



REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION GROUP MEETING

Southeast Connecticut Regional Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Groton, Ledyard, Preston, North Stonington, Norwich, Montville, and Waterford Thursday, April 17, 2008

A meeting of the DWQMP Administration Group was held on April 17, 2008 at the Groton Utilities Operations Complex Julio H. Leandri Administration Building Conference Room. The meeting commenced at 11:50 a.m. and was facilitated by Jeanine Armstrong Bonin, P.E., Vice President of Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI). Also present from MMI was David Murphy, P.E. The following members were in attendance:

Administration Group Members	Representing	
Al Dion	PRI – Groton Utilities	
Rick Stevens	ALT – Groton Utilities	X
Mike Murphy	PRI – Town of Groton	X
Deborah Jones	ALT – Town of Groton	
Mayor Fred Allyn	PRI – Town of Ledyard	X
Mike Cherry	ALT – Town of Ledyard	X
Marcia Vlaun	PRI – Town of Montville	X
Tom Wagner	PRI – Town of Waterford	
Neftali Soto	ALT – Town of Waterford	
Mike Schaefer	PRI – City of Norwich	X
John Bilda	ALT – City of Norwich	
Kathy Warzecha	PRI – Town of Preston	X
I st Selectman Robert Congdon	ALT – Town of Preston	X
I st Selectman Nicholas Mullane	PRI – Town of N. Stonington	
Robert Birmingham, AICP	PRI – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	X
Ken Greenwood	ALT – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	X
Jennifer Pagach	PRI – State & Federal Agencies	X
Lori Mathieu	ALT – State & Federal Agencies	

An open discussion format followed. The points listed below are arranged by topic and not necessarily in the order in which they were discussed.

Administration Group and Advisory Committee Functions

- The group discussed the concern expressed by some members of the Advisory Committee about not being present at the Administration Group meetings. The discussion of its genesis and role of the Administration Group, along with the commitment to circulating Administration Group meeting minutes is believed to have addressed the concern.

- The group discussed the roles of primary and alternate Advisory Committee members and revisited the initial premise that one member from each stakeholder group would serve as the

liaison spokesperson at each meeting in an effort to make these meetings as efficient as possible. Milone & MacBroom, Inc. agreed to make stakeholder placards for the May 15 meeting. The meeting room will be reorganized such that spokesperson representatives will comprise the core meeting space at the table and chairs will be arranged for alternates and invited guests. Additionally, an open discussion item will be placed on the agenda in future months such that invited guests and potentially visiting members of the public can be recognized and make comments if they so desire. It is anticipated that this will help to keep the meetings within two hours as the DWQMP project progresses.

- First Selectman Congdon continued a topic from the Advisory Committee meeting and made a motion that MPTN be appointed to the Administration Group. Mayor Allyn seconded the motion and all present were in favor.
- J. Pagach recommended that the legislation be re-sent to everyone involved to help clarify why the Administration Group exists.

Purpose of DWQMP

- The DWQMP needs to remain focused without special interests subverting the process. M. Vlaun suggested that the goals and outcome be stated at the beginning of each Advisory Committee meeting. The DWQMP is not a plan for Groton Utilities. It is for everyone. The outcome will be a set of tools and examples. M. Murphy suggested that everyone needs to work inside the process for it to be productive.
- As the Chairman of his local Planning Commission, M. Cherry had some questions about local regulations. Does the DWQMP become part of the local plan of conservation and development? First Selectman Congdon explained that the DWQMP will simply provide the framework. All or portions of the DWQMP then could be endorsed or adopted by local commissions.
- M. Vlaun views the DWQMP as the upcoming "third state manual" after the Stormwater Quality Manual and Sediment & Erosion Control Manual.
- R. Birmingham asked if the DWQMP will present certain BMPs. J. Bonin responded that the DWQMP will evaluate an array of management strategies and will provide recommendations for suitable application. Overall recommendations relative to DWQMP implementation are anticipated to be developed as part of this process as well.
- M. Murphy believes that DPH has demonstrated greater flexibility in applying the State Plan as compared to DEP and OPM. He reiterated how the DWQMP could help communities reconcile discrepancies with the State Plan.

Web Site

- The DWQMP web site will ideally be separate from the Groton Utilities web site. R. Stevens would like Milone & MacBroom, Inc. to make a recommendation on proposals previously received by Groton Utilities and coordinate this element of the process with Marc Cohen of the Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association.

Participants

- M. Murphy indicated that Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (SECTER) was likely to participate in the Business Community role on the Advisory Committee. This would be helpful, as CBIA and CEDA/NEDA have not elected to participate.
- M. Vlaun inquired about DEP's involvement. D. Murphy verified that he suggested to Eric Thomas that he work with and through Jennifer Pagach in order to have a voice in this process. He was also welcomed to attend the meetings as a guest.
- A discussion ensued regarding other State Agencies. OPM and DOT are two agencies that are relevant to the process but not directly participating at this point. R. Birmingham suggested that someone in high authority at DOT be involved, touching off a discussion about the future of DOT and whether someone could be identified to participate. J. Bonin suggested that DOT could be invited to one of the monthly meetings. M. Vlaun suggested that DOT explain how their plans and projects relate to the State Stormwater Quality Manual. Mayor Allyn wondered if DOT had authority to reject anything in the DWQMP. R. Birmingham suggested that we also meet with DEP and/or OPM about Ledyard Center.

Miscellaneous

- R. Stevens initiated a discussion about the water treatment element of the DWQMP. Certain members of the public would like to invest in land acquisition instead of treatment plant upgrades. Although source protection can reduce treatment costs, Groton Utilities wants to be clear that certain WTP renovations are necessary due to the age of the plant and evolving water quality regulations. It is a concern that some residents will conclude that the pending WTP renovations are necessary because they are occurring instead of source protection. J. Bonin remarked that we could fast-track the WTP analysis in the DWQMP to demonstrate that changes in response to regulations are different than additional improvements to treat water that has been degraded.
- The DWQMP logo was discussed. It says "Source Protection" and is therefore not completely in sync with the DWQMP concept. A new logo may be appropriate.
- The April memorandum needs to be sent to the State contract agent.