

Central WUCC Meeting Minutes
MDC Training Center – 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT
June 16, 2021 1:00 p.m.

The Central Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on June 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the MDC Training Center at 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, Connecticut. Notice of the meeting was sent to WUCC members and posted on the DPH website [Central Corridor Water Utility Coordinating Committee \(ct.gov\)](http://centralcorridorwaterutility.com)

The following WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetic order of affiliation):

WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Ingrid Jacobs	Aquarion Water Company
Ray Jarema	Berlin Water
Jim Ventres	Town of East Haddam
Brendan Avery	Hazardville Water Company
Jonathan Avery	Hazardville Water Company
Patrick Kearney	Town of Manchester
Chris Stone	Metropolitan District Commission
David Kuzminski	Town of Portland
Vincent Tursi	Tolland Water

The following non-WUCC member representatives were in attendance (listed in alphabetic order of affiliation):

Non-WUCC Member Representative	Affiliation
Eric McPhee	CT Department of Public Health
Jim Ericson	Lenard Engineering

The following actions took place:

1. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by chair Chris Stone of the Metropolitan District Commission. A roll call was conducted in which everyone stated their name and affiliation.

2. Review of Formal Correspondence

There was one formal correspondence between the Central WUCC Meeting on 3-25-2021 regarding a non-community water system in East Hampton via e-mail from C. Ryan Goad of CMG Environmental, Inc.

3. Kensington Fire District Discussion of Service Area Expansion:

- Jim Ericson from Lenard Engineering began discussion by describing a project proposed which he stated was within the Kensington Fire District for a 76 unit housing project. He proposed the question of how the Town of Berlin was going to serve the site for the same cost and not create duplication within the system.
- Ray Jarema from Berlin Water stated that the site of the proposed development was on a golf course and Kensington Fire District only served the northern portion of the extensive lot, but no one currently served the southern portion of the lot. He stated that Berlin Water controlled the entire Exclusive Service Area of the town with the exception of the two fire districts. He stated that Berlin Water has lower rates than Kensington Fire District. He stated there is a reciprocity agreement with Kensington Fire District where about 107 customers are affected by either being a Berlin Water customer and served by Kensington Fire District or being a Kensington Fire District customer and being served by Berlin Water.
- Mr. Stone stated that the WUCC was not currently going to vote or decide anything at this current time. The purpose of the current meeting was to bring information up and educate current WUCC members on the situation.
- Jim Ventres of the town of East Haddam stated that both parties needed to meet to go over the ESA map and present that as part of the agreement.
- Mr. Ericson stated he would like to see the map and know the process of why the lines were created in the way they were.
- Jonathan Avery from the Hazardville Water Company stated that the maps from 30 years ago would be relevant as well as the maps from 3 years ago.
- Eric McPhee from the Department of Public Health stated that all the relevant information is publicly available online, but he would be happy to show any parties that wanted to see that information.
- Mr. Stone stated that currently the parties involved in the dispute would assess the information and the WUCC would reconvene once the parties were ready to present that information to the WUCC.

4. Central WUCC Regionalization Opportunities

- Mr. Jarema stated that the Town of Berlin has three fire districts as an example of poor consolidation. He stated that the reason for keeping the three fire districts separate this entire time has been a way to reduce the chance of a large utility from taking over control of the towns water system.
- Dave Kuzminski from the Town of Portland stated that the town is trying to change the contract it has from buying water from the MDC. He stated the town views the contract as being too expensive to continue, so they are looking into alternatives from buying water from the MDC.

5. WUCC Implimentation Discussion

- Mr. McPhee stated the DPH is currently working on the implementation of the WUCC plan. He stated that there have been discussions of creating subgroups and having these subgroups meet quarterly and work independently from the WUCCs.
- Mr. Avery asked where the priorities of the Central WUCC are and are members willing to come to the meetings.
- Mr. McPhee stated that there was a top 10 list that was pared down from a very large list. These top 10 priorities have been consistent among all three WUCCs, though they each do need to look at regional issues.
- Mr. Jarema stated that without the issue of dividing up the ESAs, there is little reason for members to attend meetings.
- Mr. McPhee stated the top priorities included Draught Conservation, Regionalization, Standards for Non-Community Systems, and Interconnections.

6. Election of Officers

- Brendan Avery of the Hazardville Water Company stated he is stepping down as the Secretary of the Central WUCC.
- Mr. Stone asked the Central WUCC members if there were any volunteers interested in the position of Secretary of the Central WUCC. There were no volunteers for the position. The discussion led to a proposal that each organization look for a newer employee that might be interested in getting more involved that could take on this role.
- Mr. McPhee stated that in the meantime, he would take on the responsibility of getting the minutes out and the notices for the meeting etc.

7. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

8. Next Meeting

- The next meeting date is TBD due to being dependent on when the parties in the Kensington Fire District discussion can meet and bring a new proposal.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brendan Avery, Recording Secretary – Central WUCC