Meeting Minutes
Eastern WUCC Meeting
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments – 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
December 10, 2019 1:00 p.m.

The Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on December 10th, 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
Ken Skov	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
Derek Albertson	Town of Montville WPCA
Juliet Hodge	Town of North Stonington
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
Scott Bighinatti	Milone and MacBroom, Inc.
Ruby Senkowski	Town of Woodstock Conservation Commission

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. A copy of the presentation given at the meeting will be available for download from the Eastern WUCC webpage.

The following actions took place:

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1. **Welcome & Roll Call**

   The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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 November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

   There were no comments on the November 2018 meeting minutes Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jim Butler (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Status of Tri-chairs**

   Mr. Congdon reported that he had retired as First Selectman of the Town of Preston, but stated that he would like to continue to represent the town on the WUCC. There was discussion about the proper course of action to accommodate Mr. Congdon's continued service despite a change in status. It was determined that Mr. Congdon is currently eligible to continue representing the town on the WUCC, by way of being a member of the Board of Finance; however, Mr. Congdon will request a letter from the new First Selectwoman confirming his appointment to the WUCC.

   It was discussed that the WUCC should hold a meeting prior to the end of May 2020, in order to elect officers, since the last officer elections were held May 31, 2018.

4. **Correspondence**

   General correspondence was discussed following agenda item 4.a.

   a. **Intra-regional Water Supply Response Plan**

      Mr. Decker and Scott Bighinatti (Milone & MacBroom) reviewed the history and proposed updates to the Intra-regional Water Supply Response Plan (IRWSRP) to which many Eastern WUCC members in the southern portion of the region are a party. Following the Thames Interconnection in 2005, the interconnected systems prepared the Regional Water Interconnection Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The plan was funded by the Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority and proposed future interconnections and allowed transfer of water through existing interconnections during Emergency Declarations by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH).

      The scope of the plan expanded in 2010 to include local water system-declared emergencies and short-termed water shortages due to, for example, planned infrastructure improvements. Additionally, East Lyme Water & Sewer completed a water banking project with the City of New London, and joined the ERP, and Aquarion Water Company joined the ERP after interconnecting with Groton Utilities. A plan update resulted in the 2012 IRWSRP, which includes East Lyme Water & Sewer, the Town of Waterford and the New London Department of Public Utilities, Groton Utilities, Aquarion Water Company, Montville WPCA, Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority, Ledyard WPCA, and NPU. The plan allows these utilities to voluntarily transfer up to 1.0 mgd to a receiving utility, for up to seven days per triggering event. Minor changes in 2015 included the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) in the communications procedures, and the addition of NPU to the necessary permits in 2017.

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Currently proposed changes to the IRWSRP include addition of Sprague Water & Sewer Authority, by way of a one-way emergency interconnection to NPU, funded and constructed in 2019, and an interconnection between Ledyard WPCA and NPU, over Poquetanuck Cove, funded in 2019 for construction in the near future. An addendum to the IRWSRP was prepared in June 2019 to include Sprague Water & Sewer Authority information and details on both interconnections. The CT DPH Sale of Excess Water Permit and CT DEEP General Permit will be modified as part of the proposed update. There was discussion.

- Mr. Congdon clarified that the plan allows the utilities to sell water to one another, rather than allowing communities to access water from another utility.
- Ruby Senkowski (Town of Woodstock Conservation Commission) asked about the voluntary nature of the plan.
    - Mr. Decker clarified that utilities were not required to give away water at the expense of their own system.
    - Mr. Bighinatti clarified that, while there is one receiver, there can be multiple sending utilities.

b. General Correspondence

Sam Alexander (SCCOG) reported that Eric McPhee (CT DPH) sent an email to the WUCC tri-chairs on November 12, alerting them to the fact that the Western WUCC discussed holding a meeting on implementation of the state-wide WUCC plan, with a tentative date of January 30.

- Mr. McPhee confirmed. Mr. McPhee stated that a webinar, previously scheduled for October 4, was postponed until likely January, so it would be useful to hold the meeting following the webinar.
- Mr. Avery asked about the meeting format.
    - Mr. McPhee suggested that the meeting, although not a conventional WUCC meeting, should be noticed on the CT DPH website and allow for public involvement. Mr. McPhee suggested delineating responsibilities of the WUCC so as not to overlap too much with other State-level water planning groups.
    - The tri-chairs confirmed that they could attend a meeting on January 30th, if that date is chosen.

There was additional discussion about WUCC implementation initiatives. All three WUCC Coordinated Water System Plans (CWSPs) are similar in terms of implementation items. There was discussion about overlap between recommendations of the WUCC plans and the State Water Plan.

- Mr. Bighinatti stated that based on meetings of the Water Planning Council (WPC) and its subcommittees, it was determined that there is significant overlap between portions of the State Water Plan and the WUCC Integrated Reports. And in the case of drought response, for instance, and that utility-level information would be best addressed at the WUCC level and summarized back to the WPC. Mr. Bighinatti also suggested that the WUCCs could also look at the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process and propose modifications as recommended by the CWSPs.
- Mr. Bighinatti suggested that there would likely be discussion at the state-wide WUCC implementation meeting, and in the preceding CT DPH webinar, about what

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implementation items the WUCC should be looking at in detail, versus a more cursory manner.

- Mr. McPhee suggested that WUCC members take the initiative to recreate, for the Eastern WUCC, the summary table developed by Dan Lawrence for the Western WUCC, which summarizes the priority and parties involved in each CWSP implementation item.

There was additional discussion about the alignment of the WUCCs and the State Water Plan. Mr. Decker asked about the WUCCs' room for involvement, and role, in developing an implementation strategy for the State Water Plan, and if the WUCCs are able to work on implementation items that they themselves see as priorities and work them into the WPC's efforts.

- Mr. McPhee discussed the differences in roles between the WPC and the WUCCs. Mr. McPhee suggested that the WUCC's involvement in implementation of their CWSPs and implementation of the State Water Plan should follow their own priorities and needs. Mr. McPhee asked if the tri-chairs received invitation to a State Drought Plan meeting.
  - Mr. Alexander confirmed, stating that the meeting will be December 16th.
  - Mr. McPhee stated that involvement from the WUCCs was specifically requested, and as long as the various parties are communication on items such as this, exchange of ideas will occur with WUCC involvement.
  - Mr. Decker recognized Mr. Avery for taking the initiative to bring the Eastern WUCC together for the current meeting. Mr. Decker stated that the WUCC needs to set its priorities, which will inform state-wide WUCC priorities. Mr. Decker reiterated that the WUCC should ensure its interests are maintained in the implementation of the State Water Plan.
  - Mr. McPhee suggested that the WUCCs discuss ways in which WUCC members could specifically represent the WUCC at WPC meets or sub-committee meetings.
- Mr. Avery discussed the WPC sub-committees. The WPC has an Implementation Workgroup with two sub-committees dealing with private wells and drought. Mr. Avery said the Implementation Workgroup is overseeing the sub-committees and meets the same time as the WPC. Mr. Avery attends meetings of the WPC Advisory Group. Mr. Avery stressed the importance of members volunteering and attending WPC committee meetings.
  - Mr. Congdon asked if there was anyone at the state level demarcating responsibilities between the WUCCs and the WPC.
  - Mr. McPhee reiterated that Dan Lawrence from the Western WUCC modified table 12.1 of the Western WUCC's Integrated Report to show overlap in implementation objectives with the State Water Plan. Mr. Congdon's question should be an item of discussion at the tentative January 30th meeting. Mr. McPhee suggested having a call between the three WUCCs to develop an agenda.
  - Mr. Decker reiterated that there is no specific WUCC liaison to any of the entities managing implementation of the State Water Plan. He stated that members of water utilities attending these meetings also represent the interests of the WUCCs, which seems to happen. There was discussion about who attends which meetings. The WUCCs appear as a reoccurring agenda item on the WPC agendas.

5. <u>Status of Statewide WUCC Plan, Sub-committee Work</u>

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Mr. Avery asked if the WUCC was behind in regards to CWSP implementation.

- Mr. Bighinatti stated that one recommendation was to have CT DPH annually present on an updated scorecard for technical, managerial, and financial capacity of small community water systems. There was discussion of the CT DPH scorecard for small community water systems. CT DPH is currently populating the scores with new criteria, which includes requirements for fiscal asset management plans and hydrodynamic tank assessments. There is no dynamic data available and fiscal asset management plans are not required to be submitted to CT DPH. Generally, ESA holders would appreciate knowing if a small system is having issues, if that system is adjacent or to, or surrounded by, their ESA. There was discussion about the technical, managerial, and financial difficulties of non-community systems.

6. CPCN Projects

Mr. Alexander reviewed projects that have received, or are in the process of seeking a CPCN, since the last meeting: Bestway Convenience in Preston, Bozrah Pizza in Bozrah, Hop Culture Farm in Colchester, Watercure Farm Distillery in Pomfret, Thames Aquatic Club in Ledyard, Taylor Brook Farm in Woodstock, and Dollar General in Salem. Members discussed the process for coordination of the CPCN with local planning activities.

7. Implementation Projects and Next Steps

Josh Cansler (Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)) discussed the membership of the WPC Implementation Group. The group meets once per month prior to the WPC meeting. *This topic was covered in detail under agenda item 4.*

a. Intra-regional Water Supply Response Plan

This topic was fully covered under agenda item 4.a.

8. Activities in Member ESAs/Towns

Members reported on activities in their service areas and towns.

- Mr. Avery discussed the Water Infrastructure Conservation Adjustment (WICA) program and funding infrastructure investment in Jewett City.
- Members discussed on-going projects requiring a CPCN.
- Mr. Decker discussed two consolidation projects with small community water systems.
- Juliet Hodge asked about scenarios for water service to a currently isolated system in North Stonington. Members discussed the Town of North Stonington's role as an exclusive service area (ESA) holder and possible scenarios for extension of Westerly's water system.
- Ms. Senkowski asked about a small system receiving a CPCN in Woodstock.

9. New Business

There was none.

10. Public Comment

Questions from the public were allowed throughout the meeting. There were none during the formal comment period.

11. Next Meeting

Mr. McPhee will communicate with the other two WUCCs that the January 30th date for an inter-WUCC implementation meeting is agreeable.

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The WUCC discussed a next meeting date. It was reiterated that the WUCC will need to meet prior to May 31 for the purpose of electing officers. Mr. Butler will reach out to the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments to solicit involvement and interest from their new Chief Elected Officials.

The WUCC agreed on a date of May 12, 2020 at 1:00 PM for their next meeting. The WUCC will discuss CWSP and State Water Plan implementation.

12. <u>Adjourn</u>

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Alexander (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments)
Recording Secretary

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