



# Connecticut's Public Drinking Water Supply Planning

## American Water Works Association's ACE14 Annual Conference

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# Presentation – Importance of Water Supply Planning for Public Drinking Water Systems

1. Introduction to Connecticut Dept of Public Health (DPH) – Drinking Water Section
2. Connecticut's History – Water Planning
3. Recent Events – Water Planning and Water Supply Planning
4. CT DPH Coordinated Water System Planning Law
5. Current Water Supply Planning Efforts



## Section 1

# Introduction to Connecticut Dept of Public Health & Public Water Systems in Connecticut



# Connecticut Dept. of Public Health Branch of Regulatory Services Drinking Water Section

- Drinking Water Section – 50 staff, 7 units
- Safe, Pure & Adequate Public Drinking Water
- Primacy - EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act
- Oversight of numerous State statutes
  - Regional and Individual Planning
  - 100,000 acres of water company owned land
  - CT's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
  - Capacity Development

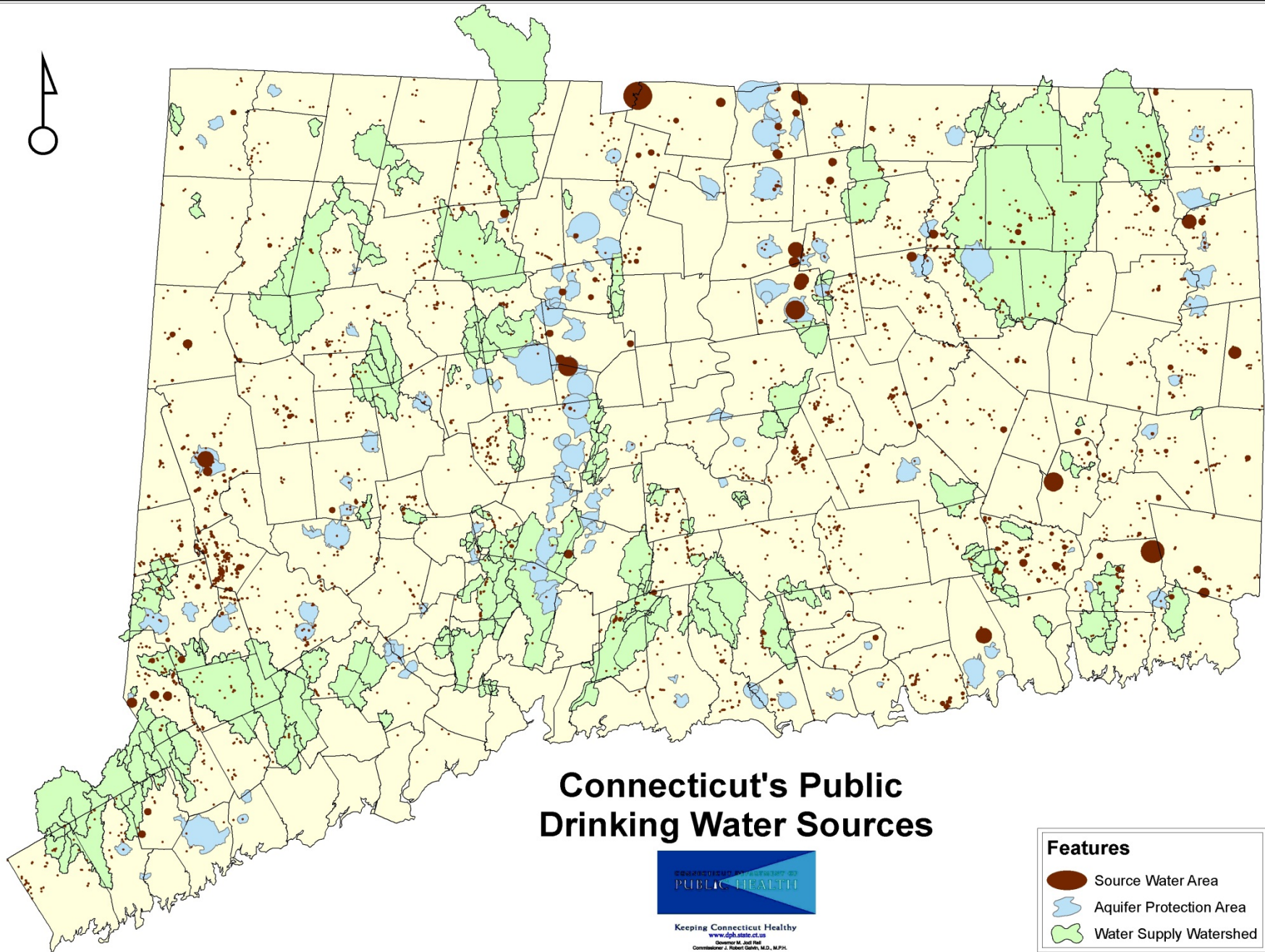
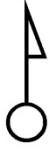


# CT DPH Drinking Water Section Responsibilities

- Regulate water quality & quantity for over 2,500 Public Water Systems with 4,400 public water sources
- 96 systems serve over 1,000 people
- 500 small community public water systems serve under 1,000 people
- Over 2,000 non-community systems
- Work with 169 towns, no county government










# Connecticut's Public Drinking Water Sources



Keeping Connecticut Healthy  
[www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)  
Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Commissioner J. Robert Gresh, M.D., M.P.H.

**Features**

-  Source Water Area
-  Aquifer Protection Area
-  Water Supply Watershed

## Section 2

# Connecticut's History: Water Planning





# Connecticut's Water Planning Efforts

- History – Numerous water planning efforts since the 1960's drought, 1964-1966
- 1967 – long range planning law, all uses of water resources
- 1981 Drought created a legislative emphasis on public water supply planning by mandating regional and individual water supply plans in 1986
- 1981/1982 – registration of water diversions and created a water diversion permitting process
- 2001 - Water Planning Council created, brought together Connecticut's 4 agencies that have a role in water planning, Office of Policy & Management, Public Utility Regulatory Authority, Department of Energy and Environment, and the Department of Public Health
- 2009 – renewed effort in water supply planning at DPH
- 2014 – CT House Bill 5424 Public Act 14-163 – State Water Plan updated '67 law

## Section 3

# Recent Events: Water Planning and Water Supply Planning

# House Bill 5424

## Connecticut Public Act 14-163

- 2012 & 2013 - Water supply for UCONN Storrs campus
- Fall 2013 - State Legislators lead a Water Summit
- Fall 2013 - Legislative Subcommittees, focus on State Water Plan development, all stakeholders involved
- Winter 2014 - UCONN Water Conference - Governor Malloy attends & supports State Water Plan development
- 2014 Legislative Session - draft House Bill 5424 (update to 1967 Law)
- Public Act 14-163 - Water Planning Council shall prepare a State Water Plan by July '17 for the management of the water resources of the state, public hearings to follow
- 2018 - Goal for CT General Assembly to adopt State Water Plan
- Coordinated Water System Plans - move forward as a foundation of the State Water Plan



## Section 4

# Connecticut Department of Public Health Coordinated Water System Planning Law

# Coordinated Water System Plans (CWSP)

1. What is it? – CT General Statutes Section 25-32d & 25-33h (1985 laws)
2. Why does it exist?
3. How does it operate?
4. When convened?
5. What is the present status?
6. Why is it important?
7. What is the future vision/thinking?
8. How to accomplish this vision?

# CWSP - What is it? & Why does it exist?

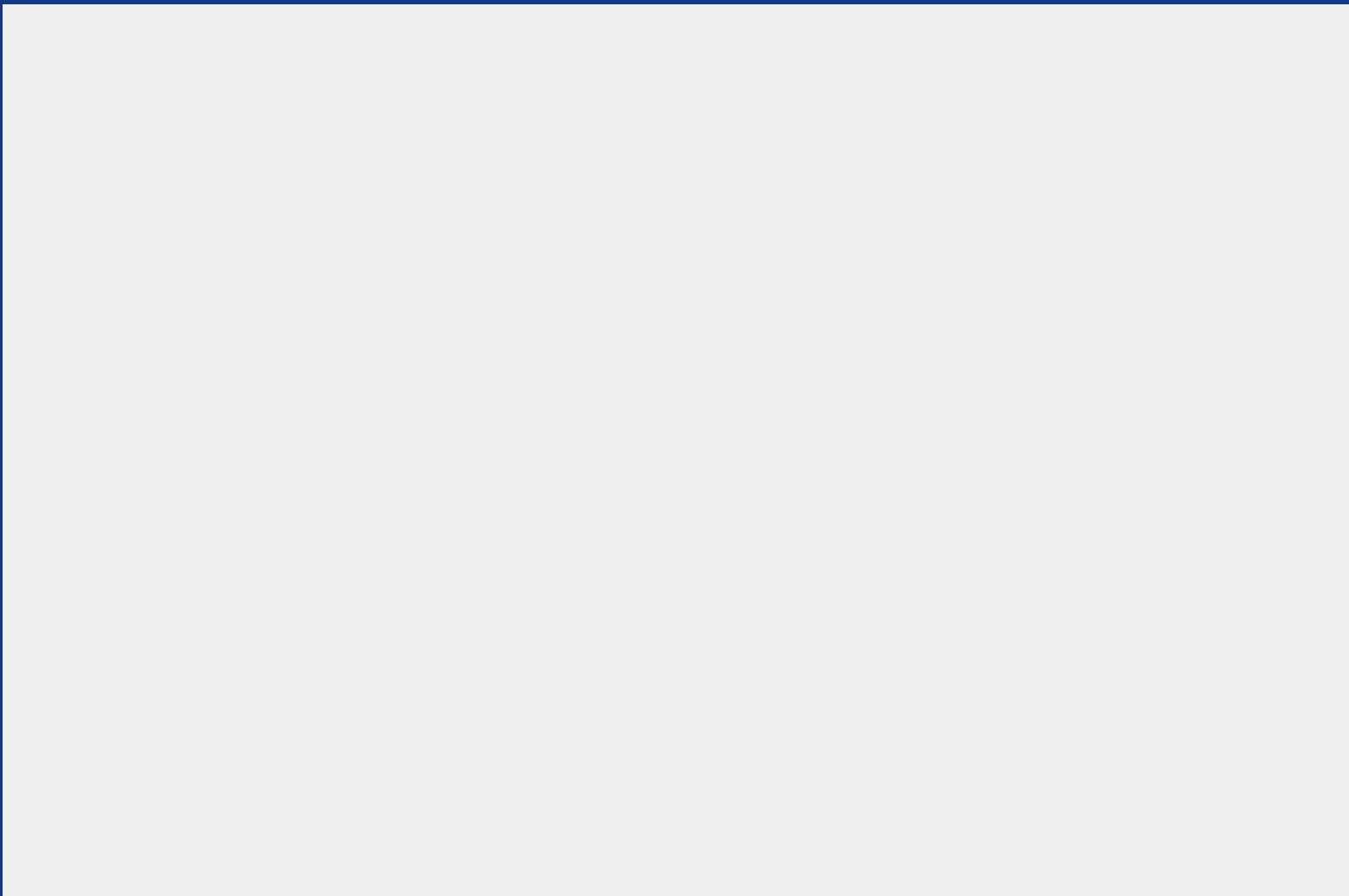
- 1981 Drought
- Water Resources Task Force Report
- Legislature created water supply planning – CGS Section 25-32d & Sections 25-33c – 25-33i - 1985
- Regulations
- CGS Section 25-33c – Legislative Intent – ...adequate supply of potable water is vital, readily available water for use is limited and should be developed with a minimum of loss and waste, DPH administer a process to coordinate planning



# Water Utility Coordinating Committee - How does it operate?

- Map
- Organization
- Committee
- Procedures
- Practices
- Plan creation
- Schedule of WUCCs, priority order

# Public Water Supply Management Areas



# WUCC – When were they convened?

- Housatonic WUCC – plan completed 1988
- Upper CT River WUCC – plan completed 1989
- South Central CT WUCC – plan completed 1991
- Southeast WUCC – plan completed and approved 2001
- Northeast WUCC – not convened
- North West WUCC – not convened
- South West WUCC – not convened

# WUCC – What is the present status?

- 4 of 7 areas convened, one plan approved
- Revived meetings
- Identification and discussion of issues/concerns
- Renewed interest, renewed staffing levels
- Connection to Certificate process
- Updating regional planning area boundaries

# WUCC – Why important?

- Discussion of water supply issues
- Regional planning effort – plan is a guide
- Certificate process – development of new systems
- Bring together all stakeholders
- Highlight on regional water supply needs
- Forum to resolve issues locally
- Guide for water system growth and individual water supply plans – set Exclusive Water Service Areas

## Section 5

# Current Water Supply Planning Efforts



# WUCC – Future Action Items

- Work to reduce number of WUCC areas
- Consider new Council of Government boundaries, watershed areas, water service areas
- Hold Public Hearings to modify boundaries – Spring 2014
- Finalize new areas – Summer 2014
- Consultant contract – Fall 2014
- Winter 2015 Proceed with convening WUCCs statewide, complete plan 2017



# Importance of Statewide Water Supply Planning

- Understand water supply needs and available water
- Plan to meet future supply needs
- Include partners and stakeholders
- Additional focus on water conservation/reuse and emergency preparedness
- Identify & protect future sources of supply
- Engage all parties in the discussion of water supply issues and needs



# Thank You

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