



DRAFT

*January 12, 2017*

Workshop #3 Decision Summary

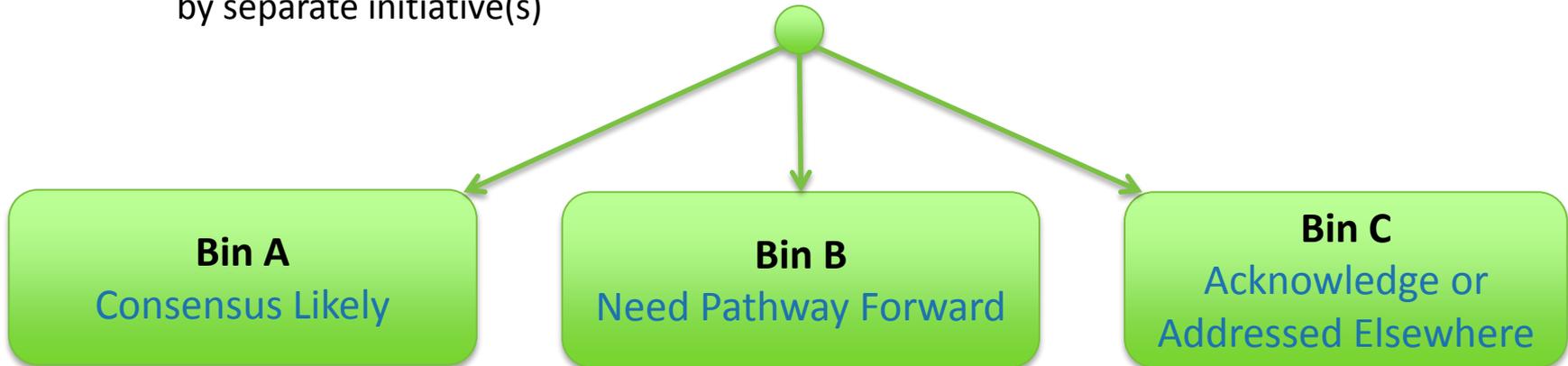
# New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

## Development of the State Water Plan for Connecticut



# Recall: Goals of the Workshop

- Categorize the identified water management options and future challenges into three categories:
  - Consensus is likely, and draft language for recommendations can be prepared
  - Consensus is not likely before May 2017, and the Plan will recommend paths forward for future progress
  - The option or challenge is either acknowledged as unchangeable or as being addressed by separate initiative(s)



# The Options, with estimates from earlier work/ discussion

Type of Issue Required in the Plan		List of OPTIONS	Consensus Likely	Need Decision Process / Path Forward	Acknowledge or Address Elsewhere	
Water Mgt. Options	Policy and Planning	Land use practices and protection	POL <sup>1,2</sup>			
		Conservation and incentives		POL <sup>4</sup>		
		Incorporation of existing plans	POL <sup>1</sup>			
		Regionalization and appropriate interconnections	POL <sup>6</sup>	POL <sup>6</sup>		
		Identify funding mechanisms for Plan implementation				
		Develop monitoring plan for Plan implementation				
		Statewide drought planning		POL <sup>3</sup>	POL <sup>3</sup>	
		Future Class B water for non-potable uses		POL		
		Water use accounting	POL <sup>8</sup>			
		GW and private well monitoring and protection		POL		
	Technology	Technology and facility improvements/replacement				
		Water Reuse and Greywater use		POL <sup>7</sup>		
		Wastewater management				
		Stormwater management				
		Desalination				
		Flood management				
	Regulatory	Address registered diversions			POL <sup>5</sup> WS2	WS2 <sup>5</sup>
		Implement instream flow regulations				
		Changes to laws / regulations			POL <sup>9</sup>	
	Outreach	Public education – short and long term		POL <sup>10</sup>		

**Challenges,**  
with estimates  
from earlier work/  
discussion

Type of Issue Required in the Plan		List of Challenges	Consensus Likely	Need Decision Process / Path Forward	Acknowledge or Address Elsewhere	
<b>Challenges</b>	Inherent in the CT Regulatory/ Govt. Structure	Home rule			WS2	
		Levels of authority for implementation				
		Prohibition of Class B water for human consumption (for now, not necessarily in future)			WS2	
		Public perception / uncertainty				
		Funding				
		Data Gaps	WS2 <sup>3</sup>			
		Understanding Economic Impacts				
	Specific to Certain Water Uses	Registered diversions (see Options)			POL WS2 <sup>1</sup>	WS2 <sup>1</sup>
		Unreported uses				
		Adopting instream flow practices				
		Coordination with WUCC	WS2			
		Watershed/aquifer protection where incentives are lacking				
		Vulnerability and security issues			POL	
		Food-Energy-Water Nexus			POL <sup>3</sup>	WS2 <sup>4</sup>
		Emerging contaminants				
		Aging infrastructure			WS2	
		Constraints on system expansion				
		Climate Change <sup>4</sup>			POL <sup>2</sup>	
		Water Quality Impairments <sup>4</sup>				

# Group Responses

Green = WPC

Red/Orange/Yellow = WPCSC

## FUTURE WATER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS - DRAFT

WS2 refers to stakeholder recommendations from Workshop #2

POL refers to CDM Smith's interpretation of the Policy Subcommittee's recommendations

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		Water Reuse and Greywater use		
		Wastewater management		
		Stormwater management		
Regulatory	Desalination			
	Flood management			
	Address registered diversions			
Outreach	Implement instream flow regulations			
	Changes to laws / regulations			
	Public education – short and long term			

## CHALLENGES TO MEETING THE PLAN OBJECTIVES - DRAFT

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		Registered diversions (see Options)		
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		Constraints on system expansion		
		Climate Change <sup>4</sup>		
Water Quality Impairments <sup>4</sup>				

# Water Management Options for Consensus Recommendations

*Note: Recommendations may be accompanied with pathways forward when options cannot be addressed by consensus in their entirety*

- Land Use Practices and Protection Related to Water
- Conservation and Incentives
- Incorporation of Existing Plans
- Monitoring for Plan Implementation
- Public Education – short term and long term
- *Agricultural Policies (as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee subsequent to the workshop)*

## Water Management Options Being Addressed Elsewhere

- Registered diversions (to a point) – the Plan should acknowledge that unused diversions exist, but potentially address two things:
  - Possible ways that defunct registrations can be removed from the records
  - Estimates for likely upper limit of future water use in each basin  
*(note that the Plan will show the volume of unused registrations on basin summary sheets, but will illustrate basin stress with maps based on expected usage without all of the unused registrations – this allows people to see water use with and without full usage of the unused registrations.)*
- Implementation of streamflow release requirements (KIRK)

# Future Challenges for Consensus Recommendations

*Note: Recommendations may be accompanied with pathways forward when challenges cannot be addressed by consensus in their entirety*

- Retain prohibition of Class B waters for drinking
- Data Gaps
- Coordination with the WUCCs

## Future Challenges Being Addressed Elsewhere

- Connecticut's Home Rule – The stakeholders acknowledge this, and have no intention of changing it.
- Funding (for Plan implementation and future updates)
  - The Plan will not identify specific funding needs or sources
  - However, the Scope does suggest that the Plan should identify potential sources of future funding in the context of CT and other states, to be explored by the WPC
- Registered diversions (to a point – see note on Options slide)



## Definitions of Areas of Consensus

*These outlines will form the basis of draft recommendation language*

## Land Use Practices and Protection Related to Water

- Reaffirm support for protection of Class I and Class II lands
- Source water protection initiatives, including aquifers
- *Additional suggestions from Policy Subcommittee:*
  - Synchronize water planning with State Conservation and Development Plan
  - Consider reinstating recommendation for no sewer lines in Public Water Supply watershed areas.
  - Publicize the benefits of Low-Impact Development (LID)

# Water Conservation and Incentives

- Expand existing model ordinance for municipalities to follow during drought
  - Menu of options that could fit local regulations
  - Consider enforcement options
- Consider relating conservation to drought planning
- Plan should acknowledge impact of conservation on utility revenue
- *Additional suggestions from the Policy Subcommittee:*
  - Plan should document expected savings from passive conservation (replacement of fixtures, etc.)
  - Plan should address best practices for irrigation (see also the notes on agricultural practices that follow)
  - Link initiatives with public outreach plan.

# Incorporation of Existing Plans

- Note that WUCC data have been incorporated into the technical analysis:
  - Same demand/population numbers in both plans
- Ensure consistency with the State Conservation (Land) and Development (C&D) Plan
- Consider recommending ongoing review of other plans (for example, Economic Development, the Green Plan, the Drought Plan to include climate change, etc.) to be consistent with State Water Plan.

# Monitoring for Plan Implementation

- Environmental Monitoring Coordination:
  - Ongoing environmental monitoring activities should be coordinated
  - Water data should be centralized to enhance Plan Implementation and future planning
- Plan Implementation
  - WPC to review, assess and redefine the role of the WPCAG
  - Develop a method of assessing future decisions in the context of the Plan, its goals/requirements, and its recommendations
  - Develop a method to monitor plan implementation and track against the requirements of the statute
  - Recommend periodic update process
  - Identify potential funding mechanisms so that costs can be shared equitably (refer to 'Other States Workgroup' report)
  - Consider recommending a change to WPC responsibility/authority to oversee implementation, update the Plan periodically, and secure funding for future planning / implementation activities.
  - Identify specific roles for each WPC entity in Plan Implementation

# Public Education/Information

- Recommend that the state help fund a public outreach similar to the electrical utility PR in the past (refer to 'Other States Workgroup' report)
- Use experience/memory of the current drought to advocate water stewardship
- Develop short, summary talking points
- Use the networks of the subcommittees and working groups to promote the Plan
- Reach key constituencies that may not be active in the Plan development:
  - Reach out to **private well owners** (quality and quantity)
  - Get the key themes and recommendations of the Plan to **municipal governments/officials**
  - Advocate for effectively explaining the draft Plan to the **legislature** prior to formal submittal

# Agricultural Practices

- This is in addition to what was discussed at the workshop, but followed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting immediately afterward
- Policy Subcommittee has developed consensus language on agricultural practice recommendations:
  - Water conservation in agriculture
  - Innovative water storage methods
  - Water reuses in agriculture
  - Incentives for innovation / partnerships
  - Water quality trading programs

# Prohibition of Class B Water for Drinking

- Acknowledge that the Plan will not recommend changing this policy
  - Acknowledge high cost of treating Class B water to drinking standards
  - Acknowledge that the practice continues to provide public health protections (citation of the Flint crisis and other examples would help)
  - Allowing Class B water for drinking would dis-incentivize protection of Class A watersheds and associated water-company owned lands.
  - Acknowledge that safe yield from existing Class AA watersheds can be diminished by Minimum Stream Flow standards, and it may be more difficult to develop new sources of Class A water in the future.
- Plan can advocate using Class B water for appropriate (and affordable) non-potable uses
  - Acknowledge challenges of using only Class A water for drinking (white papers: safe yield, relationship to regulatory streamflow requirements, etc.)
  - Perhaps outline a path forward to examine future uses of Class B water for industrial, agricultural, commercial, and other non-potable uses.

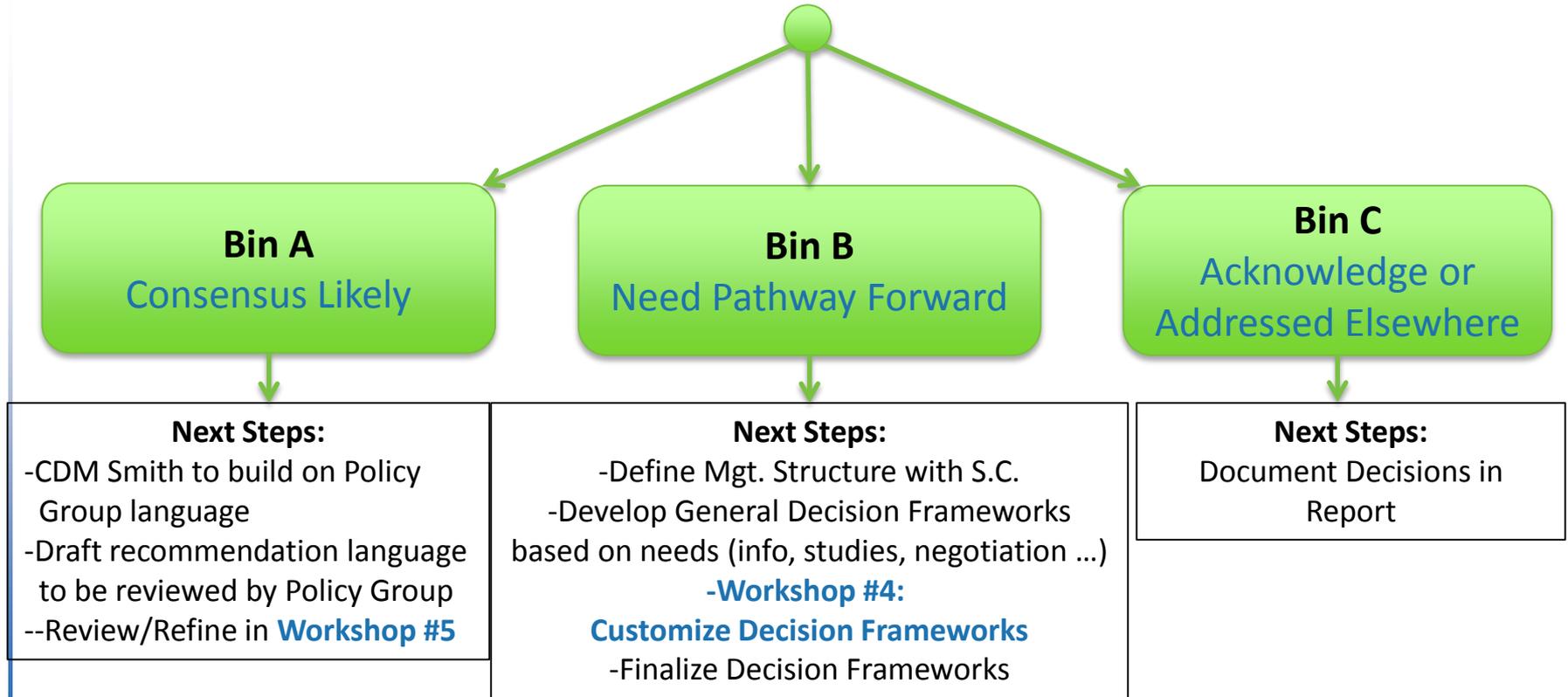
# Data Gaps

- Recommend that the state continue to try to resolve the FOIA issues
- Encourage progress with PA 01-185 guidelines for water use reporting, recognizing that the WUCC process has provided significant public water supply data (regionalized) to the State Water Plan.
- Reduce uncertainty in unused registration volumes
  - Plan will acknowledge these exist
  - Plan could recommend that defunct registrations be removed
  - Plan will show the unused registrations in the basin summary sheets, but the unused registrations will not be included above the level of future demand projections / water supply plans in the basin stress maps. (this allows people to see future conditions with and without the unused registrations).
- Centralize available data (water use, permits, registrations, water quality, groundwater levels/quality) in a statewide electronic database
- Phase I report guidelines (Section 5) included suggestions for improving the comprehensiveness of data collection based on observed data gaps during the planning process – however, these should be reviewed for affordability and/or alignment with PA 01-185 practices.
- *From the Policy Subcommittee: Emphasize the importance of maintaining existing data reporting processes and monitoring networks.*

## Coordination with the WUCCs

- Continue to ensure that the State Water Plan and WUCCs are based on the same data
- Emphasize that the WUCCs are the basis of future water supply planning
- Plan should encourage strong implementation for the WUCC plans, and environmental analysis as part of the WUCC plans.

# Next Steps



# Next Steps on Recommended Policies

- CDM Smith to draft preliminary language for policy recommendations based on workshop and Policy Group notes
- Feb. 2: Workshop #4 - Collaborate on Pathways Forward (not the focus of the notes above, but a parallel effort)
- Feb. 9: Policy Subcommittee to review and refine draft language on recommendations during Feb. meeting
- Feb. 16: Workshop #5 - Collaborate on finalizing recommended policy language