

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

July 21, 2015
Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG or group) was held at the [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority](#) (PURA), in New Britain, Connecticut, at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Gil Bligh	City of New Britain
Len DeJong	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
John Hudak	South Central CT Regional Water Authority
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Robert Silvestri	PSEG
Robert W. Wesneski	Avon Water Company
Maureen Westbrook	Connecticut Water Company
Bob Young	Middletown Water & Sewer Department

Members by Phone:

Karen Burnaska	Endangered Lands Coalition/CFE
Bruce Rich	Fisheries Advisory Council
Kevin Sullivan	Green Industry
Henry Talmage	CT Farm Bureau

Other Attendees:

Steve Anderson	DoAg
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Co.s
Pat Bresnahan	Willimantic River Alliance
Tom Callahan	WPC project management
Corinne Fitting	DEEP
Rich Iozzo	DPH
Gail Lucchina	PURA
Matt Pafford	OPM
Martha Smith	West River Watershed Coalition
Lori Vitagliano	South Central CT Regional Water Authority
Glenn Warner	CT Institute of Water Resources
Bruce Wittchen	OPM

Members Absent:

Eric Brown	CBIA
James Butler	SCCOG
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Virginia de Lima	USGS CT Water Science Center
Jennifer Kertanis	Farmington Valley Health District
Denise Savageau	Town of Greenwich
Richard Sobolewski	OCC

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2015 and May 19, 2015

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting](#). Corinne Fitting asked that Sec. 4 be corrected to say that DEEP is considering such a change but has not yet made a decision. The motion was approved unanimously, subject to the requested change, with Robert Silvestri abstaining because he had not attended the meeting.

3. Old Business

a. State Water Plan

Maureen Westbrook distributed copies of the [6/30/2015 Steering Committee Workshop Summary](#) approved at the 7/16/2015 joint WPC-Steering Committee meeting and of the mission statements considered at the meeting (see [Attachment A](#)). She provided an overview of the workshop and of the joint meeting and said there was some question at the joint meeting regarding which entity was voting on certain items. Gail Lucchina explained how future public notices will be handled and mentioned that the 8/4/2015 meeting will be held at OPM.

Maureen Westbrook described questions raised in approving the Steering Committee mission statement and said the approved version relies on language taken directly from statute. Maureen also pointed out how costs and benefits are broken out in the workshop summary. There was a discussion of the significance of the summary and Maureen Westbrook said it does not seem to be the type of document for which public comments should be sought.

Tom Callahan was asked to provide a project management update and he said the work completed to date was intended to bring the planning effort to this jumping off point. He noted that the work was in accordance with the WPC's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with UConn and that MOA has been extended for two additional months. He explained that he told the WPC that he will help them think through the next steps. That will include helping them identify useful data and support for the WPC, the new work groups and potentially for the WPCAG.

Tom said it will also be necessary to begin crafting the document that will be the plan. He described the genesis of the [state's energy plan](#), which was originally drafted by a consultant and extensively rewritten by DEEP. He also mentioned the document drafted by the article earlier in the year regarding water planning communication needs and added that OPM's Eric Lindquist is looking into online and social media options for outreach.

Tom Callahan pointed out that \$500,000 is available for each the next two years, but state procurement procedures can be time-consuming. There was a discussion of the UConn MOA and Tom provided some history and explained that his time is more limited now because he has been dealing with new issues at UConn.

Maureen Westbrook asked if it will be necessary to contract for the full amount or if it can be done in pieces. Tom said both approaches are feasible, but warned everyone to not underestimate the procurement process for multiple projects. Doing so runs the risk of stalling the effort.

Len DeJong said there is a different dynamic if a consultant does the work instead of a work group doing it. There was a discussion of the trade-offs and Tom Callahan said an ideal situation has a consultant working with a work group. Len said a work group of 12 can succeed if being assisted by a consultant, while the group would require more people if they lack that assistance. There was a discussion of such options.

Maureen Westbrook said outside expertise will be necessary and Tom Callahan said people will believe more data is required than is already available. Maureen mentioned that the WPC and Steering Committee had discussed changes to the Other States' Plans work group's model table of contents and said the group will need more time. Pat Bresnahan said the group is scheduled to meet 8/11 and hopes to complete the update in time for the Steering Committee's October meeting.

Maureen Westbrook said the WPC and Steering Committee have begun populating the new committees. Bob Moore will lead the new Policy Work Group and Virginia de Lima will lead the Technical/Science Work Group. Maureen said Virginia received ten inquiries about participating in

the technical/science group and, so far, 9 of the 18 Steering Committee members have expressed an interest in participating in the Policy Work group.

Maureen Westbrook read an email from WPCAG member Denise Savageau expressing her concern regarding the lack of municipal representation on the Steering Committee. She said she was also contacted by the golf course superintendent's organization, which would like to be represented on the technical/scientific work group. There was further discussion of identifying potential participants and Bob Young agreed about the need for more municipal input.

There was a discussion of whether councils of government (COGs) can adequately represent municipalities and Bob Young said they cannot. He explained that what he has in mind is to include people who have direct experience with water systems. There was a discussion of the ideal size of municipality and scope of utility experience that would be best and Bob suggested that it be a mid-size city providing water and sewer service. He also pointed out the implications if the upcoming planning process were to lead to such a town being told that some of its water reserves must be sent elsewhere.

There was a discussion of the typical location of responsibility for storm water management within municipal government, which ordinarily is in a public works or engineering department. There was further discussion of the need for such representation and of whether the goal is to include people who have a broad or a narrow perspective. Margaret Miner suggested that Betsy Gara of the [Connecticut Water Works Association](#) (CWWA) be asked to recommend someone. Maureen mentioned an email recommending that either Dave Radka, Mark Decker, Bob Young or Peter Gallant represent water systems.

There was a discussion of whether membership lists have been distributed so people can know who has already been assigned to a group. Bob Young mentioned that a town manager would be a good choice to participate because they have direct experience with the entire range of town departments and potentially relevant issues. He added, however, that they tend to be busy and might not be able to participate.

Glenn Warner recommended that watershed organizations also be represented and mentioned Martha Smith as a representative on the Policy work group. There was further discussion of perspectives that should be represented and Pat Bresnahan recommended that an information technology expert be included in the technical/scientific group.

Robert Silvestri said this effort will have a considerable need for administrative resources, data management and communications. There was further discussion of such needs and Margaret Miner explained how such activities were covered in a DEEP contract. There was a discussion of when the various groups will meet and Tom Callahan said the leaders were asked to convene their groups. Maureen Westbrook said she has compiled the suggestions from this meeting and asked that WPCAG members with any further recommendations should let her know.

There was a discussion of Mike O'Neill, [Associate Dean of UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources](#), who spoke at the Steering Committee workshop. Glenn Warner said Mike has a strong background and recommended he be invited to join the Policy work group. Maureen Westbrook asked if WPCAG members Henry Talmage and Kevin Sullivan can think of any other potential agricultural representatives. Both said Mike O'Neill would be a good choice and Kevin Sullivan said he will ask Mike. There was further discussion of the additional representatives discussed today and which group would be most appropriate for each and Bob Young recommended the municipal representative also be on the policy work group.

Margaret Miner said the [CT Institute of Water Resources](#) is another option for administering the planning process and Glenn Warner said he intends to participate in the policy and technical groups. Martha Smith recommended that Margaret Miner suggest someone to represent biologic

interests and Margaret said she will those who were involved in the stream flow process. There was a discussion of whether Steering Committee members are familiar with the WPCAG, its members and its activities.

Margaret said there should be further discussion of the plan approval process and possible alternatives. Maureen Westbrook suggested that people interested in that topic get together right before the WPCAG's next meeting to discuss possible approaches. Tom Callahan suggested the WPCAG invite WPC agencies' legislative liaisons to join that discussion. There was a discussion of possible approaches and the need for the process to meet the governor's and legislators' expectations.

c. 2015 Legislative session update

Margaret Miner said a [budget implementer bill](#) extended the state's ban on certain pesticide uses and made other changes (see Sec. 436-440). She said the budget implementer also included a ban on micro-bead use (Sec. 50).

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. WPCAG Work Group Updates

a. Small Systems Work Group

Maureen Westbrook asked Gail Lucchina to provide an update on PURA's efforts at the next meeting.

b. Drought Plan Work Group

Bruce Wittchen explained that the group had to postpone its recent meeting and will meet soon.

c. Green Industry Conservation Work Group

Kevin Sullivan provided an update on water-related grants discussed at previous meetings and described a project enabling a UConn greenhouse to use recycled water.

d. Watershed Lands Work Group

Bruce Wittchen said the group will meet in the next couple weeks.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Future Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 on Tuesday, August 18th, 2015 at PURA, in New Britain.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Attachment A

Connecticut Water Planning Council Steering Committee Statewide Water Plan

Mission Statement – WORKING DRAFTS

1. From the Workshop – 6/30/15

The Connecticut Water Planning Council Steering Committee will prepare a statewide water plan for the balanced management and protection (proposed: and restoration) of water resources of the state, (proposed: using data.)

The WPC Steering Committee will work to ensure that the state water plan is prepared in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 1 (a); and that the water plan achieves the objectives set out in Section 1 (b) of Public Act 14-163. (See attached -- These sections would be attached.)

Every effort will be made to complete the statewide water plan by July 1, 2017.

2. Proposed revision offered by Larry Bingaman, Maureen Westbrook, John Hudak – 7/8/15

The mission of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Steering Committee is to prepare by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2017, a statewide water plan using science, data and public input for the balanced management and protection of the state's water resources in accordance with the criteria in [CT Gen Stat § 22a-352](#) (attached), as amended by PA 14-163.

3. Proposed revision to the above offered by Maureen Westbrook -- 7/14/15

The mission of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Steering Committee is to advise and support the Water Planning Council in the preparation a statewide water plan using science, data and public input to provide for the utilization of the state's water resources in a manner that balances public water supply, economic development, recreation and ecological health in accordance with the provisions of [CT Gen Stat § 22a-352](#) (attached), as amended by PA 14-163 by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2017.