

***Revised* Model Table of Contents for the Connecticut State Water Plan**

**submitted by**

**the Other States' Water Plans Workgroup of the Water Planning Council  
Advisory Group**

**to**

**the Connecticut Water Planning Council and the  
Water Plan Steering Committee**

**September 17, 2015**

**Preface**

In June of 2015, the Other States' Plan Workgroup (OSPW) submitted a report to the Water Planning Council's Steering Committee that summarized the results of their investigation into the statewide water planning efforts conducted in other states. A copy of that report can be found at <http://streamingwater.org/oswp/>. The report included a brief example of a Model Table of Contents for the Connecticut plan.

At their June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Workshop, the Steering Committee asked the OSPW to revise and resubmit a model table of contents that could be used to inform the development of a state water plan. The OSPW was specifically asked to address several issues raised at the meeting, as well as to cross check the draft against water planning elements outlined in Connecticut Public Act 14-163, and to also cross-check against the Water Planning Principles, and Key Elements of a State Water Plan identified in the OSPW Report.

The OSPW met several times in August and September of 2015, and the results of that work are presented here in the *Revised* Model Table of Contents, and Appendix A: Annotated Table of Contents.

## **Revised Model Table of Contents – Connecticut State Water Plan**

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  - B. Understanding Connecticut’s Water Demands: Instream and Out-of-Stream Water Uses
  - C. Understanding Connecticut’s Water Resources Management Structure
  - D. Conflicts and Challenges
- 5. Preparing for Change**
  - A. Demographics
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  - C. Land Uses
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- 6. Recommendations for Implementation: Meeting In-Stream and Out-of-Stream Needs**
  - A. Policy Goals
  - B. Proposed Water Resources Management Structure
  - C. Data Collection and Assessment
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  - E. Conflict Resolution
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- 7. Next Steps**
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## **Appendix A:**

### **Annotated Table of Contents – Connecticut State Water Plan**

This Annotated Table of Contents contains suggested content for each section of the *Revised* Model Table of Contents, based on the research of the Other States' Plans Workgroup (OSPW). It is intended to act as a starting point in incorporating all the statutory requirements of PA 14-163, plan elements identified by the OSPW in their report and items the Steering Committee felt should be included in the State Plan into the Table of Contents. It is not intended to be all-inclusive nor to drive the planning process.

#### **1. Terms and Acronyms**

#### **2. Executive Summary**

#### **3. Introduction**

##### **A. Public Act 14-163**

##### **B. Vision Statement**

##### **C. Development of the State Water Plan**

This could include a summary of the process used to develop the State Water Plan, including the structure of the WPC, the Committees and Subcommittees, stakeholder/public involvement and the Guiding Principles developed by the Other States' Plan Work Group.

#### **4. Current Condition Assessment**

##### **A. Understanding Connecticut's Water Resources**

Compile water resource information and data sources. Define and describe the various surface and ground water systems, including both quantity and quality, and the identification of hydrologic boundaries. This should include, but not be limited to, a description of the appropriate hydrologic unit (which may vary in scale depending on local need and the question to be addressed), water budget, baseline/trends, critical areas, source protection, and any additional measures necessary to define and describe the existing resource system.

##### **B. Understanding Connecticut's Water Demands: Instream and Out-of-Stream Water Uses**

Assess how and where we use our water resources today. This should include, but not be limited to, quantification of current water uses, including consumptive uses such as water supply, agriculture, and energy/cooling and non-consumptive in-stream uses such as ecological needs, wastewater assimilation and recreation. This assessment should include water withdrawal and water return flows to the natural system.

##### **C. Understanding Connecticut's Water Resources Management Structure**

Describe the existing management structure at the state, regional, and local levels and identify significant components of the decision-making process. Provide an overview of current water and land management strategies and regulatory programs, including but not

limited to, water supply (individual water supply plans, WUCCs, Source Water Assessment Program, Safe Drinking Water Act, watershed protection); water diversion; water quality standards; wastewater; stormwater and other non-point pollution sources; aquifer protection; inland wetlands; coastal management; drought management; stream flow; fisheries management; related state, regional, and local plans; and funding and financing.

**D. Conflicts and Challenges**

Should include a discussion of the current conflicts and challenges identified during the Plan development process including, but not limited to, registered/permitted diversions; information security issues; data limitations, and data or other resource gaps that limit our understanding of water resources and needs; the availability of water where it is needed; the energy-water nexus; aging infrastructure; impacts to system viability and demand management; and financial needs.

**5. Preparing for Change**

These are anticipated changes that may positively or negatively affect both supply and demand.

**A. Demographics**

Estimate future population and water use trends, both short and long term. Discuss current and future capabilities of public water supply systems. Identify options to provide adequate quantity and quality of water and to address infrastructure challenges.

**B. Technology and Consumer Behavior**

Could include a discussion of changes to demand management, conservation incentives, plumbing codes, technological improvements in the water industry, efficiencies in manufacturing, and/or changes in societal norms or consumer behaviors that may influence water use.

**C. Land Use**

Identify the effect various developmental scenarios and land use practices have on quality and quantity of both surface water and ground water, including stormwater and non-point source pollution challenges; Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure focus; and watershed protections.

**D. Economic development**

Should include discussion of Conservation & Development Plans; water as an economic resource and the potential effects this may have on resource availability; the role water resources play or should play in guiding development patterns; and any other relevant factors.

**E. Climate Change**

Evaluate anticipated climate-related impacts to water resources including, but not limited to, quality and quantity of both surface and ground water; in-stream and out-of-stream water uses; and infrastructure. Identify opportunities for building resiliency and sustainability concepts into the Plan.

**6. Recommendations for Implementation: Meeting In-Stream and Out-of-Stream Needs**

**A. Policy Goals**

Establish a set of recommended goals for the use, management and protection of the waters of the state and related land resources, with evaluations of alternative recommendations according to economic, environmental, hydrologic, jurisdictional, legal, social and other relevant factors. This should include, but not be limited to, discussion and policies on water conservation; demand management; recycling/re-use strategies and drought measures; inter-basin transfers; regional cooperation; use of compacts and incentives; coordination with adjacent states; and emergency management.

**B. Proposed Water Resources Management Structure**

Describe the recommended organizational structure at the state, regional and local levels, incorporating land and water management plans and programs into the framework. Define the role of the WPC, relevant state agencies, local, regional, and state governments, and public and stakeholder involvement at each level. Identify potential barriers to implementation including, but not limited to, existing legislation or regulations.

**C. Data Collection and Assessment**

This section should include, but not be limited to, discussion of the water resource assessments conducted under Section 4A; recommendations for the on-going method of assessment, including data requirements; specification of modeling approach (which needs to account for anticipated future changes discussed in Section 5); incorporation of in-stream flows; how to define “over-allocation” and what happens if a basin is over-allocated; identification and establishment of a process for designating priority or critical basins.

**D. Proposed Allocation Framework**

The State Water Plan might also establish a proposed allocation framework which incorporates the policies established in section 6A and incentives to encourage those water management policies. This could include the adoption of an appointment framework, shared adversity, and similar principles, or the process for determining such, at the appropriate regional or local scale.

**E. Conflict Resolution**

The management framework should identify strategies to mitigate conflict, including, where appropriate, incentives or disincentives to move from status quo.

**F. Impediments**

Further the discussion from Section 4D to identify impediments to implementing a state water plan, and recommended changes to legislation or regulations needed to facilitate implementation of the State Water Plan.

**G. Funding needs and Strategies**

Outline funding needs to support the management framework and identify potential broad-based, sustainable funding mechanisms that are relatively stable and apportion program costs in an equitable manner.

**H. Education and Outreach**

Outline a program for seeking the involvement of interested parties, including public outreach and education about water resource management. Incorporate websites and other vehicles for keeping the public informed, engaged, and up-to-date on current water topics. Identify additional opportunities for individuals to support a sustainable water future for Connecticut.

**I. Measuring Success**

Should identify specific metrics against which the implementation and effectiveness of the plan can be gaged. Include measures that account for ecological, environmental, public health and safety, economic, and other relevant impacts, and identify on-going data collection and analysis needs to support these metrics.

**7. Next Steps**

Action items to implement the recommendations of the Plan.

**A.** Near-term

**B.** Long-term

**C.** Review and revision schedule for Plan

(include flexibility to identify and incorporate emerging issues as we move forward)

**8. Glossary**

**9. Appendix**

**Appendix B:**  
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