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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
December 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 **JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN (PURA)**

4 **MARTIN HEFT (OPM)**

5 **LORI MATHIEU (DPH)**

6 **GRAHAM STEVENS (DEEP)**

7
8 **ALSO PRESENT (on record):**

9 **VIRGINIA de LIMA**

10 **ALICEA CHARAMUT**

11 **MARGARET MINER**

12 **DENISE SAVAGEAU**

13 **JOSH CANSLER**

14 **CAROL HASKINS**

15 **KAREN BURNASKA**

16 **DAVID KUZMINSKI**

17 **CORINNE FITTING**

18
19 **Staff:**

20 **LAURA LUPOLI**

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone, and
2 welcome to the Water Planning Council meeting for
3 December 7, 2021. The first order of business
4 will be the approval of the November 3, 2021,
5 meeting transcript.

6 Do I have a motion to accept that?

7 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

8 GRAHAM STEVENS: Seconded.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and seconded.

10 Any questions on the motion?

11
12 (No response.)

13
14 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
15 saying, aye.

16 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Just for everybody with us today, we're
18 going to conduct the meeting -- we're going to
19 public comment at the beginning of the meeting,
20 and then we're going to offer up at the end of the
21 meeting if anybody has something additional.

22 But we'd like to mostly keep the agenda
23 itself for those giving reports, and if people
24 have questions they can ask later on, so to give
25 the Water Planning Council an opportunity to

1 interact.

2 So with that, is there any public comment?

3 Any public comment in the beginning?

4 MARTIN HEFT: Mr. Chairman, may I make a suggestion?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MARTIN HEFT: Sorry. It's that if anyone has public
7 comment now that it pertains to the items on the
8 agenda for the first set of public comment, and
9 then at the end of the meeting it would be
10 anything that's not on the agenda for people to
11 bring up under public comment.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. It sounds good. And I see --
13 Karen Burnaska, are you raising your hand?

14 KAREN BURNASKA: No, I think I was just scratching my
15 head. Sorry.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I see a hand raised in front of you. It
17 must be my computer.

18 Anybody wish to speak to us before we began?

19
20 (No response.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's move onto correspondence,
23 correspondence received. We have one bit of
24 correspondence -- and Margaret Miner I believe is
25 with us, and Margaret had sent us an e-mail

1 relative to an issue that she had.

2 And we hope that Margaret's feeling better.

3 I thought Margaret was with us -- oh, there
4 she is. Okay. Margaret.

5 Margaret, I hope that you're feeling better
6 and we appreciate you being with us, but you had
7 sent some correspondence relative to a mold issue
8 in Danbury.

9 MS. LUPOLI: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure she has audio.

10 I think she has the video. I don't see an audio
11 next to her name, so she may not be able to speak.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So why don't we hold off on that
13 until Lori gets on, because I think Lori had some
14 dialogue with Margaret about that issue. So we
15 can bring that up later on.

16 No other correspondence. Let's move on,
17 right on to Virginia de Lima and the
18 implementation workgroup update.

19 Virginia?

20 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Okay. Well, as you know, we have

21 three things that we're focused on at the moment.

22 The outreach and education group, Denise will
23 give us an update on that shortly.

24 Also we have moving the implementation
25 tracking and reporting group and they met their in

1 first meeting and went over some of the background
2 information, the statutory requirements for
3 implementation and tracking, and what the state
4 water plan says about it.

5 They are the process of setting another
6 meeting date for the end of the month. Obviously,
7 it's a challenge for the holidays but then they'll
8 be really looking at some of the results from the
9 brainstorming session that most of you
10 participated in back a couple of months ago. And
11 so they're off to a great start.

12 Also the workgroup that's looking at the
13 water chief position had their initial meeting.
14 And again, it is off to a great start looking at
15 background stuff.

16 And one of the things that we were focused on
17 was there was a general consensus that the
18 position should be at a fairly high level with
19 responsibilities to really do something, as
20 opposed to just being an administrative type of
21 position. We agreed that we are going to look at
22 other states and other agencies within Connecticut
23 that had positions, perhaps had similar positions.

24 We've already reached out to some of the
25 other states like Oregon to see what they can

1 share with us in terms of giving us guidance.

2 The group will be working individually off of
3 a Google Drive document for the month of December,
4 and then we plan to meet twice a month in January
5 and February hoping to have completed a draft for
6 review in February.

7 So that is our plan. The future meeting
8 dates will be January 7th and 21st, and February
9 4th. Those are all Fridays and we will be meeting
10 from 11 to 12:30, but as I said, the first stage
11 of work we're going to be doing our own research
12 coming up with our own ideas and sharing them on a
13 on a Google Doc.

14 Dave, do you want to add anything to that?

15 Or Corinne if you're on the call?

16 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Just corroborate that we had a good
17 first meeting. We've got good participation.
18 Some folks who expressed interest in participating
19 like Maureen Westbrook, Steve Goupar and Dave
20 Cobb couldn't make it, but we tried to schedule
21 future meetings around their availability and I
22 expect to have seven or eight participants through
23 the process to wrap it up hopefully fairly quickly
24 and get you something in the early part of the
25 year.

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And Corinne, is there anything that
2 you want to add for the implementation tracking
3 and reporting group?

4 CORINNE FITTING: No, I don't think so. We're off to a
5 good start and we're, you know, just sort of
6 getting everybody up to speed for that first
7 meeting, and then we'll dive in for the next one.

8 But I'm looking forward -- it's a good group.
9 I'm looking forward to working with everybody.

10 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Great. Thank you.

11 Any questions?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I think the tracking group is off to a
13 really good start. I participated in some of the
14 calls and we've got a good foundation moving
15 forward, and I thank everybody for their
16 participation so far.

17 Okay. You want to turn it over to Denise,
18 Virginia?

19 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Yeah. Denise, if you'll bring us up
20 to date on the outreach and education group,
21 please?

22 GRAHAM STEVENS: Can I just jump in here for a second?
23 Sorry, Jack. I just wanted to update everyone.

24 At the last meeting Lori and I had
25 volunteered to meet, to talk more about some of

1 the internal state logistics surrounding that
2 water chief, and how we might potentially
3 structure agreements and fund the position.

4 And I just did want to say that while we
5 don't have anything formal to provide back to the
6 Water Planning council at this time, we did have a
7 couple of productive discussions. And I think
8 that the one thing that -- I don't want to speak
9 for Lori, but I think the one thing that we shared
10 in the outcome of those discussions was some real
11 optimism, you know that this might be the
12 opportunity to really, really supercharge the
13 Water Planning Council with the addition of this,
14 this water chief.

15 And we've been keeping tabs on discussions
16 that David and Virginia and others are having with
17 respect to the duties and responsibilities, and we
18 like what we see thus far, and certainly are
19 hopeful that this will be something that, although
20 just briefly mentioned in the state water plan,
21 something that will be vitally important just for
22 our success, our shared success going forward.

23 I don't know, Lori, if you had anything else
24 you wanted to add?

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Lori?

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Sorry if I was speaking for you.

2 LORI MATHIEU: That's okay, Graham. Any time. Any
3 time, but I'm glad you brought it up.

4 And yeah, Graham and I have been chatting
5 quite a bit, as we always do, but this one in
6 particular is of great interest -- and to our
7 department, and I think it will provide the
8 emphasis that we need to help us move forward as a
9 council.

10 I think we have to -- The four of us really
11 should chat about what we believe are some of the
12 most basic important items. I know we never --
13 the four of us really never have time to do this,
14 or we can't do this under executive session.

15 But for me, and I was there when the plan was
16 being drafted, this became an item at the very end
17 and. We really didn't have, you know, Jack, you
18 were there -- we didn't have a lot of time at the
19 very end of putting the plan together to put a lot
20 of documentation about conversations we were
21 having about the need for this particular
22 position.

23 So we sort of ran out of time there. So
24 there's not much in the state water plan, but
25 there's a mention of how important this position

1 would be.

2 I would agree that the position needs to be
3 high level. I would agree that the position does
4 not -- I would say, should not really work for any
5 one of our agencies.

6 I think that that's an important factor, that
7 this person would be hired under some sort of
8 mechanism yet to be determined, and funded by some
9 sort of mechanism yet to be determined, but that
10 not any one of us should really control this
11 particular individual. And that it would be made
12 clear that this person would work on behalf of the
13 Council for the four of us.

14 You know I think that it's so important,
15 those particular items that I just mentioned, that
16 they are the cornerstones and the foundation of
17 this, what this person would do and what this
18 person -- who this person would be responsible to.

19 There's so many things that we all need to
20 accomplish under the state water plan. So now is
21 the time and I think I would like to thank
22 Virginia and David, and everyone who's worked on
23 this. So I appreciate that.

24 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Jack, may I suggest that this be an
25 explicit item on your January agenda so that you

1 have the opportunity to have that discussion?
2 That would be perfect timing for the group,
3 because as I said, we're working independently and
4 our first meeting is the second week -- well, not
5 the second week of January, but would be
6 immediately after your January meeting.

7 And so to have heard your input at that point
8 would be a great benefit to the group.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Actually, it's going to come up later on
10 today, is that we're going to discuss having a
11 special meeting of the Water Planning Council to
12 discuss the goals and objectives of the state
13 water plan, and that's going to be the only thing,
14 and we can put that on as well.

15 So it's going to be a special meeting. We
16 can discuss who the water coordinators are,
17 whatever you want to call it, and the goals and
18 objectives.

19 Martin has a time commitment today. He's got
20 to hop off at 2:30 -- but we really want to. I
21 think we have the vote, and I agree that -- this
22 was Martin's suggestion. I think it's a good one,
23 that an entire meeting, that because certainly
24 when you look at the goals and objectives of the
25 state water plan, the water czar, it could be an

1 integral part of that. So the two go hand in
2 hand. So I see having a special meeting to deal
3 with that, and we'll get that set up before 7th.

4 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Excellent, thank you. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Okay. Any other questions on the comments?
7 Thank you, Lori.

8 We're going to move over to Denise who sent
9 us a nice --

10 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Hi, and I'm going to do a screen
11 share. So you'll have that in front of you.

12 Okay, can everybody see that okay?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

14 DENISE SAVAGEAU: And what I started with is this is
15 actually the state water plan full task list. So
16 I just wanted -- one of the things we did before
17 we put the work plan together was we looked and
18 said, like, okay. So what's in the state water
19 plan?

20 So we have this where it says, outreach
21 education, and public engagement, and to create a
22 new outreach, education and public engagement
23 framework to align with the state water plan
24 goals. So that's kind of, you know, and so
25 there's a couple of items here.

1 So we looked at this and then we also just
2 looked at this other little section down here
3 outlined in blue where it says, the near-term
4 goals was to begin in outreach programs. So I
5 think it's important that, you know, this is in
6 the state water plan and what we need to do.

7 So we're looking at that, the near-term goals
8 is to keep it in their outreach plan. So with
9 those, that in mind we've come up with a product
10 that we have sent to you.

11 This has evolved. We've actually sent this
12 to you several times, and have taken the comments
13 now that you guys have made and also that the
14 implementation world group has provided to us, and
15 have updated that to reflect those comments.

16 Here pretty much the changes from the last
17 time you saw this document was that we added in
18 that this will be a standing committee. So
19 because then there was that discussion, like, how
20 do you do outreach and education? You don't do it
21 in one fell swoop. It needs to be outgoing. If
22 we're going to -- and some of the tasks that we
23 outlined, for example, makes sense that way.

24 So for example, when we start looking at the
25 tasks, we talked about that we wanted to utilize

1 existing outreach programs and capitalize on
2 those.

3 So for example, World Water Day. The Water
4 Planning Council always participates in World
5 Water Day. There's a whole host of calendar
6 things so that we can pick one every year and kind
7 of focus on that as a theme, and we'll talk about
8 that in a minute.

9 And in subsequent years, the long-term goal
10 under that particular task would be in September
11 establish the theme for the next year. So that
12 you're always ahead and we can present that, the
13 theme to the Water planning Council and get your
14 approval moving forward, and then have time to
15 plan the events.

16 Similarly, if we look at task number two,
17 we're looking there about -- and there's a couple
18 of things here that we're going to go into a
19 little bit more detail again in the next couple of
20 pages. But one is looking at branding and
21 developing a cohesive message so that when we're
22 talking about the state water plan, everything we
23 do looks the same. And that will really be, I
24 think, important for any kind of outreach
25 messaging that we do.

1 And you know, based on your discussion, for
2 example, of having somebody who's, you know, going
3 to be taking on the role of helping to coordinate
4 that, having materials that really do brand the
5 Water Planning Council -- not the Water Planning
6 Council, but the state water plan and branding
7 that messaging would be important.

8 And so again we've developed materials that
9 have to do with that. And so what I added in
10 here, again was some of those long-term
11 objectives. So that, you know, we also talked
12 about the materials, but also the establishment of
13 a webpage. Well, you don't establish a webpage
14 and then just abandon it. That has to be ongoing,
15 and if you're going to do that, you need to
16 continue it.

17 And one of the things we've also identified
18 is that, you know, there's always maintenance for
19 the web page, not just in terms of the web page
20 format or anything like that, but just in terms of
21 content and materials, and making sure that it's
22 updated every year as new things come on board.

23 So that's kind of what we've added in, is
24 those long-term ongoing actions that say, we're
25 going to do this initially, and then we're going

1 to, you know, basically maintain it.

2 There could be some other long-term actions
3 that eventually do get added in, but as a work
4 plan to start with we thought that this went
5 pretty well on what we needed to do.

6 And similarly, they were looking at
7 establishing who our partners are, who the
8 resource professionals that can be working with
9 our education and outreach group, and then again,
10 of course, maintaining that list of making sure,
11 maintaining those partnerships, adding to the
12 partnerships, identifying new partnerships, that
13 will just -- that will be an ongoing process as we
14 know.

15 So that's kind of how we look at the outreach
16 plan. And like I said, it's the same plan that
17 you've seen before and you gave us, you know,
18 pretty positive feedback on. And what we did was
19 just, you know, update it for the longterm.

20 So, to any questions about the plan itself?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Oh, so let me just quickly talk about
25 this. The plan does talk about using these

1 calendars. And the idea is we're only using this
2 as a reference. We're not going to do all of
3 these every year, but the idea is, is there's
4 these calendars and which ones do we want to pick
5 as a theme, and which ones do we want to identify
6 every year?

7 So for the fiscal year -- and this is for the
8 task one, for fiscal year 2022, what we've
9 identified as a potential or a proposed theme is
10 inland wetlands and watercourses. And the reason
11 we selected this theme was first, the first date
12 on the calendar happened to be World Wetland Day,
13 which is February 2nd.

14 And that, so we said, well, should we think
15 about that? And then of course, we found out that
16 2022 is the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut
17 Inland Wetlands Watercourses Act. So being that
18 it's the 50th anniversary, it made sense that we
19 would talk about that, and how does that
20 particular act fit into the state water plan?

21 And if you look at this preamble to the act,
22 it's really interesting because it talks a lot
23 about, you know, what we want to do protecting
24 water quality and public drinking water supply.

25 So I think it's important that we, we look at

1 that.

2 Here it says, protecting the state's fresh
3 water supplies from the dangers of drought,
4 overdraft, pollution, misuse and mismanagement.
5 So I think that fits right into the state water
6 plan and you know, and what the role of wetlands
7 and watercourses are there.

8 So that's what we're looking at as a proposed
9 theme. And starting with World Wetlands Day, as I
10 said, February 2nd, we have a draft of what we
11 think a kickoff event may look like. And
12 basically, you know, having folks saying, hey,
13 it's world wetlands day. We're also celebrating
14 the 50th anniversary of the State Inland Wetlands
15 and Watercourses Act, and kind of do a kickoff.

16 And looking out, you know, and we haven't put
17 this all together yet, but the idea is to have
18 possibly two moderated panels, one talking about
19 the importance of the wetlands and watercourses as
20 they relate to the state water plan. And then
21 also one, kind of, on the history of the
22 Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act.

23 How did we get there? How did we decide we
24 wanted inland wetlands? And just kind of
25 celebrating that history of where we were and how

1 we got there.

2 And one of our newer members on the state
3 water plan was looking at, hey. We could do a
4 storyboard that talked about the history of inland
5 wetlands, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
6 Act. So we're looking at doing that.

7 And then also we would announce plans at this
8 event for May and June, because if you look up
9 here -- and this is one of the other reasons -- if
10 you look at that whole calendar, the month of May
11 is American Wetlands Month, and the month of June
12 is National Rivers Month.

13 So here we can really say, hey. We've got
14 two months of celebration for inland wetlands and
15 watercourses that we can just really do. And then
16 winding up on September 25th with World Rivers
17 Day.

18 So we've got wetlands in February, rivers on
19 the 25th in September, and two full months of
20 different things we could put out in terms of
21 materials and whatever and, you know, plenty of
22 time to plan with that. And you know, you can
23 identify some of the partners already that would
24 do this.

25 What we would do from a water -- we're pretty

1 sure there will be other groups and I know of
2 some. I know Rivers Alliance has talked about
3 this. The conservation districts are talking
4 about what needs to be done to celebrate the
5 Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. So there
6 will be other partners.

7 So it's a matter of what our thought process
8 always has been for the outreach and education is
9 to build on what's already being done and just
10 make sure that we're relating it back to whether
11 it be press releases of material relating it back
12 to the state water plan; how does this relate to
13 the state water plan?

14 So that's kind of the overview of task one.

15 Task two talks about, you know, materials and
16 the web page and Allie Hibbert, DEP, kind of did a
17 synopsis with us looking at what other states had
18 on their web pages. And so we're in the process
19 of analyzing those. I wanted to share this with
20 you so you could look at what other states are
21 doing in terms of the website.

22 We had a discussion on this at the
23 implementation workgroup and you know, several
24 folks really made some great comments; Bruce
25 Witchen had some great comments on this.

1 Right now our state water plan webpage
2 basically focuses on how the water plan was
3 developed, and it kind of goes through the stages.

4 Here was a public hearing on the state water
5 plan, or whatever, but it doesn't now provide any
6 materials on how to implement the plan. And so
7 that's what we're really doing is, like, what do
8 people need to know if we want them to do better,
9 let's say, water conservation? What kind of
10 materials do we need on that page to do better
11 water conservation?

12 So those are the -- and again, developing
13 those over time based on different themes, this is
14 what we would be looking at.

15 So this is really for information. We're
16 going to be utilizing this, but we wanted to share
17 that we're going to be really looking at this
18 webpage. It is something we need to figure out.

19 One of the challenges on the webpage in the
20 discussion that has come up is a similar one that
21 you've had with the water chief, and that has to
22 do with who's in charge of the webpage.

23 How do we make sure that we have a webpage?
24 And how do we make sure that we, you know, that
25 we're not overburdening, you know, staff that

1 already has a burden on it?

2 So we do need you to think about that, think
3 about who's going to operate the webpage. How do
4 we get materials on the webpage? And how, you
5 know, how do we operate that so that it doesn't
6 become obsolete -- and what you would like to see?
7 And we're going to be taking it from there.

8 But as we develop materials, it would be
9 really nice to have some place that we could
10 launch. And one of the things, for example, would
11 be from a Water Planning Council perspective is
12 linking to, for example -- I'll pick on Graham
13 Stevens -- but the DEP website on inland wetlands.

14 Should we be linking to all the work that
15 they're doing on inland wetlands and watersheds so
16 that we don't have to reinvent the wheel? What
17 are all those other state pages?

18 The same thing with the Department of Public
19 Health. They have a whole host of things on their
20 website related to public drinking water supply.
21 So one of the first things we'd like to do is get
22 all those links. So that when people are talking
23 about, if they go in and talk about the state
24 water plan, we're going to give them a resource
25 page that says, you can link to all these other

1 state agencies and everything they're doing for
2 water supply where it doesn't just say, here's the
3 plan and then you have to go find the stuff
4 yourself that you can actually just get a link off
5 of the page. That's one of the first tasks we
6 want to do.

7 And then the third piece, which you didn't
8 see because I hadn't received it yet when I sent
9 this out, but we -- this is a sample that we had
10 drafted. This was a press release. It never went
11 out. It was just done as a sample, but National
12 Rivers Day -- and actually we're hoping to do
13 National Rivers Day next year.

14 But a simple branding, and this is a simple
15 design that Dan Auburn came up with from the
16 Department of Public Health, which we kind of like
17 because it's just so basic where it says, state
18 water plan, Connecticut. You know, it's just
19 letting us know this is a Connecticut state water
20 plan.

21 And we were looking at this type of format
22 and the same thing, a state, a Connecticut state
23 water plan initiative. So anything that came out
24 would have something like this.

25 So we'd love your feedback on this. We think

1 it's very simple. We presented this to the
2 implementation workgroup. They liked it and
3 thought it was simple.

4 We didn't want to get into any detail. We
5 didn't want to spend a lot on necessarily logo or
6 whatever development. So we just wanted something
7 that was saying, hey. Everything we do, could we
8 use for -- so could we put this at either the top
9 or the bottom and basically say, hey. We're
10 developing a fact sheet? How does inland
11 wetlands, for example, relate to the state water
12 plan?

13 So if we're doing something on inland
14 wetlands, we would just have this at the top. And
15 we would have, you know, hey. Here's a fact sheet
16 on inland wetlands from a state water plan
17 perspective. Here's a fact sheet on water
18 conservation, again from a state water plan
19 perspective -- so that it always was saying here's
20 the outreach and education we're doing from a
21 state water plan perspective.

22 And that again is under task two. It's one
23 of the tasks, under tasks, under our work plan,
24 task two.

25 So I'm going to stop there, ask for any

1 questions and look for any feedback you have for
2 us.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Denise. Lots of
4 good work there, for sure. I'll open it up to any
5 questions or comments.

6 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** Hi, Jack. Dave Kuzminski here.

7 Hey --

8 **MARTIN HEFT:** Point of order, please? Jack, it's
9 supposed to be only members, commission members
10 speaking at this time, not members of the public
11 so we can get through our stuff, please?

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** All right, Dave?

13 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** No worries.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Hold until the end, Dave, please?

15 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** No worries.

16 **MARTIN HEFT:** Sorry, Jack.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN:** That's okay.

18 **MARTIN HEFT:** If I may, to just start in then?

19 Thank you very much. This all looks great.
20 The one thing I see lacking on this is the Water
21 Planning Council, our council name on any of these
22 documents.

23 And if this is being put out by the Water
24 Planning Council, it should state that it's from
25 the Water Planning Council. Although it states

1 the state water plan, all of this, you as a
2 subgroup has been working terrifically on all of
3 this material, this is all terrific stuff. I read
4 it through over this past weekend. The plan that
5 you just presented -- Denise and everything, which
6 looks terrific, and it's a great theme and
7 everything else.

8 But I noticed simple things, like even on the
9 agenda. It mentions nothing about our Chair or
10 the member of the Water Planning Council opening
11 the meeting up. I mean, great having the Governor
12 there and everything, but these are Water Planning
13 Council items that are happening.

14 So we need to make sure that the Water
15 Planning Council is the one putting this on and
16 has our name on this stuff, that that's part of
17 what has to happen. So I just want to add that in
18 there -- but it's a terrific job of what the sub
19 workgroup has been putting together.

20 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All right. And thanks for that
21 input. I guess one of the things that we wanted
22 to make sure was that you were comfortable with it
23 before we put your name all over it. And the
24 other thing we need to -- so it is the state plan
25 implementation workgroup, outreach and education.

1 So that's our focus.

2 And we weren't presuming to develop any
3 branding for the Water Planning Council. We were
4 doing it for the state water plan as a program.
5 So I just want to make sure that that was the
6 clarification.

7 That said, certainly we would be looking at
8 Water Planning Council, you know, folks being, you
9 know, being part of that. And I know, for
10 example, we were saying, you know, include the
11 Water Planning Council reps here. So again, you
12 know this is the agenda. It's like -- and we
13 would decide, who's going to sponsor this?

14 Is it going to be the Water Planning Council,
15 or do you want a bigger group? And how do we?
16 How do we do that?

17 So that was certainly something we take into
18 consideration, but thank you for the feedback,
19 Martin, because I think it's important. It's an
20 important discussion we need to have as we move
21 forward.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, I agree with what Martin is saying
23 and take it a step further. Not only -- I mean,
24 I'm involved with lots of boards, and on the left
25 hand side, not only the councilmembers, I would

1 like to see the water implementation group and the
2 adviser groups so people know front and center;
3 Alicea Charamut from Rivers Alliance.

4 People look at the State -- and it happens to
5 me. I'm on the board of a hospital. Oh, you're
6 on the board of a hospital. So somehow we
7 highlight, not only the Water Planning
8 Councilmembers but people like the implementation
9 group and the WPCAG who work hard to make this
10 happen.

11 But Denise, this is an excellent outline
12 moving forward. And you know one thing in
13 October, we always have Imagine a Day Without
14 Water, which we usually participate in as well --
15 but I think this is a great outline.

16 And I thank you and the group for moving this
17 forward.

18 Lori, Graham?

19 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack.

20 Yeah, I would agree. Denise, excellent work.

21 Yeah, anything that I would say, anything
22 that -- I love that -- if you could go back up to
23 the to the logo there. I love the idea of some
24 sort of letterhead, but it should reflect we are
25 the Water Planning council to Martin's point, and

1 that we are state agencies that represent the
2 Governor.

3 So all of our letterhead, we'd have to sort
4 of look into this. And I think this is one thing
5 that we should add to our list to talk about
6 together very specifically because we have to be
7 careful about logos. We have to be very careful
8 about letterhead.

9 All of us use the letterhead that has the
10 Governor's name on it, The Lieutenant Governor's
11 name on it. Right? That's who our boss is.

12 That's how we work.

13 So you know someone might look at this and
14 say, you guys are going rogue. What are you
15 doing? You know?

16 So I want to be careful with that. And it's
17 something that I'm always mindful of anything that
18 we send out representing the State of Connecticut,
19 that we do that correctly.

20 And I always love showing the logos. So we
21 should have a letterhead with logos, our agencies,
22 the Water Planning Council name. And we should
23 get it approved through whoever approves such a
24 thing at the state level. Right? Obviously,
25 through our commissioners' offices, but also maybe

1 even go through OPM to the Governor's office.

2 So that everyone sees it and says, hey.
3 This, this makes sense to use, or, change this,
4 change that, and then we're okay with it. So you
5 know we all have bosses and bosses on top of
6 bosses, and we want to make sure that we do the
7 right thing here -- but I love the start of it. I
8 love the start of it.

9 I do also, you know, near and dear wetlands
10 to me, I've always been near and dear to my work
11 and my work as a volunteer. So I will help you in
12 any way possible, Denise, on this.

13 DENISE SAVAGEAU: We had your name down already,
14 because we knew that, Lori.

15 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, yeah. It's been a long time
16 volunteering, and I thoroughly enjoy it, as a
17 matter of fact. And I've learned a lot in all of
18 that, and learned how valuable it is that wetlands
19 have been protected for 50 years.

20 It's amazing in our state, and towns have
21 done an excellent job working with DEEP to
22 implement. So I think towns should be celebrated.
23 You know the town government is really a key cog
24 to how this moves forward. Because without towns
25 to implement, this would not work and without DEEP

1 to have everybody's back, it would not work. You
2 know? So I would love to work with you on that.

3 I would also add Drinking Water Week is the
4 first week of May, usually. So if you want to add
5 that to the calendar of items, I would love to
6 work with everybody about Drinking Water Week. So
7 just my thoughts, but I love it.

8 I love the idea, but we have to work on the
9 letterhead and make it a very formal way forward.
10 When we got an administrative person, that person
11 would know this is the letterhead that we're going
12 to use.

13 So, love it. Good. Thank you for your work.

14 GRAHAM STEVENS: And just to be brief?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Graham?

16 GRAHAM STEVENS: I think, my colleagues covered it,
17 covered a bunch already, but I like Lori's
18 optimism about when we got a water chief, that was
19 great. But I too -- I'm very interested in the
20 branding, very interested in elevating that to the
21 Water Planning Council level.

22 And was really appreciative your thoughtful
23 comments there Denise, with respect to trying to
24 point to existing resources that are available, or
25 existing events and adding to it and amplifying

1 the importance of the state water plan and what
2 the Water Planning Council does.

3 I think that's totally the right approach and
4 you guys have -- you and your group have done a
5 bang-up job thus far, and looking forward to
6 celebrating this entire upcoming year with some
7 great outreach and activities.

8 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All right. Sounds good. I will take
9 your feedback and have it at the discussion. I
10 just want to -- and this is for thought, a
11 response back to you, but it's some thoughts
12 again.

13 In terms of the Water Planning Council
14 letterhead, we weren't trying to create that.
15 Again, we were looking at it more being
16 programmatic, so for the state water plan.

17 And an example I think I had used when we
18 first talked about branding -- and this is one of
19 the reasons you kind of encouraged us to move
20 forward with it was, for example, DEEP has the
21 program on No Child Left Inside, and it had, like,
22 a little branding just about that.

23 So when they put out information on the No
24 Child Left Inside Program it had its own little
25 logo and whatever. So we were kind of trying to

1 mimic that more programmatic, rather than the
2 official letterhead for the Water Planning
3 Council.

4 And then certainly it would be like, how
5 do -- where do you use water, and where do you use
6 the other? So that will be something we would
7 have as a discussion, but I just wanted to, you
8 know -- and feedback.

9 If we don't -- if we want to just start keep
10 the branding about the Water Planning Council and
11 not about the state water plan, that's something
12 different -- but I just wanted to, you know, and
13 we appreciate feedback from you on that as we move
14 forward with this.

15 But I just wanted to reiterate that where we
16 had -- what the thought process had been was not
17 to create new letterhead at this point for you
18 guys knowing you might have a chief for, or
19 whatever that -- and you would need it at that
20 time.

21 That said, if you would like us to look at
22 how to do that as well as this branding for the
23 state water plan, I think the outreach and
24 education group would be more than happy to look
25 at both of those if you so choose.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Thank you, Denise.

2 LORI MATHIEU: And Jack one more point, just a quick
3 point.

4 I see it as one and the same. If we're going
5 to communicate in any way, they have to go hand in
6 hand. So we have to -- it's time to have
7 letterhead logos that we use consistently. If we
8 talk about the state water plan, it should be on
9 behalf of the Water Planning Council under state
10 law.

11 Because that's -- believe me, that comes from
12 experience myself as a state official. You don't
13 represent yourself or your program without logos,
14 without your agency, without the underpinnings of
15 state law. It's just the way that programs work.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, in all due respect, we're in
17 trouble because I've been putting water
18 planning -- our names on Water Planning Council
19 stationary for years. The point, the four of
20 us --

21 LORI MATHIEU: I know. I know, but we should
22 formalize.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: -- letterheads with the water planning
24 council.

25 LORI MATHIEU: We should formalize.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: We can formalize it. I think that we
2 can put this over to Denise's group, yeah.

3 Graham?

4 GRAHAM STEVENS: I mean, I was just going to say it
5 sounds like everyone is in agreement that we would
6 appreciate if Denise's group did take on some of
7 the branding at the higher level as well, Denise.
8 And I don't think that there's any issue with
9 respect to having a programmatic brand.

10 And there is a logo -- and I'm not, you know,
11 I wasn't a party to that discussion, but there is
12 a logo on the State's webpage. I don't know if
13 that is our standing logo for the Water Planning
14 Council at this point.

15 But that might be something you look at as
16 well, and it needs someone who may know the
17 background on that, and may want to provide you
18 that information.

19 DENISE SAVAGEAU: All right. Thanks. We'll take a
20 look at that, and look at the background.

21 MARTIN HEFT: And Graham, I can tell you that the logo
22 that's on the -- it's just a stock picture that
23 was just chosen because we didn't have a logo. So
24 we chose a stock picture to use there on the
25 website.

1 GRAHAM STEVENS: Excellent. Excellent. Good choice.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Lori, I didn't want to cut you off. Do
3 you have anything more on this topic?

4 LORI MATHIEU: No, that's all. I just wanted to thank
5 Denise, because it's a great idea to have a
6 calendar and be organized.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I love it.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah, it's awesome.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: And you know, and I've always said we
10 maybe do some op-ed pieces. And we can do --

11 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it can give us a framework
13 moving forward.

14 LORI MATHIEU: Yeah.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: The Council can go on the Sunday morning
16 news shows, you know. So many different versions.

17 You know, let's get water out there.

18 LORI MATHIEU: Yes, agreed.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Listen, so.

20 Okay. Anything else on the implementation
21 workgroup, Virginia?

22 VIRGINIA de LIMA: No, I just want to thank the
23 committee. I just want to say the agency staff
24 people who were assigned to the committee and the
25 other folks who were on the committee, I just want

1 to thank everybody. Because every -- this has
2 been a really joint work for everybody, and it's
3 just amazing.

4 We do have two new people who come on the
5 meeting, Rhonda Mercer from Aquarion and Kelsey
6 Sudol from the -- oh, what was it? Lake Waramaug
7 Watershed Group. I hope I said the right
8 watershed group. She's also with the Northwest
9 Conservation District.

10 So we have great folks who are on this
11 committee. And again, thanks to everyone.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very, very much. Appreciate
13 it.

14 Virginia, is there anything else? A lot of
15 work coming out of your group. Thank you very
16 much.

17 The Water Planning Council advisory group, we
18 have Josh and Alecia.

19 Alecia, you have your cat all taken care of
20 there, Alecia?

21 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Yes, she's a pest. So I'm going to
22 pass it off first to Carol. We have some good
23 news that we have some candidates that have
24 stepped forward for our two vacant positions.

25 Carol, do you want to let us know what's

1 going on?

2 CAROL HASKINS: Yeah. So at the last Water Planning
3 Council advisory group meeting we had Darryl
4 Newman in attendance who is an employee with
5 Planters' Choice Nursery and on the board of the
6 Connecticut Nursery and Landscaping Association.

7 And we understand that he is the delegate
8 that CNLA has selected, and that's been
9 communicated through Jack, I believe.

10 So we need to formalize that, that
11 representative as Darryl is a delegate. I believe
12 I see Dustin Nelson here on the call today. And I
13 think he is the new alternate. And the alternate
14 doesn't need to be approved, but we'll have Darryl
15 as the as the official representative for the
16 water intensive business category.

17 So we'll be looking for the Water Planning
18 Council to approve that vacancy which is in the
19 group one cycle with a term expiring December 31,
20 2022. And then they would come up for renewal for
21 a new four year-term after that. So that's --
22 we'll be looking for an action on that.

23 And then we have a warm, warm-ish reception
24 from the Working Lands Alliance for a
25 representative to fill the agricultural category

1 for representative. I'll be meeting with two
2 individuals from that group next week to discuss
3 the kind of time commitment requirements and
4 expectations for participating in the Water
5 Planning Council advisory group. So hopefully
6 come January we'll be looking for you guys to make
7 an approval on that.

8 But just to give you a heads up, the Working
9 Lands Alliance is kind of rising to the top
10 continually as the best representative, as they're
11 already linked in with a number of folks on the
12 advisory group as well as folks outside of our
13 usual periphery.

14 So not entirely the choir, but have some good
15 choir members to help us recruit.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That's great. And we're
17 going to take Darryl up under a new business later
18 on.

19 CAROL HASKINS: Okay.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: But that's exciting news. Thank you.

21 CAROL HASKINS: You're welcome.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Alecia?

23 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Sure. Well, while we're still under
24 nominating committee business, I just wanted to
25 remind the Water Planning Council that today -- or

1 this month is Josh's last month as cochair of the
2 advisory group. So I wanted to give you guys an
3 opportunity to wish him well and thank him, if you
4 so choose -- I see Graham clapping over there.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I wish we were not virtual
6 so we could have -- we could have had some kind of
7 celebration, Josh. But thank you very much for
8 your leadership. We appreciate it.

9 JOSH CANSLER: I'm sorry I couldn't do more of it with
10 COVID and other things going on. It's been an
11 interesting two years.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate your service.

13 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Interesting is an understatement,
14 Josh.

15 And we have a watershed lands workgroup
16 meeting on Friday morning where the water utility
17 coordinating committee's committee implementation
18 group will be presenting to the watershed lands
19 group what's been going on in implementation to
20 get a broader stakeholder perspective on some of
21 the items that they're working on.

22 Karen, did you want to add anything to that?

23 KAREN BURNASKA: No, just that it is this -- you're all
24 welcome. Anyone is welcome to join in into the
25 Zoom meeting. It's 9 a.m., this Friday the 10th.

1 Bruce Witchen has sent out the notice to a whole
2 horde of people. So I hope we'll get a good
3 attendance.

4 Yes, the presentation will be made by Dan
5 Lawrence of Aquarion and Aaron Budris of the
6 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

7 The project came out of what the WUCC plans
8 had said, and the WUCC plans had identified the
9 need for guidance to municipalities;
10 commissioners, developers and dealing with state
11 water supply issues.

12 And what Dan and Aaron are going to provide
13 us with is the report that had been approved at a
14 meeting last month on how we can help use the, you
15 know, planning to help protect watershed lands and
16 the drinking water supply in the state.

17 So it should be a very -- that is a key. It
18 opens up the meeting, and that's the key reason
19 that we're getting together. There's a lot of
20 other things on the agenda, but we hope everyone
21 who has the time will participate.

22 It should be a good report.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Excellent.

24 **ALICEA CHARAMUT:** Is there anything else from the
25 watershed lands group?

1 KAREN BURNASKA: No, I think that's it right now. Just
2 we're focusing right now on the Friday meeting.
3 We do have other things on the agenda, some
4 legislative issues kind of following up on the CGA
5 land conveyance request questionnaire.

6 But the, like I said, opening up the meeting
7 and our key point of discussion will be the WUCC
8 report.

9 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Thank you, Karen.

10 And thank you, Margaret.

11 Josh, is there anything I'm missing from the
12 last meeting reporting?

13 JOSH CANSLER: No, I think that was it.

14 ALICEA CHARAMUT: Okay.

15 JOSH CANSLER: I don't have anything else.

16 ALICEA CHARAMUT: All right. I believe that's it.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Again, Josh, thank you very much.

18 Appreciate your support over the years.

19 Thank you, Alecia.

20 We'll move on to WUCC update. Lori?

21 LORI MATHIEU: Thank you, Jack. And thank you to
22 Karen.

23 And you know the WUCC continues to be
24 implemented. It's been an interesting time during
25 COVID, but the work continues on under the WUCC.

1 We're emphasizing a number of different areas, as
2 Eric had come on last time. I think Eric might be
3 on to give us an update.

4 Eric if you are here, you can speak up now?

5
6 (No response.)

7
8 LORI MATHIEU: All right. Since he's not around, I can
9 say that the meetings continue, implementation
10 continues. Anyone -- these meetings are open to
11 the public. Anybody who is interested, I would
12 encourage you to attend.

13 There is a specific emphasis on
14 interconnections and the review of
15 interconnections and the need for emergency
16 connections, and what have you.

17 To me it is really very important for
18 everyone to participate in that discussion, and I
19 understand there's a lot of great input which is
20 good for the planning process to continue to move
21 forward. So look for the invites for the next
22 meeting. Again, everybody is welcome.

23 We're also -- you know one of the struggles
24 that as an agency we have is a continuous approval
25 of wells for our smallest public water systems

1 that serve a noncommunity population such as, say,
2 a new business. And that new business is in a
3 more rural area of the state connected to sewer,
4 but there's no public water anywhere in the area.

5 So they look and do their best to place a
6 well on their property. And as a commercial
7 property, many commercial properties only have
8 space for the well maybe in the middle of their
9 parking lot.

10 So for us that work in siting wells in those
11 kinds of locations, it causes great concern.

12 In the public health code, in our laws it's
13 allowable because you're -- you know a lot of the
14 separating distances in siting a new well; why
15 bring that up? That's one of the items that the
16 WUCC is looking at.

17 Is when you -- are we creating, or you have
18 sewers and you don't have public water. Are you
19 creating another Brookfield? The town of
20 Brookfield has the highest -- or had the highest
21 number of public water systems ever in the state
22 of Connecticut, 180 public water systems up and
23 down Federal Road.

24 And so what ends up happening in that type of
25 situation? If anyone knows that area; you might

1 think when you drive past Stew Leonard's through
2 Danbury and you drive up Federal Road in
3 Brookfield, you say there's no way there's wells
4 that serve every one of these businesses. Well,
5 that's exactly what had happened.

6 And you say, why? Why is this allowed to
7 happen? Because it just happens generically when
8 there's sewers available and not public water.
9 And businesses, land starts to turn from
10 residential -- from farmland to residential to
11 then business, commercial/industrial lands. Those
12 businesses want to have a chance to open, and they
13 will put a well in the middle of anywhere just to
14 meet the regulatory requirement.

15 But over time you end up with more
16 Brookfields, and that's not a good thing for
17 public health. The water quality in Brookfield,
18 every one of those wells was compromised because
19 of the nature of the setting, the nature of the
20 water quality, the ground water quality in the
21 ground, and so on and on. So those are the
22 things.

23 One of the items the WUCC is looking at; what
24 to do, how to do this better, how to plan, do more
25 planning with the more rural communities that are

1 in this type of situation. So that's just one
2 thing that the WUCC is looking at.

3 We welcome your input, your insights, your
4 involvement, your participation.

5 So thank you, Jack.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. And so I guess
7 you're covered the private well update as well
8 with that?

9 LORI MATHIEU: More to come as the approvals continue
10 to move forward and the questions are being
11 answered. So more to come.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lori.

13 We have here the water -- the fixture update.
14 Graham, I know you received some correspondence
15 from the DAS today relative to the infrastructure
16 bill, and there's going to be money available for
17 this.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: And we hope. That's the collective
19 hope of many different folks and programs. Is
20 there money available?

21 But yeah, so DAS contacted me today. As it
22 turns out they have a meeting later this week.
23 They're going to be discussing WaterSense as it
24 relates to the state building code and execution
25 of WaterSense through the state building code

1 adoption process.

2 And they were interested if there were
3 federal dollars available that could help with
4 respect to that implementation. That's something
5 that we're going to look into. It's an
6 interesting inquiry.

7 It shows again DAS's commitment to trying to
8 move forward with better water conservation
9 standards in their state building code -- which I
10 think, upon further analysis, would be an
11 excellent way to implement water conservation.

12 And we're continuing our conversations as
13 well with DCP, Department of Consumer Protection
14 about the change to statute as well as regulation
15 to again implement WaterSense; and continue to
16 have conversations with our partners at DPH about
17 other water conservation efforts and focuses.

18 And I think it's something that's incredibly
19 important. I think that's shared amongst all the
20 Water Planning Councilmembers. So hopefully we
21 can continue to partner with DAS and DCP to
22 achieve some progress there.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Graham.

24 Any questions for, Graham?
25

1 (No response.)

2
3 THE CHAIRMAN: Interagency drought workgroup update.

4 Martin?

5 MARTIN HEFT: Thank you. Good afternoon, all.

6 The workgroup continues to meet, review the
7 conditions. Additionally, this past Thursday we
8 completed our first run through of all the
9 recommendations of the drought sub workgroup, all
10 four charges.

11 We will continue going through those in our
12 upcoming meetings and kind of do our second run
13 through of all of those, but we did get through
14 all of them, as I said last Thursday.

15 I did want to note that there's two of the
16 recommendations from the sub workgroup that are
17 strictly for the Water Planning Council. And
18 these probably should get added into this
19 ever-growing special meeting agenda for our goals
20 and objectives, which were -- two of them at 4.30
21 and 4.31.

22 Both of those deal with, in short, the GC3,
23 our Governor's climate pieces and the state hazard
24 mitigation plan of coordinating our plans with
25 those. And that is a charge to the Water Planning

1 Council. So we should add those two into our list
2 of goals and objectives as we review for our
3 upcoming future meetings.

4 And that's what I have for a report.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. I know that you're tight on
6 time.

7 MARTIN HEFT: That's Okay.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: So any questions for Martin?

9
10 (No response.)

11
12 THE CHAIRMAN: So I'd like to entertain a motion that
13 we nominate Darryl Newman to fill the slot, the
14 nursery association slot and the Water Planning
15 Council advisory group.

16 I'd entertain a motion to that effect?

17 MARTIN HEFT: So moved.

18 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Moved and seconded.

20 Any questions?

21
22 (No response.)

23
24 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, all those in favor signify by
25 saying aye.

1 THE COUNCIL: Aye.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. Thank you very
3 much. I will let him know.

4 Under new business, we wanted to -- we'll
5 talk about setting up a special meeting where we'd
6 like to do a meeting before the holiday.

7 What's people's preference? I can have
8 Allie, my Allie, do a Doodle poll and see what's
9 available. I'd kind of like to get it done -- I
10 mean, between Christmas and New Year's, forget
11 it -- but maybe we could sneak something in
12 before.

13 What's the consensus?

14 MARTIN HEFT: So Mr. Chair, if I may? A, I think it's
15 going to take more than one meeting for us to go
16 through everything. I think, you know, having
17 just gone through, although it was a much longer
18 list, but we have a number of items here at least
19 under, you know, 6.8 next steps as well as other
20 items there to go through.

21 We kind of -- our process was creating a
22 spreadsheet being like, have we accomplished this?
23 Do we need to do this? What is our reaction? And
24 kind of go through each one of those steps.

25 And it took us almost four or five meetings

1 to go through all the four charges just as a
2 run-through. You know? It would be ambitious to
3 try to get it all done in one meeting, especially
4 if we've got to talk about some other items as
5 well for that.

6 So I think if we could get in a meeting prior
7 to the holidays and then possibly another follow
8 up right after the holidays, that for us to talk
9 about it; see how far we get in that first
10 meeting, but I would recommend that we try to get
11 started on this and maybe we cull out.

12 You know we know some of the priority things
13 that our work groups are working on that we should
14 address first, and then kind of hit the other
15 items -- would be my recommendation.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Martin. We want to get input
17 to the water czar group before January 7th. So we
18 probably -- I think that's one of the items we
19 would take up at this meeting before the holiday.

20 So we'll get some date, hold the dates out.
21 Allie and I will do that so you can let us know
22 when, when you're available. And we'll get a
23 couple of dates on the calendar, which would be
24 above and beyond our January 4th date.

25 Okay. Anything else come before us? Any

1 other public comment?

2 David Kuzminski, you had a comment before?

3 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Yeah. Thanks, Jack. I appreciate
4 it. And great job, Virginia on your report. I
5 just wanted to -- I know as far as in relation to
6 your outreach, do you envision a targeted
7 audience?

8 Is it professionals? Is it academia? Is it,
9 you know, as far as what you're going to focus
10 your outreach for?

11 VIRGINIA de LIMA: The group identified that there are
12 really two audiences, one of the sort of the
13 professional folks that are knowledgeable and
14 involved in water, and then there's a separate
15 audience of the general public.

16 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Okay.

17 VIRGINIA de LIMA: And they acknowledged that the
18 approach and the materials appropriate for each of
19 those two audiences might be quite different.

20 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Yes. Yes, and that's my question as
21 far as -- now, did you envision there it would
22 kind of be, maybe a three-legged or two-legged
23 stool as far as what audience that you're trying
24 to, you know, market to on the webpage, or other
25 forms of media?

1 VIRGINIA de LIMA: Denise, do you want to have input to
2 that?

3 My personal feeling is that it would have to
4 be very clear if there -- what materials were
5 targeted at which groups so that people wouldn't
6 waste their time with an inappropriate set.

7 But Denise, you want to enlarge on that?

8 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Yeah. So one of the things we're
9 going to be doing is reviewing materials. So for
10 example, if there are needs, if we find out, for
11 example -- let's just say water utilities. Do
12 they have a need about the state water plan?

13 Most of them all know about it. So do they
14 have a need? But how about municipalities? They
15 have a very specific need.

16 So we're going to say what's out there, where
17 is the specific need? And try to take care of
18 that first. You know, so it's going to be dual
19 looking at -- again, looking at what's already out
20 there, and then what can we capitalize on?

21 And also part of that looking at the partners
22 is looking at groups like AWWA. What are you
23 doing? If you're already doing it, we don't need
24 to do it. So how do we basically direct people to
25 where they need to get training, or whatever they

1 need to do particularly from a more professional
2 perspective?

3 **DAVID KUZMINSKI:** Great. Great. Yeah, I think one of
4 the things that Jack and Lori and I did -- it was
5 about a year ago. We did a podcast focusing on
6 the state water plan and so forth. And I think,
7 you know, that could possibly be another vehicle,
8 you know, as far as getting our message out.

9 And you can gear that, you know, to both
10 segments as far as that goes.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Great idea.

12 **VIRGINIA de LIMA:** Jack. I had just a comment about
13 the special meeting. The original purpose of the
14 special meeting, as I understand it, was to look
15 at the priorities that the individual agencies had
16 set.

17 And I just want to comment that when we did
18 that in 2018 each of the agencies worked
19 independently, and then we compiled the
20 information that came from them into that orange
21 sheet that was shared with you.

22 And then the Water Planning Council
23 discussion was just looking at that spreadsheet
24 and saying, okay. This, these ones got the most
25 points, let's -- and choosing which ones to go

1 ahead with the actual work of it, though, was done
2 by the agency's independently with each agency
3 being asked to pick their five top priorities.

4 I will comment that when we were going back
5 looking at the state water plan for what it said
6 about having a water director, one of the things
7 that came up repeatedly was the looking at
8 different basins and identifying which basins were
9 stressed, and which might be candidates for
10 further modeling.

11 You may recall that there was an accounting
12 model done on the Quinnipiac as part of the, part
13 of the water plan.

14 That had not ranked high on any of the
15 agency's list of five, but it occurred to me,
16 having been the chair of the Science and Technical
17 Committee, that our priorities did not in any way
18 look at the scientific aspect of things.

19 And I just throw that out there as something
20 to consider when you're setting new priorities.

21 DAVID KUZMINSKI: Thank you, Virginia.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other public comment?

23
24 (No response.)
25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. If not, we will have Allie get to
2 everyone in terms of some dates for the next
3 meeting, next regular -- for a special meeting,
4 but --

5 MARGARET MINER: Jack, this is Margaret. Can you hear
6 me?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Now I can, Margaret. How are you
8 feeling, Margaret?

9 MARGARET MINER: Well, I've had more jolly days, but I
10 feel pretty good.

11 I had written in a letter to the Council
12 because I've been trying to help someone who has
13 a -- she's a renter and there's a dramatically bad
14 mold situation in the rental property. Also some
15 water quality issues.

16 I've certainly read about this as an
17 environmental equity issue, particularly in the
18 Midwest, and teachers unions have raised mold
19 issues in our schools.

20 But when I went to try to find out for where
21 someone who is living in a bad mold situation
22 could turn, there seemed to be very few clear
23 standards, either federal, state or local. The
24 possibility of who would be responsible to respond
25 to a complaint is not clear.

1 My friend's experience is that you just get
2 sort of moved around from agency to agency, or
3 department to department.

4 I'm thinking that with the type of
5 precipitation we have coming on in Connecticut and
6 the likelihood that, as in other places where
7 there's been flooding when the waters recede, you
8 have a serious problem, serious health risks --
9 this is a young family, by the way.

10 You have serious health risks with the mold,
11 and I don't know that there's any place where
12 someone who is dependent as a renter on a property
13 being maintained or cleaned, which is very
14 difficult to do, what recourse there is for
15 someone in that, in that situation.

16 I know that in the case that I'm thinking of,
17 the tenant has tried the Department of Public
18 Health, has tried the school nurse, has tried the
19 building code. The building inspectors actually
20 seem to have some standards, but they only apply
21 when you're doing new building or a renovation.

22 They don't come in and look at a situation in
23 a building that's just being allowed to
24 deteriorate. In this case the attic fell down
25 into the ceiling -- fell down into the bathroom,

1 so I get a good look at the black mold there. But
2 there's also white and green mold in the
3 apartment, which is being cleaned up as well as
4 possible, but it keeps coming back.

5 Not surprisingly, I think this property also
6 has, I suspect, a groundwater well. And I
7 don't -- I think that the problem of
8 non-maintained private wells on this kind of
9 property are also a concern.

10 But I'm looking just at the mold, and
11 wondering. I know it's sort of new for the Water
12 Planning Council, but if perhaps someone, some
13 agency, some group could be assigned to take a
14 look at, do we have any consistent standards for
15 mold, toxics from mold hazards, from mold risk?

16 Do we have tests for mold toxicity if
17 children are affected, which I haven't been able
18 to find out? And is there really any way to hold
19 someone who owns a property and is allowing mold
20 to grow, is there any way to hold that person
21 accountable?

22 Or can that landlord just keep collecting
23 rent until the tenants eventually move out, or the
24 building is condemned? I -- as I say, I think
25 that with the rise in water levels and the

1 effort -- the lack of good housing for people to
2 turn to, when this may be just about the only
3 option a person has, I'm thinking I believe that
4 this is a water climate-related problem that
5 somebody ought to be looking at rather than, okay.
6 In one place, the school does. In another place
7 maybe the Department of Health says something --
8 and a general lack of clarity and ability to
9 respond to the problem.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Okay. I think you had indicated --
11 Lori, did you two have some dialogue with Margaret
12 about this -- and Martin? He had to leave, but he
13 just texted something, too.

14 Lori?

15 **LORI MATHIEU:** So I know, Margaret, you've reached out
16 to me and we're trying to get together. There is
17 a statute on mold, so we should chat.

18 When you mentioned the Department of Public
19 Health, were you mentioning the State Department
20 of Public Health, or the local? Both of which
21 have a roll.

22 There are protocols that are written on mold
23 abatement. It's a major issue when it comes to
24 asthma and some other health, adverse health
25 outcomes. So the State Department of Health and

1 under our new Commissioner, Commissioner Juthani
2 has emphasized this type of issue that we see --
3 and it's a health equity issue.

4 MARGARET MINER: I see it.

5 LORI MATHIEU: So if we want to chat offline, I think
6 we should, because we do get a lot of these calls
7 and we are able and capable of talking to the
8 individual directly.

9 MARGARET MINER: Right.

10 LORI MATHIEU: And part of this is the lack of a
11 property maintenance code.

12 MARGARET MINER: Correct.

13 LORI MATHIEU: There's was a lot of initiatives in
14 Connecticut on green and healthy homes, and a lot
15 of people talk about healthy homes this, healthy
16 homes that.

17 There is very little money for this type of
18 initiative. There are no staff at the state
19 level, but that doesn't mean that we aren't trying
20 to get something moving forward.

21 So to that end, we're certainly aware. We
22 certainly have protocols. We certainly can help
23 in this case, but it is a bigger issue and it is
24 widely recognized that it's part of the bigger
25 picture of property maintenance in general, but

1 also a health equity item for people who are
2 renters that deal with landlords that do not want
3 to help them.

4 MARGARET MINER: Correct.

5 LORI MATHIEU: So, yeah. There's a lot of concerns
6 there in what you said.

7 So let's -- you and I should chat.

8 MARGARET MINER: Okay. And I'm not sure that we have
9 anywhere in the regulations or statutes in place
10 to respond to this. So let's talk.

11 And it definitely is an equity issue, because
12 it hits hardest people who do not have many
13 choices or much money.

14 Although you know, the rent, this -- this, in
15 this case the landlord raised the rent three
16 times -- well, maybe during this, twice in the
17 year that the ceiling fell in.

18 So I hope -- I hope that we will.

19 This tenant went to the local health district
20 and they did send out an inspector who almost --
21 who just said there were mouse feces that ought to
22 be cleaned up.

23 I mean, there is a lot of visible mold and it
24 could be that the health inspector felt she
25 didn't -- I think it was a she. She didn't have

1 any authority to do anything about the mold. So
2 yes, let's talk, but particularly if you're
3 getting a lot of calls I'm not surprised, because
4 I think it's an emerging problem of interest and
5 maybe it would be a good thing for one of the
6 health equity or social equity groups to take up
7 and work on.

8 LORI MATHIEU: So that is one of our projects, as a
9 matter of fact, on the property maintenance code,
10 to work with the other agencies about who's doing
11 what and what should be done in addition.

12 So another issue is, as you're aware, there's
13 all kinds of environmental issues that people
14 suffer from and this is one of them. So we also
15 have lead. We also have asbestos. We also have
16 radon. So it's one of many things that we're
17 looking at.

18 So in the state statute that I referenced,
19 it's only for the Health Department to write
20 guidelines for mold abatement, and to write a
21 protocol. And this law was developed in 2006. So
22 it's not something that's new, but I think it's
23 something that needs to be sharpened and to help
24 people that are in most need.

25 So thank you for bringing that forward.

1 MARGARET MINER: Thank you, and let's work on this.

2 It's a health issue. I feel sorry for the kids.

3 Eventually it can have cardiac implications,
4 too.

5 Anyway, thank you, Lori. I'm glad it's up on
6 your radar and then maybe we can really get some
7 help to these people.

8 LORI MATHIEU: Yes. And I mean, sadly what we've seen
9 during COVID is that the same people that suffer
10 from this type of situation have also suffered
11 immensely due to COVID and other, and other issues
12 as well as lead, lead poisoning of children.

13 So it is an overall issue that we're looking
14 closely at. So thank you for bringing it forward.

15 MARGARET MINER: Thank you. Look forward to talking.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Margaret.

17 Thank you, Lori.

18 Margaret, hope you feel better.

19 MARGARET MINER: I will. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else to come before us? Any
21 other public comment?

22 DENISE SAVAGEAU: Jack, I just wanted to comment
23 quickly on that and what Lori and Martin said is
24 right in terms of really looking at property
25 maintenance. But I just want to bring the

1 attention that it also is about properly siting
2 properties and the importance, again, of our
3 Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act and not
4 putting people in flood plains.

5 And we're having a lot of challenges to that,
6 especially around the discussion of affordable
7 housing and we need to really -- so I think when
8 we look at the GC3 and start putting those
9 comments together with some of the work we're
10 doing, there may be a place for us to take a look
11 at that -- but again, in that -- in that context
12 of the GC3, floodplains, wetlands, how that works,
13 too, with the state water plan, because there are
14 some real challenges.

15 I'm just going to give you a real quick one I
16 looked at many years ago. I was asked to look at
17 an affordable housing complex in Hartford. I went
18 in there with the state soil scientist, Tim
19 Kolzinskis at the time, and we provided
20 recommendations.

21 Don't do what they were going to do because
22 they were siting an affordable housing complex on
23 slabs. So all the house we're going to be on
24 slabs, which meant that they were all going to
25 have, you know, concrete basements -- not the way

1 they -- not basements, concrete slabs. That's
2 mold heaven. And we weren't really paying
3 attention back then. We told them not to do it,
4 and it was one of those things where they didn't
5 want to hear the proper land use.

6 So I think it's a discussion that needs to be
7 happening and I just wanted to put in that the
8 proper property maintenance is about the plumbing
9 and the insides and whatever, but there's also
10 this proper siting that needs to be part of the
11 discussion. Thank you.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. Any other
13 questions, comments?

14 **LORI MATHIEU:** I do want to thank Josh for his service.
15 So I didn't say that previously, but Josh, thank
16 you for your time and your endless energy and
17 moving forward and volunteering. So much
18 appreciated.

19 Sorry, Jack. Thank you for that.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN:** That's all right. I was going to thank
21 him again as well.

22 We'll have our next meeting on January 4th,
23 and we will schedule a couple of special meetings
24 as well.

25 If there's nothing else to come before us, I

1 wish everyone a happy and healthy and safe holiday
2 season, And may 2022 be the year of water. Let's
3 make it the year of water in the state of
4 Connecticut.

5 Let's really pound the payment. And when we
6 look at what Denise and her team has put together,
7 I think we have the foundation for a great year
8 and I'm looking forward to it.

9 So thank you all. Thank you, all the people
10 that volunteered on the various committees.
11 You're the backbone of our organization. Thank
12 you, and be safe.

13 Motion to adjourn?

14 LORI MATHIEU: So moved.

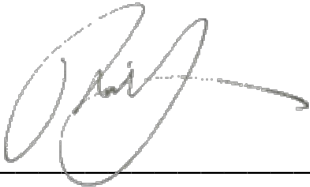
15 GRAHAM STEVENS: Second.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: We are adjourned.

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18 (End: 2:48 p.m.)
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25

1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 67 pages are a
4 complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of
5 my original verbatim notes taken of the Regular Meeting
6 of the WATER PLANNING COUNCIL, which was held before
7 JOHN W. BETKOSKI, III, CHAIRMAN, and PURA
8 VICE-CHAIRMAN, via teleconference, on December 7, 2021.
9

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11 

12
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1 INDEX

2
3 VOTES TAKEN
4 (Unanimous Approval)

5 Description	6 Page
7 11/3/'21 Transcript Approval	8 3
9 D. Newman to WPCAG and Nursery Association	10 51
11 Adjournment	12 67

13 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

14 DESCRIPTION	15 PAGE(s)
16 V. del Lima: IWG update	17 5-8
18 G. Stevens: Water chief discussions	19 8-9
20 D. Savageau: State water plan task list	21 13-26
22 Council discussion	23 26-33
24 Re: Branding discussion	25 33-37
26 C. Haskins: WPCAG update	27 39-40
28 K. Burnaska: Dec. 10 presentation	29 41-42
30 L. Mathieu: WUCC update (and private wells)	31 43-47
32 G. Stevens: WaterSense implementation	33 47-48
34 M. Heft: IDWG update	35 49-50
36 The Chair: Special meeting	37 51-52
38 Public comment	
39 D. Kuzminski: Audience outreach	40 53
41 Discussion	42 53-55
43 V. de Lima: Special meeting	44 55-56
45 M. Miner: Mold and renters	46 57
47 Discussion	48 57-64
49 D. Savageau: Mold, siting	50 64-65