

**Draft Minutes
Teleconference
Water Planning Council
October 2, 2015**

Water Planning Council Members Participating: Jack Betkoski, Chairperson, Dave LeVasseur, Vice-Chairperson, Ellen Blaschinski, Michael Sullivan

Others in Attendance: Virginia De Lima, Bob Wifnesky, Maureen Westbrook, Dave Radka, Cheryl Chase, Betsey Wingfield, Denise Ruzicka, Margaret Miner, Nicholas Neeley, Gail Lucchina

Jack convened the meeting at 1:35. He advised that this was intended to be a pre-meeting to discuss some items prior to the October 13, 2015 WPC meeting.

Dave advised that the Bond Committee unanimously voted to approve the \$500,000 in funding for the state water plan. At this point Dave stated that he envisions spending the next several weeks trying to figure out the extremely complex procurement process. He advised that if you can select someone on the Preferred Vendor List, the process can be very streamlined. Also, Dave advised that NEIWPC has a long history working with some of the agencies. He felt that if NEIWPC were chosen that may also result in a streamlined process. Dave has identified three distinct requirements: overall project management which is what Tom Callahan's role has been to date; a consultant to write or create the plan; and lastly, an entity to ride herd on the contractor to ensure that everyone is kept on task. Dave hopes to be able to come back with recommendations at the meeting.

Mike asked if there was any discussion prior to the Bond Committee vote. Dave responded that there was not. Dave further added that the funding was Item No. one on the agenda and it was dispatched quickly. Mike also asked Dave if he would like each of the agencies to assign staff to assist with its review of the procurement process. Dave stated that he would like staff to be added. Mike offered that Betsey and Denise would participate and Jack added Gail while Dave stated that Matt Pafford would assist. Dave advised that Matt participated in the review that led up to the hiring of Susan Podziba and Jack stated that Gail had been assigned to that review committee as well. Ellen advised that DPH can certainly assist and she offered that her agency has had experience with NEIWPC and with the Preferred Vendor List.

Mike inquired if there had been any further discussions with Tom Callahan. Jack said that he had spoken with Tom on Wednesday and Dave had spoken with him yesterday. Tom is out of state right now and he has not gotten an answer about his status. Mike stated that if Tom is willing to stay he could still be a project manager and the full \$500,000 would still be available. He also said that if necessary, agency people could be available to share that role. Dave advised that nothing is off the table at the moment. He stated that there was a recent article in the Connecticut Mirror describing the new

hires at UCONN. Tom has a new boss who until now has not really gotten a chance to look at the global view. Dave would love Tom to continue and he thinks that UCONN is very close to the point of deciding what Tom's role will be. Dave stated his opinion that Tom has done a masterful job. Mike concurred and said that Tom's value is his able to ride herd on the consultant. Dave stated that Tom is a very able administrator but would be the first to admit that water expertise is not his strong suit. Thus, when the consultant comes on board they will bring some needed water expertise. Jack added that ideally this can be nailed down before the next meeting on the 13th. Jack agreed that Tom has done a terrific job.

Jack stated that some correspondence had been received from CWWA, the WPCAG and an email had been sent by Betsey who attended the Policy Subcommittee meeting this week. Betsey corrected that the email was sent on behalf on the Policy Subcommittee. Jack stated that all the members of the WPC had received these communications and that all three would be discussed at the October 13th WPC meeting. Jack asked if there were any other matters and Dave stated that the Council was constrained by the three items noticed on the agenda. Dave made a motion to adjourn and Mike seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55.