

State Water Plan Policy Subcommittee
October 1, 2015
10:00 in Conference Room 2b, 79 Elm Street, Hartford
Final Summary

Attendees: Corinne Fitting, Bob Moore, George Logan, David Radka Ellen Blaschinski, Margaret Miner, Matt Pafford, Maureen Westbrook, Virginia deLima, Denise Ruzicka, Alicea Charamut, Betsey Wingfield

On the phone: Larry Bingaman, John Hudak, Robert Young

Meeting started with a review of the draft summary of the August 17, 2015 meeting. The sentence regarding the draft charge was modified and a final summary is attached.

The group discussed the September 24, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting. General consensus that the meeting was a substantial improvement over the last meeting. Improvements can be made by limiting agenda to one presentation to allow adequate time for comments, mailing presentations to members beforehand, and asking for clear identification of where action is needed. The group asked that Betsey Wingfield transmit four issues to the Water Planning Council for their consideration (see attached email).

Corinne Fitting handed out a draft excel spreadsheet which list various data and sources (see attached). This is a work in progress of the Technical Subcommittee. The spreadsheet also identifies data which may be a security concern for public release.

There was an extended discussion about the policy ramifications of protected data. In particular, the key point raised was the question of if a plan can be developed under existing law and in compliance with FOIA which will have enough information included for public acceptance. The Subcommittee asked for an example of a FOIA response letter (see attached). There was agreement that the issue needs to brought to the Steering Committee level and that dealing with it is fundamental to ultimate public acceptance of the plan and the integrity of the plan. A list of types of data protected was requested from DPH. The question was raised as to the availability of protected data for a consultant preparing the plan.

The group agreed that they will need to develop a recommendation for continued collection and maintenance of data to water planning, but that the details of such a recommendation will be developed later.

A variety of data types were discussed, including data on residential supply wells, irrigation for farm use, interbasin transfers, and the need to collect this data especially the private well data from Department of Consumer Protection. Concern was raised over the methodology for projection for population growth, future demand and precipitation data. There was a consensus that the Science and Technical Subcommittee should explore the benefit of "scenario planning" for a variety of future data projections and develop an accepted or approved methodology to be used in the plan development.

Betsey Wingfield handed out four pie charts regarding registered and permitting diversions (see attached) with the caveat that the permitted numbers may have changed slightly. There was consensus that a method needs to be developed to get better data on which registrations and permits are currently being used, at what quantity and what time step. Although it makes sense to retire obsolete

registrations, the water utilities would be deeply concerned if there were efforts to adjust active registrations – and such effort could be a major stumbling block for the State Water Plan. The connection between a Water Utility Coordinating Committee designation of an Exclusive Service Area (“ESA”) and the associated ability under the diversion regulations to use a registration within such ESA even if it was not part of the original area served under the registration was discussed. The group discussed that once the data is collected on present status, it may be possible to establish incentives to promote desired actions, once defined, by owners of registrations or diversion permits.

The next meeting of the group will be on October 29, 2015 from 11-1 at the South Central Regional Water Authority Office in New Haven.

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