

Housatonic Water Utility Coordinating Committee

Minutes of July 15, 2009 meeting Brookfield Town Hall

- 1) Call to order at 1:07 pm by Co-Chairman Russ Posthauer

Prior to the meeting, Co-Chair Posthauer asked Jim Mellett of New Fairfield to serve as secretary pro tem.

Attendees: As recorded on attendance sheets:

Richard Amorossi	Brookfield Water Co.	ric.amorossi@gmail.com
Erik Bernard	Aquarion Water Co.	ebernard@aquarionwater.com
Ron Black	Olmstead Water Co.	ronwblack@msn.com
Donna Culbert	Newton Health Dept.	newtownhealthdirector@earthlink.net
Bill Davis	1 st Selectman, Southbury	
David Day	Danbury Water Dept.	d.day@ci.danbury.ct.us
Casey Fleming	State of CT, DPH	casey.fleming@ct.gov
Ed Edelson	PRWC	eedelson@pomperaug.org
Antonio Iadarola	Danbury Public Works Dept.	a.iadarola@ci.danbury.ct.us
Lori Mathieu	State of CT, DPH	lori.mathieu@ct.gov
Jim Mellett	New Fairfield resident	jsmellett@mags.net
Steve Messer	State of CT, DPH	steve.messer@ct.gov
Kevin Moran	United Water CT	kevin.moran@unitedwater.com
Robert Parker	Brookfield Water Company	
Steve Polizzi	Rural Water Company	stevep0511@sbcglobal.net
Russ Posthauer	Candlewood Springs	russellposthauer@ccaengineering.com
Bob Silvaggi	1 st Selectman, Brookfield	
Dr. Ray Sullivan	Health Director, Brookfield	rsullivan@brookfield.org

Other attendees did not sign the attendance sheet.

- 2) **Opportunity for Public Participation.**
No public comments.
- 3) **Approval of minutes from June 17, 2009 meeting.**
Because the minutes were just distributed at this meeting, approval was postponed to the next meeting. The minutes will be posted online at DPH's website.
- 4) **Request of United Water of Connecticut, who will soon be the owners of the Bethel Consolidated Water Company (BCWC), to expand the ESA of BCWC into unclaimed service area in the town of Bethel.**
Kevin Moran noted that the unclaimed area he wants included in his expanded ESA will tie into an area served by United Water of Newtown. Bob Burke of Bethel Water Department was contacted and said that neither he nor Ron Black intends to serve this area. Bethel Water Department did not respond to a request for a written approval of the ESA expansion. A motion was made to place this item on the agenda of the next HWUUC meeting when more review

time and an appropriate map had been made available to the WUCC members prior to voting on this issue. The motion passed unanimously. Lori Mathieu pointed out that local towns do not know of their obligations and responsibilities in dealing with requests to change ESA's.

5) **Department of Public Health Presentation.**

This item was already covered in the June 17, 2009 meeting.

6) **Old Business.**

No old business.

7) **New Agenda Item; PRWC Presentation.**

Kevin made a request to place as an agenda item a presentation to be made by Ed Edelson of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) on using a tabletop exercise to test a community's response to a severe drought. The group was initially founded to evaluate concerns about water quality in the watershed. UCONN selected this group to run the exercise. The plan was to bring together a coalition of groups, including water companies, local and state officials, the USGA, and environmentalists. A total of 70 people were invited to the meeting.

Pomperaug Water Allocation Planning Study – Corrective Actions

No.	ISSUE	CORRECTIVE ACTION
1	Development of local ordinances to restrict the use of water supplied by a water company or via a private well	EACH CITY OR TOWN NEEDS TO PROMULGATE THEIR OWN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH ENFORCEABLE LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF WATER DURING EMERGENCIES. THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HAS DEVELOPED A MODEL WATER USE RESTRICTION ORDINANCE.
2	Integration of drought emergencies into the municipal emergency planning process	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS PRESENTLY LACK A DROUGHT EMERGENCY AS A SCENARIO TO BE ASSESSED AND PREPLANNED FOR. AS A CATALYST FOR MANDATING THIS ACTION, THERE NEEDS TO BE PROACTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION BE ENACTED.
3	Implementation of the Incident Command System by all stakeholders in the water community	ALL STAKEHOLDERS, E.G., WATER SUPPLIERS, MUNICIPALITIES, STATE GOVERNMENT, NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM TO FACILITATE COLLABORATION AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY DURING WATER EMERGENCIES. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE TRAINING TO INVOLVED PARTIES ON A FORMAL AND PERIODIC BASIS.
4	Revisions/updates to the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan published in 2003	<p>RESPONSE PLANNING IS AN ITERATIVE PROCESS. TO ENSURE THE SUITABILITY AND ACCURACY OF THE DIFFERENT PLAN ELEMENTS, THE PLAN SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY OR AFTER A MAJOR EVENT, AN EXERCISE, OR MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES.</p> <p>THE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE A REGION-SPECIFIC PROCESS FOR DROUGHT DECLARATION AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES; INCLUDING A CLEAR PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING DROUGHT STAGES AND IDENTIFYING RESPONSE ACTIONS; AND IDENTIFYING AGENCY AND WATER SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.</p> <p>ONCE THE STATE PLAN IS UPDATED, INDIVIDUAL WATER UTILITY PLANS (I.E., EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLANS) SHOULD BE UPDATED TO COORDINATE WITH THE STATE PLAN.</p>
5	Development of Risk Communication Plans	ALL STAKEHOLDERS, E.G., WATER SUPPLIERS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND STATE GOVERNMENT NEED TO DEVELOP A RISK COMMUNICATIONS PLAN INCLUDING MESSAGE MAPS TO FACILITATE THE TIMELY AND ACCURATE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION DURING EACH DROUGHT STAGE.
6	Assessment of risks to prioritize critical water users and lay the foundation for a water allocation plan	IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER ALLOCATION PLAN, A RISK ASSESSMENT BASED ON LIFE SAFETY, PROPERTY PROTECTION, PUBLIC PERCEPTION, AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY NEEDS TO BE CONDUCTED.

Housatonic Water Utility Coordinating Committee Regional Water Supply Sub-committee Meeting

Minutes of July 15, 2009 meeting Brookfield town hall

- 1) Call to order at 2:30 pm by Co-Chairman Russ Posthauer

Prior to the meeting, Co-Chair Posthauer had asked Jim Mellett of New Fairfield serve as secretary pro tem.

Attendees: As recorded on attendance sheets:

Richard Amorossi	Brookfield Water Co.	ric.amorossi@gmail.com
Erik Bernard	Aquarion Water Co.	ebernard@aquarionwater.com
Ron Black	Olmstead Water Co.	ronwblack@msn.com
Donna Culbert	Newton Health Dept.	newtownhealthdirector@earthlink.net
David Day	Danbury Water Dept.	d.day@ci.danbury.ct.us
Casey Fleming	State of CT, DPH	casey.fleming@ct.gov
Antonio Iadarola	Danbury Public Works Dept.	a.iadarola@ci.danbury.ct.us
Lori Mathieu	State of CT, DPH	lori.mathieu@ct.gov
Jim Mellett	New Fairfield resident	jsmellett@mags.net
Steve Messer	State of CT, DPH	steve.messer@ct.gov
Kevin Moran	United Water CT	kevin.moran@unitedwater.com
Steve Polizzi	Rural Water Company	stevep0511@sbcglobal.net
Russ Posthauer	Candlewood Springs	russellposthauer@ccaengineering.com
Dr. Ray Sullivan	Health Director, Brookfield	rsullivan@brookfield.org

Other attendees did not sign the attendance sheet.

- 2) **Interconnecting Water Supplies in the Region.**

The sub-committee opened the discussion by addressing the need for accurate, up to date maps of existing water supply infrastructure. DPH stated that it will provide maps of existing service and exclusive service areas and that individual water companies should provide updates to DPH so that those updates can be incorporated.

The sub-committee then discussed the process of making recommendations for solutions to public water supply issues in the region. It was pointed out that by bringing public and private systems to the table, as well as providing solutions for small systems as well as large utilities, a diversity of funding opportunities are made possible. The sub-committee agreed that DPUC must be brought into the process and DPH pointed out that some of the private water companies are already engaging DPUC on rate cases to help fund important projects. The Groton regional pipeline was utilized as an example of a regional water supply solution developed through a committee of stake holders and where diversity of available funding provided a regional solution. The example further emphasized

the need expressed by members of the sub-committee to consider each of the communities in the region when recommending any initiatives so that the greatest benefit can be brought to the region. DPH further commented that the water utilities should consider this to be an opportunity to share in a greater solution to water supply needs in the region and that each utility should work with other utilities and small water systems for a shared solution.

The sequence of steps required to outline a regional solution was then discussed and the sub-committee decided that it was necessary to begin by delineating the locations of existing service areas and the needs of those systems so that suitable interconnection locations can be determined. The sub-committee recognized that it is also crucial to define potential regional sources but that the value of those sources can be better defined once the existing service areas are known.

Sub-committee members stated their concerns that proposed state regulations may reduce the quantity of water available to the region. Those systems that have excess water are reticent to commit it to other systems before knowing how those proposed regulations will affect their existing supplies. Committee members also recognized that drinking water is essential to any community and that future regulations should not prevent the use of water that has already been committed for potable use, while uncommitted water may remain open to further restrictions. DPH stated that preserving water for human consumption is a top priority and that DPH will strongly maintain the State's policy that only Class A sources be used for drinking water. DPH further pointed out that there are regional sources available to create a solution within the Housatonic WUCC management area and that specifically the Housatonic River basin could be a source of regional supply.

The Town of Brookfield was highlighted as a town in need of additional water service to serve small failing systems and as a strategic location to interconnect to surrounding utilities due to its central location within the region. DPH stated that it will provide a map of Brookfield to the water utilities providing service in and around Brookfield, so that they may provide any updates. Danbury Water Department was also highlighted as a system that could play a large role in providing a regional solution and DPH pointed out that the Housatonic WUCC's Executive Summary from the 1980's describes Danbury Water Department as a potential regional hub to move water throughout the region and that is still true today. The representatives of Danbury Water Department stated that they will work with other utilities in the area.

- 3) **Next Meeting.**
The next meeting is planned for 9 or 15 September (Wednesday) at 1:00 pm, Brookfield Town Hall. (Meeting has since been rescheduled to November 4, 2009 at 10:00 am.)
- 4) **Adjournment.**
Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Moran, seconded by Rich Amorossi. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.