

State Water Plan Policy Subcommittee
April 14, 2016
1:00, Conference Room 2B
CT DEEP, 79 Elm St., Hartford
Final Summary

Attendees: Bob Moore, Betsey Wingfield, Alicea Charamut, Martha Smith, Matt Pafford, Virginia de Lima, Corinne Fitting, Melissa Czarnowski, David Radka, Robert Young, Nick Salemi, Eric Lindquist, David Sutherland, Maureen Westbrook, Bruce Wittchen, Joe Laliberte, Kirk Westphal, Mike O'Neill, Margaret Miner, Denise Ruzicka and Tom Callahan;

Via phone: Ellen Blaschinski, John Hudak, Beth Barton, Elin Katz, and George Logan

Approved March 10, 2016 meeting summary.

Bob Moore introduced Joe Laliberte and Kirk Westphal of CDM Smith, the consulting firm that has been selected in response to the State Water Plan RFQ to explore if agreement can be reached on a scope of work.

Presentation by Bruce Wittchen regarding OPM Drought Response and the updated Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. Virginia de Lima also answered questions as the chair of the Water Planning Council Advisor Group Subcommittee working on the plan.

Discussion followed the presentation including that the plan was updated in accordance with existing law and the group did not evaluate if other authorities were needed. One of the questions raised was if consensus between agencies was the best way to determine if there was a drought. A question was raised if the plan was a statutory requirement and the answer was not known. There was another question about private wells and how to regulate those in a drought situation. The answer was that there are no enforcements in place.

There was a brief discussion of the additions by DPH to the Water Quality and Quantity Crosswalk.

Bob Young introduced the draft Emergency Interconnection policy. There was an extended discussion of the value of emergency interconnections for multiple purposes. There was consensus that emergency interconnections can provide reliability during unexpected conditions, such as drought, but that a series of policy and regulatory hurdles create disincentives for them to be put in place. The group also discussed the term “sustainability” and “resiliency” and if that term should also apply to environmental sustainability and that establishing incentives for the actions that we would like to encourage would be helpful. The needs of water should be considered: environmental, social, and economic sustainability. There was an extended discussion of the last two clauses of the policy statement and agreement that it needed more discussion. It was mentioned that once you have a community dependent through an

interconnection, how do you get them independent in the future? The definition of an “emergency” was also questioned.

Matt Pafford introduced the draft Process Development policy. There was consensus that the last paragraph of the draft policy clearly captured the issues. There was discussion about if the WUCC boundaries were the best boundaries for state wide water plan and it is an issue that requires additional discussion – potentially with a broader audience. The point was raised that it is hard to establish appropriate boundaries until you understand the issues that need to be resolved.

Mike O’Neill introduced the draft Water Policies for Agriculture in Connecticut (copy attached) – which was handed out to the group. There was a general discussion of the draft policies.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th from 1 to 3 in Conference Room 2B of DEEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT.