

**Environment Committee
March 7, 2014
Associate Vice President
Public Hearing
Testimony
By**

Thomas Callahan

University of Connecticut

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support *House Bill 5424, An Act Concerning the Responsibilities of the Water Planning Council*.

Last year, the University of Connecticut's efforts to secure additional water supply for its Storrs campus and nearby areas of Mansfield became a matter of considerable statewide interest. During an environmental impact evaluation undertaken pursuant to Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), UConn analyzed several options, including an interconnection with the Metropolitan District Commission system. Ultimately this option was not selected as UConn opted to proceed with Connecticut Water Company whose source of supply – Shenipsit Reservoir – is located nearby in Tolland. Over the past year, UConn's consideration of the MDC option has been cited as the prime example of why Connecticut needs a statewide water resources plan.

We concur and there are other important reasons, as well.

Last April, at the request of some of our state's leading environmental advocacy groups, UConn agreed to use its convening and academic influence to broaden and elevate the dialogue surrounding the need for a state water resources plan. During the past summer and fall, a steering committee comprised of representatives of these groups and UConn faculty, chaired by Dr. Gene Likens, a globally respected water resources scientist, National Medal of Science recipient, and Special Environmental Advisor to UConn President Herbst, planned a daylong symposium. On February 3, 2014 approximately 125 individuals from across Connecticut's water resources community – industry professionals, environmentalists, state regulators, local elected officials, regional planners, and academics – participated in a daylong *Connecticut Water Resources Planning Conference and Workshop*. A conference agenda and attendees list is attached.

From the outset, the Steering Committee sought to time and execute a conference that would provide deliverables capable of advancing the creation of a state water resources plan. We believe the conference accomplished that objective.

In the morning, we focused on the need for a plan and identified the essential elements, based on work done in other states and countries. We also identified the opportunities and obstacles to moving forward.

Over lunch, Governor Malloy conveyed his unequivocal support for the timely completion of such a plan as critical to strengthening Connecticut's economy and protecting its environment. In his remarks, the Governor noted:

“Smart water policy is smart economic and environmental policy. I commit to you today that we will get a state water resources policy done. We've done that for energy already, and we have the opportunity to tackle water now. We can't afford to take water for granted and waste our greatest resource”.

That afternoon we used professional, facilitated discussion and anonymous keypad polling to gauge the level of agreement among conferees for six guiding principles to drive the development of a state water resources plan as well nine short-term actions to advance the plan.

I will not attempt to summarize all of the key findings today. They are available at: <http://www.envpolicy.uconn.edu/waterconference.html> However, three findings directly related to the provisions of HB 5424 are particularly noteworthy to call to the attention of the Committee:

- 92% of conferees agreed or strongly agreed that Connecticut needs a state water resources plan.
- 81% agreed or strongly agreed that the Water Planning Council should be directed to identify the scope, completion schedule, stakeholder/public participation process and budget required to create a state water resources plan.
- 75% agreed or strongly agreed that the Water Planning Council be provided the requisite authority and resources in 2014 to enable it to submit a draft plan to the Governor and General Assembly in the FY15/16 biennium.

Developing a state plan will not be linear. Rather it will, by necessity, be iterative. With the full support of President Herbst, UConn is prepared to support this effort by providing both relevant expertise and technical assistance that resides within its faculty and staff to assist the Water Planning Council in any effort it undertakes to develop and implement a plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Connecticut Strategic Water Resources Planning Conference & Workshop

Conference

- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM *Registration*
- 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM *Overview:* Conference Goals and Objectives
Dr. Gene Likens, Founder, Cary Institute;
Special Advisor to the President for Environmental Affairs,
University of Connecticut
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM *Keynote:* What is the State-of- the-Art in Water Resources Planning?
Dr. Richard Palmer, Chair, Civil & Environmental Engineering,
UMass
- 10:00 AM -11:15 AM *Panel:* Water Availability and Allocation – State-of-the- art techniques and integrated models
Dr. Casey Brown, Associate Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UMass
Virginia deLima, USGS
Peter Galant, Tighe & Bond
Dr. Glenn Warner, Professor, Natural Resources Management & Engineering, UConn
Jeff Yates, Fund for the Environment, Fairfield Community Foundation
Moderator: Professor Joseph MacDougald, Executive Director, Center for Energy & Environmental Law, UConn Law
- 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM *Panel:* Opportunities and Obstacles for a Connecticut Plan
CT State Senator Ed Meyer
CT State Representative John Hampton
Jack Betkoski, CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ellen Blaschinski, CT Department of Public Health
Macky McCleary, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Maureen Westbrook, Connecticut Water Company
Moderator: Dr. Bradford Gentry, Co-Director of the Center for Business & the Environment, Yale University
- 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM *Lunch* Remarks: **Governor Dannel P. Malloy**

Workshop

Afternoon sessions will invite conference participants to articulate a vision for a Connecticut water resources plan and suggest its guiding principles. Facilitated by Lisa Carlson, Engaged Public and graphically recorded.

- 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM *Work Session* Vision for Connecticut
- 2:30 PM to 3:15 PM *Work Session* Guiding Principles for a CT Strategic Water Resources Plan
- 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM *Plenary* Next steps and wrap up
- 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM *Reception*

Conference Goals/Objectives/Desired Outcomes

- Better understand best practices in water planning and their implications for Connecticut
- Identify opportunities and obstacles
- Articulate the ideal vision for a Connecticut strategic water resources plan
- Agree on guiding principles to inform a Connecticut strategic water resources plan
- Develop and agree on the next steps regarding implementation

Possible Guiding Principles for a Strategic Water Resources Plan

- Promote conservation and management for sustainable water resources on a watershed basis
- Use broad, stakeholder based, long-view perspective for water management and conservation
- Use science, best data and local knowledge in a transparent and documented process
- Incorporate future variability, uncertainties, and risk in the decision making process
- Promote environmental justice – the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes
- Increase regional self-sufficiency and resiliency by promoting regional coordination and collaboration among local governments and agencies, public and private organizations, and Tribal governments and Tribal communities

Conference Planning Committee

Dr. Gene Likens, Cary Institute/University of Connecticut
Dr. Greg Anderson, University of Connecticut, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department
Virginia DeLima, United States Geological Survey
Tom Callahan, University of Connecticut, Office of Infrastructure Planning & Strategic Project Management
Professor Joseph MacDougald, University of Connecticut, School of Law
Richard Miller, University of Connecticut, Office of Environmental Policy
Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Roger Reynolds, Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Dr. Mark Urban, University of Connecticut, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department
Dr. Glenn Warner, University of Connecticut, Natural Resource Management & Engineering
Dr. Mike Willig, University of Connecticut, Environmental Sciences & Engineering

Conference Facilitation & Recording

Lisa Carlson, Engaged Public, Denver, CO
Kristen Petty, Engaged Public, Denver, CO
Kriss Wittmann, Wittmann Studios, Denver, CO

Our thanks to UConn's Office of the President, the UConn School of Law, the UConn Law School Center for Energy & Environmental Law and the UConn Health Center for providing the financial, facilities and logistical support for this event.

Connecticut Strategic Water Resources Planning Conference Participant List

Sid	Albertsen	State of CT Retiree	Sally	Kruse	PSEG
Gregory	Anderson	University of Connecticut	Joseph	Lanzafame	New London
Chet	Arnold	University of Connecticut	Marianne	Latimer	Berkshire Hathaway
Barney	Austin	INTERA	Matthew	LeBeau	Senator Blumenthal's Office
Jocelyn	Ayer	Northwest Hills Council of Governments	W David	LeVasseur	Office of Policy & Management
David	Banker	The Metropolitan District	Gene	Likens	UCONN
Richard	Barlow	Town of Canton	HENRY	LINK	ENVIRO ENERGY CONNECTIONS
Christopher	Bellucci	CT DEEP	Eugene	Livshits	SCRCOG
Amanda	Belmar	UCONN School of Law	Joseph	MacDougald	University of Connecticut
John	Betkoski	Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority	Martin	Mador	Sierra Club
Patricia	Bisacky	CTDPH Drinking Water Section	Amber	Martin	UCONN School of Law
Ellen	Blaschinski	State of CT, Department of Public Health	Virginia	Mason	PRWC
Patricia	Bresnahan	Willimantic River Alliance	Lori	Mathieu	CT. Dept of Public Health
Claude	Brouillard	Self	Macky	McCleary	CT Dept. of Energy & Environ. Protection
Lori	Brown	CT League of Conservation Voters	Jeffrey	McCutcheon	University of Connecticut
Horace	Brown	CRCOG Regional	Daniel	Meaney	Connecticut Water Company
Ann	Brown	Town of Old Lyme	Susan	Morrow	CT Council on Environmental Quality
James	Butler	Southeastern CT Council of Governments	Steve	Messer	DPH, Drinking Water Section
Thomas	Callahan	University of Connecticut	Rich	Miller	University of Connecticut
Lisa	Carlson	Engaged Public	Margaret	Miner	Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Thomas	Caruso	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority	Daniel	Morley	CT Office of Policy & Management
Alicea	Charamut	Connecticut Council of Trout Unlimited	Donald	Morrissey	Aquarion Water
Cheryl	Chase	State of CT DEEP	John	Mullaney	USGS
Kim	Czapla	CT DEEP	David	Murphy	Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Virginia	de Lima	USGS	Mary	Mushinsky	Connecticut General Assembly
Emily	Deans	UCONN School of Law	Nicholas	Neeley	PURA
Mark	Decker	Norwich Public Utilities	Susan	Negrelli	MDC
Paul	Dellaripa	HD Waterworks	Nancy	Nickerson	Farmington Town Council
Michael	Dietz	UConn NEMO	Michael	ONeill	UConn Extension
Elizabeth	Dolphin	Town of Farmington	Arthur	O'Neill	Connecticut Water Company
Mary Ann	Dostaler	MAD Communications	Linda	Painter	Town of Mansfield
Timothy	Dupuis	CDM Smith	Richard	Palmer	University of Massachusetts
Eileen	Fielding	Farmington River Watershed Association	Elizabeth	Paterson	Town of Mansfield
Timothy	Fisher	University of Connecticut	Kristen	Petty	Engaged Public
Corinne	Fitting	CT DEEP	John	Radacsi	None
Peter	Galant	Tighe & Bond	David	Radka	Connecticut Water Company
Mary	Garren	U.S. EPA New England	Nancy	Nickerson	Farmington Town Council
Brad	Gentry	Yale University	Roger	Reynolds	CT Fund for the Environment
Mary	Glassman	Simsbury	Gary	Robbins	University of Connecticut
Michael	Hage	Dept. of Public Health	Guy	Russo	City of Middletown
John	Hampton	Connecticut General Assembly	Denise	Ruzicka	CT Dept of Energy & Environ. Protection
Peter	Hearn	Council on Environmental Quality	Amanda	Ryan	Central CT. Regional Planning Agency
Lisa	Heavner	Town of Simsbury	Melanie	Savino	University of Connecticut
John	Herlihy	Aquarion Water	Therese	Schnoor	CT DEEP
Alison	Hilding	Council on Environmental Quality	Maxine	Segarnick	UCONN School of Law
Jenn	Hoyle	Yale	Jay	Sheehan	Woodard Curran
John	Hudak	Regional Water Authority	Jane	Stahl	Jane K Stahl Environ. Consulting LLC
James	Hurd	UConn	Jonathan	Steinberg	CT General Assembly
Robert	Hust	CT Dept of Energy & Environ. Protection	Vinnie	Susco	East Hampton Water Treatment Plant
Don	Iannicelli	Woodard Curran	Eric	Thomas	CT DEEP
Traci	Iott	CT DEEP	David	Tine	Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Ins. Co.
Scott	Jellison	The Metropolitan District (MDC)	Mark	Urban	UConn
Ronald	Kargl	Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Ins. Co.	Thomas	Villa	SNEW
Katie	Kennedy	Nature Conservancy, CT River Program	Lori	Vitagliano	So. Central CT Regional Water Authority

Connecticut Strategic Water Resources Planning Conference Participant List

Sam	Volet	UConn School of Law
Glenn	Warner	Natural Resources & the Environ, UConn
Robert	Wesneski	Avon Water Company
Maureen	Westbrook	Connecticut Water Company
Betsey	Wingfield	CT DEEP
Bruce	Wittchen	CT OPM
Jack	Wittman	INTERA
Kriss	Wittmann	Wittman Studios
Jeff	Yates	Fairfield County Community Foundation