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Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

**Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

RiverCOG Members:

Chester:	Lauren Gister *
Clinton:	Bruce Farmer *
Cromwell:	Anthony Salvatore
Deep River:	Angus McDonald, Jr.
Durham:	Laura Francis *
East Haddam:	Emmett Lyman *
East Hampton:	Michael Maniscalco *
Essex:	Norm Needleman
Haddam:	Lizz Milardo *
Killingworth:	Cathy Iino *
Lyme:	Ralph Eno
Middlefield:	Ed Bailey *
Middletown:	Daniel Drew (Joe Samolis, proxy) **
Old Lyme:	Bonnie Reemsnyder *
Old Saybrook:	Carl Fortuna *
Portland:	Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook:	Noel Bishop

MPO Members:

Middlesex Chamber of Commerce: Darlene Briggs
Estuary Transit District: Joe Comerford *
Middletown Area Transit: Andrew Chiaravallo

Others Present:

Edgar Wynkoop, DOT
Pat Bandzes, Eversource
Cathy Lezon, Eversource
Carol Conklin, Regional Election Monitor
Jeff Pugliese, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Hunter Brazal, East Hampton Intern
Susan Jackson
Meg Parulis, Westbrook Town Planner
Dan Giungi, CCM

* Members Present

Others Present continues:

Steve Mednick, Esq.
BobKenny, DEMHS
Lori Mathieu, CT Department of Public Health
David Kuzminski, Town of Portland
Mary Dickinson, Economic Development Town of Portland
Pat Crabtree, Wallingford
Kate Powell, Regional Water Authority

Staff Present:

Samuel Gold, AICP
Judy Snyder
Rob Haramut
Jon Curtis
Margot Burns
Janice Ehle/Meyer

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, PUBLIC SPEAKING

Bonnie Reemsnyder called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Portland Public Library. Sam Gold took roll call and guests were introduced.

Carol Conklin, Regional Election Monitor said that today was the first meeting with the state and there is a new Deputy Secretary of State that will be working with the monitors. She said that the caucuses and party endorsements will be coming up between July 20th -July 27th. She asked the members to contact her if their town has a part-time registrar that is not comfortable with a possible contingency caucus. Ms. Conklin will reach out and be sure that person has all the necessary information and reports.

Cathy Iino asked if Ms. Conklin had any additional information on the probate court judges. Ms. Conklin stated that whomever the original delegate was, will have to be put in for the convention. Ms. Iino asked if others could be designated in their place. Ms. Conklin said she thought in certain circumstances someone else could be a delegate. Bonnie Reemsnyder asked if Ms. Conklin could get that information and send it to Sam Gold for distribution to the members.

2. GUEST SPEAKERS LORI MATHIEU, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DAVID KUZMINSKI, TOWN OF PORTLAND REGIONAL COOPERATION ON WATER ISSUES AND DROUGHT RESPONSE

David Kuzminski, town of Portland and chairman of the Water Conservation Committee now the Sustainability Committee, would like to facilitate discussions between COST, CCM, RiverCOG and the municipalities to address the issues regarding clean water.

Kate Powell, Regional Water Authority, is also the outreach manager for the water authority, said that everyone wants an adequate supply of clean water. The wo Water Works Association is a large international organization which is made up of water and waste water professionals. The mission of the Connecticut section of the American Water Works Association is to promote public health and welfare by assuring clean drinking water and in sufficient quantities. She said that it is their responsibility to provide clean water at all times.

David Kuzminski stated that when a disaster hits they want to get the water up and running as soon as possible. Water is needed not only for drinking but to put out fires, food services, restaurants, doctor's offices, hospitals and convalescent homes. Privates wells have other issues such as last year's drought.

David Kuzminski introduced Lori Mathieu, State of CT Department of Public Health, distributed copies of the CT State Water Plan Summary, (attachment #1). The Water Planning Council is made up of the Department of Public Health, PURA, DEEP, and OPM and the mission was to develop, in one year, a draft state water plan that deals with water statewide. She said that CT uses Class A water, and we do not use river water or desalinated water from Long Island Sound. In the 1840s the City of Middletown developed a reservoir and a reservoir system. This system continues to provide the city and surrounding towns to ample, clean water. Ms. Mathieu said that a balance between drinking water supply and a minimum of natural stream flow for ecology use is needed. Just in the town of Portland 700,000 gallons of water is used every day. She said that private wells should be tested regularly and inventoried/mapped. The State is working to educate consumers about water conservation and water efficiency. In August Mary Ann Dickinson, the CEO of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, will conduct a presentation on water efficiency. Her hope is to work with a small town or group of towns in CT on water efficiency and wants to use either a town or region as an example of what can be done working together. She said that Durham and Middletown and Chester and Tylerville are great examples of communities working together. She said that the State Water Plan has a 120-day comment period and is due to the Governor on January 1, 2018. She would like to receive comments from the towns during that comment period and would like to come back and give a presentation on the water plan.

David Kuzminski said that the Sustainability Committee is looking at this as a vehicle to communication with COST, CCM and the RiverCOG. He said if anyone would like to get involved with the Sustainability Committee to contact him or Susan Bransfield. The meetings are usually every 6 weeks.

Laura Francis said that the average CEO does not understand or know the challenges of having clean water. She suggested that information be sent to the towns.

Bonnie Reemsnyder asked the members for a motion to move agenda item 4a. "RiverCOG Office Space" up before item 3a. "Approval of Minutes".

Upon motion of Laura Francis, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to reverse the order of items 4a. and 3a. on the agenda.

4. a. RiverCOG Office Space

Sam Gold told the members that a very detailed Letter of Intent negotiations was submitted to the landlord on the property at 7 Island Dock Road in Haddam. In this letter we negotiated all the terms of the lease which was signed in May. That letter of intent included the rent, terms, renewal options and particulars. We then waited a couple of weeks to finally get the lease from the landlord. What we received from them was 45-page long lease that afforded RiverCOG no protections whatsoever. After the lease was reviewed and edited by Attorney Steve Mednick it was sent back to the landlord. Mr. Gold stated that he had received the latest draft of the lease back yesterday, he reviewed it last night and Attorney Mednick is reviewing it today. Mr. Gold set a deadline with the potential landlord that we needed a signed lease by Friday June 30th or we start running into problems with the painters, carpet and IT people. We are to pay for the carpet and paint and then afterwards get reimbursed by the landlord. This is why we are holding off on these things until we have a signed lease the guarantees reimbursement

of improvements. Similarly the landlord is not going to fix the handicapped ramp until they have a signed lease. Mr. Gold said that it may be possible to go on a month to month basis at the 145 Dennison Road location. He has also looked at other locations that are available.

Attorney Steve Mednick said that this is a form lease and favors the landlord. He tried to structure the lease by establishing landlord defaults and tenant defaults. He felt that the little issues can be worked out, however the two bigger outstanding issues are in the letter of intent. There was a requirement that we would be providing use and occupancy on the pro-rated basis on the same rate of compensation would be under the lease payment for the first year and it would be from July 15th. We are not going to get in there at any reasonable time so we will argue that. The other logistical issue is when we were negotiating the letter of intent we anticipated that the legislators would adopt a budget by the end of the session at the beginning of June. We established an August 1st date for exercising our purchase option on the building. This is now unrealistic and Attorney Mednick recommends a November 1st date or not establishing a date at all.

Bonnie Reemsnyder said that when the executive committee met and discussed this issue it was felt that this was not a deal breaker because there is no one else in the building and it will probably still be on the market when we are ready. She felt that we should concentrate on getting into the building and decide whether to purchase the building at a later date. Ms. Reemsnyder presented a resolution (attachment #2).

Upon motion of Carl Fortuna, seconded by Laura Francis, it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution to authority Steven G. Mednick as an attorney representing the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments to act as legal counsel.

3. LCRVMPO BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of the May 24, 2017 LCRVCOG and LCRVMPO Meeting

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Bruce Farmer, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2017 meeting.

- b. Update on Middletown Area Transit

The following is a brief synopsis given by Mayor Dan Drew of the recent events involving the Middletown Area Transit (MAT).

Mayor Drew started by saying that a few weeks ago the public was told that the H and I bus routes and the night owl service was going to be cut. The public started to reach out to myself and our legislative delegation and apparently MAT administrators sent an e-mail to one of our legislators saying they were in need of money and the situation is pretty bad. So we had a meeting with them at the Capitol, myself, Representatives Lessor and Serra, Senators Doyle and Suzio, with the administrator of MAT, MAT's Chief Financial Officer, which we later learned is a consultant, and another individual, a former longtime board member, attended. At that meeting we asked what is going on and we got a basic view of the situation. We did not have a whole lot of clear answers except that MAT was in an extraordinarily precarious financial position. That day they told the five of us that they had maxed out their half a million dollars credit line from Liberty Bank. Credit lines are very common for transit districts to handle cash flow issue when the state is slow on payments. They are not intended to be used for the purpose of

making up deficits. A week later we had a follow up meeting which Sam Gold attended. We met with MAT and then MAT left and the Commissioner of Transportation came in and offered some potential courses of action. We still did not have a clear picture of what was going on, but they provided us with financial documents they came up with. What we learned at that meeting was that their most recent audit, which was due a year ago, is not even done yet and we reached out to the auditing firm because it is the same auditing firm the City of Middletown uses. What we learned in that a number of the trial balances have shifted multiple times and the auditing firm can't come to a specific conclusion about where MAT's books ended a year ago. Let alone what has happened between July 1st, 2016 and now. So we called another meeting this time without MAT with Sam Gold, myself, my administrative staff including Joe Samolis, our financial director, my attorneys, and a couple of the members of the city council, and their legislative delegation with Commissioner Redeker, at the DOT offices. In the meantime, we were trying to figure out what was going on. My financial department explored the limited financial data we had and we started to look at the law which said what we could do and what we couldn't do. We had a meeting with MAT yesterday predicated on the conclusions we came to in the interim between our meeting with the Commissioner and yesterday. Our goal obviously is to make sure the service continues. So here's the long and short of it. MAT is a separate corporate body under the law, it is not part of the City of Middletown or the State of Connecticut. I don't have any direct authority over the organization. The law and ordinances only give the mayor authority to remove board members if they miss three consecutive meetings. After that I don't have the authority to remove their staff or their contractors. So the only real leverage we have is with the subsidy that the City of Middletown normally sends to MAT in four equal installments starting at this time of year. So since we recently discovered these problems and we are trying to figure out everything that has been happening, I have withheld the funding and signing of the contract. Yesterday I presented MAT with a series of seven conditions (attachment #3) I said if they meet these conditions I would release their money if they don't meet the conditions I will not release their money. I know that Sam has spoken to several of the surrounding town CEOs and I understand that all of you are taking the same position with your subsidies.

What's unusual about the way MAT was set up was the transit districts normally have each town sending board members and each town joins officially as a member of the district. MAT apparently at its beginning was set up with Middletown as its only member and the surrounding towns that traditionally used MAT have done so on a contractual basis rather than as members. I don't know when and how that happened. One of the challenges we have is that the state statutes allow the establishment of these transit districts require a certain number of board members per population. It's all dictated by population. So a town between 25,000 and 100,000 gets two board members a town with a population below 25,000 would get one board member. What we think happened was at some point MAT looked at Middletown, Portland, East Hampton, Cromwell and Durham and added it up and said Middletown gets two the others get one a piece and suddenly end up with six board members without those other towns having been granted membership. People got appointed within Middletown to fill the slots and apparently were set aside for Laura and Susan and all the other towns around us. So that's one of many challenges we have. What I asked of MAT yesterday was the resignation of the administrator and CFO consultant and in absence of their resignation, the board remove them. I also asked the board to work with us on a plan to get down to two members so we think the board is in compliance with our understanding of the Statute. I asked for the cut bus routes to resume / continue and I asked MAT to formally invite, in a resolution, the City of Middletown and the CT Department of Transportation to provide emergency administrative services. We had a long meeting yesterday afternoon with Sam Gold, Joe Samolis, my attorneys, my financial staff, our delegation and two members of city council, three members of MAT's board and the two administrators in question. They both declined to resign, they maintain the board members and the administration staff that their problems are a result of a 2% cut in state funding preceded by level funding for two years in a row. That's wrong. Every other transit district in the state is facing the same pressures

and none of them are in the same position. That's not what caused the situation they're in. We are not entirely sure what caused this because the most recent audit that is due is a year late and then there's a year after that that's not accounted for yet. Tentatively what they have told me, what they have told us has been pretty inconsistent so far, but what appears to have happened in a time when they were level funded and were cut in some instances, it looks like they continued to budget as though they were experiencing robust growth at the rates they had experienced in the past. So each year they were counting on another 3% while they were being cut 2% or being level funded and they did that for a few years so their false projections compounded and then they brought on line the new bus depot in the North End of Middletown, paid for with federal dollars. The new depot came online with additional operating costs associated with it. That, as far as we can tell, was not entirely budgeted for. This is something the state had warned them about when they started to build it with federal money and again we are not 100% sure this is what happened, but basically it looks like the revenue projections for years, don't hold me to this but, were 15% to 20% higher than actuality and then the new building came on line, which has significantly operating costs associated with it, that were not budgeted for and the way they handled it in the meantime was to use the credit line to deplete the fund balances and now they don't have any options left. So all of a sudden we find out about it. We just found out about this in the last couple of weeks. Our top concern is making sure that service continues and the only real leverage we have is that we start to explore what authority we have legally to withhold our funds in exchange for the conditions we require in order for the release of our funds and that's where we are today. I advised the board chairman yesterday that it was in their interest to call a board meeting as quickly as possible and to get back to me with a decision, but by July 1st the new fiscal year will begin and they will not have our piece of the money they normally expect. That will apply significant pressure on the transit district, to the degree that our surrounding towns CEOs are willing to do the same thing and I think it would be helpful to all of us in the long run. Then we can restructure together and hopefully have all the surrounding towns in conjunction with DOT to come up with a plan to join as members and then we can give you board representation so that your towns have equal say in what's going on at the board level and we all can have an accountable organization.

Susan Bransfield said that Portland has had MAT as a fiduciary for another grant whereby they provide Portland with reimbursement for rides that are mostly the senior center giving them to our residents. We have not received the last payment for fiscal year '16 and I do not believe we have received any payments for this fiscal year '17. It is her understanding that MAT did not get their funding from the state and therefore could not reimburse the town of Portland. Then the DOT representative is telling the Senior Center Director that the town really should be contracting directly with them. Ms. Bransfield said that the service the town has received from MAT has always been good and has not been a problem. She feels that the COG needs to take a look at how we interface with the other transportation that we provide in the COG and this is an opportunity to do that. She will help in any way she can.

Dan Drew said he is going to call a meeting with the COG members now that there is a plan. He said that MAT is blaming the State of Connecticut for every challenge they face and that is not true. Based on the review that has been done this far it is not the fault of the state. He recommended that Ms. Bransfield look into where the payment is with the state.

Bonnie Reemsnyder voiced her opinion for the concern of the people using the bus service and looks for a solution to this problem. Mayor Drew said he felt that the only way to correct this situation was to withhold the city's payment to MAT.

Laura Francis wants to be careful to preserve the dial-a-ride service to Durham. Mayor Drew stated that once the conditions that he has stated in the letter are followed the State will step in and take over. There needs to be a forensic audit done by auditors that are properly trained to examine situations similar to this.

Susan Bransfield asked how MAT could get away without filing the audit in a timely manner. Mayor Drew said that the completion and distribution of the audit kept being put off. Sam Gold said that at the MAT board meeting Andy Chiaravalle said that the Federal Transportation Administration was coming in for a triannual review next month. Mayor Drew added that he had filed a FTA complaint alleging that MAT did not follow proper procedures before cutting bus services. Michael Maniscalco stated that the towns need to band together and he is not signing any agreement with MAT until this situation is settled. Mayor Drew agrees Mr. Maniscalco and all the towns should send a letter similar to his. He stated that MAT is a separate entity under the law State Statutes allows the creation of the district it doesn't give us any authority over them nor does it give DOT any direct authority over them.

Laura Francis asked if the MAT board members have personal liability. Mayor Drew stated they do.

Mayor Drew stated that when this situation first was known he had a meeting with Sam Gold and the city attorneys and compiled a list of any and all documents pertaining to the MAT, such as by-laws, insurance, authorizations, audits, employment contracts for administrators, etc. It was then realized that the Chief Financial Officer was not a district employee but a part-time consultant who has a 3 month guarantee in the event the contract is cancelled.

Sam Gold gave a brief update on how the RiverCOG got involved. The RiverCOG is doing bus ridership counts on every run on every route on every bus in Middletown and the Estuary Transit Districts. One of the interns brought back a flyer "operation red light" stating that the night service routes would be cancelled. Mr. Gold went to the meeting to discover that the district felt it was easier to eliminate evening routes than to reorganize them. He said that the bus ridership counts should be completed this week and then he will be able to suggest some changes. Mr. Gold said that Joe Comerford, Estuary Transit District Administrator has been very helpful and there may be opportunities in the future for the two transit districts to work together.

Laura Francis stated that this is how our jobs are changing. For example, the ambulance, PSA, we have no control over the service, but we still are obligated to pay.

Susan Bransfield stated that the Middletown bus service has been good for Portland and she feels the towns need to help the district deal with these problems. Mayor Drew stated that it will take some time but we will fix this. Bonnie Reemsnyder said that a few years ago 9 Town Transit had their problems too. She thanked the Mayor for attending and explaining the situation to the members.

c. Transportation Updates

- i. 2015 TIP Amendment #37, transit capital planning, statewide, 0170-3403
- ii. 2015 TIP Amendment #38, RT 145/Kirtland Landing improvements, Westbrook, 0154-FLAP

Robert Haramut gave a brief description of the amendments.

Upon motion of Carl Fortuna, seconded by Ed Bailey, it was unanimously voted to approve 2015 TIP amendments #37 and #38.

- iii. 2018 TIP Endorsement, Air Quality Conformity Determination Endorsement, and Annual Self-Certification Endorsement

Robert Haramut explained the endorsements and the members made separate motions.

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Michael Maniscalco, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2018 Air Quality Conformity Determination Endorsement.

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Lauren Gister, it was unanimously voted to approve the Annual Self-Certification Endorsement.

- iv. RT 66 and RT 81 Corridor Study Authorizing Agreements

Robert Haramut said that interviews with the consultants were conducted for the Route 66 and 81 corridor studies and two consultants were chosen. Tighe and Bond was chosen for the Route 66 study and FHI was chosen for the Route 81 study. Susan Bransfield stated that she attended the interviews and the process went well. Mr. Haramut stated that these agreements will allow the RiverCOG Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Executive Director to act on behalf of the Agency in negotiating and executing all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments with the consultants.

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Michael Maniscalco, it was unanimously voted to approve the Routes 66 and 81 Corridor Study Authorizing Agreements,

- v. Community Connectivity Program Update

Robert Haramut said that the members should have received a letter from the DOT Commissioner about the Community Connectivity Program. This is the second step in this program and a small grant is available. Applications are due by August 1st, 2017. Laura Francis said she has applied along with Middlefield, Westbrook, and Portland.

- vi. Bus Ridership Counts

Sam Gold updated the members saying that the bus ridership counts will be completed shortly.

4. LCRVCOG Business

- b. State Budget Update

Sam Gold stated that there still is no state budget and no special session has been held or scheduled.

- c. Regional Plan Update

Jon Curtis reported that the Regional Plan is progressing and the website is up. It is RiverCOGregionalplan.org. He said that the kick off events are scheduled for August 17th in the

Westbrook Town Hall and September 16th at Wesleyan. He said that these two events will be promoted in coming months with flyers, business cards and at town events such as farmer markets, and concerts.

d. Resiliency Plan Update

Margot Burns said that the final edited plan has been sent out to the consultant. She said that she is working on creating two projects. One is what the consultant has done for us as far as the technical mapping project but also working on outreach materials for emergency management directors. So they can use it in their planning activities and look at pertinent information for them and not so much the technical part. This is a resiliency planning tool that Dewberry, our consultant, created a model to help us predict where inland flooding can take place. She said that we received a grant from CIRCA to do this.

e. GrowSmart Implementation Update

Jon Curtis said that he is working with our consultants Ninigret Partners on the implementing portions of the GrowSmart Plan. A meeting was held in February and the main priority, the steering committee had was to create a regional development entity. We are working on that now and assembling our working group for that. Invitations have been sent and response has been good. We have so far presentations from Liberty Bank, Essex Bank, Chamber of Commerce and Middlesex Hospital. The first meeting will probably be in August.

5. CHAIRMAN'S AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Bonnie Reemsnyder thanks to staff, in advance, of the move and all the hard work that will be done.

Sam Gold reminded the executive committee that his annual review is coming up this summer and if anyone has any comments to contact an executive committee member. He has also been appointed to the Connecticut Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations. This body has been proposed as the oversight body for regionalization in the state. Mr. Gold said that the office move has been slow due to the agreement between the parties on the lease. The move is scheduled for the last week in July and therefore the COG meeting has been moved up a week to July 19th. A reminder notice will be sent out to the members.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. DEMHS Update

Bob Kenny, DEMHS Region Coordinator, said that we are in hurricane season now and everyone should be prepared. He said that Connecticut is way overdue for a hurricane. He stated that the CEOs need to know what is going on in their DEMHS region.

Laura Francis said that the Steering Committee is working on a spending plan for the next round and they are planning to present that in September.

b. Household Hazardous Waste / Recycling

Janice Ehle/Meyer said there is a new project the state is going to be doing for residential recycling. She distributed (attachment #4) The numbers 1-7 that appeared on some plastic products has been discontinued, along with the term "single stream" recycling. The website is RecycleCT.

Cathy Iino asked about the plastic wrap program and shredded paper.

Ms. Ehle/Meyer stated that the wrap program is still in process and shredded paper should be brought to a shredding event for recycling.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Bruce Farmer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary

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NEIWPCC



PURA

State Water Plan
CONNECTICUT

Connecticut State Water Plan Summary

BACKGROUND: On July 1, 2014, Public Act 14-163, "An Act Concerning the Responsibilities of the Water Planning Council," directed the state's Water Planning Council (WPC) to develop a State Water Plan. The WPC is comprised of representatives of the four state entities with oversight or regulatory responsibility for water management: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). While Connecticut has historically enjoyed plentiful, clean water, unique factors in the state have combined to emphasize the importance of the Public Act and its recommended evaluation of water management strategies in the future:

- The recent drought in 2016 raised awareness that even in Connecticut, river basins can be depleted.
- Connecticut is the only state in the U.S. that prohibits wastewater discharges to drinking water sources, preserving the highest quality water for drinking (Class A). This protects human health and helps keep treatment costs low, but the policy could, however, limit future drinking water sources.
- New state streamflow requirements downstream of water supply reservoirs are highlighting the ecological need for water, which must be balanced with other water needs.
- Future climate trends in the northeast are uncertain, and planning for adaptation is essential.

GOALS: The overarching goal of the Plan, as defined by stakeholders who participated in the workshops as designated representatives of broad water interests, has been to "**Balance the use of water to meet all needs.**" The Plan aims to protect water quantity and quality for all of its current and future instream and out-of-stream uses when regulations, climate, and economic conditions are changing. These goals, as well as the recommendations in the Plan, were grounded in the enabling statute, and formulated by stakeholders from across the state representing various interests in water; public and private water utilities, environmental and watershed advocacy groups, agriculture, industry/

energy, wastewater, land planning, golf courses, academia, and water science professionals.

USING THE PLAN: The Plan provides technical information and guiding principles that may be used to inform decisions across the state or on a case-by-case basis. The Plan does not attempt to prioritize any particular water use or water use category over others. Likewise, specific uses of water, if currently authorized by state law and regulation, are neither advocated nor diminished relative to other uses. The Plan's information may be used by lawmakers to formulate new legislation, by regulators to adapt water and land regulations to changing needs and conditions, and by the Water Planning Council to inform decisions and recommend legislation.

To comply with the statute's goal of collecting and applying scientific data, the Plan includes maps and data summary sheets on each of the state's 44 regional river basins and compares water that is naturally available in each basin to the growing needs for water in and out of the streams. Examples are included in the Executive Summary and Section 3 on how to properly and cautiously use these screening tools. Additionally, the policy recommendations in the Plan are intended to provide a basis for legislation, regulations, and situational decisions that **consistently apply the views of stakeholders** across the state.

5 MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGES IN THE PLAN:

The Water Planning Council has interpreted the primary messages of the Plan as follows:

- **FUNCTION OF THE PLAN:** The Plan is not an answer, but a platform for consistent, informed decision making.
- **MAINTAIN HIGHEST QUALITY DRINKING WATER:** The Plan reaffirms the state's dedication to the highest standard of drinking water quality in the nation (Class A).
- **BALANCE:** Many river basins in Connecticut cannot satisfy all instream and out-of-stream needs all the time. The Plan offers ideas for understanding and improving this balance.



- **CONSERVATION:** While Connecticut leads the nation in protections of drinking water quality, the State lags in its conservation ethic. Outreach that builds on utility initiatives is one of the most important recommendations in this Plan.
- **MAINTAIN SCIENTIFIC DATA:** The plan advocates for the collection and use of scientific data, as well as centralized access to it.

KEY TECHNICAL FINDINGS: The following observations summarize key interpretations of the available scientific data included in the Plan.

- Many river basins have enough water to satisfy both instream (ecological, recreation) and out-of-stream (drinking, industry, agriculture, energy) needs most of the time, but they cannot all supply these needs during drought, or even typical summer conditions.
- Most water diversions in Connecticut were grandfathered from permitting through a registration process. Registered volumes do not necessarily represent actual overallocation of water as many remain unused or underutilized. Although there may be practical limitations to using their maximum capacity, full use of some unused registrations as authorized could put rivers in jeopardy of not meeting all instream and out-of-stream needs.
- There are opportunities to enhance the water conservation ethic for public and private water supply in Connecticut in cooperation with many initiatives already advocated by water utilities.
- Climate change is likely to have a significant effect on potential flooding in Connecticut, and could result in drier summers in the near term. More work may be needed on coastal impacts and long-term effects.
- Simulation modeling can be effective in future evaluation of potential new water policies or strategies within specific basins (as shown with a demonstration).

TOP TEN CONSENSUS-BASED POLICY

PRIORITIES: Broad consensus was reached on the following top policy recommendations in the Plan, which can serve as guiding principles for legislation, regulations, and water planning.

1. Water management should follow scientific examples.
2. As possible, remove obsolete water registrations.

3. Encourage innovation in agricultural water practices.
4. Water data (or access to it) should be centralized in a single database and/or portal to other sources.
5. Consider Class B Water for individual non-potable uses if environmentally prudent and cost-effective, using guidelines to be developed by the WPC using the Triple Bottom Line metrics (environmental, social, economic).
6. Develop an education and outreach strategy focusing on water conservation topics.
7. The WPC should provide ongoing review of other Connecticut state plans in order to identify and address inconsistencies.
8. Encourage regional water solutions where they are practical and beneficial.
9. Reaffirm support for the protection of Class I and II land contributing to water supply. Expand protections to other watershed lands and land that feed aquifers used for public water supply or by private wells.
10. Create a data-based water education program aimed at the general public and municipal officials.

In addition to these top priorities, the Plan includes many more policy recommendations that are formulated based on stakeholder consensus, as well as recommended next steps for issues that require further study or deliberation.

FUTURE ROLES OF THE WATER PLANNING COUNCIL:

To date, the Water Planning Council has been tasked by statute to oversee the development of the State Water Plan. To effectively implement the Plan by promoting consistent use of its data and recommendations, the WPC has proposed that its future roles may include:

- Early Review of Proposed Water Legislation
- Developing proposed legislation as needed
- Hiring a Water Plan "Chief" to serve as a liaison between the WPC, public, and legislature.
- Conflict avoidance and resolution through mediation or arbitration (binding or non-binding)
- Seeking and securing funding for implementation
- Prioritizing and initiate next steps



EPA Proposes Ending Obama's Clean Water Rule

On tap: A water filter. The Obama administration's Waters of the United States rule expanded federal authority to keep pollutants out of the drinking water of a third of the U.S. population. Now the EPA says it plans to scrap the rule — which has been reviled by **farmers** and chemical companies that say it impedes economic

growth. Meanwhile, EPA chief Scott Pruitt reportedly met with the CEO of Dow Chemical just weeks before dropping an anticipated ban on using the pesticide chlorpyrifos, which is manufactured by Dow, on food.

- If these resignations do not occur, the Board will vote to terminate the respective employment and consulting relationships, effective immediately;
- MAT will send a letter, duly authorized by the Board, to DOT and the City of Middletown, requesting help from DOT and asking that DOT provide an acting emergency manager, to be appointed by the Board, with full executive authority and full Board cooperation;
- MAT's Board will transition from the six current members to two, which is the maximum number authorized by statute, and will work with the City on a transition plan to do so;
- MAT will appoint a new representative to RiverCOG;
- The H and I routes, as well as evening service, will remain in place.

I do not make these demands lightly, but I do not take lightly, either, the magnitude of MAT's issues and their impact on my constituents.

I have coordinated with the State on measures to make sure interim management is in place immediately and to make sure that MAT's operations continue with as little disruption as possible. I also have discussed with the State my concern that any disruption to current employees be minimized. I take workers' rights very seriously, and I am sure you do and will as well.

I expect that you will work with the City and the State and that you will meet the above requirements. Again, if you do not, I will not renew your contract or release your funds, and I hold open the option of the City's withdrawal from MAT as well.

I appreciate how difficult these requirements must be, but I hope you appreciate how serious these issues are. I have no choice but to make sure we do everything in our limited power to protect our citizens, including some of our most vulnerable ones. I am hopeful we can work together to move MAT forward and I thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



DANIEL T. DREW

Mayor

cc: James P. Redeker, Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Richard Andreski, Public Transportation Chief, Department of Transportation
Paul Doyle, State Senator
Len Suzio, State Senator
Joe Serra, State Representative
Matt Lesser, State Representative
MAT Board of Directors
Sam Gold, Executive Director, RiverCOG
Common Council
Joe Samolis, Director, Planning, Conservation & Development
Carl Erlacher, Director of Finance
Brig Smith, General Counsel



What's **IN**?
What's **OUT**?
A Guide to Recycling



Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments
145 Dennison Road, Essex, CT 06426
(860) 581-8554



A Guide to Recycling

Connecticut now has a universal list of what belongs in your recycling bin and what doesn't. All items should be **empty, rinsed, clean** and **open**. Do **not** shred, box, bag or bundle. To learn more, go to RecycleCT.com

What's IN?

PAPER

- Cardboard & boxboard
- Food & beverage cartons
- Junk mail
- Magazines & newspaper inserts
- Newsprint
- Office paper
- Pizza boxes

GLASS

- Beverage bottles & jars
- Food bottles & jars

METAL

- Aerosol containers (food grade only)
- Aluminum foil
- Cans & bottles
- Foil containers
- Metal lids from cans & bottles

PLASTIC

- Plastic bottles (with or without caps attached)
- Plastic containers, tubs & lids
- Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)

What's OUT?

- Gift wrap & gift bags
- Ice cream containers
- Paper cups (hot & cold)
- Shredded paper
- Take-out food containers
- Tissue paper

- Ceramic mugs & plates
- Drinking glasses

- Aerosol containers (deodorizers, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)
- Foil tops from yogurt containers
- Paint cans
- Pots & pans
- Small pieces of scrap metal
- Spiral wound containers

- Loose bottle caps
- Plastic bags & wrap
- Plastic plates, bowls & utensils
- Prescription bottles
- Single-use coffee containers
- Styrofoam cups, containers & packaging peanuts
- Water filters

