

## **DRINKING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GROTON, LEDYARD, MONTVILLE, NORTH STONINGTON, NORWICH, PRESTON, AND WATERFORD**

*Progress Memorandum  
March 1, 2008*

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### **Introduction**

On February 7, 2008, acting under enabling legislation Public Act 06-6, Groton Utilities Water Division executed an agreement with Milone & MacBroom, Inc. to provide assistance to the communities of Groton, Ledyard, Montville, North Stonington, Norwich, Preston and Waterford to develop a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) for these communities as well as a model DWQMP for the State of Connecticut. The DWQMP vision is to achieve long-term preservation of safe and sustainable drinking water supplies through proactive watershed protection in the public water supply watersheds. The plan will not serve as a regulatory tool; rather a plan that is established through the will of the individual communities through development of innovative and comprehensive approaches to protect the purity of drinking water through a variety of management methods. As such, community involvement provides the basis for and foundation of this planning process.

The project work scope specifies the completion of monthly progress reports beginning in March 2008 through November 2008. This memorandum is the first of the progress report series. Given that the consultant team has been underway for less than a month, most of the activity to date has focused on developing the organizational framework for the planning process, undertaking data collection and analysis, and preparing the project communications and management plan. A summary of the work completed to date is provided below.

### **Task 1 – Data Collection and Analysis**

The following tasks are underway or have been completed to date:

- Available guidance documents and manuals for source water protection have been gathered and reviewed, including literature published at the state, regional, and national levels.
- The process of gathering and reviewing local data, information, plans and regulations is well underway. Municipal plans and regulations have been largely compiled, although some regulations are still needed. MMI is working with the remaining communities to complete this database.
- Physical watershed characteristics (geology, soil types, wetlands, slopes, etc.) have been compiled, to be supplemented by municipal databases. Mapping will follow.

- Water quality data was received from Groton Utilities (Joyce Brown) on February 21 and 25, 2008 and analysis is underway.
- CAD mapping of the water supply watersheds and sampling locations was received from Groton Utilities on February 25, 2008.

Review of the above information began as it was received, and continues as of the date of this memorandum.

**Task 2 – Meetings and Interviews**

The following tasks are underway or have been completed to date:

**Internal Meetings, Communications, and Organizational Tasks**

- Coordination meetings were held at Groton Utilities on January 17 and February 20, 2008. The January meeting served as a "kick off" meeting for Phase II (the current phase) of the DWQMP.
- A Communications and Project Management Plan was developed by MMI and presented at the February 20, 2008 meeting.
- Multiple tiers of stakeholder involvement have been established. An Administration Group, comprised of municipal representatives from the seven communities has been established as the decision-making body. The Administration Group will be advised by a formal Advisory Committee that will be comprised of individuals who represent different stakeholder groups, such as open space proponents, non-municipal water utilities, businesses, etc.
- The Administration Group will consist of the following:

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Primary Representative</i>	<i>Alternate Representative</i>
City of Groton	Al Dion	Rick Stevens
Town of Groton	Mike Murphy	Vacant
Town of Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Vacant
Town of Montville	Marcia Vlaun	Vacant
Town of North Stonington	Nick Mullane	Vacant
City of Norwich	Mike Schaefer	Vacant
Town of Preston	Bob Congdon	Kathy Warzecha
Town of Waterford	Tom Wagner	Vacant

- Following the February 21, 2008 meeting, numerous individuals were contacted with requests for participation on the Advisory Committee, such that a good cross section of interests was represented. Mr. Peter Gardner was contacted on February 26, 2008 with a

request to represent the developer/land owner stakeholder group. Mr. Gardner committed to becoming a member.

- Three individuals were contacted to represent the consultant/attorney stakeholder group: Attorney Timothy Bates of Robinson & Cole; Attorney Bill Sweeney of TCOR; and Attorney Harry Heller. Attorney Bates committed to becoming a member, but will be unable to attend the scheduled March 20, 2008 meeting and therefore requested that an associate at his firm become his alternate. Attorney Sweeney requested additional information in order to make a decision. This information was emailed on February 27, 2008. A message was left for Attorney Harry Heller on February 26, 2008, with no reply to date.
- The Executive Director of Northeastern Economic Developers Association (NEDA) and the President of the Connecticut Economic Development Association were contacted on February 29, 2008 via email, with no reply by the deadline for publication of this memorandum.
- Likewise, Eric Brown of CBIA was contacted on February 29, 2008 via email, with no reply by the deadline for publication of this memorandum.
- The Advisory Committee has not been finalized; however, the current membership is as follows:

<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Primary Representative</i>	<i>Alternate Representative</i>
Water Utility	Greg Leonard	Edward Monahan
Rural Water	Marc Cohen	Vacant
Regulatory	Jerry Iwan	Lori Mathieu
Open Space/Conservation	Margaret Miner	Sidney VanZandt
Environmental Groups	Zell Steever	Sidney VanZandt
Developers/Land Owners	Peter Gardner	Vacant
Consultants/Attorneys	Timothy Bates	Vacant

- Additional stakeholder group representation from either the Mohegan and/or the Mashantucket Tribal Utility Authority will be sought.
- Stronger roles for OPM and SCCOG are desired. They may be viable alternates for some of the identified stakeholder groups.
- It is desirable to designate a different alternate to either the Open Space or Environmental Groups, such that Sidney VanZandt would not be required to serve both roles.

Public Informational Meetings

- Subsequent to the February 21, 2008 Advisory Group and Administrative Committee meetings, the dates of local commission meetings in the Towns of Groton, Ledyard, Preston,

and North Stonington were compiled from the town web sites. These dates were checked against the dates suggested at the meeting to avoid potential conflicts, and the following were initially selected as the public information meeting dates: March 6, 2008 (Town of Groton), March 11, 2008 (Town of Preston), and March 19, 2008 (Town of Ledyard). Meeting host communities were decided upon the physical extent of the existing and potential future watershed boundaries; however, members of any of the member communities may attend any of these meetings.

- A copy of a draft invitation letter for SCCOG and the local commissions in the Towns of Groton, Ledyard, Preston, and North Stonington was circulated to Administrative Committee members on February 25, 2008. With only one editorial comment received (from Tom Wagner of Waterford), letters were mailed to commissions on February 26, 2008. The following commissions received letters:

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Commissions Notified</i>
Groton	Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Agency, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, and Shellfish Commission
Ledyard	Economic Development Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission,
Preston	Parks and Recreation Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission,
North Stonington	Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Recreation Commission

- Subsequent to the mailing, Mike Murphy of the Town of Groton requested that the Groton meeting be postponed until later in March in order to provide more time for inviting commission members. A new date of March 31, 2008 was selected. The following meeting dates have therefore been set.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
Information Meeting #1	Town of Preston	March 11, 2008
Information Meeting #2	Town of Ledyard	March 19, 2008
Information Meeting #3	Town of Groton	March 31, 2008

- A follow-up letter will be mailed to all of the above commissions on or about March 4, 2008 to provide information relative to the new date for the Groton meeting, the meeting venues, and the specific meeting times.

### Media Outreach

- Ms. Judy Benson from the New London Day was contacted on February 26, 2008 and an announcement was emailed the next day. This announcement will appear during the week of March 3, 2008, noting all three meeting dates and locations and inviting members of the public to attend. The Norwich Bulletin can also be contacted, although it appears that the interest level for this project might not be high enough for an article to be written.

→ Mr. Shawn Greeley of GMTV was contacted on February 27, 2008 about recording the meeting in Groton. He indicated that the formal request must come from the Town Manager's office. A message was subsequently left for Nikki at the Town Manager's office, with no reply to date. Contact will be made with sufficient time before the meeting in Groton.

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