

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

3 PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

4
5 STATE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

6
7 Regular meeting held via Zoom teleconference

8 On October 5, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

9
10 HELD BEFORE:

11 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN,

12 AND PURA VICE CHAIRMAN

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25 REPORTER: JESSICA NOBLE, CSR 402

A P P E A R A N C E S

WATER PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MARTIN HEFT (OPM)

LORI MATHIEU (DPH)

GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)

ALSO PRESENT (on record):

REPRESENTATIVE JAIME FOSTER

VIRGINIA de LIMA

MARGARET MINER

DENISE SAVAGEAU

ALICEA CHARAMUT

CAROL HASKINS

LOUIS BURCH

ERIC McPHEE

PURA STAFF:

LAURA LUPOLI

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(On the record at 1:31 p.m.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone.

Welcome to the Water Planning Council meeting for October 5, 2021. The first point of business is to accept the transcript from the September 7, 2021, meeting. Do I hear a motion to accept that?

GRAHAM STEVENS: So moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion by --

MARTIN HEFT: This is Martin. I'll second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Second by Mr. Heft. Any questions on the motion? If not, all in favor signify by saying aye.

THE COUNCIL: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

This afternoon I'm happy to welcome to our meeting today Representative Jaime Foster from East Windsor, Ellington. She's on the Energy Technology Committee, on the Public Health Committee, and on Select Committee on Children.

And, Representative Foster, if you would like to say a few remarks or just say hello and then we're going to get down to -- you can stay for the whole agenda or if there's any good things you want to highlight, please feel free.

01:32 1 REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: Hi, everybody. A
01:32 2 couple of you I know from my projects that we've been
01:33 3 working on so far, but I'm so excited to be invited to be
01:33 4 here today. Just brief introduction. I am a research
01:33 5 scientist at the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center in
01:33 6 my other job, and I have been really interested and
01:33 7 concerned in road salt run-off because as someone who
01:33 8 specializes in nutrition-related chronic disease, I know
01:33 9 that sodium isn't a minimally impacting nutrient to be
01:33 10 overconsumed in the diet, that there are health
01:33 11 consequences, and there's lots of excessive salt in the
01:33 12 American diet anyways.

01:33 13 So I've been working really hard and getting
01:33 14 educated by many folks at DPH and DOT and DEEP, including
01:33 15 many people on this call right now, and so I'm really
01:33 16 passionate about making sure that everyone in my community
01:33 17 and across the state has access to healthy and safe drinking
01:33 18 water. And I am worried about particularly road salt; but
01:33 19 in my community, we have nitrates and EDBs that are also
01:34 20 contaminated in private drinking supplies, the drinking
01:34 21 water area. So I'm really interested in seeing safe water
01:34 22 at every one of my constituents' homes, and I'd love to make
01:34 23 sure that I can help making the state comprehensive plan for
01:34 24 the statewide, you know, and I know you all have
01:34 25 professional and relevant skills in your everyday work

01:34 1 that's related to this, and so you know way more about this
01:34 2 than I do; but I'm really eager to be here as a
01:34 3 representative and helping you all in whatever ways that I
01:34 4 can and also learning from you about where I can be of the
01:34 5 most assistance.

01:34 6 So thank you so much for inviting me to be
01:34 7 here today, and I look forward to listening and learning.

01:34 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We know how busy
01:34 9 you are, and we thank you for taking the time. I know that
01:34 10 you're very passionate about the water issues, and we
01:34 11 appreciate you being with us. We're going to go through the
01:34 12 agenda, and you'll see there will be another opportunity,
01:34 13 but you can ask questions at any time, please, as we go
01:34 14 through. We always like having a legislator on the call.
01:35 15 So, again, welcome and we'll move on with the agenda.

01:35 16 So with that, we're going to go talk about
01:35 17 the State Water Plan. And the first order of business is
01:35 18 the implementation work group update, and I'm going to have
01:35 19 Virginia and Dave. I have to say kudos to them for leading
01:35 20 the workshop last week on the -- how we're going to go about
01:35 21 reporting the State Water Plan to the legislature and
01:35 22 tracking our progress. And it was a really new -- first
01:35 23 time I ever participated in something like that, where you
01:35 24 get the yellow stickies and put them on the computer. It
01:35 25 was very well done.

01:35 1 So Virginia and Dan and Corinne and Dave,
01:35 2 thank you very much. And with that, I'm going to turn over
01:35 3 to Virginia.

01:36 4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Thank you, Jack, and for
01:36 5 those words. I am going to hold off the discussions on
01:36 6 brainstorming to be the third of the three things that I'm
01:36 7 going to mention.

01:36 8 First of all, I'd like to get input from you
01:36 9 folks on the proposal to have a work group look at
01:36 10 developing a position description for a potential water
01:36 11 chief. I sent that out to you a couple weeks ago, and I'm
01:36 12 hoping that we can get some feedback and that you folks
01:36 13 could approve that we move forward on establishing that work
01:36 14 group.

01:36 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori or Martin or Graham, do
01:36 16 you have any comments on that?

01:36 17 LORI MATHIEU: One of my thoughts is that
01:36 18 before we tee up a position description, we should have a
01:36 19 notion of funding and have some level of discussion of
01:37 20 priority between us and talk about those issues before we
01:37 21 tee up a position without any money.

01:37 22 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Where the thought was now
01:37 23 is that we would have a work group looking at exactly what
01:37 24 would be the role of somebody in that position, looking at
01:37 25 things like the authority, the reporting structure, and also

01:37 1 the funding that might be necessary to do it. And so I see
01:37 2 an outcome of the work group being some framework that then
01:37 3 could be discussed by you folks to figure out, first of all,
01:37 4 whether you want to move forward, if you had any different
01:37 5 ideas, and then, also, we could determine the funding at
01:37 6 that point. But it's hard to come up with an estimate of
01:37 7 funding, which basically translates to time, without a sense
01:37 8 of what would be the role, what would be the job description
01:37 9 of that position, so it's sort of all intertwined.

01:38 10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Lori, I think I totally
01:38 11 understand, you know, your point of spending time and effort
01:38 12 on an exercise without a potential to complete the final
01:38 13 step and most important step, which is having funding to
01:38 14 pull together this important position.

01:38 15 I'd also say too, similar to what Virginia
01:38 16 said, is that this might help hone, you know, our argument
01:38 17 for funding to decision makers within our own agencies or
01:38 18 the legislature as well as maybe open our eyes to what would
01:38 19 appropriate pots of money be given the responsibilities that
01:38 20 this position would be charged with implementing.

01:38 21 So I don't know, Martin or Jack, what your
01:38 22 thoughts are along those lines. I see value in coming up
01:39 23 with the funding. I also see value in looking at the tasks
01:39 24 that would help us come up with funding or raise the
01:39 25 prioritization because obviously there's a lot of requests

01:39 1 for positions. And we'll see that a lot more over the next
01:39 2 eight months as we hit a state retirement cliff on 7/1/2022.

01:39 3 THE CHAIRMAN: I think, Lori, I understand
01:39 4 what you're saying in terms of the funding mechanism; but I
01:39 5 do agree that when we come up with a job description, we
01:39 6 should have the funding exploration and possible funding
01:39 7 sources to go along with it. I know when -- years ago when
01:39 8 we did the electric deregulation outreach program, we had
01:39 9 all of the positions in the legislation and what they're
01:39 10 going to be responsible for. And I think that we will give
01:40 11 the legislators or OPM or whoever is going to be looking at
01:40 12 this a better flavor for what we're looking for, and
01:40 13 ultimately it's going to be signed off by the planning
01:40 14 council anyway.

01:40 15 So I don't think it's bad to be looking at
01:40 16 what's going to go into this position. I think it's a good
01:40 17 thing. We've got a lot of work still ahead of us. We've
01:40 18 made some inroads, but I think a water coordinator -- Water
01:40 19 Planning Council coordinator is a good idea.

01:40 20 MARTIN HEFT: Jack, if I may add my comments
01:40 21 in.

01:40 22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

01:40 23 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you. So I agree that,
01:40 24 you know, it's worth taking a look on. I will raise my
01:40 25 concerns once again that another work group when we're still

01:40 1 not finishing up the work groups we have -- so we talked
01:40 2 about only having a couple of some topical work groups going
01:40 3 at once. Let's prioritize, focus on what's happening so we
01:41 4 don't have multiple, multiple work groups going on. So I
01:41 5 just relay that. I know the drought one finally has
01:41 6 completed their stuff there, so I just keep that in mind of
01:41 7 everybody. Obviously, you know, by reviewing this, we would
01:41 8 know the funding, you know, what would be needed.

01:41 9 Currently, you know, as Water Planning
01:41 10 Council, we don't have any authority, no budget to hire
01:41 11 anybody, you know, under us, so it would have to fall under
01:41 12 another agency or it would have to be a legislative change
01:41 13 during session in order for, you know, funding and authority
01:41 14 given to the Water Planning Council to hire somebody,
01:41 15 otherwise we would have to be under an individual agency.

01:41 16 And these are things that would need to be
01:41 17 considered as -- you know, if the work group is approved to
01:41 18 look at those things on a legislative side of, you know,
01:41 19 where does the authority fall, who would this person be
01:41 20 reporting to, because under current, you know, law, they
01:42 21 can't report to the Water Planning Council because we have
01:42 22 no authority to hire anybody or any funding, you know, for
01:42 23 that. So I think there's legislative pieces that have to be
01:42 24 involved there as well.

01:42 25 Public Act 21-29 established a commission on

01:42 1 Connecticut's development and future, which part of this
01:42 2 could fall under in their view as a legislative committee
01:42 3 made up by planning and development implementation, public
01:42 4 health, number of the different committees, all the
01:42 5 commissioners, some number of people -- headed up,
01:42 6 co-chairing by secretary of OPM, Majority Leader Jason
01:42 7 Rojas. I know members are being appointed to that.

01:42 8 There may be avenues in there of looking at
01:42 9 that as we look at planning, you know, this development and
01:42 10 future of how that's going to play out. There may be an
01:42 11 opportunity to tie this information in to them as well, just
01:42 12 additional information. So I just wanted to provide that
01:43 13 side of things to the discussion.

01:43 14 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Thank you, Martin. Some
01:43 15 of the things you mentioned, that is part of what they would
01:43 16 be discussing in terms of what would be a viable way of
01:43 17 reporting, whether this would be an agency, as you said, or
01:43 18 whether it would be a consultant or any number of other
01:43 19 possibilities. So that would be part of what this group
01:43 20 would be looking at, a couple sources of funding.

01:43 21 GRAHAM STEVENS: If I may, I think we see
01:43 22 this as a very short-lived working group. I don't think
01:43 23 this is going to take a lot of time, but we would like them
01:43 24 to spend some effort looking at not only what the State
01:43 25 Water Plan says in reference to such a position, but also

01:43 1 what some of the other states' work groups had looked at in
01:43 2 the past to see what may be a viable template out there and
01:44 3 see if we could tailor that to our state's specific needs
01:44 4 for our -- the State Water Plan. We don't see it taking up
01:44 5 a lot of time, maybe several meetings at most.

01:44 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, again, I don't have any
01:44 7 problem with it. And I think one of the things that we
01:44 8 have -- we tend to kick the can down the road. I think that
01:44 9 this is an issue that should be dealt with and dealt with
01:44 10 now. I don't think there's any harm in having the
01:44 11 implementation group take a look at it and then we can act
01:44 12 accordingly. Martin is absolutely right. We're not a
01:44 13 statutory agency, but if we decide to recommend a position,
01:44 14 we have to figure out where it's going to be housed, how
01:44 15 it's going to be funded. I have some ideas how it can be
01:44 16 funded and -- but I think that we need to come up with what
01:44 17 the responsibilities are.

01:44 18 As we know, we have -- the plan is almost
01:44 19 700 pages that we need to get implemented, and I think it's
01:45 20 a critical piece to all this. So I have no problem if we
01:45 21 have a time certain that it's, you know, back within the --
01:45 22 by the December meeting or something along those lines.

01:45 23 GRAHAM STEVENS: Jack, I have some ideas
01:45 24 about the governance structure.

01:45 25 I mean, I know that, Martin, you suggested

01:45 1 there might need to be some statutory modifications to
01:45 2 provide for, you know, the Water Planning Council's ability
01:45 3 to hire staff. We may be looking at one of the agencies
01:45 4 hiring a staff person entering into some sort of cooperative
01:45 5 agreement or, you know, MOA vis-a-vis governance because
01:45 6 obviously we want this person to be beholden to the State
01:45 7 Water Plan and the Water Planning Council as a whole, which
01:45 8 is comprised of four different state agencies.

01:46 9 So, I mean, there might be, short of
01:46 10 legislation, some agreements that we could enter into that
01:46 11 would help with that, but I certainly would be interested in
01:46 12 funding ideas, Jack. Money is always a good thing.

01:46 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Money is always -- if you
01:46 14 remember, you know, maybe ten years ago, maybe longer, we
01:46 15 did a -- the four agencies did subsidize a position, Sharon
01:46 16 Mahon, who has since retired; but we all kind of came up
01:46 17 with an agreement and that's how it worked. So I think
01:46 18 there's ways to get this funded. I think we can come up
01:46 19 with some type of MOU or, as you say, MOA or something like
01:46 20 that. So -- but I do think that this is something the work
01:46 21 group could kind of sort out for us and then bring the
01:46 22 recommendation back to us.

01:46 23 GRAHAM STEVENS: And there could potentially
01:46 24 be federal funds, you know, that we could apply for that
01:47 25 could, you know, augment or offset some of the state's costs

01:47 1 associated with this position as well. And that may mean
01:47 2 that the position is not a permanent position, but certainly
01:47 3 having any position in place for any period of time
01:47 4 certainly would I think be a benefit to the implementation
01:47 5 of the State Water Plan.

01:47 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Would be a beginning,
01:47 7 absolutely. Lori?

01:47 8 LORI MATHIEU: We don't always have to all
01:47 9 agree, so I think --

01:47 10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's -- I love
01:47 11 disagreement. That's -- we'll call for a vote or you want
01:47 12 to talk more?

01:47 13 LORI MATHIEU: No. Could I say, you know, a
01:47 14 little bit more? I would like to express it a little bit
01:47 15 further. I think at state agencies we understand how things
01:47 16 could be funded. I think the work group -- the people on
01:47 17 the work group are not state agency representatives, and you
01:48 18 might have a few people who -- I know, you know, Dan Aubin
01:48 19 sits on that group. I think you put him in a difficult
01:48 20 position because we, as the leaders of the Water Planning
01:48 21 Council, should be seeking from our leadership the direction
01:48 22 and then maybe bring that back next meeting or before the
01:48 23 next meeting so that we could provide some direction from
01:48 24 our leaders because that's what I need to do. Whether or
01:48 25 not there's support from my commissioner's office to move

01:48 1 forward in this direction or not, is there any idea of
01:48 2 funding? I have some ideas as well. I know, Jack, you do
01:48 3 as well, but I would like to have an opportunity to take
01:48 4 this to my commissioners. It is a part of the State Water
01:48 5 Plan. It is -- and we have a new commissioner.
01:48 6 Commissioner Juthani is brand new as of September 20th.

01:48 7 We're bringing her up to speed on many
01:49 8 things, and she's getting involved with many, many things,
01:49 9 including COVID, so I'd like to have a moment to make sure
01:49 10 that before any work gets started that we give some certain
01:49 11 direction to this work group, which I think is only fair;
01:49 12 and maybe we should step back and take a look at what the
01:49 13 State Water Plan actually says because that -- one of the
01:49 14 most important implementation items that I think we had in
01:49 15 the plan was to have staff and to have staff funded. And as
01:49 16 Graham mentioned, that represents all four agencies and
01:49 17 that's not an easy task. That's not an easy task. To
01:49 18 balance the needs of four agencies is important.

01:49 19 So I am more than willing -- my suggestion
01:49 20 is this: that we all, the four of us, go back, talk to our
01:49 21 leadership, and have some ideas that we can bring to the
01:49 22 table for the next time and then talk through what direction
01:50 23 we would provide in the November meeting that would give
01:50 24 more certain direction to this work group, because I agree
01:50 25 with Martin. Just setting up a work group to set up a work

01:50 1 group to get -- and if it's going to happen quickly without
01:50 2 our direction, I don't think that's fair to the work group.
01:50 3 I don't think that's fair to us.

01:50 4 I would like to step back and brief my
01:50 5 commissioner and get their input and bring that input back
01:50 6 and for some ideas that I've been thinking about for a
01:50 7 while. I can't put them on the table until I get that
01:50 8 input.

01:50 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham?

01:50 10 GRAHAM STEVENS: Lori, are you speaking
01:50 11 primarily to the funding ideas or are you speaking primarily
01:51 12 also to like the charge of --

01:51 13 LORI MATHIEU: Both. Both. Both the charge
01:51 14 of the work group as well as funding ideas. And I think
01:51 15 it's fair -- it would be only fair to the work group to
01:51 16 provide that input and more direction. And to Martin's
01:51 17 point, you know, we shouldn't just set up another work group
01:51 18 without more certain direction. And I would like to have
01:51 19 some more level of discussion on funding and if there's any
01:51 20 support or not or, you know, what direction I would receive
01:51 21 from my commissioner's office, my new commissioner.

01:51 22 GRAHAM STEVENS: I understand DPH has a new
01:51 23 commissioner, which certainly is a change from the last
01:51 24 meeting. I certainly feel very strongly, as I hope everyone
01:51 25 knows, that, you know, having this, you know, water czar or

01:51 1 water chief in place would certainly help us, you know, move
01:51 2 the ball forward on a massive plan, which has great impact
01:51 3 for the state of Connecticut. I can also respect --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Water czar.

01:51 5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Water czar. It's being
01:51 6 whispered.

01:51 7 But I can respect, you know, Lori's position
01:52 8 having a new commissioner. So, I mean, I would be willing
01:52 9 to, you know, change my opinion and push this off, Jack.

01:52 10 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm fine with it. We'll put
01:52 11 it on the agenda for the November 2nd meeting and go back to
01:52 12 our respective and talk to -- I mean, frankly, your agency
01:52 13 is kind of my agency when it comes to this sort of thing,
01:52 14 unless we can pull something out of some PURA funds. But
01:52 15 we'll go back to our respective hierarchy and come back with
01:52 16 some suggestions, Virginia, moving forward. And I don't
01:52 17 know if you saw in the chat. Alicea reminded me we realize
01:52 18 there's many, many, many volunteers that can become part of
01:52 19 this plan, as well, that give up a lot of their time and we
01:52 20 appreciate that, but we want -- you know, we've all been
01:52 21 involved in state government long enough that Lori's
01:52 22 suggestion is probably a good one, even though I really
01:53 23 wanted to move this along today, that given the dynamics of
01:53 24 a new commissioner -- okay. A special meeting to discuss
01:53 25 this topic is a suggestion. So maybe what we can do is --

01:53 1 and that's probably a very good idea. We can do that.

01:53 2 Alicea, that's a very good idea. We'll go back in two weeks
01:53 3 or so and we'll decide when to have a special meeting to
01:53 4 discuss just this topic. Thank you for that, Alicea.

01:53 5 With that, let's table this, Virginia, until
01:53 6 either a special -- hopefully a special meeting before our
01:53 7 next Water Planning Council.

01:53 8 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Okay. Thank you very
01:53 9 much for that discussion.

01:53 10 We do have one active work group at this
01:53 11 point, which is the outreach and education work group. They
01:53 12 have amended their work plan and set their priorities to
01:53 13 focus primarily on developing materials for -- that would be
01:54 14 available to the agencies, to the Water Planning Council,
01:54 15 and to the general public to be used in various kinds of
01:54 16 ways. They raised the question of whether the Water
01:54 17 Planning Council should have some kind of branding,
01:54 18 something that would be recognizable, a logo or something
01:54 19 like that, that would highlight the responsibilities that
01:54 20 the Water Planning Council has for the implementation of the
01:54 21 State Water Plan.

01:54 22 So that would be something -- that's going
01:54 23 to be something that they're going to be discussing and come
01:54 24 up with a work plan and actually a schedule for the entire
01:54 25 year through December 2022. And so that's all very helpful,

01:54 1 and that information can be shared with you. I just
01:54 2 received that from Denise this morning.

01:54 3 Any questions about the work group updates?
01:54 4 Okay then.

01:54 5 GRAHAM STEVENS: Looks like Margaret has her
6 hand up.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Margaret.

01:55 8 MARGARET MINER: Just to go back to what
01:55 9 we're discussing on the status of the Water Planning
01:55 10 Council, it was founded as a reporting agency and then
01:55 11 turned into a planning; but there is no status for action or
01:55 12 implementation. And I've said in the past if you don't
01:55 13 have -- relevant to Virginia's idea of branding, if you
01:55 14 don't have your stationary, your own logo, and your own
01:55 15 checkbook, you don't really exist. And I think the Water
01:55 16 Planning Council would be able to do some of the things it
01:55 17 wants to do if it were to seek to be established as an
01:55 18 actual entity that can take action.

01:55 19 And, you know, the last time that we did the
01:55 20 water plan, we had to go in a spiral to find a way to raise
01:55 21 the money through Dave LaVasseur, through Massachusetts. It
01:55 22 was complicated. So this has been a problem since the
01:56 23 founding of the Water Planning Council. It does not have
01:56 24 the authorities or the standing it needs to do what it wants
01:56 25 to do and what people expect it to do. So I worry that that

01:56 1 confusion or weakness is going to continue.

01:56 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Margaret, you're absolutely
01:56 3 right. You and I have been in this since its inception over
01:56 4 two decades ago.

01:56 5 MARGARET MINER: Yes.

01:56 6 THE CHAIRMAN: You're absolute correct.
01:56 7 It's raised challenges over the years, unfortunately. We
01:56 8 did have one of the secretaries of OPM that managed to
01:56 9 assist us to get the money for the plan, which really got
01:56 10 the whole project moving, so it's a good point.

01:56 11 So I guess to -- back to Lori's point is
01:56 12 that might be something that will come out of this moving
01:56 13 forward, that we get -- like, the council -- the council on
01:56 14 environment that followed, I believe, is still in business,
01:57 15 isn't it, even though they threaten -- Graham, even though
01:57 16 they threaten to take your money away every year?

01:57 17 GRAHAM STEVENS: They're very much in
01:57 18 business.

01:57 19 THE CHAIRMAN: I would like -- perhaps we
01:57 20 can look at their statutory framework and look at stuff like
01:57 21 that.

01:57 22 Denise, you have your hand up?

01:57 23 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Thank you. I agree with
01:57 24 what Margaret has just said, but I just want to make sure
01:57 25 that one of the things you understand with what the outreach

01:57 1 and education committee is that we're not looking to brand
01:57 2 the Water Planning Council. We're doing the State Water
01:57 3 Plan implementation, so they wanted to brand that or explore
01:57 4 the idea of branding the State Water Plan as a project.

01:57 5 And I'll give you an example. DEEP has a
01:57 6 project called "No Child Left Inside." It has a brand. It
01:57 7 has a logo so that -- it's a project, but everybody
01:57 8 identifies with that. You can have that, you know, with
01:58 9 different types of things, so we were looking at --
01:58 10 sometimes when we talk about the State Water Plan, we
01:58 11 basically all say, hey, we know what they're talking about,
01:58 12 the State Water Plan, and what is the brand with that? You
01:58 13 know, it's a planning tool. It's got implementation. It's
01:58 14 got planning. It's got monitoring. It recommends a whole
01:58 15 host of things. So what do we do to brand that so that when
01:58 16 we're talking about that -- I just want to make that clear.

01:58 17 Like I said, I do think that possibly the
01:58 18 Water Planning Council itself needs to think about this, but
01:58 19 I wanted to make sure that you -- that the education
01:58 20 outreach committee at this point was talking about the State
01:58 21 Water Plan itself as a project. Thank you.

01:58 22 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Thank you for that
01:58 23 clarification, Denise.

01:58 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

01:58 25 GRAHAM STEVENS: Just for context, No Child

01:58 1 Left Inside is actually a registered trademark of
01:58 2 Connecticut DEEP. We actually had to -- we were actually
01:58 3 sued by some hunting organization that was trying to use
01:59 4 that phrase as well, so we ended up thankfully prevailing
01:59 5 and keeping that and registered that as a trademark. But I
01:59 6 definitely get your point, Denise, about branding, making
01:59 7 things recognizable so people understand the context in
01:59 8 which we're speaking to them.

01:59 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia, anything?

01:59 10 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Yes. We did move along
01:59 11 to the brainstorming sessions. Many people on this call and
01:59 12 through the Water Planning Council were able to participate.
01:59 13 It was a very successful session, bringing to bear critical
01:59 14 questions around developing a tracking and reporting system
01:59 15 for implementation of the State Water Plan.

01:59 16 There were about 25 people who participated
01:59 17 and provided excellent input. As Jack mentioned before, we
02:00 18 were using an online virtual tool called Jamboard, which was
02:00 19 the equivalent to writing stickies and putting them up on a
02:00 20 wall. Some of you may have done brainstorming like that in
02:00 21 person in the past.

02:00 22 That platform, I have said that we would
02:00 23 keep it open for a week. We'll actually keep it open until
02:00 24 the end of the day tomorrow because some people may be
02:00 25 hearing about it for the first time on the call. If you did

02:00 1 not get the link to that online platform, you can get it
02:00 2 from Ali Hibbard or any of the other organizers, Dave Radka
02:00 3 and Dan Aubin and -- Dave Radka and myself were the primary
02:00 4 organizers for it. So that will be open until the end of
02:00 5 the day tomorrow.

02:00 6 We have had a few stickies added since then,
02:00 7 so it is -- it has been accessed. Also, as -- at the end,
02:01 8 we had people express an opinion on the whole process, and
02:01 9 they liked it for several reasons. Several of the people
02:01 10 referred to the anonymity, that they felt free to give
02:01 11 honest and objective feedback without any fear of judgment,
02:01 12 which is sort of the hallmark of brainstorming in general;
02:01 13 but it's sometimes difficult for people to speak up in
02:01 14 person if they're concerned about that kind of judgment.

02:01 15 Other people really liked the fact that it
02:01 16 was done in silence and that that really helped with
02:01 17 thinking and also that it was such a collaborative tool and
02:01 18 included all sorts of different voices. So those were some
02:01 19 of the responses that we got.

02:01 20 As we discussed previously, both during the
02:01 21 session and as I spoke with each of the four of you before
02:01 22 we did it, we're hoping that you folks will have an
02:01 23 opportunity to go back into Jamboard and indicate any of the
02:01 24 ideas that you might have some concerns about. We had asked
02:01 25 you to go in and turn those to pink so that we would know

02:02 1 it. And those would become the basis of a discussion that I
02:02 2 propose that you all put on the agenda for the November
02:02 3 meeting, your November meeting, any of the comments that
02:02 4 came up, any of the issues that came up that you might want
02:02 5 more clarification on or that you might want to say to the
02:02 6 work group we're concerned about this, we don't think this
02:02 7 would fly for whatever reason, or have you considered the
02:02 8 ramifications of doing that.

02:02 9 So we look to you folks on the Water
02:02 10 Planning Council to actually identify any of these ideas
02:02 11 that you're not comfortable with, and we can have a bigger
02:02 12 discussion about that at the next meeting.

02:02 13 So the tracking and reporting work group
02:02 14 will meet on November 30th to start working through these
02:02 15 ideas and coming up with a proposed plan. They anticipate
02:02 16 that the work group would only go four, five, six months,
02:02 17 typically meeting on the last Tuesday of each month. So
02:03 18 everybody is welcome to be part of that, and you can contact
02:03 19 Corinne to participate. They are looking for people to be
02:03 20 involved.

02:03 21 So are there any questions about that work
02:03 22 group or the brainstorming session itself? Well, to all of
02:03 23 you who participated, thank you. It was a great way of
02:03 24 generating ideas, which will be the basis for the
02:03 25 discussions in the work group.

02:03 1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Thank you, Virginia. That
02:03 2 was great to be able to participate. It gave me a lot of
02:03 3 motivation to keep making progress. That was a very fun
02:03 4 session. Thank you.

02:03 5 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: You're very welcome.

02:04 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other questions or
02:04 7 comments for Virginia, Dave, and group?

02:04 8 Okay. Thank you very much. We will move on
02:04 9 to the Water Planning Council Advisory Group. Alicea?

02:04 10 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I am ready. So just a few
02:04 11 updates outside of what you're already hearing here. We
02:04 12 discussed how to move forward on how we're going to compare
02:04 13 the State Water Plan consensus recommendations and pathways
02:04 14 forward with the GC3 recommendations.

02:04 15 And after attending the GC3 update meeting
02:04 16 before the Water Planning Council Advisory Group meeting, it
02:04 17 sounds like there is going to be some guidance coming down;
02:05 18 but while we're waiting for that to happen, we divided up
02:05 19 making the lists of the -- and putting together the various
02:05 20 recommendations from the -- those of us that are familiar
02:05 21 with the GC3 recommendations, putting that list together of
02:05 22 recommendations from the GC3 that impact water, from public
02:05 23 health and infrastructure, and also working in natural lands
02:05 24 and also putting together the lists -- the most current
02:05 25 lists we have of the state water plan's consensus

02:05 1 recommendations and pathways forward as well as the WUCC
02:05 2 implementation items.

02:05 3 We figured putting all of those into one
02:05 4 place at this point is going to be a first step, so we're
02:05 5 currently working on that and then, as I said, awaiting what
02:05 6 we expect to see coming down from Rebecca's group from GC3.

02:06 7 We also have a slate for the Water Planning
02:06 8 Council to consider for the coming year for the Water
02:06 9 Planning Advisory Group. I know the Water Planning Council
02:06 10 themselves is aware of this, but in case -- if there is
02:06 11 anyone on this call that is not aware, Josh Cansler is
02:06 12 stepping down as co-chair. He has some work obligations
02:06 13 that are ramping up over the next year and losing some
02:06 14 staff, so he has to step back; but Dan Letts has volunteered
02:06 15 to step up as co-chair. So that is a change in our -- the
02:06 16 sort of volunteers for you to consider, but I will bring up
02:06 17 the nomination committee's recommendations and I will let
02:07 18 Carol, who is now the chair of the nominating committee, to
02:07 19 do the talking from here.

02:07 20 CAROL HASKINS: Thanks, Alicea.

02:07 21 So Carol Haskins from Pomperaug River
02:07 22 Watershed Coalition. I just moved into the chair for the
02:07 23 nominating committee and was passed great material by John
02:07 24 Hudak. So we have in front of us a slate that is pretty
02:07 25 familiar looking in that there is not really any name

02:07 1 changes. There are a few things that are highlighted in red
02:07 2 here. In terms of the upcoming slate -- so group four is
02:07 3 the group that would need to be approved, elected. I don't
02:07 4 know the proper term. I apologize for that. So group four
02:07 5 would have a term -- a four-year term beginning January 1,
02:08 6 2022. And all of the folks that are in that group four are
02:08 7 existing members and have agreed that they would be willing
02:08 8 to continue on.

02:08 9 So they are Dan Lawrence from Aquarion Water
02:08 10 Company, Patrick Kearney from Town of Manchester Water
02:08 11 Department, Fred Klein from Pullman & Comley, Alicea
02:08 12 Charamaut from -- representing the Fisheries Advisory
02:08 13 Council for this particular group, and Aaron Budris from the
02:08 14 Naugatuck Valley COG representing the COGs.

02:08 15 And as a whole, this continues to keep the
02:08 16 representation of in-stream and out-of-stream users at eight
02:08 17 and eight and neutral members at four. So there is a
02:08 18 balance between the in-stream and out-of-stream
02:08 19 representation. And then the -- while it's not in cycle, in
02:09 20 group one, there is a current vacancy in the business and
02:09 21 industry water in terms of businesses, which was represented
02:09 22 by the Connecticut Nursery & Landscaping Association.

02:09 23 I apologize, Alicea. You've got to help me
02:09 24 out. The gentleman who just retired, his name just escaped
02:09 25 me.

02:09 1 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Mike Evans.

02:09 2 CAROL HASKINS: Thank you.

02:09 3 He is still actively involved with that
02:09 4 association and is trying to find an alternate member to
02:09 5 represent the Connecticut Nursery & Landscaping Association;
02:09 6 and the nominating committee and the advisory group as a
02:09 7 whole feels strongly that that's the right pathway to keep
02:09 8 represented for that business and industry water-intensive
02:09 9 business at this time. So we'll leave that vacancy where it
02:10 10 is, but there is an alternate, so they are still
02:10 11 represented. That individual is just not ready to move up
02:10 12 to the full representative position.

02:10 13 And we're recommending to remove Joan
02:10 14 Nichols in the agricultural category. She's attended maybe
02:10 15 one meeting in the past year and maybe one the year prior.
02:10 16 So we're looking for an alternate agricultural
02:10 17 representative and have some leads, but have not yet found a
02:10 18 candidate. Any questions?

02:10 19 REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: On the ag
02:10 20 representative thing, are you looking for specific
02:10 21 credentials for that person or a specific ag sector?

02:10 22 CAROL HASKINS: Not necessarily a particular
02:10 23 ag sector. With having the Connecticut Nursery &
02:10 24 Landscaping Association representing the large business and
02:10 25 industry water-intensive businesses, looking for someone

02:10 1 outside of the nursery and landscaping from the agricultural
02:11 2 community. We do have some leads with the Connecticut
02:11 3 Farmland Trust as well as the Economic and -- the Resource
02:11 4 and Development Agency.

02:11 5 REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: So after nursery,
02:11 6 the next largest sector is dairy by land usage, the highest
02:11 7 by sales I think. So there's a statewide milk promotion
02:11 8 board in the department of ag. I was on that before elected
02:11 9 as representative. There's pretty good attendance in those
02:11 10 members. Those members might be good leads or, you know,
02:11 11 duly representative. So that might be worth an idea -- you
02:11 12 know, an investigation. I can think of some ideas and, you
02:12 13 know, run to you if that's helpful. I do a lot of work with
02:12 14 the AG sector in my district.

02:12 15 CAROL HASKINS: Great. That would be very
02:12 16 helpful.

02:12 17 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Particularly because
02:12 18 there should be a representative from the Connecticut Farm
02:12 19 Bureau, in the past, we've had an entirely different
02:12 20 water-intensive industry. We had a representative from the
02:12 21 Golf Superintendents Association that served on this group
02:12 22 for several years.

02:12 23 CAROL HASKINS: That has been floated around
02:12 24 as a possibility if we're not able to find someone from the
02:12 25 Connecticut Nursery & Landscaping Association, to revisit

02:12 1 the golf association as a potential avenue.

02:12 2 REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: The nursery and
02:12 3 landscaping person is also my constituent. If you don't
02:13 4 hear back, let me know.

02:13 5 CAROL HASKINS: Okay. Is there any
02:13 6 questions or comments from the Water Planning Council
02:13 7 members on this slate?

02:13 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Looks like a very good slate.
02:13 9 Thank you. I know it's a lot of work putting this together.
02:13 10 We appreciate the representative's willingness to assist.
02:13 11 It's always a challenge to fill these spots, so we
02:13 12 appreciate that. So this is for what we'll be picking up at
02:13 13 a later date.

02:13 14 Anything further, Alicea?

02:13 15 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Are you suggesting that
02:13 16 you vote on this in November? We were recommending that the
02:13 17 Water Planning Council approve the slate with the vacancies
02:13 18 with the understanding that we would come to the Water
02:14 19 Planning Council for approval when the vacancies are filled.

02:14 20 THE CHAIRMAN: We can do that. I would
02:14 21 entertain a motion to that effect.

02:14 22 LORI MATHIEU: I make a motion that we vote
02:14 23 on this slate as presented.

02:14 24 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second it.

02:14 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded that the slate as

02:14 1 recommended by Water Planning Council Advisory Group be
02:14 2 approved by the Water Planning Council. Any questions on
02:14 3 the motion? If not, all in favor signify by saying aye.

02:14 4 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

02:14 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Slate is approved. Thank you
02:14 6 very much.

02:14 7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you. And we do --
02:14 8 Karen and Margaret do have a report from the watershed lands
02:14 9 group, so I will hand this over to Margaret or Karen or both
02:15 10 of them, whoever would like to speak at this time.

02:15 11 MARGARET MINER: So I'll speak. Karen has
02:15 12 been moonlighting with her dentist, so I don't know if she
02:15 13 feels like speaking at this moment. But if you do Karen,
02:15 14 make a little sound. She's there but not speaking.

02:15 15 We discussed -- in sort of old business, we
02:15 16 discussed our intention with the watershed lands group to
02:15 17 keep an eye on what GAE does this year with the conveyance
02:15 18 bill to be sure they do add the questions that the Water
02:15 19 Planning Council approved and that they said they would add;
02:15 20 and, also, we would like the information on the requests for
02:15 21 land conveyance -- the information that's offered concerning
02:15 22 the land, we'd like that to be public. That might be a
02:15 23 question that comes up later.

02:16 24 We also drew attention to -- we drew
02:16 25 attention to the Department of Economic Development the

02:16 1 Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development the
02:16 2 availability of 17 million dollar grant for remediation and
02:16 3 development projects under the municipal grant program.

02:16 4 The reason we drew attention to that
02:16 5 opportunity is that we heard in the watershed lands group
02:16 6 and WPCAG from several solar developers and solar engineers
02:16 7 who say it's very difficult to find and arrange to get and
02:16 8 use brownfield sites, and here is an opportunity where the
02:16 9 state is beginning a program for the remediation of
02:16 10 brownfield sites and either in connection with GC3 or any
02:17 11 number of state policy positions could help solar developers
02:17 12 and towns identify which of these sites or whether there are
02:17 13 opportunities on these sites for solar development as
02:17 14 opposed to going into the forest and cutting trees, which
02:17 15 has been too often the case.

02:17 16 The energy representatives expressed some
02:17 17 interest. I haven't heard if they have followed up. I
02:17 18 would also mention in connection with this that we've often
02:17 19 in different venues, including the lands group, talked about
02:17 20 the kind of waste it is of the siting council to bring them
02:17 21 in at the very end of the process when they could be
02:17 22 involved at the beginning. This is another opportunity
02:17 23 where people who want to see something done could get
02:18 24 together at the beginning of a program and the beginning of
02:18 25 funding and try to steer the projects to be in line with

02:18 1 state policy and climate mitigation, climate change
02:18 2 mitigation to the best they can.

02:18 3 So I had actually spoke to Laura Lupoli.
02:18 4 There's a little description in the link, but she's away
02:18 5 today. So I think everyone in the advisory group has this
02:18 6 information.

02:18 7 But, Jack, I just forwarded the email I sent
02:18 8 to Laura to you in case --

02:18 9 LAURA LUPOLI: I did send it. I sent it.

02:18 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Margaret, Laura is very
02:18 11 efficient. It's gone out to everybody.

02:18 12 MARGARET MINER: Okay. I thought that she
02:18 13 was out, so I thought -- well, that's fine.

02:18 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it went out 5:30 this
02:18 15 morning.

02:18 16 MARGARET MINER: Oh, my goodness. Oh, dear.
02:18 17 It was cold and dark at 5:30 this morning. Okay. Thank
02:19 18 you, Laura.

02:19 19 LAURA LUPOLI: You're welcome.

02:19 20 MARGARET MINER: Anyway, Jack, we wanted the
02:19 21 Water Planning Council because you have all the agencies,
02:19 22 all of which in one way or another are involved in this
02:19 23 issue, so we wanted to let you know that we looked at it.
02:19 24 We thought it might be an opportunity for some good work.

02:19 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I mean, this -- thank

02:19 1 you for sharing that. There's a great deal of money
02:19 2 available. It's just a matter of how we parlay that into
02:19 3 what we need and who would apply for it, but it certainly
02:19 4 would be helpful to what you've been working on. That's for
02:19 5 sure.

02:19 6 MARGARET MINER: Yeah. You know, often the
02:19 7 State says, "We don't want to tell the towns what to do,"
02:19 8 but when you're giving the towns land or money or something
02:19 9 really nice, I think you could sort of tell them what to do.
02:19 10 You could guide them in a particular direction. That's my
02:20 11 hope.

02:20 12 GRAHAM STEVENS: If I could, Jack, just in
02:20 13 response to that --

02:20 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

02:20 15 GRAHAM STEVENS: -- nice comment. I'm just
02:20 16 posting in the chat a link to DEEP's web page that deals
02:20 17 with the siting of solar and renewable energy on brownfields
02:20 18 and landfills, including a little dating page where landfill
02:20 19 or brownfield owners can solicit interest from solar
02:20 20 developers. Admittedly, this web page probably needs to be
02:20 21 dusted down and updated slightly to reflect some of the
02:20 22 changes in the brownfield funding programs as well as some
02:20 23 of the other funding programs for renewable energy; but it
02:20 24 certainly does get to, you know, some of Margaret's group's
02:20 25 comments, trying to prioritize the reuse of previously

02:20 1 developed properties for solar and other clean energy
02:21 2 installations, which we certainly support as an agency. And
02:21 3 when we are involved in an RFP for renewable energy, we
02:21 4 actually require that folks evaluate those options, you
02:21 5 know, although we have heard back, as I'm sure others have
02:21 6 heard, that the time horizon on engaging on a brownfield
02:21 7 remediation or investigation, you know, can cause issues
02:21 8 with respect to, you know, developing that project in a
02:21 9 timely manner.

02:21 10 However, you know, I would just like to say
02:21 11 that not all brownfields require a significant amount of
02:21 12 investigation or clean-up. There may be an issue of
02:21 13 perceived contamination. And these sites being previously
02:22 14 developed may have lesser permitting hurdles for development
02:22 15 as a clean energy renewable energy resource. So just
02:22 16 something, again, for the good of the whole.

02:22 17 MARGARET MINER: This is Margaret. This
02:22 18 might be a good place for your concierge service, give it a
02:22 19 little extra attention and special aid to applicants.

02:22 20 GRAHAM STEVENS: Great point, Margaret.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

02:22 22 ALICEA CHARAMUT: One last item for the
02:22 23 Water Planning Advisory Group. The first phase of the
02:23 24 source water protection white paper drafts are coming in.
02:23 25 We just need to do a little bit more cat herding to bring

02:23 1 the rest in. On that note, last week was the first annual
02:23 2 Source Water Protection Week, so mark your calendars for the
02:23 3 end of September for next year to note that there is a
02:23 4 Source Water Protection Week and do some social media around
02:23 5 it.

02:23 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

02:23 7 LOUIS BURCH: This is Lou. I just wanted to
02:23 8 jump in real quick.

02:23 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Lou.

02:23 10 LOUIS BURCH: I wanted to kind of dovetail
02:23 11 off of what Alicea just said. I wanted to just go into a
02:23 12 little bit of detail so folks know exactly what we're hoping
02:23 13 to do. So the Source Water Protection Week that you had
02:23 14 mentioned, Alicea, is the type of thing that we wanted to
02:24 15 highlight in the calendar that Virginia shared with you all
02:24 16 today. And if you go ahead and you look -- you know, we're
02:24 17 just -- we wanted to put together some opportunities for
02:24 18 different types of events and things like that that are
02:24 19 going to be taking place throughout the year. Obviously,
02:24 20 this September, this October, you know, would have been a
02:24 21 little bit short notice. We're still working on all the
02:24 22 materials and that kind of thing, but that's exactly the
02:24 23 type of event that we want to be able to tie programs into
02:24 24 and some of the dissemination of the outreach materials that
02:24 25 we're putting together.

02:24 1 So the hope is that you all will look at
02:24 2 that. We initially discussed potentially trying to send
02:24 3 something out about the State Water Plan for a World Without
02:24 4 Water Day, which is at the end of October, but also
02:24 5 recognized that there was going to be some review and
02:24 6 approval process that needed to happen before we would be
02:24 7 able to get something like that out and just kind of
02:25 8 resigned to setting our sights on next year.

02:25 9 But world -- you know, Source Water
02:25 10 Protection Week, Wetlands Day, World Water Day, these are
02:25 11 all opportunities that we look at as, you know,
02:25 12 opportunities for us to talk to the public about what the
02:25 13 State Water Plan does and why that's so important, so please
02:25 14 do look at that.

02:25 15 And if you're all getting together to have
02:25 16 some discussions about what the scope of the implementation
02:25 17 work group going to be moving forward, you know, definitely
02:25 18 take a good look at that calendar and revised work plan that
02:25 19 we talked about because our hope is given that there's a lot
02:25 20 of moving parts and a lot of different working groups and
02:25 21 things like that that are doing different things, our hope
02:25 22 is that we're going to be able to make it pretty easy for
02:25 23 the Water Planning Council and its member agencies to just
02:26 24 kind of plug and play some of this outreach and some of the
02:26 25 education materials that we're going to be putting together.

02:26 1 That was just my thing. I just wanted to share that with
02:26 2 you all.

02:26 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lou. Appreciate
02:26 4 that.

02:26 5 Okay. Anything else on the Water Planning
02:26 6 Council Advisory Group?

02:26 7 ALICEA CHARAMUT: I believe that's it.

02:26 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Alicea.
9 Appreciate it.

02:26 10 WUCC update. Lori?

02:26 11 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack.

02:26 12 I have -- I believe Eric McPhee is joining
02:26 13 us like he did the last time to provide to us the update for
02:26 14 the WUCC.

02:26 15 ERIC MCPHEE: I will do this very quickly.
02:26 16 Thank you, Lori. I'm going to share my screen. There's two
02:26 17 slides on where we are. Lori, is this working?

02:27 18 LORI MATHIEU: Yes.

02:27 19 ERIC MCPHEE: Okay. So two things we're
20 working on right now, mentioned when we spoke briefly last
02:27 21 time. First is an interconnection road map. This is to
02:27 22 help water systems and municipalities sort of find their way
02:27 23 when an interconnection might be of value to them and so
02:27 24 helping them to understand the differences between what an
02:27 25 active interconnection is and what an emergency

02:27 1 interconnection is, make it part of an overall planning
02:27 2 strategy, which intersects with the other WUCC efforts and
02:27 3 with resiliency and redundancy efforts solving climate
02:27 4 change and it's sort of tied into a lot of things that both
02:27 5 the WUCC and the Water Planning Council are working on.

02:27 6 There's a lot of information and specific
02:27 7 information on potential interconnections in the WUCC
02:27 8 coordinated plans, so this implementation effort would build
02:27 9 on what's already done, and that's through your effort with
02:27 10 the WUCC plans; and certainly the idea would be to involve
02:27 11 the municipalities that are impacted, show them the benefits
02:28 12 in being involved with the COGs. It's worth noting that Sam
02:28 13 Alexander from Southeastern COG is the lead in this
02:28 14 implementation effort.

02:28 15 One of the things we're trying to do -- I
02:28 16 saw Corinne was on this meeting. We're trying to offer
02:28 17 clarity to everyone on what the implications would be
02:28 18 related to interconnections on DPH's selective water
02:28 19 permitting and DEEP's diversion permitting and to have
02:28 20 everyone look at, you know, obviously these things can be
02:28 21 expensive and to look at cost benefit and long-term benefits
02:28 22 before making the decision on whether to proceed or not.

02:28 23 This is -- on the left -- it's sort of busy,
02:28 24 but on the left is just a couple snapshots from one of the
02:28 25 existing coordinated plans from the WUCC just to show the

02:28 1 work that's been done, and on the right is the -- we're
02:28 2 doing an online collaboration on the actual roadmap
02:28 3 document. That's just it's not too late to chime in or get
02:28 4 involved, to add your comments or feelings on the
02:29 5 interconnection.

02:29 6 The second effort is a municipal outreach
02:29 7 effort, and we had a law change in Public Act 21-121 that
02:29 8 changed some of the notification requirements, so we're
02:29 9 going to use that as an excuse to reach out to COGs and
02:29 10 municipalities about 8-3i and 22a-42f, which are
02:29 11 notification requirements. If there's a project within an
02:29 12 ATA or a drinking water watershed, that notification has to
02:29 13 go to both the water utility and DPH.

02:29 14 It will also help municipalities understand
02:29 15 our certificate of public convenience and necessity process.
02:29 16 A big thing would be, you know, when did they make their
02:29 17 local decisions in the CPCN process. A lot times we get
02:29 18 stuck in a catch-22 situation where the local decision
02:29 19 makers and the applicants don't know, you know, who makes a
02:29 20 decision first when there's a potential development of an
02:29 21 on-site water supply, so help them use a flowchart to help
02:29 22 the applicants and help the local municipalities understand
02:30 23 the process and the flow.

02:30 24 More guidance and outreach. We would like
02:30 25 to do some actual real outreach when speaking to the

02:30 1 municipalities and get more people involved, and this one --
02:30 2 leads to this efforts are Aaron Budris and Christine O'Neil,
02:30 3 Naugatuck Valley COG. We did change -- as of October 1st,
02:30 4 the law change took effect for these project notifications,
02:30 5 so we did develop an online form, an online mapping
02:30 6 application to help the applicant navigate their
02:30 7 requirements when proposing a project to a municipal
02:30 8 planning organization or inland wetland.

02:30 9 The last slide, these are just screenshots
02:30 10 of the online form, which is now available on our website,
02:30 11 and it links to a mapping application that can help you
02:30 12 identify where your project is happening. We're going to
02:30 13 circulate a letter shortly and then more outreach and get
02:30 14 the word out that this is a change, which hopefully will
02:30 15 help us, help a lot of the utilities and help everyone make
02:31 16 informed decisions in something that can impact a source of
02:31 17 drinking water. Thank you.

02:31 18 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Eric.

02:31 19 Jack, could we have time for some questions?
02:31 20 People might have questions based upon the form that Eric
02:31 21 just shared. There was a lot of information there about --

02:31 22 ERIC MCPHEE: Yeah. I talk really fast too,
02:31 23 which makes --

02:31 24 LORI MATHIEU: He had slides. If you want
02:31 25 to add the slides to the chat, Eric, because that could

02:31 1 help.

02:31 2 ERIC MCPHEE: I sure can. It's all public
02:31 3 information.

02:31 4 LORI MATHIEU: I know -- Margaret and
02:31 5 Alicea, I know both of you have had a lot of great input
02:31 6 into our changes, and thank you for your assistance and
02:31 7 everyone helping us make a significant change here to this.
02:31 8 It might seem slight, but it's very meaningful to us because
02:31 9 at the Department of Health, we certainly realize that we
02:31 10 needed to educate our municipalities about this law, whether
02:32 11 it's planning and zoning or inland wetlands. 8-3i is P & Z.
02:32 12 22a-42f is inland wetland law, so it's a notification
02:32 13 requirement that's been around for a long time, but we
02:32 14 wanted to make it electronic. And Eric has done an
02:32 15 excellent job moving toward that end with the online form.

02:32 16 So we want to hear from -- again, the
02:32 17 notification -- correct me if I'm wrong, Eric -- comes from
02:32 18 the applicant, not the towns?

02:32 19 ERIC MCPHEE: Yes, it is. The requirement
02:32 20 is that the applicant make the notification within seven
02:32 21 days of filing the application. Some towns embed it into
02:32 22 their application. Some do not.

02:32 23 LORI MATHIEU: Okay. Any questions on that?
02:32 24 That was a lot, but good summary.

02:32 25 THE CHAIRMAN: You could always -- if you

02:32 1 have any questions, you can shoot them to Eric or Lori.

2 Lori, we'll move on to the private well
3 update.

02:32 4 ERIC MCPHEE: I'll drop my email into the
02:32 5 chat as well.

02:32 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Eric.

02:33 7 LORI MATHIEU: What's the next topic?

02:33 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Private well update.

02:33 9 LORI MATHIEU: Oh, private well, yes. So
02:33 10 similar to last month, one of the things that our department
02:33 11 is taking a careful look at is legislation that concerns
02:33 12 private well and water quality, so more to come as we
02:33 13 possibly move something forward. There's -- it's a long
02:33 14 road. And when we can share -- I can, we'll share. Does
02:33 15 that make any sense? When I can share, I will. Right now
02:33 16 it's a concept and still moving along, but more to come.

02:33 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Makes a lot of sense.

02:33 18 The drought work group update, Martin?

02:33 19 And before you start, I'd like to say that I
02:33 20 participated and Lori did and others did, Martin, on the EPA
02:33 21 drought workshop. I thought it was very good. We talked
02:34 22 about what the Water Planning Council is doing, and Martin
02:34 23 is going to give us an update.

02:34 24 MARTIN HEFT: Perfect.

02:34 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Martin, I don't know what

02:34 1 you're doing because we got 3 inches of water yesterday.

02:34 2 MARTIN HEFT: I'll tell you, it's all those
02:34 3 rain dances. Thanks for mentioning the EPA drought
02:34 4 workshops. I wasn't able to be on them fully and
02:34 5 everything, but I know they were great. I know our staff on
02:34 6 and the pieces I was on, you know, were terrific.

02:34 7 THE CHAIRMAN: They were great.

02:34 8 MARTIN HEFT: That was a great thing over
02:34 9 those two days. As you know, since our last meeting, our
02:34 10 drought work group has met. We had a special meeting last
02:34 11 week reviewing the recommendations from the drought sub work
02:34 12 group. We did get through charges, if you will --
02:34 13 apologies -- charges -- on charges two and charge three,
02:35 14 putting them into an Excel spreadsheet document, kind of
02:35 15 reviewing with a whole list of categories in there,
02:35 16 reviewing all of the recommendations.

02:35 17 The next step will be reviewing charges one
02:35 18 and four, to go through all of them, and then kind of going
02:35 19 through our charts that we have. We're kind of prioritizing
02:35 20 which things, you know, are completed, where are we at,
02:35 21 which things might need legislative action, which things are
02:35 22 immediate, which things can be, you know, future as we start
02:35 23 looking at all the different recommendations going through,
02:35 24 if there's a financial cost to it, looking at all of that.

02:35 25 So our first process is to go through all of

02:35 1 the four charges, all the recommendations, and do that. And
02:35 2 we'll do that over the next couple of months and work
02:35 3 towards that. We do have scheduled a meeting for this
02:35 4 Thursday, which may wind up being canceled or postponed
02:35 5 because of some staffing issues, so just be aware of that.

02:36 6 We'll get -- hopefully, I'll have -- I was
02:36 7 hoping to know by now, but we may have issues just regarding
02:36 8 staffing to be able -- for our minutes and recording and
02:36 9 everything that we need to do for this meeting, so we may
02:36 10 have to postpone this meeting, but we will have another
02:36 11 meeting hopefully within a week if that does happen so we
02:36 12 can continue on with the charge.

02:36 13 But as our chair has said, with the rain
02:36 14 we're getting here and everything, you know, our drought
02:36 15 situation is good. We haven't had to, you know, look into
02:36 16 the different stages of our drought plan at this time. So
02:36 17 that's the update as of now.

02:36 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Martin.
02:36 19 Appreciate you and the groups that work on this. Yeah, it's
02:36 20 great we have rain now, but we've all lived through
02:36 21 droughts, so it's very important you continue to do the work
02:36 22 that you're doing. Appreciate it.

02:36 23 Updates on legislation, Graham, conservation
02:37 24 fixtures?

02:37 25 GRAHAM STEVENS: So I'm happy to provide an

02:37 1 update for folks since our last meeting. Jack and I had a
02:37 2 meeting with our state agency partners at the Department of
02:37 3 Consumer Protection and the state's office of the state
02:37 4 building inspector, who is housed in the Department of
02:37 5 Administration Services, to talk about, you know, the
02:37 6 collective desire to update our water fixture standards to
02:37 7 incorporate WaterSense, which I think everyone, you know,
02:37 8 here agrees is a good thing to do, especially when you look
02:37 9 at the map and you see that all surrounding states,
02:37 10 including all New England states and New York and
02:37 11 Pennsylvania, have all adopted the standard for the most
02:38 12 part, except for the state of New Hampshire, and we
02:38 13 certainly want to hold ourselves to a high standard.

02:38 14 Connecticut is one of the leaders in water
02:38 15 conservation and protection, and, you know, I think the
02:38 16 market forces are probably helpful to us, but there's
02:38 17 probably not going to be a lot of folks who are delivering
02:38 18 water fixtures in New England, one standard for New
02:38 19 Hampshire and Connecticut and everyone else gets the
02:38 20 WaterSense fixtures. So, hopefully, that will address some
02:38 21 of the cost concerns that folks may have.

02:38 22 But in speaking with the Department of
02:38 23 Consumer Protection, who is definitely supportive of making
02:38 24 these updates, they did raise some concerns regarding the
02:38 25 regulated community and their constituents, who have to

02:38 1 abide by their rules. They acknowledge that it makes sense
02:39 2 for the statute to be updated, which hasn't been updated in
02:39 3 some time and which basically just sets the floor. The
02:39 4 regulations, you know, have been updated more recently, but
02:39 5 they did feel that a statutory and regulatory -- or a
02:39 6 statutory alone fix may be the best approach; but before
02:39 7 they undertook that effort, they believed or they believe
02:39 8 that it makes sense to conduct outreach with the trades as
02:39 9 well as building officials to make sure that these
02:39 10 constituents understand that this change is coming and have
02:39 11 an opportunity to voice their concern in advance of the
02:39 12 legislative process.

02:39 13 So that was the outcome of the meeting with
02:40 14 more opportunity for public engagement beyond that that has
02:40 15 been completed by the Water Planning Council and its
02:40 16 subgroups, which we do know and acknowledge did include some
02:40 17 of these same organizations. However, DCP felt that if they
02:40 18 were going to go out with new installation or regulatory
02:40 19 changes, as the agency of cognizance, they would want to do
02:40 20 that outreach.

02:40 21 The office of the state building inspector
02:40 22 also voiced the same concerns but did also state that they
02:40 23 are updating a state building code, which is a process
02:40 24 whereby they adopt the International Building Code either in
02:40 25 whole or in part. I think they always adopt in part with

02:40 1 modifications. And they are talking that this is
02:40 2 potentially something that they are evaluating for 2024,
02:41 3 which would be, you know, another mechanism for improving
02:41 4 the water conservation and fixtures.

02:41 5 Now, certainly not what I think this group
02:41 6 wanted to hear with respect to that discussion, but
02:41 7 certainly, you know, from my perspective, when we're asking
02:41 8 another agency, which is charged with many different tasks,
02:41 9 to prioritize something that's important to the Water
02:41 10 Planning Council, obviously they need to be given the
02:41 11 opportunity to engage with their own constituents and
02:41 12 stakeholders.

02:41 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Graham. And
02:41 14 there's a lot going on for sure in consumer protection.

02:41 15 Margaret?

02:41 16 I'm sorry. Virginia?

02:42 17 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Yes. One thing that I
02:42 18 forgot to mention in the implementation records update was
02:42 19 as a follow-on to last March's workshop on the setting
02:42 20 adequate rates that also included discussion of these
02:42 21 fixtures, Eric Kuzminski has put together a follow-up survey
02:42 22 now that six months have passed, asking the participants how
02:42 23 they have used the information that they learned at that
02:42 24 meeting. That should be going out in the next couple of
02:42 25 days. I did want to mention it to you folks. Do you want

02:42 1 to see it before it goes out? It's very straightforward.
02:42 2 It states, "Did you attend? Have you used the information?
02:42 3 If so, how did you use it?" That's the gist of what the
02:42 4 survey is. So very short, very simple.

02:42 5 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm fine with it.

02:42 6 Lori is shaking her head. Graham is okay.

02:43 7 I think Martin -- everyone is okay.

02:43 8 VIRGINIA DE LIMA: Okay. So we'll get the
02:43 9 list of participants from Maryanne and send that out. Also,
02:43 10 I should say that if you didn't notice, Corinne put the link
02:43 11 for the Jamboard platform in the chat, so I encourage people
02:43 12 to follow up with more ideas and I encourage the Water
02:43 13 Planning Council members, if you're able, to go in there and
02:43 14 indicate any with which you have concerns, so thank you.

02:43 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Virginia, thank you. Much
02:43 16 appreciated.

02:43 17 Thank you, Graham.

02:43 18 Any other business, old business? Any new
02:43 19 business? Public comment? Denise?

02:43 20 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yes. Thank you, Jack.

02:43 21 I just wanted to report on a couple of
02:43 22 things. The Connecticut Council on Soil and Water
02:44 23 Conservation had its quarterly meeting, and we have a couple
02:44 24 of updates that we -- that have to do with source water
02:44 25 protection in particular. One is on the Farm River. The

02:44 1 Farm River Watershed Management Plan, which is the first
02:44 2 watershed management plan that both was an NRCS water
02:44 3 quality initiative -- it was a pilot project for source
02:44 4 water protection in Connecticut. It was actually the first
02:44 5 in the nation. It's also a combined 319 project. And that
02:44 6 report is finished, and I'm going to put the link in the
02:44 7 chat for you.

02:44 8 So that is done in terms of that source
02:44 9 water protection grant that we have from NRCS. We're still
02:44 10 working on the Little River watershed plan, and that is
02:44 11 updating the Little River 319 watershed management plan to
02:44 12 include NWUI, which is National Watershed Initiative Plan,
02:45 13 for NRCS to also include source water protection.

02:45 14 And then the GIS mapping that is being done
02:45 15 statewide on source water protection, which is another part
02:45 16 of this grant funded by USDA, is ongoing. We've put all the
02:45 17 selection criteria and now UConn -- the GIS department at
02:45 18 UConn is finishing up that work. And what they're basically
02:45 19 doing is looking at all of the land uses and evaluating on a
02:45 20 parcel layer the different parcels within every community
02:45 21 and within the public drinking water supply and watershed,
02:45 22 so we can say which one should we protect, which ones need
02:45 23 work on them, that type of thing. We'll be able to
02:45 24 prioritize. So that work is ongoing.

02:45 25 And then two things that we -- one I had

02:45 1 reported on before, but as part of the council, we have in
02:46 2 attendance the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station. I think I
02:46 3 had reported here about the work they are doing on hydrilla
02:46 4 and the relationship between hydrilla and harmful algal
02:46 5 blooms that's ongoing and we keep monitoring that with the
02:46 6 Connecticut Ag Experiment Station. We were talking about
02:46 7 this last meeting about soil health. You know soil health
02:46 8 is big with the Connecticut soil conservation.

02:46 9 Jeff Ward, who is one of the major foresters
02:46 10 at the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, brought up the
02:46 11 challenge we're seeing with jumping worms, a new problem
02:46 12 within our watersheds, really impacting the understory
02:46 13 particularly in Fairfield County. And one of the challenges
02:46 14 will be that this is really impacting soil health. We were
02:46 15 not -- the worms go through the leaf litter so quickly, and
02:46 16 they just do it on the surface. They don't develop the leaf
02:46 17 litter into the soil the way normal earthworms work. They
02:46 18 basically are surface worms. They get rid of the leaf
02:46 19 litter very quickly, which leaves the soil susceptible to
02:47 20 erosion and some other changes actually in the chemistry of
02:47 21 the soils, and the effect is that we don't have understory
02:47 22 plants and we don't have reforestation happening because the
02:47 23 plants cannot germinate because of the work of these jumping
02:47 24 worms. So it's something Jeff Ward has pointed out to us at
02:47 25 the Connecticut council that we really should be paying

02:47 1 attention to and working to at watershed management, and
02:47 2 certainly I think it has implications for us in terms of
02:47 3 source water protection. And in the southwest part of the
02:47 4 state, where we already have challenges with water supplies
02:47 5 and whatever, it's something we should be looking at.

02:47 6 So I just wanted to relay that information
02:47 7 that was provided to us. It's something we'll be digging
02:47 8 into, the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, and looking at
02:47 9 what are our steps when we're talking about protecting
02:47 10 forest land for source water protection and how might we --
02:47 11 what are the steps we can take, do we need to do more
02:47 12 research, what are the implications here, and it was
02:48 13 definitely something that's going to be on the radar screen
02:48 14 for the soil health committee that's putting together an
02:48 15 action plan for soil health across the state and across all
02:48 16 landscapes. Thank you.

02:48 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Any
02:48 18 other public comment? I don't see any. So a couple things
02:48 19 coming up. Tomorrow we have our own Denise Savageau and
02:48 20 Lori Mathieu are going to be speaking at the Energy
02:48 21 Efficiency Day virtual summit. That's tomorrow from 9:00 to
02:48 22 12:30. I believe everybody has been made aware of that.
02:48 23 I'm sure Lori and Denise will do a great job.

02:48 24 And then on the 21st of October is the
02:48 25 Connecticut Water Works Association's a day without --

02:48 1 there's a seminar. They have it -- they didn't have it --
02:48 2 they had it virtual last year, but it's October 21st at the
02:48 3 Aqua Turf. I will be speaking there on behalf of the
02:49 4 council. Put that on your calendar as well. It's usually a
02:49 5 very, very good event.

02:49 6 If there's no other business, our next
02:49 7 meeting is on Election Day, November 2nd. Some of us may or
02:49 8 may not be busy that day. I hope to see you all then.
02:49 9 Anything else to come before us? And I thank Representative
02:49 10 Foster. I don't know if she's still with us.

02:49 11 Representative Foster, did you sign off?

02:49 12 GRAHAM STEVENS: She did sign off.

02:49 13 THE CHAIRMAN: It was nice to have her with
02:49 14 us today. Anything else to come before us? If not, a
02:49 15 motion to adjourn is in order.

02:49 16 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

17 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second it.

02:49 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Heft, seconded
02:49 19 by Mr. Stevens. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

02:49 20 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

02:49 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Meeting is adjourned. Thank
02:49 22 you all very much for your participation. Have a good rest
02:50 23 of your day.

24 (Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.)

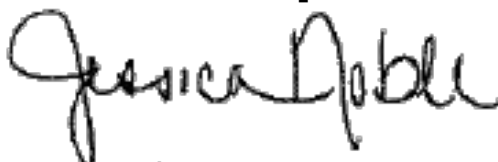
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CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

I hereby certify that the foregoing 52 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the hearing held by remote access in re: State Water Planning Council regular meeting, which was held remotely before JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, VICE CHAIRMAN, on October 2, 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 26th day of October, 2021.



Jessica Noble
Notary Public
CT License No. 402

My Commission expires: September 30, 2026