

Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting
Teleconference/Videoconference held via Zoom, hosted by SCCOG
May 27, 2020 1:00 p.m.

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on May 27th, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held remotely, via Zoom teleconference and videoconference software. Prior notice of the meeting was posted on the DPH website, Eastern WUCC webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/wucc/> and the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) website, Meetings webpage: <http://www.seccog.org/meetings>.

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

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Ingrid Jacobs	Aquarion Water Company
Keith Nadeau	Connecticut Water Company
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
Ed Lynch	Town of Ledyard WPCA
Derek Albertson	Town of Montville WPCA
Bob Congdon	Town of Preston

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

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Melissa Czarnowski	CT DEEP
Eric McPhee	CT DPH
Rich Iozzo	CT DPH
Judy Allen	Juniper Club Water Company (Central WUCC)

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached.

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 (NPU)), Bob Congdon (Town of Preston), and Jonathan Avery (Jewett City Water Company). All in attendance stated their names and affiliations.

2. Approval of February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

There were no comments on the February 2020 meeting minutes. Jim Butler (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)) made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Keith Nadeau (Connecticut Water Company) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence

Sam Alexander (SCCOG) noted that there was no formal correspondence; however, responses to a “WUCC implementation” survey were received from twelve individuals, some of whom were WUCC members and others were not. The answers to the survey will help inform ongoing regional and state-wide implementation efforts.

4. State-wide WUCC Implementation Working Group

Mr. Decker stated that Lori Mathieu (Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH)) recently spoke about priorities moving forward for the Connecticut Water Planning Council (WPC). These are drought and private wells, each with a separate sub-group, in addition to the Implementation Workgroup.

Eric McPhee (CT DPH) stated that perhaps during the quarantine would be a good time to pick back up statewide WUCC implementation efforts that began in January and were intended to continue through the spring. Mr. McPhee also stated that the Central WUCC is temporarily without leadership because their two co-chairs have retired or stepped away.

- Mr. Avery explained that he believes it is possible to make gains toward statewide WUCC implementation using “Zoom” as long as there is good moderation.
- Mr. Decker stated that the information from statewide implementation efforts needs to filter down to the three WUCCs, and expressed that it will likely be the same people making the statewide and regional implementation efforts.

Mr. Alexander asked about David Radka’s (retired, Connecticut Water Company) expected participation in the statewide implementation process. Mr. McPhee stated that he would reach out to both Mr. Radka and Dan Lawrence (Aquarion Water Company).

Mr. Avery advertised that he was happy to join the statewide implementation effort. Mr. Avery asked for any more comments from members.

- Mr. Decker asked whether or not the survey sent to WUCC members and interested parties following the last meeting solicited involvement in any of the envisioned breakout groups of the statewide implementation effort.
 - Mr. Alexander answered that it generally asked if people would like to join the statewide effort, the Eastern WUCC’s own efforts, or both.

5. CPCN Projects

Mr. Alexander stated that no new approvals were issued for small public water systems requiring a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) in eastern Connecticut since February.

6. Activities in Member ESAs/Towns

Members discussed ongoing capital projects related to their systems.

- Mr. Avery stated that Jewett City Water Company is in need of a rate case, which is being complicated by the pandemic. Mr. Avery stated he is currently discussing this with the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) and Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC). Mr. Avery discussed the Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (RAM).
- Mr. Decker discussed capital projects at two treatment plants, and involving new sewer mains in Bozrah and Franklin, as well as reconstruction of a main in Sprague. Mr. Decker stated that NPU submitted proposals to CT DPH for State-funded projects, one of which is the proposed interconnection with Groton Utilities over Poquetanuck Cove in Ledyard and Preston; that project would be spearheaded by Groton Utilities.
- Derek Albertson (Montville WPCA) discussed the following projects: replacement turbo-blower installation, a new chlorine system, a two-mile, cross-country sewer project served by a utility road, a fuel cell installation at the wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Albertson reported that Montville WPCA has seen reductions in water and wastewater demand.
- Mr. Nadeau stated that essentially all Connecticut Water Company offices are closed. Most of Connecticut Water Company's water infrastructure work is resuming at this point.
- Ed Lynch (Ledyard WPCA) stated that Ledyard WPCA is facing a revenue reduction because of customer inability to pay bills and possible rate increase from Groton Utilities. Ledyard WPCA is conducting leak detection currently. Some demolition work is currently on-hold.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Nomination and Election of Officers – Tri-chairs (3) and Secretary (1) to serve two-year terms

Mr. Alexander explained that an online form was offered by email to WUCC members interesting in nominating themselves or others for officer positions, but no responses were received before the meeting.

- The three existing Tri-chairs confirmed that they would each be interested in serving an additional two-year term ending May 27, 2022.
- Mr. Alexander asked for additional nominations. There were none.
 - Mr. Nadeau made a motion to approve the election of Mark Decker (NPU), Bob Congdon (Town of Preston), and Jonathan Avery (Jewett City Water Company) as tri-chairs, for two-year terms ending May 27, 2022. Ingrid Jacobs (Aquarion Water Company) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - Members thanked the tri-chairs for their service so far and moving forward.

Mr. Congdon nominated Mr. Alexander, in a motion, to serve as Secretary for a two-year term ending May 27, 2022. Mr. Alexander agreed to serve. Mr. Nadeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Update Regarding FEMA Face Masks, Coordinated through CTWARN

Mr. Decker explained that Connecticut has received 58,000 cloth masks, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which have been distributed to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), Aquarion Water Company, Regional Water Authority, Connecticut Water Company, to be distributed for free to other utilities. There was a solicitation through the Connecticut Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CTWARN), where utilities could send in a request stating their need for facemasks. Mr. Decker urged utilities to take advantage of the opportunity

because there is currently more supply than demand. The masks are made by Hanes and are reusable. Mr. Decker added that the closest location to eastern Connecticut to receive masks is Connecticut Water Company in Clinton.

10. Public Comment

There was none.

11. Next Meeting

Members discussed possible next meeting dates. The WUCC decided on a tentative meeting date of October 21, 2022, either by Zoom or in-person depending on the conditions.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nadeau seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary

Meeting Agenda of the Eastern Region WUCC
Online via “Zoom” Teleconference/Videoconference
(see bottom of page for call-in and link)
Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

1. Welcome & Roll Call
2. Approval of February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Correspondence
4. State-wide WUCC Implementation Working Group
5. CPCN Projects
6. Activities in Member ESAs/Towns
7. New Business
8. Nomination and Election of Officers – Tri-chairs (3) and Secretary (1) to serve two-year terms
9. Update Regarding FEMA Face Masks, Coordinated through CT WARN
10. Public Comment
11. Next Meeting
12. Adjourn

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685656313>

Meeting ID: 886 8565 6313

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