



MEETING AGENDA

Groton Utilities Watershed - Drinking Water Quality Management Oversight Committee

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 9:30 | Welcome and introductions / Misc. Items | Al Dion |
| 9:35 | Overall Project Schedule | Laurie Giannotti/ Al Dion |
| 9:45 | Guest Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Sarah (Sally) Harold
Conservation Manager
Saugatuck Forest Lands Nature Conservancy• Topic: Efforts and success on the Protection
Of the Saugatuck River Watershed
Including the recently discussed compact | |
| 10:20 | Subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General discussion input on
individual committees:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ GIS○ Land Information○ Water Information (Water Quality)○ Communications○ Consultant Procurement | Laurie Giannotti |
| 10:40 | Break Out Into Subcommittee Work Sessions | |
| 11:45 | Working Lunch | |
| 12:00 | Co-chairman Brief Work Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GIS• Land Information• Water Information• Communications• Consultant Procurement | Karl Acimovic / Bob Congdon
Marcia Vlaun / Brian Palaia
Joyce Brown /
Rick Stevens / Greg Leonard
Mike Murphy / Steve Masalin |
| 12:30 | Wrap up / Schedule next meeting (date & site) | |

Meeting Location

Groton Utilities

**Julio H. Leandri Administration Building
Conference Room (Directions Attached)**

Driving Directions

**1240 Poquonnock Road
Groton, CT 06340**

- ❖ **From Hartford, New Haven, traveling North on 1-95N.**
 - **Take Exit 88.**
 - **At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Route 117/Newtown Road.**
 - **Follow Route 117 and take a right at the second light onto Route 1/Fort Hill Road.**
 - **Continue on Route 1 and at the second traffic light, turn right onto Filter Plant Drive. (You will see the Groton Utilities sign on the left).**
 - **At the gate, dial in 005 which will ring on Ron's, Water Division Administrative Secretary, desk. He will open the gate for you.**
 - **At the fork, go left and continue past the Filter Plant (the water is to your left). Follow the road around, bearing right.**
 - **At the Electric/Water Operations Building, please park either at the front or on the side of the building.**

- ❖ **From Providence, Mystic, Stonington, traveling South on I-95S.**
 - **Take Exit 88.**
 - **At end of the exit ramp turn left onto Route 117/Newtown Road.**
 - **Follow Route 117 and take a right at the second light onto Route 1/Fort Hill Road.**
 - **Continue on Route 1 and at the second traffic light, turn right onto Filter Plant Drive. (You will see the Groton Utilities sign on the left).**
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Communications Committee DWQMP TASKS

Goal 4 *Effectively inform and involve stakeholders and citizens*

Objective 5: Develop a plan for public education

Work with the Consultant on the following tasks:

- a) Develop needs analysis considering who the target audiences are and what types of education (publications, workshops, mailings) would serve them best and what venues would serve them best (email, mail, website, meetings).
- b) Develop methodology for conducting a trial program

On your own:

- c) Conduct trial program; evaluate results and the move to larger scale program

Land Information Committee DWQMP TASKS

Goal 2 *Proactively Protect Critical Watershed Areas through Land Management*

Objective 1: Identify areas that are critical to the preservation of drinking water quality

Tasks:

- a) Define critical areas – Create a list of characteristics and criteria that make an area important for drinking water protection. This may require research with other work groups and outside experts.

Objective 7: Develop standards of basic LID enforcement ordinances

Tasks:

- c) LIC - Work with watershed towns to adopt the new ordinances.

Objective 9: Work with developers, when appropriate to develop innovative treatment techniques

Tasks:

- a) Prepare a list of potential partners.

Water Information Committee DWQMP TASKS

Goal 1 *Preserve Drinking Water Quality and Protect Public Health*

Objective 1: Develop and maintain baseline water quality data

Task:

- a) Define Water Quality Parameters – Develop a list of what we are going to monitor and why.

Implementation Subcommittees

	Communications / Education	Land Information	Water Information	GIS	Consultant Procurement
Co-Chairs	Rick Stevens / Greg Leonard	Marcia Vlaun / Brian Palaia	Joyce Brown /	Bob Congdon / Karl Acimovic	Mike Murphy / Steve Masalin
Facilitator	Laurie Giannotti to PM	Laurie Giannotti to PM	Laurie Giannotti to PM	Laurie Giannotti to PM	Jen Pagach DPH
Charge	To manage the flow of information between our committees and the general public and to keep our process transparent.	To gather and assess land use, natural resources and other information to meet the DWQMP Objectives.	To gather and assess water quality and water systems information to meet the DWQMP Objectives.	To provide support to other committees by performing spatial analysis, gathering and mapping GIS information.	To develop a request for qualifications or for proposal that can be used to hire a consultant to manage the DWQMP project.
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an outreach plan that includes target audience and appropriate venue and method of communication. • Website • Education • Newsletter • Public Service Announcements • Logo • Bumper Sticker • Watershed “help desk” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify watershed areas critical for drinking water protection. • Identify watershed areas suitable for future growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine gaps in Water Quality Monitoring • Develop a water quality monitoring plan for the watershed that includes citizen monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a list of existing data • Work with LI committee to develop map of watershed areas critical for drinking water protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop work plan for consultant. • Develop list of qualifications for consultant.
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurie Gianotti – DPH • Rick Stevens – GU • Greg Leonard – SCWA • Mike Schaefer – Norwich 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb Jones – Groton • Tom Wagner – Waterford • Greg Leonard – SCWA • Kathy Warzecha – Preston • Mike Schaefer – Norwich • Rick Stevens – GU • Laurie Giannotti – DPH • Karl Acimovic – GU • Sidney VanZandt –GOS • Mathiew Davis – Groton • Zell Steever - Noank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Leonard – SCWA • Steve Masalin – Ledyard • Mike Schaefer – Norwich • Rick Stevens – GU • Karl Acimovic – GU • Steve Mansfield – LedgeLight Heath • Jeff Butensky – EPA Region 1 • Zell Steever - Noank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyler Kiekamp – DPH • Karl Acimovic – GU • Bob Congdon – 1st Select Preston • Paul Nichols – Ledyard • Mike Murphy – Groton • Greg Leonard – SCWA 	<p><u>Technical</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Mathieu – DPH • Al Dion – GU • Karl Acimovic – GU • Marcia Vlaun – Montville • Deb Jones – Groton • Steve Masalin – Ledyard • Mary-Beth Hart – DEP <p><u>Advisory / Selection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Palaia – Ledyard • Bob Congdon – Preston • Nick Mullane – N. Stonington • Mike Murphy – Groton • Lori Mathieu – DPH • Karl Acimovic – GU • Al Dion – GU
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Job Descriptions

Facilitator

- Work with Co-Chairs to organize (obtain locations for meetings, etc..) meetings
- Work with Co-Chairs to and finalize committee work plans and schedules;
- Track committee progress and performances;
- Communicate between committees;
- Prepare any written summary documents required by the Oversight Committee;
- Attend Oversight Committee meetings (no more than 1 per month);
- Review Plan elements with Oversight Committee when necessary.

Co-Chairs

- Attend meetings (no more than 2 per month);
- Run meetings;
- Work with members to develop committee work plan;
- Commit to work plan via signature;
- Select meeting venue(s) and frequency;
- Assign secretary to take notes at committee meetings;
- Assign tasks to members;
- Work with members to finalize committee schedules;
- Insure committee progress;
- Communicate with other committees via the facilitator;
- Review Plan elements and update as needed.

Members

- Work with Co-Chairs to organize and finalize committee schedules;
- Attend meetings (no more than 2 per month) or send a representative;
- Commit to work plan;
- Commit to completion of at least 2 selected tasks via signature;
- Report on progress of your task to Co-Chairs.



Devil's Den Preserve &
Saugatuck Forest Lands
Box 1162
Weston, CT 06883

tel [203] 226-4991
fax [703] 226-4807
nature.org

February 2007

Dear Reader,

In the past two years within the Saugatuck River Watershed we have learned of plans to incorporate Alternative Treatment Systems (ATS) into project plans in sewer avoidance areas, as part of proposed affordable housing plans, age-restricted developments, assisted living facilities, A YMCA and for schools. The Nature Conservancy realized that without learning about how these systems perform, looking at their track records, understanding how they are permitted and what maintenance requirements may be necessary we would be unable to accurately understand the potential impact ATSs could have on the health of the Saugatuck River Watershed.

Alternative Treatment Systems are designed to treat effluent to state permit standards including reduction of nitrogen to 10 ppm - EPA's drinking water standard. Alternative Treatment Systems are often proposed for development projects on environmentally sensitive properties or on properties where a conventional system would not fit or could not process/treat the volume of effluent to be generated.

At a monthly meeting of The Nature Conservancy's Saugatuck River Watershed Partnership, Gavin Anderson an active member of Partnership proposed that we put together a white paper on Alternative Treatment Systems. The Nature Conservancy worked with two volunteers from the Partnership, Helen Garten and Dick Harris who gathered state records, conducted interviews, researched systems and prepared the draft of this white paper. The Nature Conservancy has reviewed this paper with Connecticut science staff, regional freshwater experts, our government relations staff and advisors. This white paper was presented to the Westport Conservation Commission Monday, February 5, along with comments from The Nature Conservancy regarding the YMCA proposal at Camp Mahackeno.

The goal of this white paper is to help town officials ask the right questions about these systems and understand where responsibility for the supervision and management of these systems lies. Successful operation of these systems to meet permit requirements will rely on close coordination between designers, operators, owners, municipalities and the state. We also wish to point out the authority municipalities, including commissions such as the Westport Conservation Commission, may exercise to protect natural resources such as the Saugatuck River. This white paper outlines some of the concerns about the operation and performance of existing FAST systems in Connecticut. From records collected at the CT DEP, we are concerned about the frequency of reported non-compliance issues in particular, test results which indicate elevated levels of nitrogen after treatment.

We hope this white paper assists you and decision makers you know.

Sincerely,

Sally Harold
Project Director
Saugatuck River Watershed Partnership

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 Groton Utilities Operations Complex Julio H. Leandri Administration Building Conference Room on February 21, 2006 at 10:00am.

- Present were:
 - Laurie Giannotti DPH
 - Bob Congdon 1st Selectman Town of Preston
 - Sally Harold Nature Conservancy (*Guest Speaker*)
 - Jeff Butensky US EPA New England
 - Clinton Brown DiCesare-Bentley Engineers
 - Al Dion Groton Utilities
 - Rick Stevens Groton Utilities
 - Joyce Brown Groton Utilities
 - Karl Acimovic Consultant, Groton Utilities
 - Ron Bata Groton Utilities
 - Michael Schaefer City of Norwich
 - Marc Cohen Atlantic States Rural Water
 - Steve Masalin Town of Ledyard
 - Sidney Van Zandt Groton Resident
 - Margaret Miner Rivers Alliance
 - Zel Steever Environmental Consultant

Items of discussion:

Al Dion Comments:

- Opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.
- Introductions around the room.
- Introduced Guest Speakers:
 - Sally Harold (Nature Conservancy Saugatuck Water Shed)
 - Clint Brown (DiCesare-Bentley Engineers).
- Planning to attend the March Council of Governments meeting to provide COG updates on DWQMP Committee processes.
- Briefly described the Source Water Protection Symposium held in Atlanta, Georgia he and Laurie attended.
 - While at the Symposium met Roy Simons of Region 1 EPA who showed great interested in the DWQMP program and has since brought forward the possibility of making the Program a multi-state model.
- Mentioned the possibility of future guest speakers:
 - Mike Beech

- Tim Bates
- Wal Mart update.
- Introduced Marc Cohen, (Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association). Marc is currently searching for projects to give assistance and expertise.
- Mentioned upcoming Shellfish Commission meeting.
- Expressed last meeting was the best meeting so far.
 - People opened up and spoke with each other,
 - Shared ideas,
 - Used the opportunity to bring issues to the table for all to have input.
- Again introduced Sally Harold.

Sally Harold Comments:

- With the Nature Conservancy working on Saugatuck Watershed.
- Program began at Devil's Den now Aquarion in the 1960s.
- First priority was land acquisition.
- During first steps, little thought was given to water protection.
- Later they began researching surrounding lands around the watershed.
- Program now entails 11 towns with no cohesive look at watershed.
- There have been three major workshops consisting of ~80 individuals and 25 agencies.
- The focus has been on science through:
 - Planning
 - Strategies
 - Meetings
- In March 2006 the Conservancy compiled and issued a Conservation Compact report to all area Commissions.
 - The Compact contains strategies and 10 objectives.
- The next goal was to get the Compact and ideas to all the town decision makers, Town Hall, Mayor, 1st Selectman, etc.
- Held meetings and visited each Town Hall and presented the Compact to each. In some locations it can be found hanging for public information.
- Offered two examples of how the Conservancy has worked to protect the Saugatuck Watershed.
 - First example – Conservancy spoke against the alternative treatment system proposed by a 33 unit housing projected in Redding which was subsequently rejected.

Mike Schaefer Comment:

- His opinion, if a developer's proposal is within town/state regulations/guidelines, it should be approved. Regulations should be changed rather than face opposition on this level.

Sally Harold Comments:

- Second example – Conservancy spoke against an alternative treatment system proposed in Westport .
 - Main issues are with the alternative treatment systems.
 - Currently six systems in the state.
 - Two operate with license.
 - Both are not in compliance with regulations.

Clint Brown Comment:

- Question to Sally, are any of the 11 communities coming up with land use plans ahead so that they can be proactive plans instead of reactive plans?

Sally Harold Comment:

- No. Westport is updating their POCD. The Partnership has plan updates as an action item.

Steve Masalin Comment:

- Question to Sally, does drinking water supply watershed go beyond boundaries of Compact?

Sally Harold Comment:

- Yes, however due to size constraints, the decision was made to stop at the 11 towns.

Steve Masalin Comment:

- Difference noted so far is that our project watershed only involves two towns, Ledyard and Groton.

Margaret Miner Comments:

- Recommend all read Sally's White Paper.
 - Excellent show of:
 - Performance
 - Record
 - Legality
 - Cross Jurisdiction

Laurie Giannotti Comment:

- Question to Sally, what is the Conservancy's definition of "Water Rich"?

Sally Harold Comment:

- Water abundance. There has been scientific “water budget” done.

Rick Stevens Comment:

- Question to Sally, were minimum stream flow requirements required by DPH/DEP met?

Sally Harold Comment:

- Conservancy does not know what requirements will be, that is left primarily up to the Aquarion Water Company.

Rick Stevens Comment:

- Question to Sally, what about Aquarion’s treatment technology? Is it the practice to invest in water treatment or restrict development?

Sally Harold Comment:

- Treatment technology is unknown to the Conservancy. Conservancy’s concern is primarily with watershed protection. They are working with Aquarion.

Margaret Miner Comment:

- Group is and should be working on aging infrastructure as well as stream flow requirements.

Rick Stevens / Karl Acimovic Comment:

- GU is currently are working on a mode for DEP using stream flow release as it is compared to water supply demand. Margaret will share this information with the Water Planning Council as they are looking for such a model.

Zel Steever Comment:

- Question to Sally, how is Saugatuck Project funded?

Sally Harold Comments:

- Primarily funded by donors.
- Received a grant for \$25,000 for three workshops.

- Began with one small grant for fish passage.
- Since, two more grants for fish passage have been requested.
- Travel around to the 11 towns with project and project needs.
- Overall funding:
 - \$125,000 in grants
 - \$100,000 from donor
 - \$25,000 from towns
 - \$4,000 from fish passage grants.

Zel Steever Comment:

- Question to Sally, how much have the 11 towns provided and how much has Aquarion contributed?

Sally Harold Comments:

- To date, \$25,000 provided by 3 or 4 of the towns.
- Aquarion has contributed no funds.

Laurie Giannotti Comments:

- Would argue that it is inaccurate to state that the Water Company and towns have not contributed financially.
- Water Company labor and time attending meetings must be considered.

Zel Steever Comment:

- Question to Sally, how much land acquisition has occurred?

Sally Harold Comments:

- 7 – 8 acres.
- 1/4 of the Town of Redding is protected.
- 98% of Westbrook is within the watershed.
- Land acquisition has slowed immensely from the beginning of the project.
 - Land has gotten to expensive.

Al Dion Comment:

- Introduced Clint Brown, Principal - DiCesare-Bentley Engineers

Clint Brown Comments:

- Developer's needs may be summed up into one word, "certainty".

- If the goal were to have one set of requirements for Developers to follow that would be the certainty they would be looking for.
- Development industry needs to understand the rules and be willing to participate in your planning process.
- However, it can be done. Look at some of the success stories:
 - Marriott
 - Great Brook Subdivision, although not in the book yet.
 - Pequot Medical Center
 - The major item to look at all these projects however all had the ability as large projects to obtain research to meet all requirements.
 - Small Developers may not have that ability.
- The MOU is a good vehicle. U is most important! Ensure it works for both parties; ensure steps are in place, it is important to reach out to the developers.

Margaret Miner Comments:

- Touching on requirements, we are in need of a specifications upgrade.
- If all could agree on requirements, all parties would like to work together, Committees and Developers.

All Comments:

- Open discussion on Wal Mart.

Steve Masalin Comments:

- These gaps create issues between minimum requirements and Developer Plans.
- Just to name a few, there are:
 - Water Quality gaps
 - Funding gaps
 - Ongoing maintenance requirement gaps
 - Science gaps
- We should, define stormwater measures and get Town regulations to conform to those measures.

Al Dion Comment:

- The goal is to construct this Plan as a community-based Plan to come together with all the communities; their needs and water quality balance, agree on the Plan's requirements which will be met by all.

Sidney Van Zandt Comment:

- We are in hope that the Plan will have requirements for the Developer to have guidelines at the beginning of their projects.

Al Dion Comment:

- The question still remaining is to set requirements as Federal, State or local level.

Mike Schaefer Comment:

- My vision would be that we come up with a Plan and have a flowchart with requirements for all communities to have certainty on development or non-development.

Laurie Giannotti Comments:

Project ideas to move us forward based upon our discussions:

1. CT DEP Stormwater Quality Manual – Assuming that this is the most current assembly of BMPs (research this as step 1) Determine:
 - Have the watershed towns adopted this manual?
 - If not, craft a model regulatory update so that the manual must be used by developers within the PWSW at a minimum.
(consistent with DWQMP Goal 2, objectives 2, 3, 5)
2. Watershed Development Standards – prepare a guidance document for developers within the PWSW to protect water quality and quantity. Prepare a model regulatory update so that the standards must be used by developers within the PWSW at a minimum. Development standards should incorporate any “critical areas” maps prepared by the DWQMP Subcommittees as well as item 3 below when they are completed. (consistent with DWQMP Goal 2, objectives 2, 3)
3. Wetlands Capacity Analysis – prepare a map and report on wetlands in the PWSW outlining their ability to protect drinking water quality and quantity and to function as part of a stormwater treatment train. (consistent with DWQMP Goal 2, objectives 1, 4)
4. Water Budget – prepare a water budget for the PWSW identifying areas that are important for ground water recharge and to maintain healthy wetlands and stream flows. (consistent with DWQMP Goal 2 objectives 1,4)

Bob Congdon Comment:

- Memorandums of Understandings (MOU) are extremely useful tools if presented correctly.

- Benchmark Testing Guidelines would be useful in establishing pre-development water quality status.
- Something towns can do “now” is to consider requiring pre-proposal meetings to discuss and ensure that the protection of water supply source waters is included in the final design.

Karl Acimovic Comments:

- Currently we have several MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) either in use or under discussion. These include:
 - Konover / Walmart Development on Route 184
 - Garage (Vehicle Storage Garage on Route 184
 - Restaurant on Route 184
 - Marriott Hotel site on Route 117
 - Pequot Medical Center on Hazelnut Hill Road

Rick Stevens Comments:

- In addition to the MOUs, we have done engineering work, planning, and zoning work.
- Water treatment technology can be upgraded as well.
- The Water Treatment Plant was built in 1939 and upgraded in the 1940s and 1950s.
- Water treatment, water quality, water supply and demand are much different today than years ago.
 - Water quality measures can be upgraded as well.

Steve Masalin Comments:

- It is a large order and task to get the towns/communities to segregate requirements.
- Our Plan / Committee could be a 1st Model.
- The 11 Saugatuck Project towns / communities as I hear it did not change requirements to incorporate Watershed Development Measures for all to follow a set of guides / requirements.
- If this Committee could come up with those guidelines / requirements, ones that the Developers would be in agreement with as well, we could be the Model for other States / Communities to follow.

Laurie Giannotti Comments:

- The Committee has worked hard in the past two years to come up with the Goals and Objectives.
 - Goal 3 will be finalized at our March meeting.
 - Work on Goal 5 has begun and will be facilitated by CADMUS.

Al Dion / Zel Steever / Laurie Giannotti Comments:

- Discussion of updating the Goals and Objectives due to all the new information that has come to the table in the past few meetings.

Jeff Butensky Comments:

- Question to Laurie, what is and where is the funding situation today?

Laurie Giannotti / Al Dion Comments:

- Funding in the amount of \$200,000 will hopefully be available in July.
- EPA has given a small Grant.
- The 319 Grant is still pending.
- Groton Utilities / local communities / local planners / State Officials and many others are providing time and labor keeping the program running until some other means of funding becomes available.
 - Al thanked all for their efforts.

Bob Congdon Comment:

- Question to Al, is funding written in the Bill?
- If it is not directly mentioned in the Bill, it probably will not occur.

Al Dion Comment:

- It was in the Bill, however, when so many items were piggybacked to the Bill, funding fell out of the write-up.

Laurie Giannotti Comments:

- Subcommittees must get started in information gathering.
- Our goal is to have a vast amount of information to present to the Consultant when their services are obtained.
- Handouts:
 - Subcommittee members list
 - Revised Project Timeline
 - Task lists for subcommittees
- Recruiting for subcommittees – we need more participation.

Al Dion Comment:

- Thank everyone for attending.

- Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 9:30am at the Groton Utilities Operation Complex in the Julio H. Leandri Administration Building Conference Room.

Broke for Committee / Subcommittee Discussion Lunch

Meeting adjourned.