

Meeting Minutes
 Central WUCC Meeting #14
 MDC Training Center – 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT
 July 19, 2017 1:30 p.m.

The Central Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on July 19, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the MDC Training Center at 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, Connecticut. Notice of the meeting was sent to WUCC members and posted on the DPH website <http://www.ct.gov/dph>.

The following WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetic order of affiliation):

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Kenneth Skov	Aquarion Water Company
Kevin Schwabe	Avon Water Company
Ray Jarema	Berlin Water
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	Capitol Region Council of Governments
David Radka	Connecticut Water Company
Bill Milardo	Town of Durham
Jim Ventres	Town of East Haddam
Tim Smith	East Hampton WPCA
Brendan Avery	Hazardville Water Company
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville Water Company
Patrick Kearney	Town of Manchester
Peter Hughes	Town of Marlborough
Dennis Waz	Meriden Public Utilities
David Banker	Metropolitan District Commission
Raymond Esponda	Town of New Britain
Rose Gavrilovic	Regional Water Authority
Eugene Koss	Tolland Water
Katie Milardo	UConn
Neil Amwake	Wallingford Water Division

The following non-WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetic order of affiliation):

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Corinne Fitting	CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Betsey Wingfield	CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Rich Iozzo	CT Department of Public Health
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
Justin Milardo	CT Department of Public Health
Lori Mathieu	CT Department of Public Health
Linda Ferraro	CT Department of Public Health
Kate Keenan	CT Department of Public Health
Yvonne	CT Department of Public Health
David Murphy	Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Guy Russo	Prime AE Group
Katie Milardo	UConn

The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM by Co-chairs David Radka of the Connecticut Water Company. A roll call was conducted in which everyone stated their name and affiliation.

2. Taking Stock

- David Murphy of Milone & MacBroom stated the current status of the Central WUCC along the proposed timeline.

3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes for the June meeting were unanimously approved. Jonathan Avery from The Hazardville Water Company abstained from voting, as he was not present at the June meeting.

4. Review of Formal Correspondence

The following correspondences were logged following the June meeting of the Central WUCC:

- June 15, 2017 – Milone & MacBroom sent a letter to the Connecticut Health Department asking for the final recommendations for the ESA document to be posted and distributed.

5. State Water Plan Presentation

- Lori Mathieu from the CT department of public health made a presentation on the State Water Plan. She outlined the importance of the industry reading the State Water Plan and giving its feedback of the plan to the state.
 - Jon Avery with the Hazardville Water Company asked if business interests in the state have been represented on the water planning council.
 - Ms. Mathieu replied that a steering committee including state businesses was invited to provide input but they chose not to attend meetings.
 - Raymond Esponda from the Town of New Britain asked if the state plan is going to be funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and if it will conflict with town plans.
 - Ms. Mathieu replied that the goal of the plan was to work with towns and their current plans to try to integrate the state plan into the town's plans. The DWSRF is a great tool to use for projects in general, not just for the state plan. She noted that the Integrated Report should identify some of the most desired projects in each region.
 - Mr. Radka asked if a presentation on what the DWSRF would be helpful and the WUCC agreed. Eric McPhee from the CT DPH agreed to set that presentation up.
 - Jon Avery asked if climate change (described in the state water plan) may lead to changes in how much water must be released from impoundments.
 - Ms. Wingfield replied that this is something that will need to be watched.

6. Review and Adoption of the Integrated Report Approach

- Mr. Murphy stated that the WUCC has received comments from the Regional Water Authority, Wallingford, and the Northwest Hills COG. All three WUCCs have the same questions to keep things consistent. Mr. Murphy asked if the Central WUCC would like to keep the document as a draft like the other two WUCCs or adopt it as a final. The WUCC decided to keep it as a draft for now.

7. Integrated Report Module #2 – Financial Considerations/Declining Revenue vs. Increasing Costs

- Mr. Murphy discussed Module #2 of the Integrated Report relating to financial issues of companies and municipalities.
- Mr. Radka asked if any towns were subsidized by other entities within the town.

- Tim Smith of the town of East Hampton stated that they used to be subsidized by the town, but a year and a half ago the water department became independently funded. This change caused a rate increase of roughly 150%, and the department is now self-sustaining.
- Mr. Radka asked if anyone was not metered and everyone stated their systems were metered.
- Mr. Radka asked if who read customers monthly and who read quarterly.
 - Ken Skov with the Aquarion Water Company stated that they were in the process of moving from quarterly billing to monthly with a pilot AMI system.
 - Mr. Avery stated that the Hazardville Water Company has some monthly customers, but is mostly quarterly.
 - Rose Gavrilovic of the Regional Water Authority stated that they are planning on completing a \$28 million move over to AMI in 2019 at which point they will begin reading monthly. Reasons for the change include catching leaks more quickly, improved cash flow, and getting meter reading vehicles off the road.
 - Mr. Radka stated that Connecticut Water is using their Mansfield systems to pilot AMI.
 - Eugene Koss of Tolland Water stated that Tolland has seen a declining trend in water usage. The system has inclining rates and some customers try to conserve water, but many still do not.
 - Mr. Esponda stated that New Britain has a declining block rate structure that is mainly due to its historical customer base of many industries, and the system uses bi-annual billing on some customers. New Britain will move to quarterly billing when it can be aligned with quarterly sewer billing.
 - Brendan Avery of the Hazardville Water Company stated that Hazardville has a declining block rate structure.
 - Guy Russo from Prime AE Group stated that while he was working for Middletown, they were seeing 5% less usage every year and they looked at doing a decoupling financial structure, but did not complete the process of moving over.
 - Mr. Smith stated that East Hampton has done a sort of decoupling structure. Their meter is rather high at \$46 a month, and anything above that is the commodity charge on the water usage. Customers try to use less water because they understand that their minimal bill is \$46 and anything used will only increase it.
 - Mr. Avery stated that the Hazardville Water Company has utilized RAM which is an option for private water companies. This mechanism allows the company to bill its customers the difference in collected revenue below the allowed revenue the following

year as a surcharge. If the company earns over its allowed revenue, it must give back half the overearnings as a credit the following year.

- Ms. Gavrilovic stated that as a non-profit Regional Water Authority is unique in that it tries to bring in non-water revenue such as through lab testing, vehicle servicing, and investments.

8. Integrated Report Module #3 – Coordinating of Planning

- Mr. Murphy discussed module #3 related to the coordination of planning for activities such as infrastructure upgrades. He stated that there was a new policy on Water Supply Plans that companies would need to submit a retracted copy of the plan along with the normal plan going forward.
 - Mr. Avery asked if the health department was going to come out with a guideline of what to retract.
 - Ms. Mathieu stated that DPH will work with DEEP to make sure they agree on what exactly is needed for that document.
 - Mr. Radka stated that Betsy Gara is going to be organizing a meeting on this topic.
- Mr. Radka asked the WUCC how everyone works with their towns in terms of communications. He stated that Connecticut Water works well with some towns in planning, but has trouble with others where they have no idea what their conservation and development plans are.
 - Mary Ellen Kowalewski with the Capital Region Council of Governments stated that towns are supposed to update their plans of conservation and development periodically but there is no simple way of finding out the details of those plans.
 - Mr. Smith asked if towns have to review the previous plans before doing their updated development plans.
 - Ms. Kowalewski stated that they do have to review previous plans, but not the WSP.
 - Mr. Smith stated that when he worked in Colorado, the water company had to sign off on community development plans before they were passed.
 - Jim Ventres with the town of East Haddam stated that one problem is the water company is not on the check list of the state's statutory requirements for what needs to be included in POCDs. He suggested that the WUCC could recommend a revision to the statute for POCDs.
 - Mr. Radka stated that CT Water's WSP review includes a review of the town's development plan, but sometimes the POCD can be very different than what their plans for the community might be.

- Mr. Koss stated that the development plan should not be driven by taxes, but instead should be driven by where the water resources are located and available. He stated that earlier the WUCC discussed that areas of the state are way over allocated and planners may not know that.
- Mr. Ventres stated that in the State Water Plan there is data on where the stressed basins are and anyone can look to see if they are in a stressed basin.
- Ms. Mathieu stated that the Water Planning Council wants to work on developing a core group of people to present the state water plan. Planners need to go the COG meetings along with reaching out to the long list of people in the state who need to hear about the new state water plan.
- Mr. Murphy stated that next meeting the WUCC is planning on doing 4 more modules.
 - Mr. Radka asked what the Western WUCC was doing around the modules.
 - Mr. Murphy replied that the Western WUCC had a drop in attendance during the June meeting and is doing some catch-up, but members have been asked to answer questions in the modules.
 - Mr. Avery stated that in the Eastern WUCC, each member is assigned to answer the modules before the meeting by sending the answers to the secretary of the East.
 - Mr. Esponda stated that he was in agreement with the way the East did things. The WUCC agreed to complete the modules by the following meeting.

9. Public Comment

- There was no Comment from the Public

10. Other Business

- There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brendan Avery, Recording Secretary – Central WUCC