against climate effects,
10 BRACE, a CDC funded grant.

11 There are 17 states that are BRACE funded
12 Since 2010. We were never one of them. Again one
13 of the last New England States not to be a BRACE
14 grant, but we applied and have been able to
15 capture some funding.

16 So more to come on all of that, and we're
17 very excited as a department to be able to get
18 funding in place and to get started with funding
19 staff. Obviously, we work on climate change
20 aspects all the time, but to have staff focus on
21 public health and safety and to start to work
22 toward implementation on mitigation and adaptation
23 measures for public health and health equity.

24 So, so much more to come, but I wanted to say
25 that as we're very excited about this opportunity

1 and to continue to work with Dr. French at DEEP
2 and all the colleagues moving forward. We're very
3 excited.

4 So I just wanted to say that. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We're excited for you. Great news.

6 Any other new business, or any questions for
7 Martin or Lori regarding climate change?

8 That's a loaded question.

9 Any questions regarding climate change? My
10 god we could be here all night.

11
12 (No response.)

13
14 THE CHAIRMAN: But anyway. Thank you both very much.

15 Public comments, any other public comment
16 today?

17 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Chair Betkoski, I actually have
18 something in regard to the report on the GC3.

19 I hope that the Water Planning Council uses
20 this as an opportunity to look at the priorities
21 that were set for water plan implementation,
22 looking at it to see if those priorities still
23 align with preparing for climate change and how
24 they align with the recommendations that were put
25 out by the GC3.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's an excellent suggestion.

2 Denise Savageau, you have a question. I see
3 your hand raised for comment?

4 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah, I just want to do a public
5 comment on the GC3 and the state water plan.

6 Obviously, there's a lot of overlap there and
7 I'm pleased to see that folks are looking at this.
8 I do want to bring up that there's a section in
9 the GC3 report that was put together. It was
10 called the working and natural lands section
11 workgroups. And it focused on, you know, four
12 different topics, rivers, wetlands, forests and
13 agriculture, slash, soils. And all of them are
14 intimately related to source water protection.

15 We are not going to have source water
16 protection if we don't take care of our
17 forestland, if we don't look at riparian buffers,
18 if we're not looking at protecting our wetlands.
19 And as you know, we gave you a presentation on
20 soils and the importance of soils and protecting
21 our watersheds.

22 My concern when we're looking at this is some
23 of these are in the action report, but as you know
24 not everything in the GC3 moved forward and got
25 into that initial action report.

1 And my concern is that where the public
2 health and safety and infrastructure workgroups
3 are moving forward and looking at maybe a second
4 edition or another report, they discontinue the
5 working and natural lands.

6 And I think that that's unfortunate in terms
7 of what we need to be looking at, and you know,
8 when we're talking about water resources,
9 particularly public drinking water supply.

10 So I'm hoping when we do this reconciliation
11 and kind of look at what was in the GC3 reports,
12 and what's in the state water plan, that we
13 recognize the value of our working and natural
14 lands and what we need to do to accomplish the
15 work on source water protection.

16 And when I'm talking about source water
17 protection, it's about the quality of water as
18 well as the quantity of water, and it's just so
19 important that we pay attention to that. And so
20 I'm just urging folks to really take a look at
21 those sections of the report that may not stand
22 out as much as a few of the other sections.

23 Thank you.

24 **LORI MATHIEU:** Jack?

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Denise.

1 Lori?

2 LORI MATHIEU: May I ask a question of Denise?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

4 LORI MATHIEU: I'm just wondering, because what you
5 just said, Denise, is impactful -- but it may be
6 missed. You know? So I like that you brought
7 that forward.

8 Is there a way to maybe -- because I know
9 what you said is also a really important point.
10 Not everything made it to the first report that is
11 out there, and it's dated January of 2021, but
12 there's a lot of other recommendations that are
13 out there.

14 Would maybe one of the subgroups might be
15 willing to help pull together all of those
16 suggestions that are water related? I don't know.
17 It's just a thought, because there was so much
18 that came into and fed into the report that you
19 see in January. Not everything could get there.

20 I think there's 60-something recommendations
21 that are part of the report, the January report,
22 but there's so much more behind that that are sort
23 of more published but are impactful.

24 So I don't know how to move forward with all
25 of it because there there are quite a few that

1 didn't get to that next level.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori -- and Alecia Charamut just chatted
3 me. And I'm thinking -- I'm sitting here
4 thinking, what are we going to do with all this
5 information? And Alecia said, that's something --
6 it should be fed somewhere because you've got you
7 involved. We've got Graham involved. We've got
8 Denise involved.

9 So perhaps you could feed all this
10 information to the Water Planning Council advisory
11 group, which can then in turn come up to us for
12 recommendations. They can kind of be the
13 clearinghouse, if you will.

14 I think it's got to go somewhere, or we're
15 not going to -- and it's very important work, only
16 I don't want to lose it in the translation, if you
17 will.

18 **DENISE SAVAGEAU:** If I could? I totally agree with
19 Alecia that the Water Planning Council advisory
20 group can look at some of this. I guess one of
21 the things, Lori, is -- what I'm hoping is that,
22 also obviously with the state water plan that we
23 look at the reports, but I just wanted people to
24 be aware that there are reports.

25 There's actually two sections of the

1 Governor's Council on climate change that I think
2 are really important. And I understand why
3 they're not moving forward with those subgroups,
4 because they were the science subgroups, if you
5 will, the working in natural lands.

6 They basically said they were multiple,
7 multiple disciplinary. They were both on
8 mitigation as well as adaptation. And the science
9 subgroup is not moving forward either, and that's
10 because the science was brought forward -- and
11 they know people are going to keep looking at the
12 science.

13 So what I want to make sure people understand
14 was there was a lot of work done. And so when the
15 other groups are looking at recommendations of, or
16 that you've identified, you know, an
17 infrastructure problem or a public health problem,
18 that some of those solutions may be in those
19 science reports, whether it be the working and
20 natural lands and/or the science reports
21 themselves. As you know, there was a science
22 technical committee.

23 And so I just wanted to bring that out there,
24 that that information and all the work of those
25 groups, we don't want to lose that work. So I

1 guess that's my reason for bringing it up, is that
2 it's out there and it certainly can be translated
3 into the work of what we're doing with source
4 water protection, the state water plan and the,
5 you know, other sections of the GC3 that are
6 moving forward.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. We appreciate
8 that.

9 Gannon Long from Operation Fuel?

10 **GANNON LONG:** Thank you, Chair Betkoski and thanks,
11 everybody, for this meeting. I just wanted to
12 make a quick comment and I'm going to put a link
13 in the chat.

14
15 (<https://operationfuel.org/eeday/>)

16
17 **GANNON LONG:** Operation Fuel is organizing an event
18 around energy efficiency and also water efficiency
19 on October 6th. So all the information is right
20 there on our website.

21 A couple of outstanding experts in this field
22 who are in this room with us today are going to be
23 speaking on the water panel. We're really
24 grateful for Lori Mathieu and Denise Savageau's
25 time and commitment to that.

1 And Darren and Frank, I appreciate them being
2 here today.

3 And I also want to thank again the Water
4 Planning Council advisory group and their Chairs,
5 Alecia and Josh, and the implementation workgroup
6 with Dave and Virginia, and all the volunteers.

7 Alley and I were talking about earlier today,
8 it doesn't go unnoticed, all the time and effort
9 that you give. You really are the background
10 backbone of the Council, and we really appreciate
11 all your efforts. We're moving forward. You know
12 I've been around for a long time, like many of
13 you, and it's nice to see the fruits of our labor
14 are moving forward.

15 We've got a lot of work to do. I'm very
16 excited about hopefully getting a person very much
17 like the Council on Environmental Quality -- but
18 moving forward we have someone to help facilitate
19 that, this part.

20 So with that, I'll open up for closing
21 comments for any member the council?
22

23 (No response.)
24

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** If not, I will entertain a motion to

1 adjourn?

2 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

3 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Very good. Our next meeting will
5 be on October 5th. And make a note of all those
6 dates that we have with the WUCC coming up in the
7 15th, Operation Fuel on the 6th. And we have the
8 implementation workgroup meeting on the 28th.

9 So with that, all those in favor of
10 adjournment.

11 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

13
14 (No response.)

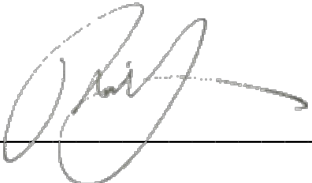
15
16 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, everyone. Take care.

17 Thank you all for your support.

18
19 (End: 2:57 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 71 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 September 7, 2021.



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

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