

Heft, Martin

From: alicea
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:51 PM
To: Lupoli, Laura
Cc: Wittchen, Bruce; dlawrence; 'Carol Haskins'
Subject: Nominee for WPCAG member for WPC Approval

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Hello Laura,

As part of the WPCAG report, we will be asking the WPC to approve the appointment of Steve Vitko to replace John Hudak to represent regional water companies. Below is the recommendation from John Hudak that provides information on Steve so that all members of the WPC know who they are voting for.

Steve Vitko, (RWA's) Senior Environmental Analyst, is willing to sign on as the regional water company representative. Steve is a CTAWWA Board member and also chairs the CTAWWA Source Water Protection Committee. He has been a highly valued member of the RWA's source water protection team and I have spent the last year getting him up to speed on numerous water allocation and policy issues. I realize he would need to get through the WPCAG/WPC approval process, but I am very confident he would be an outstanding contributor to the group."

Sorry about this frenzy of information the week of the meeting but we only met last week and I just got back from vacation yesterday.

Warm Regards,

Alicea

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
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Academia, public health, ecology: **Virginia de Lima**, USGS (retired)

Agriculture: **Vacant**

Business & Industry (Association): **Vacant**

Conservation: **Denise Savageau**, Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts

Consumer: **Brenda Watson**, Operation Fuel

Electric Power: **Fred Klein**, Pullman & Comley

Fisheries: **Alicea Charamut** (Co-Chair), Fisheries Advisory Council

Lakes and Ponds: **Sean Hayden**, Lake Waramaug Task Force

Land Protection: **Karen Burnaska**, CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Public Health (Local): **David Knauf**, City of Darien

Recreation: **Eric Hammerling**, CT Forest and Parks Association

Regional Councils of Government: **Aaron Budris**, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

River Protection: **Margaret Miner**, Rivers Alliance

Wastewater: **Tom Tyler**, Metropolitan District Commission

Water Intensive Business: **Darryl Newman**, Planters Choice Nursery, CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.

Water Resources Protection: **Carol Haskins**, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

Water Utility (Large Investor-owned): **Dan Lawrence** (Co-chair), Aquarion Water Co.

Water Utility (Large Regional): **John Hudak**, South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Water Utility (Municipal): **Patrick Kearney**, Town of Manchester

Water Utility (Small): **Josh Cansler**, Southeastern CT Water Authority

Heft, Martin

From: Virginia de Lima <viriniadelima1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Heft, Martin; Betkoski, John; Mathieu, Lori; Stevens, Graham
Cc: Lupoli, Laura; Bellucci, Christopher; Virginia de Lima; Radka, David
Subject: Proposal for USGS data collection topical sub-workgroup
Attachments: USGS Data Collection Workgroup proposal.8-10-22.docx

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Water Planning Council Members--

Attached please find a slightly revised draft proposal for a Implementation Workgroup (IWG) topical sub-workgroup to look at U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data collection. This version includes the specifics of time commitment, agency resources, and proposed membership that were requested at the last WPC meeting.

The USGS data are used by many diverse groups: agencies, permit holders, consulting firms, environmentalists, government entities, academics, and others.

Therefore, after you approve the topical sub-workgroup, we plan to send the solicitation for membership to a wide distribution. The email lists used will include, but not be limited to, the WPC email list, as well as lists from Connecticut Water Works Association, American Water Works Association, Connecticut Section, Rivers Alliance, the Institute of Water Resources, Conservation Districts, Councils of Government, wetlands commissioners, Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, etc. We also will encourage any recipient to forward the solicitation to others who may be interested. We hope this will result in a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

If you have suggestions for additional lists, please let us know.

In addition, we hope this wide distribution will bring new people into the State Water Planning process and diversify the group that participates.

We request that approval of this proposal be put on the agenda for the WPC September meeting. We will be available for questions and discussion during that meeting.

Sincerely,
Virginia de Lima and David Radka, co-chairs, IWG

IWG Topical Sub-Workgroup Proposal

Topic

Evaluation of United States Geological Survey (USGS) Data Collection Programs to support the recommendations of the State Water Plan (SWP)

Background

This topical sub-workgroup is proposed as the result of discussions from the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup (IWG), and from conversations on SWP priorities of the Water Planning Council (WPC). The overarching goal of the SWP is to 'provide balanced water for all uses', and ongoing data collection performed by the USGS is necessary if this goal is to be realized. Data collected by the USGS was used in the Current Conditions Assessment (Sec. 2) during the development of the SWP and is used regularly to assess environmental conditions in Connecticut and for public water supply safe yield analyses and other forecasting efforts.

The SWP recommends supporting "the USGS real-time and discrete monitoring programs, including stream gauging, water quality, and groundwater levels," and further recommends that these data should be tracked and coordinated at a state level. The SWP acknowledges that data gaps do exist, and that supporting water data collection programs such as those provided by the USGS will "improve data accessibility and management of the state's water resources" (Sec. 5.2.3.12 Data Availability, Accessibility, and Accuracy). Important next steps include identifying and evaluating what data collection efforts are currently undertaken by the USGS, and what support is needed to continue and/or expand those efforts for SWP implementation.

Purpose

To evaluate the status of the current USGS surface water and groundwater monitoring program in Connecticut; identify recommendations of the SWP that could be resolved by expanding data collection, identify any data gaps that exist within the network that may otherwise help implement the recommendations of the SWP; and identify any funding needs in support of current or expanded data collection efforts.

Scope

This topical sub-workgroup will evaluate how the USGS monitoring network supports SWP recommendations, what data gaps exist including those identified in Sec. 2.1.2.2, and how those data gaps can be resolved. Furthermore, this workgroup can discuss the feasibility of developing an environmental monitoring plan for SWP implementation to consolidate efforts across data collection agencies such as USGS, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and other stakeholders. The workgroup will also investigate how other state's utilize USGS data for water planning purposes. The time needed for this workgroup is estimated to be nine to twelve months after proposal approval. There will be monthly meetings as needed, determined by the workgroup.

Although the topical sub-workgroup will identify current funding sources and attempt to quantify funding deficiencies, it will not look to identify funding opportunities or seek additional funding to address any data gaps identified.

Workgroup membership

Christopher Bellucci (DEEP) will chair the workgroup. The workgroup is open to all who have an interest in the subject matter and wish to contribute to the subject matter. Membership should include, but not be limited to:

- A representative from the USGS
- A representative from an environmental consulting firm
- A representative from the water industry
- A representative from an environmental group

Existing Resources

Sections of the State Water Plan – Current Conditions Assessment

Network Analysis of USGS Streamflow Gages – metadata from 2020 [Network Analysis of USGS Streamflow Gages | USGS Science Data Catalog](#)

WPCAG Workgroup Proposal

Topic

Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis

Background

This workgroup was proposed as part of a discussion following a report from the Drought Workgroup to the Implementation Workgroup in 2019 about water utilities often having to choose between generating revenue and encouraging their customers to conserve water on a daily basis and implementing restrictions during drought. While some incentives have provided solutions to some water utilities, not all utilities can take advantage of the incentives for various reasons.

Since that time, the Alliance for Water Efficiency conducted a rate setting workshop and provided information on the implementation of year round conservation and development of a suitable rate structure. This information will be used as part of this analysis.

Purpose

To provide a report that identifies the various regulatory and operational barriers that prevent various categories of utilities from taking advantage of conservation pricing and setting rates that would stabilize revenues while a year round conservation ethic is encouraged. This report is meant to build on the workshop hosted by the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

Scope

Identify regulatory and operational barriers that prevent all utilities from taking advantage of conservation pricing programs and various rate setting tools. This work will complement the broader topic of drought resiliency and year round conservation work that is being explored in the WUCC implementation process.

Workgroup membership

The workgroup is open to all who have an interest in the subject matter but should include various stakeholder groups.

Existing Resources

Report from previous conservation pricing workgroup

Heft, Martin

From: alicea
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Lupoli, Laura
Cc: dlawrence; Wittchen, Bruce; Margaret Miner; 'Karen Burnaska'
Subject: Letter for WPC to review
Attachments: Draft Letter to GAE Re Land Conveyances v6_21.docx

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Laura,

Attached is a letter that the WPCAG would like to send to GAE regarding information on land conveyances that we would like to WPC to review. We'd like to send this letter along to GAE but do not want to do so without the WPC's blessing.

We were all very pleased that GAE amended it's questionnaire to include questions and information on water resources. However, none of this information was available by the time public comment on land conveyance bills were due. There were also other items that were very problematic that are outlined in the letter.

Myself and, most likely, Karen or Margaret will be at Thursday's meeting to answer any questions that the council may have.

Warm Regards,

Alicea

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Draft 6-21-22

To: Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Co-Chairs, GAE Committee

Cc: Valentina Melmehti, Clerk of the GAE Committee

Re: GAE Land Conveyances

Dear Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox,

On behalf of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group, we would like to thank you for including the supplemental questionnaire on land characteristics and use with the standard CGA land conveyance questionnaire this year. We believe it helped garner important information needed for protection of source-water watersheds and recharge areas. We appreciate all your efforts in this regard.

To continue efforts to alert the public and water suppliers on land conveyance bills, we recommend that in following years, the questionnaire and supplement be posted on the CGA website prior to the deadline for submission of written testimony for a bill's public hearing. Also important, is inclusion in the language of the bill relevant information that is available in the questionnaires. For example, if the present use of the property and the projected use are both stated in the questionnaire, this information should appear in the bill as well. The reason is not just to inform the public but also to represent in the statute the intention of the conveyance, conditions if any, and so forth. Overall, an application must be complete, with all requested information included, before it is moved forward.

As you know from the testimony submitted on land requested for conveyance this year, several concerns were raised. One concern was that, in general, the legislative language did not reflect that the conveyances were "in the public benefit." As water protection advocates, in considering the public interest, we would look for assurance that the public trust in water would be honored. Although many proposed conveyances do not involve significant water resources, if there is an obvious risk to a public drinking water supply (for example, if the conveyance is in the watershed of a drinking water supply reservoir, Aquifer Protection Area, or would impact Class AA/A or Class GAA/A Groundwater Supplies) this risk should be accounted for in the bill, and avoided or lessened. Finally, we support the use of a reverter clause stipulating that if the proposed future use of the proposed conveyance is not met, the land will revert back to the State.

We hope we can continue these discussions and do appreciate your support of protecting source water and aquifer protection lands.

Wishing you a pleasant summer.

Sincerely,

Alicea Charamut and Dan Lawrence, Co-chairs

Water Planning Council Advisory Group



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division

August 17, 2022

John Betkoski, Chairman
Connecticut Water Planning Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain CT 06051

Dear Chairman Betkoski and Members of the Water Planning Council:

In summer of 2019, the Water Planning Council (WPC) tasked the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup (IWG) with studying the State's response to the 2016-2017 drought and reporting on its findings and recommendations. A topical sub-workgroup was formed to carry out this task under the direction of the IWG. The IWG submitted such report to the WPC on July 27, 2021.

The WPC subsequently directed the Interagency Drought Workgroup to review the recommendations in the IWG's report and revise the *Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan* (Drought Plan) accordingly. All relative state agencies participated in the process of reviewing and prioritizing each recommendation.

The Interagency Drought Workgroup submits for the Water Planning Council's consideration a revised Drought Plan that incorporates the first priority level recommendations. Additional revisions were included at the recommendation of staff on the Interagency Drought Workgroup. A summary of the revisions is included as an attachment.

While the Interagency Drought Workgroup has addressed many of the most pressing recommendations included in the final report, there are additional, more complex recommendations that should be considered in future updates to the Drought Plan, which will also be guided by experiences with the recent drought events in 2020 and 2022.

The Interagency Drought Workgroup would like to note that, despite the improvements gained in the revised Drought Plan, implementation of the Drought Plan is hindered by a lack of staffing. Agency resources must be committed to accomplish short- and long-term drought preparedness strategies, as well as to drought response needs when applicable. The WPC may want to consider the most

appropriate manner with which to achieve the Drought Plan's preparedness and response goals.

On behalf of the Interagency Drought Workgroup, thank you for your consideration of the revised Drought Plan.

Respectfully,



Martin L. Heft, Undersecretary
Office of Policy and Management

Cc: Graham Stevens, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Lori Mathieu, Department of Public Health

Attachments:

- Draft State Drought Plan (IDW Proposed Revision) - August 4, 2022
- Draft State Drought Plan Change Log - August 4, 2022
- Drought Sub Workgroup Report Summary of Recommendations - June 4, 2021

**CT Drought Preparedness and Response Plan – 7/7/2022 Draft
Change Log**

Prepared by the Office of Policy and Management, Intergovernmental Policy & Planning Division

Plan Section Reference	Description of Change	Reason/Charge #
All sections	Eliminate drought stage names. Refer by stage number only.	OPM recommendation to simplify and reduce confusion
All sections	Replace “local water coordinator” with “municipal drought liaison”	Change made by the IDW during the 2020 drought; provides a more suitable title for the role
All sections	Add PURA as voting representative on the IDW	Request by PURA
All sections	Technical edits	OPM recommendations to improve wording, clarify intent, provide consistency across the document
3.1 Drought Management Areas (new section)	New section introduces the concept of drought management areas and how they may be delineated; specifies that the IDW uses counties as default drought management areas	1.02A, 4.01, 4.02
3.2 IDW Organizational Structure and Meeting Schedule (new section)	New section provides clarification on the composition/representation of the IDW, requires the designation of a State Drought Coordinator, specifies administrative tasks to be shared among agencies, and specifies meeting schedule and frequency	2.01, 2.02B, 2.02A, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 4.28, 4.29
3.3 Implementation (renamed from “Application of the Drought Plan”)	Clarifies the operation of the IDW and protocols for meeting, voting, and making recommendations to OTG. Clarifies that the purpose of the IDW is to collect and analyze drought information to inform stakeholders of conditions, while the role of DEMHS is to coordinate emergency response.	2.04

3.4 Emergency Management	Clarifies DEMHS and IDW role during emergency declaration or activation of the EOC	OPM Recommendation
3.5 Reporting and Documentation (new section)	Specifies that drought reports, records, documents, and other related materials should be saved, archived, and made publicly available online	1.06, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06
4.1 Long-term Planning & Preparedness: Fundamental Strategies	Specify that DEMHS is responsible for maintaining and updating list of municipal drought coordinators	3.03
Numerous sections	Chapter and section name revisions and rearrangements	OPM recommendation to improve plan organization and layout
Section 2.4 Data Resources and Decision-Making Criteria	Update information on NE DEWS to reflect current status and provide updated links.	OPM recommendation

WATER PLANNING COUNCIL					
Account	Account Description	FY24	FY25	Notes	
	Payroll	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	Water Planning Chief (Policy Development Coordinator)	
	Administrative Support	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	Secretarial Position - Water Plan, Council and Workgroups	
	Durational Project Manager	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	Water Plan Update	
	Consultant	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	Water Plan Update	
	Operatating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	Water Plan Update	
	TOTAL	\$ 1,070,000.00	\$ 1,070,000.00		
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BREAKDOWN					
Account	Account Description	FY24	FY25	Notes	
	Administrative Support	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	Secretary - Water Planning Council & Workgroups	
	Administrative Support	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	State Water Plan	
	TOTAL	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		
	CGS 25-330				
	CGS 22a-352				