

Meeting Minutes  
Central WUCC Meeting #15  
MDC Training Center – 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT  
August 16, 2017 1:30 p.m.

The Central Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on August 16, 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):

<b>WUCC Member Representative</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Kenneth Skov	Aquarion Water Company
Kevin Schwabe	Avon Water Company
Jack Healy	Berlin Water
Ray Jarema	Berlin Water
Lynn Pike Disanto	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
David Banker	Metropolitan District Commission
R. Bartley Halloran	Metropolitan District Commission
Rose Gavrilovic	Regional Water Authority
Eugene Koss	Tolland Water

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
Justin Milardo	CT Department of Public Health
Jeanine Gouin	Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Guy Russo	Prime AE Group
Linda Pagani	Public
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Victoria Brudz	UConn CIRCA
Katie Milardo	UConn

The following actions took place:

**1. Welcome & Roll Call**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM by Co-chair David Radka of the Connecticut Water Company. 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 July Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes for the July meeting were unanimously approved. Bart Halloran of the Metropolitan District Commission and Lynn Pike Disanto of the Central Region Council of Governments abstained from voting, as they were not present at the June meeting.

**4. Review of Formal Correspondence**

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

- June 22, 2017 – The Connecticut Department of Public Health sent a letter to the Central WUCC regarding Heartstone Winery in Columbia, CT.
- July 26, 2017 – The Central WUCC sent a letter to members requesting integrated report planning elements.
- August 1, 2017 – The Connecticut Department of Public Health sent a letter to the Central WUCC mentioning it had issued a Phase 1A approval to Wildwood Inc. in East Haddam.



- August 7, 2017 - The CT DPH issued a response to the River's Alliance letter.

Discussion:

- Jim Ventres from the town of East Haddam stated that Wildwood Inc. is a campground of around 30 sites that is looking to drill a new well.

#### **5. Integrated Report Module #4: Source Water Protection**

- Ms. Gouin stated that most utilities in the Central WUCC region have groundwater supplies, but the larger utilities that serve the most people typically have one or more surface water supplies. She also indicated that it is particularly difficult to define the contribution areas to bedrock wells, making the protection area difficult to define.
- Mr. Radka asked the attending members if anyone had any further information to share on their utility's approach to source water protection.
  - Dennis Waz from the town of Meriden replied that the local inlands and wetlands committee in his town has been very helpful in coordinating source water protection.
  - Eugene Koss from the town of Tolland stated that there is pressure in town to put in more affordable housing. He stated it is much more difficult than five or so years ago to work with the zoning commission for that reason.
    - Mr. Radka asked if Mr. Koss was suggesting the WUCC recommend some statement that this be addressed and Mr. Koss replied yes.
  - Kevin Schwabe from the Avon Water Company stated that they receive planning and zoning agendas every month.
  - Mr. Radka stated that anyone filing a land use application with a municipal agency is required to give notice to a water company if the project is within a watershed or aquifer protection area and the utility has filed appropriate maps with the town.
  - Ray Jarema from the town of Berlin stated that Level A mapping is very important in source water protection. In the instance of Berlin, it showed that some land within a 200 foot radius of their well was not in Level A mapping, so therefore the town did not have to purchase the land.
  - Mr. Radka asked if anyone did volunteer sentinel monitoring for water quality purposes. Everyone replied no.
  - Mr. Radka asked if all members with surface water conducted inspections of their watershed annually. Everyone replied yes with several members saying they give notice before conducting field investigations.

- Mr. Waz stated that one watershed protection discussion that was televised locally ended up bringing in quite a few local people to voice their concerns.
- Guy Russo from Prime AE Group stated that he remembered having a problem with DOT spraying pesticides around the reservoir while he worked for the city of Middletown.
- Mr. Radka asked if anyone has had any success working with DOT around limiting spraying and everyone replied no.
- Bill Milardo from the town of Durham stated that there were recommendations made to the town selectman and it caused a ban on the chemical used in Roundup town wide.
- Mr. Radka asked the attending members what their top concerns were.
  - Mr. Milardo replied that two wells in Durham are located in a recreational area for pets. The town set up a pet dropping disposal area for source water protection.
  - Mr. Radka stated that one of Connecticut Water Companies major issues involves higher salt content from road salt. Many towns agreed with Mr. Radka.

**6. Integrated Report Module #5: Joint Use, Management, or Ownership of Facilities; Shared Resources**

- Mr. Radka stated that he was aware of a few examples of companies buying into a treatment plant's capacity in exchange for the right to purchase a specified quantity of water from that plant.
- Mr. Schwabe stated that Avon Water Company had looked into a deal with companies such as Torrington Water Company and Hazardville Water Company to pool resources to get a better deal on things such as chemicals, but it never panned out.
- Mr. Russo stated that municipalities can join together to get better deals on products in bulk.
- Mr. Waz stated that he looked into this option, but many municipalities use different chemicals in their treatment process.
- Tim Smith of East Hampton WPCA stated that they pool resources on the wastewater side.
- Mr. Radka inquired about members' experiences with CTWARN, which is a voluntary coordinated aid group administered through CT Section AWWA.
  - Ken Skov with Aquarion Water Company explained that you sign a mutual aid agreement to be a member of this organization and equipment availability and cost reimbursement are pre-established so that aid can be acquired quickly in an emergency.

- Rose Gavrilovic with the Regional Water Authority mentioned that they had used CTWARN as a template to make arrangements with Wallingford to lend a pump if they needed it. They also used a similar method in lending a pump to Southington for a week to assist them in filling a tank.
- Ms. Gouin stated that she had done a lot of work facilitating lending items up in the Catskills of New York State following hurricane Irene.
- Mr. Waz stated that they worked with the town of Cheshire and other surrounding towns if small items like valves were needed. These items were then replaced after an emergency had been mitigated.

#### **7. Integrated Report Module #6: Fire Protection**

- Mr. Radka stated that some of the newer higher end homes in CWC's systems have requested sprinkler systems be built even if the water system's do not provide fire protection. He asked if any other members were seeing this trend.
  - David Banker with the Metropolitan District Commission stated that MDC is seeing new construction that built worse for fires such as thinner walls. They are also seeing an increase in requests for sprinkler systems.
  - Mr. Koss stated that he has seen a push back in customer's willingness to pay for fire protection.

#### **8. Integrated Report Module #7 – Water Conservation, Drought Planning, High Volume Users, and Increasing Peak Ratios**

- Mr. Skov stated that with the drought of 2015-2016, Aquarion Water Company implemented 2 day a week watering in 4 towns in Southwestern CT. He stated that there are regular meetings with the towns and reception has been generally supportive from the towns. The model used was from the city of Dallas, TX. In 2016 the towns used employees to drive around to notice violators and place signs in lawns if violations occurred. With the new watering rule in place, the company has seen a drop of 17% usage in the summer months in these towns in 2017. Mr. Skov stated that because 2017 has been relatively wet, the real savings is probably around 10% when accounting for weather.
- Mr. Koss stated that in Tolland they have shown customers watering their lawns while it was raining, but that was not successful in encouraging conservation. There are systems within the town that have lots of irrigation and the town has offered technical assistance at no cost, but no customers have accepted that. The system in Tolland is not as stressed as that of Aquarion's southwestern corner.
- Mr. Radka stated that CWC has some satellite systems where irrigation forces the company to have to bring in tanker trucks to provide enough water.

- Mr. Koss stated that plumbing codes were the largest reason for less water usage. Behavioral changes are much harder to achieve than if your washing machine uses less water.

### **Public Comment**

- Margaret Minor with the River's Alliance provided a number of comments. She stated:
  - That it is necessary to look at conservation water rates.
  - The best way to get people from using pesticides is to work with each town.
  - She commented on the statement made by some members that stream-flow regulations were a problem and said that those stream-flows were negotiated.
  - She stated that DPH is supposed to be informed when there is development in a watershed and encouraged members to go and advocate for stronger source water protection to strengthen the law around it.
  - She stated that it is possible for water recharge areas to be larger than level A maps may indicate.
  - The water quality management plan did not require people to sign anything binding, but it did offer valuable information. DPH talked about environmental regulations in the management plan.
  - The ESA question and how you change the ESAs is very vague.
  - A lot of expensive water is delivered to the street, but it is not the same when it comes out of the tap due to variations in internal plumbing from house to house.
  - Drinking Water quality Overlay Zones are very useful and they are developed through the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Ms. Gouin explained that overlay zones impose stricter land use requirements in the underlying zone.
- Mr. Milardo stated in Durham they have overlay zones.
- Corinne Fitting with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection stated that when level A mapping had to be adopted, some towns kept an overlay zone.

### **9. Other Business**

- Eric McPhee with the CT Department of Public Health stated that there will be an operator training session on Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> in the MDC Training Facility. This will assist operators in watershed protection monitoring. It is free and it offers CEUs. It is available to be viewed on CT Train online.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brendan Avery, Recording Secretary – Central WUCC