

Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting #18
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
November 8th, 2017 1:00 p.m.

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on November 8th, 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
Cindy Gaudino	Connecticut Water Company
Rick Stevens	Groton Utilities
Raymond Valentini	Groton Utilities
Brad Kargl	East Lyme Water & Sewer
Ed Lynch	Ledyard WPCA
Jonathan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Mark Decker	Norwich Public Utilities
Samuel Alexander	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Jim Butler	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Paul Deveny	Windham Water Works
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
Eric McPhee	CT DPH
Melissa Czarnowski	CT DEEP
Scott Bighinatti	Milone and MacBroom, Inc.
Mia McDonald	RCAP Solutions

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 1:04 PM by Tri-chairs Mark Decker (Norwich Public Utilities (NPU)) and John Avery (Jewett City Water Company). All in attendance stated their names and affiliations.

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Mr. Avery asked for comments and changes to the October Meeting minutes. There were none. Jim Butler (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)) made a motion to accept the October Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Avery seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Formal Correspondence

Samuel Alexander (SCCOG) described the formal correspondence sent and received by the Eastern WUCC.

- Mr. Alexander stated that responses to Integrated Report discussion prompts were received from five utilities.
- Mr. Alexander stated that a letter and map was received from the Town of Lebanon First Selectwoman requesting a modification to the Town of Lebanon's exclusive service area (ESA) to allow the creation of a new Transient Non-Community (TNC) public water system.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Avery 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. Bighinatti described the nature of the ESA boundary change requested by the Town of Lebanon to allow for a new TNC to develop on Exeter Road (Route 207) to serve a restaurant. Mr. Bighinatti explained that a 30-day public comment period is required for all ESA modifications, and that the WUCC would eventually be asked by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to provide a recommendation regarding the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). Mr. Bighinatti presented a map of the area.

- Mr. Alexander noted that the requested modification would be a "Type B modification" per the ESA Procedures, where an existing ESA holder allows a new system to be developed that it is not interested in owning or operating.
- Mr. Avery asked what information was currently available to the WUCC.
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that the property owners have yet to submit an application to CT DPH, so information is currently unavailable with regards to expected water demand; however, Mr. Bighinatti estimated that average daily demand would likely be under 1,000 gallons per day. Mr. Bighinatti added that there are three other non-community systems

in the immediate vicinity (all across the street): Lebanon Middle School, Lyman Memorial High School, and a gas station.

- Mr. Avery asked about the possibility of a small system serving all four properties.
 - Eric McPhee (CT DPH) explained that it was important to have this conversation now and look at alternatives to independent, small systems, as well as proactively plan for small system consolidation.
- Mr. Decker stated that the WUCC should also be sensitive to the timeliness of creating a new water system to serve the properties, explaining that from the perspective of the restaurant owner, a new TNC would probably be more favorable.
 - Mr. McPhee explained that the law now requires CPCNs for non-community water systems to be conditioned on the public water system connecting to community water system when one becomes available, and that the property owner should be aware of the doubled cost.
 - Mr. Bighinatti asked if the requirement was for a non-community system to connect to a community system or simply a larger non-community system if one existed, citing that the three existing systems were all non-community water systems.
 - Mr. McPhee stated that the requirement is to connect to a community water system, but noted that as part of the CPCN process, the owner must examine any feasible interconnections, which could potentially include an interconnection with one of the nearby schools. Mr. McPhee added that the WUCC's purpose, in this case, is to examine these scenarios.
 - Mr. Avery expressed concern about the WUCC making a recommendation before a screening form or application has been submitted to CT DPH.
 - Mr. Bighinatti stated that the WUCC may need to determine when the appropriate time to consider recommendations for new systems occurs. Early on in the process may be better, as this would be before a developer makes a significant capital expenditure (installing and testing a new well). It may need to occur after the Screening Application is submitted, but before the CPCN Phase IA application is sent to CT DPH and wells are being sited.
 - Mr. Avery stated that ideally the applicant should be part of the conversation and suggested inviting the applicant to the December meeting.
 - Mr. Decker about the process of the Town of Lebanon *relinquishing* part of its ESA to the TNC.
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that the town technically would be relinquishing part of its ESA but stated that per the ESA Procedures for Type B modifications the actual ESA modification would not happen until the new public water system is actually approved by CT DPH.
 - The WUCC discussed which parties should be invited to the December meeting. It was recommended that the WUCC send letters asking representatives from the Town of Lebanon the applicant restaurant owner, the owner of the gas station, and the schools to attend the December meeting.
 - The WUCC discussed the appropriate timing of the 30-day public comment period. It was reiterated that the Town of Lebanon ESA would not be modified until water system approval

was issued by CT DPH, and that the 30-day public comment period for the ESA modification would not necessarily need to coincide with the WUCC's recommendation. There was additional discussion about the CPCN process and public water system screening process with CT DPH.

- The WUCC agreed that the goal in bringing the parties together would be to discuss the long-term planning implications of an ESA change and creation of a new TNC, as well as the potential of interconnecting with one or both of the schools. The WUCC decided that the parties would be invited to the December meeting and that the discussion would appear as an agenda item. The WUCC also decided that the letter addressed to the restaurant owner should encourage them to begin submitting information to CT DPH to obtain needed permits, and inform them that more information, such as water quality data, may be needed before the WUCC can make a recommendation.

6. Integrated Report Topics

Mr. Bighinatti began a PowerPoint presentation discussing Integrated Report modules #14, 15, and 16. Mr. Bighinatti reviewed the Integrated Report topic schedule and recapped the progress to-date, also explaining that a draft Integrated Report would be issued in December.

Potential Impacts of the Plan on Other Uses of Water Resources

Mr. Bighinatti discussed Integrated Report module #14, *Potential Impacts on Other Use of Water Resources*. Mr. Bighinatti described the issues related to utility impacts to water quality, flood management, recreation, hydropower, and aquatic habitat. Mr. Bighinatti noted that analyses of these topics would be done at a scale appropriate to regional planning and that this information would assist with prioritization of potential projects.

- Mr. Bighinatti responses from WUCC members to module #14 discussion prompts, explaining that: Groton Utilities plans to rebuild a water treatment plant and upgrade storage, which will result in improved water quality, storage and pressure; and Groton Utilities plans to interconnect with five Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) systems and NPU in Ledyard and Preston. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the emergency interconnections would not draw water regularly, and therefore the impacts would be minimal.
- Mr. Bighinatti stated that the WUCC should discuss module #14 again in December with more responses to discussion prompts.

Regional Projected Service Population, Safe Yield, Excess Water

Mr. Bighinatti discussed Integrated Report module #15, *Regional Population and Service Ratio, Consumption by Demand Category, Safe Yield (Impacts of Streamflow Regulations), Excess Water*. Mr. Bighinatti stressed the need for updated population projections of service areas and explained that to date only five utilities had submitted data.

- Mr. Decker stated that he received a call from an operator of a campground's water system asking if the campground is required to submit data to the WUCC.
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that it would be nice to have data from small systems, but because the campground is a TNC, they may not keep detailed data on water usage due to a lack of metering, and the WUCC does not expect these systems to submit data.

- Mr. Bighinatti discussed the Connecticut State Data Center (CT SDC) population projections released in August. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the Eastern Public Water Supply Management Area (PWSMA) is expected to grow by 15,000 through 2040, and that Windham, Norwich, and Sterling are expected to experience the largest percentage increase in population. Mr. Bighinatti also stated that, on average, suburban and rural communities are expected to decline in population. The projections for the Eastern PWSMA differ from the previous CT SDC a few years ago in that urban communities were previously expected to decline and suburban communities were previously expected to continue increasing in population. There was additional discussion about the use of population projections and methods for projecting population in utilities' service areas, based off of information such as zoning and vacant land.
- Mr. Bighinatti discussed responses from WUCC members to module #15 discussion prompts, explaining that: Groton Utilities uses approximately 50% of safe yield of 12.6 million gallons per day and is well-positioned for providing regional supply; and Groton Utilities expects relatively flat population growth in its primary service area.

Consistency with Other Planning Efforts

Mr. Bighinatti discussed Integrated Report module #15, *Compatibility with local, regional, and state plans*. Mr. Bighinatti discussed how local, regional, and the state's plans of conservation and development address public water service, and that the majority of proposed actions by water utilities are generally consistent with local, regional, and state planning goals.

- Mr. Butler explained that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee has discussed the possibility of taking a comprehensive, regional look at sewer service, but is unable to move forward at this time. Mr. Butler added that the last regional sewer plan was produced in 1969.
- Mr. Bighinatti reviewed responses from WUCC members to module #15 discussion prompts. Mr. Bighinatti stated that Groton Utilities believes it is consistent with local, regional, and state goals and participates with local and regional agencies; and Groton Utilities noted that future service plans are reviewed by required agencies and that regional considerations are discussed with regulators and SCCOG.

Mr. Bighinatti explained that, at upcoming meetings, the WUCC will take a more detailed look at water system demand projections, review the draft Integrated Report, continue discussion of how to resolve water-supply issues, and begin prioritization of strategies.

Mr. McPhee addressed the WUCC about its continuation following completion of the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP). Mr. McPhee explained that the WUCC should continue its momentum and assume its proper role of making important regional planning decisions regarding public water supply.

- Mr. McPhee suggested that state-wide planning meetings could provide a good forum for discussing *bigger-picture* topics such as small system capacity, regionalization, and interconnections.
- Mr. Avery stated that the WUCCs formerly met only once per year and suggested that the Eastern WUCC try to meet more regularly.

- Mr. Decker stated that following adoption of the State-wide Water Plan, it will be important for the WUCCs to be advocates of the water industry, and continue demonstrating that water utilities are also stewards of the environment.
- Mr. McPhee suggested that it is important, moving forward, that the Regional Councils of Governments continue to be involved.

7. Other Business

Mr. Bighinatti presented a sample agenda for the December 13th meeting and asked for potential additions. There were no other additions to the agenda at this time.

Mr. Butler recommended reaching out to the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) about hosting a future meeting. It was also pointed out that NECCOG will need to appoint a new representative.

Ken Skov (Aquarion Water Company) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Hooper (Windham Water Works) seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary