

Meeting Minutes
Central WUCC Meeting #13
MDC Training Center – 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT
June 14, 2017 1:30 p.m.

The Central Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on June 14, 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
Dan Lawrence	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
William Jarzavec	Cromwell Fire District
Bill Milardo	Town of Durham
Jim Ventres	Town of East Haddam
Tim Smith	East Hampton WPCA
Brendan Avery	Hazardville Water Company
Patrick Kearney	Town of Manchester
Peter Hughes	Town of Marlborough
Dennis Waz	Meriden Public Utilities
Raymond Esponda	Town of New Britain
David Kuzminski	Town of Portland
Rose Gavrilovic	Regional Water Authority
Eugene Koss	Tolland Water
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
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
Scott Tardif	CT Department of Public Health
Jeanine Gouin	Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Judy Allen	Save Our Water - CT
Jason Coite	University of Connecticut

The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 1:39 PM by Co-chairs David Radka of the Connecticut Water Company and Bart Halloran of the Metropolitan District Commission. A roll call was conducted in which everyone stated their name and affiliation.

2. Taking Stock

- Jeanine Gouin of Milone & MacBroom stated the current status of the Central WUCC along the proposed timeline.

3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes for the May meeting were unanimously approved. Dennis Waz from Meriden Public Utilities abstained from voting, as he was not present at the May meeting.

4. Review of Formal Correspondence

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

- May 18, 2017 – The Central WUCC Co-Chairs sent letters out to Central WUCC ESA holders requesting signed letters of confirmation for each approved ESA.
- May 18, 2017 – The Central WUCC through DPH sent letters to Central WUCC members including a link to the Final Draft ESA document for review.

Formal correspondence will be available for viewing on the DPH website <http://www.ct.gov/dph>.

5. Final Review and Approval of ESA Report

- Ms. Gouin stated that the Central WUCC has received most of the ESA confirmation documents. The remaining members of the WUCC that have not sent signed documents in have been contacted and MMI will work to get all copies signed and sent in by tomorrow.
- Ms. Gouin indicated that no additional comments had been received on the Draft ESA report and that changes were limited to minor mapping adjustment to account for existing system boundaries, editorial review for grammar and punctuation, and one additional paragraph of clarification relative to existing systems and ESA designations.
- Tim Smith of the East Hampton WPCA made a motion to approve the document. Bill Milardo of the town of Durham seconded and with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. State Water Plan Overview and Discussion

- Ms. Gouin stated that members of the state water planning council were unable to make the June meeting but were still interested in presenting to the WUCC and were hoping to attend the July meeting instead.
- Mr. Radka provided an introductory overview of the draft plan, including highlights of important points, water utility themes, pertinent data, analysis, and policies, and possible legislation that may follow. He stated that MMI and CDM Smith were primary contributors of data to the State Water Plan. The Plan is mainly meant for guidance and not as a legislative tool. Continuing to protect Class A waters is a common theme in the document. During the process CDM Smith, who has conducted similar efforts in multiple other states, indicated that although Connecticut has done many things in the realm of water conservation, the State is lagging much of the country. Collection of additional data and analysis is recommended going forward. The draft plan also discusses using Class B water for certain non-potable uses. The goal of the document is to make sure the proper water needs of the state are met going into the future. Groundwater monitoring is potentially going to play a bigger impact going forward since there is little data available for that currently.
- David Kuzminski from the Town of Portland mentioned that Mary Ann Dickinson has a very useful video on the CWWA website that speaks to many of these topics.
- Ms. Gouin stated that there was some concern before this process began that the state water plan was scheduled to conclude 12 months prior to completion of the WUCC process. However, the water supply assessments in all three regions were completed on time and were available for use in the State Water Plan. Now all three WUCC regions are moving forward with the planning associated with Integrated Report, having the benefit of the data gathered and analyzed in the State Water Plan. Ms. Gouin noted that one major benefit is the ability for the WUCC regions to utilize data that analyzes what basins have limited and/or excess water and where the water needs are in the state.
- Mr. Koss asked what is going to happen to the grandfathered diversion registration issue since it has been a question since 2002.

- Mr. Radka replied that there was some consensus around this issue and there will probably be legislation to address obsolete water registrations.
- Ray Esponda from the town of New Britain shared that he needed to use sources this past year that hadn't been used in 60 years. He also noted that if New Britain had not purchased water from the MDC, he may have had to activate sources not used in 80-90 years.
- Patrick Kearney from the town of Manchester stated that the sizing for many of the grandfathered registrations were based on things such as pipe size and pump capacity rather than scientific data and analysis.

7. Integrated Report Topics

- Ms. Gouin presented a recap of the Integrated Report content and planning process, including schedule, nature and genesis of topics to be covered, and the Coordinated Water System Planning forecast periods. The 5-year planning period is forecast from the date the plan will be completed (2018) such that it will be the year 2023; the 20- and 50-year planning periods are forecast from the last census, yielding planning periods of 2030 and 2060.

Integrated Report Approach

- Ms. Gouin stated presented an overview of data, mapping, and information needs, Integrated Report modules, and proposed process. A workplan was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting. Ms. Gouin indicated that the document is in draft form and that comment and feedback is encouraged. She noted that Neil Amwake of the Wallingford Water Division provided some very useful comments prior to the meeting.
- Rose Gavrilovic from the Regional Water Authority stated that for their systems in the Western WUCC, RWA would be going through all modules individually. Regional did a customer survey to gage support for their asset management program, though the wording of the questions is critical to get useful data.
- Ray Jarema from Berlin Water asked who was going to maintain all the data collected from the Integrated Report and who will have access.
 - Ms. Gouin replied that MMI has a confidentiality agreement that allows them to collect data without worrying about sensitivity for that data. The data collection will continue until the end of the contract at which time the Department of Public Health will take control of the data.
- Mr. Jarema stated that he is concerned that we are producing a lot of data and maintaining that information is a large task for DPH to take on.

- Eric McPhee from the Department of Public Health stated that the data has been underutilized in the past, but with the new technology it should be easier to maintain. He stated that a continually updated report would be very useful.

Asset Management, Source of Supply Maintenance, and Replacement (Module 1)

- Ms. Gouin presented an overview of the first Integrated Report Module – Maintenance and Replacement of Existing Supply Sources/Asset Management and, along with Mr. Radka, led a group discussion on the topic, following the discussion prompts distributed to members prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Radka asked if systems specifically budget for maintenance and replacement of sources and/or assets or do towns maintain on a replace when it breaks basis.
 - Mr. Esponda stated that New Britain operates on a “deal with today and budget for tomorrow” basis. It is very difficult to operate with a municipality that has many financial needs.
 - Mr. Jarema stated that it is always a competition between source, supply, and demand. The water department in Berlin also has to compete for funding with the sewer department, which can be challenging. It took 3 years to approve a gravel pack well.
 - Mr. Kuzminski stated that the water planning council is trying to develop a doorway to allow systems to compete for other department’s funding. He stated they want to develop a dialogue to help small utilities to deal with the critical issues with running a water company.
 - Mr. Radka stated that as private utilities were seeking legislation to authorize Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment programs WICA, they surveyed all the utilities in Connecticut and found that there was a large disparity in infrastructure replacement programs.
 - Ms. Gavrilovic stated that Regional has an aggressive water main replacement program, so they have one of the lowest water main break rates in the country. This may also be too aggressive and they may not need to replace as much as they are, so each system needs an analyze what their needs are.
 - Bill Milardo of the town of Durham stated that they have access to public funding to replace parts of the system, but the budget is very small. They have a contract to have CWC operate their system, but they are trying to get federal funding to allow a bordering town to extend its distribution system and serve Durham’s water needs.
 - Brendan Avery of the Hazardville Water Company stated that prior to implementing WICA, there was very little water main replacement in the company. Since the implementation of the program, the main replacement program has become very aggressive.

- Mr. McPhee stated that the small systems in the state are dealing with many problems of funding infrastructure upgrades. Many of these systems are struggling to even get funding to operate the current infrastructure.
- Dennis Waz of the town of Meriden stated that in 2004 they installed SCADA and now that equipment is too old and needs to be upgraded. This upgrade in conjunction with lower usage has led to an 8% increase in rates.
- Mr. Milardo stated that Durham may have to abandon 2 high producing wells because of concerns that a superfund site nearby might contaminate the wells. This may lead to a tie-in with Middletown.

8. Public Comment

- Judy Allen from Save our Water stated that with the State Water Plan, there are many data gaps. She asked how the WUCC would use the data once they have collected it and suggested that this data be exchanged with the members of the State Water Plan. She also asked who will be assessing aquatic life needs in this process and how will regional environmental issues be addressed.
 - Ms. Gouin stated that the MMI has the job of looking into the future needs of the water companies in the state with regard to environmental impact. Previously established sources will not be assessed.
 - Ms. Allen stated that part of the State Water Plan scientific study was based on basins and asked how the ESAs would work with the basins of the state.
 - Jim Ventres of the town of East Haddam stated that DEEP has the job of studying the environmental impact of any new source development, so that agency will provide regulatory oversight of these questions.
- Jason Coite from the University of Connecticut asked how UConn was designated within the WUCC currently.
 - Mr. Radka replied that the WUCC will work through the issue of UConn's status by soliciting input from the University about its water system consistent with any data requests made of the WUCC membership.

9. Other Business

- There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brendan Avery, Recording Secretary – Central WUCC