



MEETING AGENDA

Groton Utilities Watershed Source Protection Plan Second Stakeholders Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2006
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

11:00 A.M.	Welcome, News & Updates	Al Dion & Rick Stevens, Groton Utilities
11:20 A.M.	Drinking Water Quality Management Plan: Defining the Vision & Mission Ground Rules and Action Items Source Water Mapping	
	Critical Watershed Protective Areas	All, Facilitated by Dr. Chi Ho Sham
12:20 P.M.	Lunch	
12:40 P.M.	Source Water Assessment Reports	Lori Mathieu, DPH
1:00 P.M.	Next Meeting Discussion, Adjourn	All, Facilitated by Dr. Chi Ho Sham

Meeting Location

Ledyard Emergency Services Building Training Room
11 Fairway Drive
Ledyard, CT

Note: It is close to the Route 117 Intersection at the Library in the center of town. Parking will be on the right side of the building and at the back of the building accessible from the right side.

News & Updates to include:

1. Identify added attendees
 - A. Representative from developers
 - B. Avalon Land Trust
 - C. Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)
2. Handout / List of Participants
 - A. Active Technical / Working Group
 - B. Advisory Group
 - C. Subcommittees
3. Current Development Pressures
 - A. Projects in Groton along Route 184 (Residential and Commercial)
 - B. GU Action Plans (New design checklists, MOU's, long term monitoring)
 - C. Subdivisions in Ledyard (Near reservoirs)
4. Watershed Mapping
 - A. Showing existing watershed and GU-owned land (Class I, II and III)
 - B. Critical areas adjacent to current reservoir system
 - C. Importance of GIS map development
5. Development of Historical Background to Source Water Protection Program
 - A. Chronology of past meetings and events
6. Communication to Stakeholders
 - A. Quarterly progress reports and news to COG and Regional Planning
7. House Bill
 - A. Discuss recent passage of House Bill for funding of DWQMP
8. Preliminary WQMP Process
 - A. DPH provides facilitator to develop vision, mission & preliminary DWQMP
 - B. Subcommittee for data gathering
 - C. Subcommittee for developing consultant RFQ and selection criteria
 - D. Other subcommittees to be determined
9. Makeup of the Stakeholders Group
 - A. Technical / working group
 - B. Advisory group
 - C. Special stakeholders (incl. open space groups, developers, health districts, etc.)
 - D. Special speakers (incl. Attorney Tim Bates, Gerald Iwan, EPA, DEP, etc.)
10. Web Page Development & Library
 - A. DPH Link to Groton Utilities
 - B. GU develops page on source water protection
 - a. Copies of meeting minutes
 - b. Tool Box with useful source water items
 - c. Checklists for best management practices
 - d. Cover Page with Logo (include respective community logos)
 - C. Groton Utilities goal is to set up reference library

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Re: Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

A Source Water Protection Meeting for the establishment of a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan was held at the Ledyard Emergency Services Building Training Room on May 18, 2006 at 11:00am.

- Present were:
 - Lori Mathieu DPH
 - Jennifer Pagach DPH
 - Chi Ho Sham The Cadmus Group
 - Jeff Butensky US EPA New England
 - Al Dion Groton Utilities
 - Rick Stevens Groton Utilities
 - Karl Acimovic Consultant, Groton Utilities
 - John Bilda Norwich Public Utilities
 - Michael Schaefer City of Norwich
 - Gregory Leonard SCWA
 - Marcia Vlaun Town of Montville
 - Brian Palaia Town of Ledyard
 - Steve Masalin Town of Ledyard
 - Deborah Jones Town of Groton
 - Michael Murphy Town of Groton
 - Terri Schnoor DEP
 - Tom Seidel SECCOG
 - Zell Steever Ecologist
 - Tom Wagner Town of Waterford
 - Kathy Warzecha Town of Preston
 - Nick Mullane Town of North Stonington

Items of discussion:

Dion comments:

- Opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting.
- Gave a brief description of the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) program.
- Spoke of the entire committee and breaking into significant groups.
 - Core Committee
 - Advisory Group
 - Informational Group

Acimovic comments:

- Gave a brief description of Source Water Protection Items important to Groton Utilities.

Stevens comments:

- Discussed the Draft Memorandum of Understanding.
- Importance of the two (2) year window of DEP and Town Regulations.
- The significance of an agreement with major developers concerning long-life source water protection.

Acimovic comments:

- Briefly commented on developers' regulatory obligations during construction and then permanent maintenance commitments after construction.

Stevens comments:

- Took Chi Ho's recommendation for defining watershed areas and their criticality, developing a map showing all Groton Utilities watershed areas and their criticality.

Acimovic comments:

- Passed out maps of watershed and critical areas to be protected.
- Described the different items on the map and the criticality of areas labeled as 1, 2 or 3, depending on the land characteristics, security issues and the potential for development.

Dion comments:

- DWQMP has been a 1-1/2 year program thus far.
- Spoke of Representative Winkler's assistance with funding.
- House Bill approved, budget funding is expected to be in stages.

Mathieu comments:

- Discussed the Special Act .
- Funding may be available.

Dion comments:

- Council of Governments is supportive of program.
- Brief description of a web page linked with DPH library, which will be discussed in more detail by Rick Stevens later in the meeting.
- Planned updates to COG on routine basis.

Sham comments:

- Major items for Vision and Mission Statements.
 - Key Words used:
 - Sustainability
 - Partnership
 - Preserve
 - Pro-active
 - Community Commitment
 - Model for other communities
 - Compromise
- Discussed:
 - Management
 - Enforcement
 - Develop Scope
- Used Arkansas' study as an example.
 - Their Committee consisted of a
 - Policy Group
 - Technical Group
- Our program should be a model for other communities to follow.
- The DWQMP to be developed is unique to individual geographic areas.
- For the plan and the program to be a success, there must be a consensus building amongst stakeholders in which there are no absolutes, but there is room for compromise.

Sham comments:

- Important items for program's success:
 - Public buying into program
 - Flexible, dynamic plan that continues to evolve over time.
 - Each community taking ownership
 - User friendly
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - The plan must be scientifically – based and sound.
 - Balanced – on a regional and local basis.

- Key Players
 - DEP
 - DPH
 - OPM
 - Planners
 - Utilities
 - Other Municipal Officials

Leonard comments:

- Definition of Vision and Mission.
 - Vision – where the committee wants the program to go.
 - Mission – the way the program gets to its goal.

Steever comments:

- Three (3) different objectives:
 - Model for others to follow
 - Guidelines for the Act
 - Protecting the Source Water
 - \$100,000 will not suffice.

Entire floor:

- Long discussion on vision, water flow, chemical treatment, how water gets from source water to user, mission and vision statements.

Dion comment:

- Try to get back on track.
- Program consistency.
- Communities must be pro-active.
- Concentrate on the will of the communities in developing the plan incorporating goals of communities, economic development, issues, etc.

Mullane comment:

- Big picture to focus on:
 - Areas the committee can reach.
 - Identify the ideas the committee is going to use to implement the program.
 - Break up into small groups to get there.

Vlaun comment:

- The vision should be brief, not specific.
- The mission should be the overall picture.
- There should be tasks to get the vision to reach the mission.

Steever comment:

- Issue of source water or where water discharge ends in the community, these are two (2) different issues.

Leonard comment:

- We should focus on geographical areas of source water, however, we will not ignore the service area.

Acimovic comment:

- There is a map already complete that shows the current and future distribution areas. (Draft Critical Areas)

Murphy comment:

- Program must provide for protection of the service areas in:
 - Groton
 - Ledyard
 - Preston

Steever comment:

- Act is written with different ideas of Thames River Interconnection.

Dion comment:

- Brief description of the different areas sharing water through the interconnection pipeline.

Mathieu comment:

- Discussed the reasons for and the benefits of the regional water supply, and the importance of Special Act 06-6 in protecting the drinking water quality of the Groton Reservoir watershed area.

Mullane comment:

- Pipeline gives us:
 - Economic development
 - Employment
- Economic growth will be dependent on a good model for source water protection for the entire southeast region.
- Water distribution comes at a later meeting.
- This meeting consists of protection of the source water.

Sham comment:

- Get back to the Vision / Mission statements; and
- Regional Source Water Protection.
- Sham said his goal is to be invisible and facilitate this meeting. He needs to focus on an assessment of drinking water. He noted that there are various fields represented in the room such as Engineers / Planners / Officials. This collaboration is very important.

Leonard comment:

- Mission
 - Protection of watershed in a particular region in a sustainable fashion.

Schaefer comment:

- Vision
 - Clean water through watershed management to maintain our quality of life.

Vlaun comment:

- Lets nail down the audience we are trying to reach for the Mission and Vision statements.

Mathieu comment:

- DPH Drinking Water Section focus is to work with local communities and public water systems on the concept of drinking water quality management planning, to study the process and outcomes, and prepare a report for the legislature in 2009

Mullane comment:

- There is only one key audience!

- Rate paying public

Meeting broke for lunch.

Sham comment:

- Resume meeting.
- Brief synopsis of meeting thus far.

Stevens comment:

- Description of the Web Site vision.
 - CT DPH website linked to Groton Utilities website.
 - Provides:
 - Program Historical Data
 - Geographical pictures / layout
 - Elements of the plan
 - Stakeholders list
 - Updates for the committee
 - Sheets with comments for the next meeting
 - URLs / links for a digital library
- Open invitation for anyone who would like to participate in the website generation process.

Mathieu comment:

- Description of handouts
 - Assessment reports on DPH website.
 - Report for Groton Reservoir system
 - Focuses on
 - State determination
 - Environmental sensitivity
 - Conditions of source
 - Risk factors
 - Contaminant sources
 - Source protection and land owner regulations.
 - The SWAP assessment can be utilized as a starting point for the DWQMP process.

Murphy comment:

- All should start compiling your stakeholder lists.

Steever comment:

- Is there a list of critical stakeholders that could block development?

Murphy comment:

- Al Dion has that list.

Dion comment:

- Remember the importance of:
 - Community effort
 - Community will
- All community representatives should invite those individuals who they feel is needed on the committees to the meetings to provide program objective.

Next meeting:

Location: Town of Preston
Date: June 22, 2006
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Meeting adjourned.