

Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting #12
Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – 125 Putnam Pike, Killingly, CT
May 10th, 2017 1:00 p.m.

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on May 10th, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments offices at 125 Putnam Pike, Killingly, 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
Jim Paggioli	Colchester Water and Sewer Commission
Craig Patla	Connecticut Water Company
Rick Stevens	Groton Utilities
Brendan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Jonathan Avery	Jewett City Water Company
Valerie Hornat	Laurel Loch Campground
Chris Clark	Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority
Eric Sanderson	Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Mark Decker	Norwich Public Utilities
Samuel Alexander	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Josh Cansler	Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Bob Congdon	Town of Preston
Jerry Beausoleil	Town of Putnam
Neftali Soto	Waterford Utility Commission

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

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Justin Milardo	CT DPH
Corinne Fitting	CT DEEP
Scott Bighinatti	Milone and MacBroom, Inc.
Roger Avery	Public

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. A copy of the presentations 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 1:08PM by Co-chairs Bob Congdon (Town of Preston) and Mark Decker (Norwich Public Utilities).

2. Approval of January Minutes

Mr. Congdon asked for comments and changes to the April Meeting minutes. There were none. Josh Cansler (Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority) made a motion to accept the April Meeting minutes as presented. Rick Stevens (Groton Utilities) 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 individual e-mails were sent on April 13th to approved exclusive service area (ESA) holders and preliminary ESA holders in the eastern region, which included a blank statement of confirmation, ESA maps, and past statements of confirmation, if applicable.
- Mr. Alexander stated a letter of resignation was received via e-mail on April 27th from Mike Cherry of the Ledyard WPCA, citing other obligations and lack of time.
- Mr. Alexander stated that a link to the first draft Final ESA Document was sent to active WUCC members and ESA holders on May 1st.

Scott Bighinatti (Milone & MacBroom) presented a PowerPoint slide illustrating where the WUCC was in the process of confirming ESAs, drafting the ESA Document, and completing the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) consisting of the Integrated Report and the Executive Summary.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Call for Nominations to Fill Open Tri-Chair Position

Mr. Bighinatti reminded the WUCC that there is a vacant Tri-chair position as of April. Mr. Bighinatti explained the responsibilities of the Tri-chairs and desired qualifications, as stated in the Eastern WUCC Bylaws.

- Jonathan Avery (Jewett City Water Company) asked about the due date for the CWSP and the relationship of the plan to the responsibilities of a Tri-chair.
 - Mr. Bighinatti stated that the CWSP is due to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) by June 17, 2018 and that WUCC meetings would be monthly until the CWSP is completed (May 2018); after that, meetings are less regular.

- Mr. Decker noted that the former Southeastern WUCC typically met annually except when there was a particular issue that required discussion.
- There was additional discussion about the Tri-chair position, desired candidates, and commitments. The WUCC expressed an interest in diversifying the chairmen by having a private utility or small system, as well as a representative from the northern portion of the region.
 - Mr. Avery expressed interest in serving as the Tri-chair. It was noted that Jewett City Water Company is a private utility and is an ESA holder in the central part of the region.
 - The WUCC widely endorsed Mr. Avery as a Tri-chair candidate, and there was additional discussion from northern ESA holders with a general sentiment that those other utilities should not serve in the position due to Officer positions with other WUCCs, and due to municipal time constraints.
 - There was brief discussion of postponing the seating of the third Tri-chair until a later meeting, in order to solicit additional candidates, but ultimately it was generally agreed that Mr. Avery was a very qualified candidate that would also be expected to attend every meeting.
 - Mr. Avery formally nominated himself to serve as Tri-Chair. Craig Patla (Connecticut Water Company) seconded Mr. Avery as Tri-chair of the Eastern WUCC. The nomination was accepted to general concurrence.

6. Election to Fill Open Tri-Chair Position

Mr. Congdon moved to appoint Mr. Avery as Tri-chair of the Eastern WUCC. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Avery will serve a two-year term through May 2019 per the Bylaws.

7. Review of Public Comments on ESA Document

Mr. Bighinatti began a PowerPoint and outlined the schedule, moving forward, to finalize ESAs in the Eastern region. Mr. Bighinatti also reviewed the comments received on the Preliminary ESA Document.

- Mr. Bighinatti clarified that per CT DPH, new ESA boundaries would become enforceable in June, upon CT DPH's receipt of ESA Statements of Confirmation. He noted that enforcement implied recognition of the ESA by DPH and the WUCC, and that it was expected that other ESA holders would recognize and respect the boundaries.
- Mr. Bighinatti reviewed a state-wide map of preliminary ESAs and reminded the WUCC that Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) land was left unassigned in the Eastern region's northern towns, while ESAs on CT DEEP land in the southern portion of the region may not be enforceable.

8. Review of Draft Final ESA Document

Mr. Bighinatti reiterated that the first draft of the Final ESA Document was distributed on May 1st. Mr. Bighinatti also described how comments from the Preliminary ESA Document were incorporated into the first draft Final ESA Document. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the next draft of the ESA Document would be released at the beginning of June, preceding the June meeting.

- Mr. Avery asked if the June meeting would be before the final draft of the ESA Document is due to the CT DPH.
 - Mr. Bighinatti confirmed that the next meeting is June 14th, and that the WUCC would be able to finalize any last-minute corrections before the document is due on June 17th.
- Mr. Bighinatti asked for additional comments on the draft Final ESA Document. There were none.

9. Statement of Confirmation Status

Mr. Bighinatti discussed Statements of Confirmation and reminded the WUCC that Statements of Confirmation of existing and preliminary ESA boundaries are due by June 2nd. Mr. Bighinatti continued, reviewing the status of all Statements of Confirmation and asked that utilities raise any issues or questions with the Tri-Chairs in order to meet the necessary timeframe.

10. Discussion of Potential Schedule and Items for Integrated Report

Mr. Bighinatti reviewed potential topics to be covered in the Integrated Report. Mr. Bighinatti explained that certain topics are required to be discussed by Statute or Regulation, and that the WUCC had identified a number of additional topics in the Water Supply Assessment to be discussed in greater depth in the Integrated Report.

- Mr. Bighinatti described each of the topic areas, which were: Regional analysis of population and service ratio, consumption, and safe yield for 5-, 20-, and 50-year planning periods, by user category; Surplus supply for future interconnections and impact of interconnections; Joint use facilities and satellite management; Minimum design standards; Water conservation; Potential alternative future water supplies, including in unassigned areas; Potential impact on other water resources (such as quality, recreation, hydropower, and habitat); Financial considerations; Compatibility with local, regional, and state plans of conservation and development; Maintenance and replacement of existing supply sources; Impacts of climate change; Impacts of streamflow regulations; Impacts of existing and future anticipated regulations; Source water protection; Raw well water quality; Coordination of planning between systems and between systems and towns; Disjointed service areas; Use of current data; Small system challenges and viability; High-volume users; Declining revenue and increasing costs; Increasing peaking ratios; Aging infrastructure; And lack of fire protection.
 - Val Hornat (Laurel Loch Campground) asked about the use of lawn chemicals and potential impacts of surface and ground water supplies, particularly regarding impacts to small systems, and potential recommendations for education by CT DPH or the WUCC.
 - Mr. Bighinatti stated that Integrated Report would look at water quality and source protection concerns but that he was unsure of specific recommendations at this point. Mr. Bighinatti also stated that the Connecticut State Water Plan, being developed by state Water Planning Council may also discuss these issues.

Mr. Bighinatti reviewed the a schedule of planning activities that illustrated the coordination between the State Water Plan, the CWSP, and the Drinking Water Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Plan. Mr. Bighinatti explained that recommendations from both the State Water Plan and the Drinking Water Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Plan would inform the Integrated Report portion of the CWSP. Mr. Bighinatti continued, stating that a representative from the

Water Planning Council would like to attend a WUCC meeting in June, July, or August to brief the WUCC on the State Water Plan

Mr. Bighinatti presented a draft schedule of Integrated Report topics, showing when each would potentially be covered before the draft Preliminary CWSP is issued in late December. Mr. Bighinatti also stated that Milone & MacBroom would be formally requesting data from utilities next month.

- Brendan Avery (Jewett City Water Company) asked for clarification on an Integrated Report topic and if the WUCC would be considering compatibility of the CWSP with the State Water Plan
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that the two plans are intended to support each other and that the topic “Compatibility with local, regional, and state plans” was meant to address the state, regional, and local plans of conservation and development, which occasionally conflict with Water Supply Plans (and each other) because they are produced at disjointed intervals.
- Jonathan Avery asked about the consistency of the presented topic schedule with that of other WUCCs, as well as the relative progress of the Eastern WUCC.
 - Mr. Bighinatti explained that all WUCCs will plan to follow the same schedule of Integrated Report topics, as it is finalized, and that all WUCCs are currently equal in terms of progress toward completing their statutory and requirements.

Mr. Bighinatti described the schedule for finalizing the Integrated Report and completing the CWSP. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the first draft of the Preliminary CWSP would be released in late December and that meetings in 2018 would be dedicated to finalizing the CWSP, with follow up discussions of Integrated Report tasks, and noted that prioritization of recommendations contained in the CWSP would likely be completed by March 2018. Mr. Bighinatti explained that the Final CWSP would hopefully be approved and submitted to DPH in May 2018. The final month would be for Milone and MacBroom to complete a statewide cover document summarizing the three CWSPs across the state for submittal to DPH in mid-June.

11. Other Business

Mr. Bighinatti presented a sample Agenda for the June meeting, stating that among other agenda items the WUCC would consider formal approval of final recommended ESA boundaries and the Final Recommended ESA Document, and asked if there were additional comments from the WUCC. There were none.

Mr. Congdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Patla motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary