

Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting #17
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
October 11th, 2017 1:00 p.m.

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on October 11th, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments offices at 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT. Prior notice of the meeting was posted on the DPH website, Eastern WUCC webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/wucc/>

The following WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetical order of affiliation):

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Kenneth Skov	Aquarion Water Company
Keith Hedrick	City of Groton
Cindy Gaudino	Connecticut Water Company
Ed Lynch	Ledyard WPCA
Brendan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Jonathan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Joseph Lanzafame	New London WPCA
Eric Sanderson	Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Mark Decker	Norwich Public Utilities
Samuel Alexander	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Jim Butler	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Michael Murphy	SCCOG/Town of Lisbon
Josh Cansler	Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Bob Congdon	Town of Preston
Jim Hooper	Windham Water Works

The following non-WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetical order of affiliation):

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Justin Milardo	CT DPH
Raul Tejada	CT DPH
Melissa Czarnowski	CT DEEP
Scott Bighinatti	Milone and MacBroom, Inc.

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. A copy of the presentations (including Connecticut State Water Plan presentation) given at the meeting will be available for download from the Eastern WUCC webpage.

The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Tri-chairs Mark Decker (Norwich Public Utilities), Bob Congdon (Town of Preston), and John Avery (Jewett City Water Company). All in attendance stated their names and affiliations.

2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Mr. Decker asked for comments and changes to the September Meeting minutes. There were none. Josh Cansler of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) made a motion to accept the September Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Congdon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Formal Correspondence

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)) described the formal correspondence sent and received by the Eastern WUCC.

- Mr. Alexander stated that the *Data Collection and Module Question Completion Request for the Integrated Report* was sent to all WUCC members, dated September 21st.
- Mr. Alexander stated that responses to Integrated Report discussion prompts were received from Aquarion Water Company, Groton Utilities, Norwich Public Utilities, SCWA, and Windham Water Works.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Decker asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Scott Bighinatti (Milone & MacBroom) began a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the progress of the WUCC to-date, as well as the items that would be addressed at the meeting.

5. ESA Modifications Discussion/Update

Mr. Decker asked if any WUCC members have had discussions regarding potential modifications to existing Exclusive Service Areas (ESAs) since the last meeting.

- Mr. Decker added that Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) will soon be sending letters to SCWA, the Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), and the Town of Franklin WPCA regarding minor adjustments to ESA boundaries between the systems.

6. Integrated Report Topics

Mr. Bighinatti reviewed the Integrated Report topic schedule and recapped the progress to-date.

Presentation by DPH on DWSRF/Source Protection

Raul Tejada of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) began a presentation on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Mr. Tejada explained the role and function of the DWSRF, including the upcoming public hearing on DPH's Intended Use Plan (IUP), which explains policies, guides how funds will be used, and prioritizes projects. Mr. Tejada also

explained that high priority is placed on projects that are moving forward or ready to move forward.

Mr. Tejada reviewed State fiscal year 2018 draft priorities for the DWSRF, which are water conservation projects, resiliency projects, projects to reduce lead in drinking water, climate-change planning, and asset-management planning. He indicated that the projects could be submitted at any time for consideration and that the IUP would be updated continuously moving forward as projects are received. Mr. Tejada stated that a public hearing on the updated IUP will take place at 10:00am on October 25th, at CT DPH offices, Conference Room 470 C, 470 Capital Avenue, Hartford, CT. Mr. Tejada stated that written comments will be received until October 24th. Mr. Tejada further encouraged all public water systems to apply to DWSRF and provided several examples of the flexibility of the program.

- Mr. Decker asked about how the federal subsidy reimbursement would be applied to project costs. Using an example where 5% of estimated costs are covered by the DWSRF, would 5% be applied to each invoice or would the money be reimbursed on actual project costs until the 5% of estimated project costs has been paid?
 - Mr. Tejada stated explained that the DWSRF would reimburse itemized project costs in full until 5% of estimated costs is reached.
- Mr. Decker used an example of a project that comes in under budget and asked if the utility would need to reimburse CT DPH.
 - Mr. Tejada explained that the utility would keep the money since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects DPH to fund the DWSRF in amounts spelled out in the IUP, and noted that the additional money could be used for a related project to the original project (e.g. to purchase a generator for a pump station that was just upgraded).
 - Mr. Decker asked if a utility would receive more money if it under-budgets a project.
 - Mr. Tejada stated that the utility would not get additional reimbursement.

Future Interconnections and Impact (including Water Quality), Disjointed Service Areas, and System Integration

Mr. Bighinatti discussed module #11, dealing with interconnections. Mr. Bighinatti reviewed potential future interconnections identified in the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) and the role of the Integrated Report in assessing and prioritizing future interconnections. Mr. Bighinatti discussed each existing interconnection and potential interconnections identified in previous water supply plans and other long-term planning documents and explained common challenges associated with establishing interconnections. Mr. Bighinatti also discussed responses to module #11 discussion prompts. There was discussion amongst the WUCC members throughout the presentation:

- Mr. Avery spoke about identified interconnections in the Town of Griswold. Mr. Avery explained that the identified interconnections are very long-term in nature. Mr. Avery explained that it is not cost-effective for Jewett City Water Company (JCWC) or Connecticut Water Company to run long mains to interconnect with small community systems in rural areas. Mr. Avery added that there are substantial practical differences between an inter- and intra-utility interconnection, which amounts to simple system expansion.

- Mr. Bighinatti stated that Mr. Avery raised a good point about system consolidation, clarifying that there may be no financial incentive to keep satellite wells online if an interconnection exists, aside from redundancy in the case of an emergency.
 - Mr. Avery pointed out that one presented interconnection would be challenged by ESA ownership, and one utility would need to pass a main through another's ESA to serve a small satellite system.
 - Cindy Gaudino (Connecticut Water Company) stated that the shown route of interconnection is different than what is identified in the company's most recent Water Supply Plan (WSP) for that system.
 - Mr. Bighinatti stated that it will be important to look at complex issues such as what is presented in Griswold, so that the WUCC can identify unique solutions.
- Ed Lynch (Town of Ledyard WPCA) stated that the need for interconnections should be heavily data-driven, using service population, projected population, water quality, and water availability to determine what is necessary and cost-effective. Mr. Lynch also stated that utilities should be asking whether they are able to expand their current system today.
 - Mr. Bighinatti stated that utilities should consider the long-term needs of the region.
 - Mr. Avery cautioned that showing long-term interconnections that are not immediately necessary will send an incorrect signal to developers that an area will be served by water.
 - Mr. Bighinatti suggested that potential long-term interconnections could be listed without a map, or current limitations could be explained.
 - Mr. Decker asked for clarification that 5-, 20-, and 50-year planning horizons will be considered in the Integrated Report.
 - Mr. Bighinatti confirmed but stated that the planning terms do not require the same level of detail.
 - Mr. Decker stated that it would be best to only highlight needed and reality-based projects, explaining that it is difficult to plan far into the future because of unforeseen circumstances and technology changes.
 - Mr. Bighinatti used the Town of Montville for an example, saying that significant economic development could take place in Montville, and has been identified for many years, and if it did occur the town would need to identify additional sources of water. But there is a lot of uncertainty in that possibility because such potential development has largely not materialized. Mr. Bighinatti stated depending on funding limitations, it may be difficult to update the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) every ten years, which means that the 5- and 20-year planning horizons are most important.
 - Mr. Decker reiterated that he supports the idea of being general for longer-term planning.
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that the original Southeastern WUCC plan laid the foundation for future planning and interconnections.
 - Jim Butler (SCCOG) stated that the former Southeast WUCC plan allowed for the SCCOG to develop its Regional Water Priority Plan, which more specifically identified the locations of needed and appropriate interconnections.
 - Mr. Congdon, speaking about a map showing potential interconnections between SCWA, Mohegan Tribal Utilities, and the Town of Preston, stated that he did not believe that an

interconnection using the Pequot Bridge (Route 2A) was feasible as there was no provision to attach a water main to the bridge at present. Mr. Congdon explained that an interconnection was made to Montville beneath the Thames River from Ledyard.

- Mr. Bighinatti explained that this interconnection was an alternative identified in the SCCOG Regional Water Priority Plan.
 - Mr. Congdon stated that perhaps a note should be included in the Integrated Report that if the Pequot Bridge is replaced, it should be built to support a water main.
- Mr. Decker stated that the maintenance of water quality for interconnections is critical.
- Mr. Bighinatti explained that the quality and availability of water through interconnections where the water source is surface water can be extremely variable throughout the year as treatment needs and disinfection byproducts can vary based on temperature.
- Mr. Avery asked if 3-D maps would be used to show hydrologic challenges.
- Mr. Bighinatti explained that the maps will not go into that level of detail but may identify the need for pump stations, for instance.
 - Brendan Avery (JCWC) stated that the report maps should include a scale to show how far some of the potential interconnections actually are.

Impacts of Climate Change

Mr. Bighinatti discussed module #12, dealing with climate change. Mr. Bighinatti explained potential future impacts of climate change, particularly the effects of higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, increased flooding, and stronger storms on water supplies. Mr. Bighinatti briefly reviewed the climate scenarios in the State Water Plan and provided an update on the status of the Drinking Water Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Plan being conducted by CIRCA. Mr. Bighinatti also discussed responses to module #12 discussion prompts.

- Michael Murphy (SCCOG/Town of Lisbon) asked if the WUCC has asked the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to look into any specific issues in the Drinking Water Vulnerability and Resiliency Plan (DWVARP).
- Mr. Bighinatti stated that the WUCC has asked CIRCA to consider how the length of time between rain events may change, which could impact safe yield.
- Jonathan Avery explained that it is important, when considering the impacts of climate change, not to make assumptions based on the past, but look more to forecasts and models.
- Mr. Murphy stated that sea-level rise presents a large public-finance issue with regards to property acquisition and insurance over the long-term.
- Brendan Avery stated that most planning is done in reference to 100-year floods or 100-year storms and asked for clarification that 100-year events are now much larger than they were previously.
- Mr. Bighinatti explained that the actual 100-year floodplains may now be larger in some areas due to storm magnitude or may vary based on man-made and natural changes to rivers, but that flood maps based on older hydrology calculations do not keep up with this.

- Brendan Avery stated that spillways are affected by frequent use, but that many spillways and emergency spillways may no longer be adequate for modern 100-year floods. Larger dams designed to pass larger storms are likely still adequate.

Impacts of Existing and Future Regulations

Mr. Bighinatti discussed module #13, dealing with regulations. Specifically, he discussed the potential for the next round of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule in 2018-2020, proposed lead and copper rule revisions and related regulations, potential perchlorate regulations, and that chromium is under review by the Environmental Protection Agency for potential regulation. Mr. Bighinatti explained the challenges associated with meeting State and federal regulations, proposed regulations and legislation, and potential future regulations and legislation.

Mr. Bighinatti reviewed responses to module #13 discussion prompts. There was no additional discussion.

Introduce Additional Topics

Mr. Bighinatti reviewed upcoming modules, to be discussed at the November meeting: *Potential Impacts on Other Use of Water Resources, including Water Quality, Flood Management, Recreation, Hydropower, and Aquatic Habitat Issues; Regional Population and Service Ratio, Consumption by Demand Category, Safe Yield (Impacts of Streamflow Regulations), and Excess Water; and Consistency with other Planning Efforts.* He requested that all utilities respond to the data collection request so that these issues may be evaluated using best available data.

7. Other Business

Mr. Decker clarified that the WUCC is seeking responses to the Integrated Report data request by the November Meeting.

Mr. Bighinatti presented a sample agenda for the November 8th meeting and asked for potential additions. There were no other additions to the agenda at this time.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Butler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary