Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda
For October 7, 2021

a. Call to order;

b. **Roll call**; Steve Bartush, Jim Bartley, Bill Mooney, John Crespo, Diane Lauricellla, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, Harry Rilling, John Romano, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

c. **Communications;**
DEEP - Chris out of office
Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish or Harbor Comm.
Dept. of Aquaculture
Dept of Health
Harbor Commission – Eversource communication of plan – Geoff or John
Planning and Zoning

d. **Old business**;
1. Recommendations for commissions and City.

e. New Business:
Geoff Steadman
Planning and Zoning Meeting on October 6

f) Public comments

g) Reading and approval of minutes from 9-2- 21 – SEE BELOW.

H) Next meeting tentatively Nov. 4, 2021

I) Adjournment.

CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Diane Lauricella, Christopher Malik, John Romano, Geoff Steadman

William Mooney, Health Department
This meeting was conducted by Zoom Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS

•. DEEP – No report.

• Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish or Harbor Comm. – Mr. Romano said that there would be a joint meeting on October 6, 2021with the Harbor Commission, the Mayor's Water Quality Advisory and [inaudible].

Ms. Lauricella said that the group was from Boston and were working on the Industrial Zone review. They were invited to the City by the Planning and Zoning Department. Discussion about the details followed.

• Dept. of Aquaculture – No report.
• Dept. of Health – Replaced a rain gauge earlier in the day and new software will be

installed soon. DPW recorded 7.5 inches after the previous night's storm.

• Harbor Commission – No report.

• Planning and Zoning – Mr. Schnierlein asked if everyone had received an invitation to the October 6, 2021 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS
1. Recommendations for Commissions and City. –

Mr. Harris said he had some issues with the recommendations. He said that DPW had been working on establishing GPS locations on the sewer lines. He said that a number of items had already been done or were in the process. The discussion moved to the request for two interns.

Mr. Steadman said that he had submitted some comments. He said that they needed to support a new permit for private drains.

Mr. Schnierlein asked Committee members to categorize their recommendations according to the various Commissions that would be responsible for the projects. Discussion followed.

Ms. Lauricella suggested some categories such as:

• Surface water, ground water and septic.
• Land Use, conservation buffer zones
• Planning and Zoning, flood and erosion control • Infrastructure
• Education

Mr. Schnierlien said if the discussion drags on, he would send out the recommendations as they stand with a note that the Advisory Committee does not agree on all of the points. Discussion followed about having this ready for the upcoming elections.

Mr. Schnierlien said that he would agree extending the deadline for one week. Otherwise there will not be able to send it out, review it, and submit comments. Discussion followed by next Friday about compiling the various suggestions to Mr. Bartush.

** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO CREATE A COMPILATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMISSIONS.
** THERE WAS A SECOND.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Mission Statement review and vote on
Mr. Schnierlien said that Mr. Bartley had updated the mission statement and it was attached to

the agenda.

Ms. Lauricella said that they had omitted the phrase "watershed" from the mission statement. She will send the update to Mr. Schnierlien within the next few days.

Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Recommendations for 2020-2021

Insert "Introduction" that includes general surface water quality and quantity and watershed management themes. A preamble of sorts.

1. Continue to pursue, encourage, and support initiatives, in coordination with the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC), Norwalk Shellfish Commission (NSC), other governmental entities, including; WPCA, Health Department, Contract Labs, P&Z, DPW and private organizations, to advance the water-quality-related provisions of the Norwalk Harbor Management Plan.

2. Encourage and support DEEP establishment of a new General Permit or other appropriate means for regulating the discharge of storm water from non-municipal separate storm sewer systems constructed on private roads.

3. Encourage and support State and Federal legislative and/or regulatory initiatives to require CT DOT to include storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) in all new and refurbished highway infrastructure draining to Connecticut's coastal waterways, such as included in the Yankee Doodle Bridge project, but not included in the Saugatuck River Bridge project.

4. Obtain or develop, with assistance from the Norwalk Engineering Bureau and Planning and Zoning Department, a comprehensive GIS-based map of storm drain outfalls discharging into Norwalk Harbor, including but not limited to all outfalls subject to the MS4 General Permit.

5. Support the recommendations for water-quality monitoring protocols and BMPs being developed by the NHMC and NSC for inclusion in the DEEP Permit for the Walk Bridge Project.

6. Support re-establishment of the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative (NRWI) as an intermunicipal, collaborative entity for identifying and addressing water quality issues on a watershed-wide basis. Encourage and support a contribution of funds by all watershed towns, including the City of Norwalk, to re-establish the part-time position of NRWI Coordinator.

7. Encourage and support Planning and Zoning Department review of existing land-use regulations to identify opportunities for strengthening requirements for resiliency and environmental protection, including protection and enhancement of water quality.

8. Support continuation of the NHMC and NSC storm drain sampling and testing program, including sampling and testing of additional drains. Support development of a memorandum of agreement among the NHMC, NSC, Norwalk Health Department, and Harbor Watch concerning the use of all funds provided to Harbor Watch by the NHMC, NSC, and Health Department to support continued water quality monitoring in Norwalk Harbor.

9. Design and implement public outreach initiatives to increase public awareness of water quality issues and public support for water quality initiatives, including but not limited to web-based initiatives.

10. Encourage and support establishment of permanent water quality monitoring stations in Norwalk Harbor providing data useful for harbor management and land-use planning purposes.

11. Encourage and support City plans and other initiatives for preserving, enhancing, and maintaining public trees—the trees located on City properties and right-of-ways—including initiatives for improving urban tree canopy and protecting the natural resource values of trees.

12. Support Green Infrastructure used to cool down and clean up stormwater and drainage.

13. Eliminate class of PFAS chemicals from drinking water by filtration, drilling new wells and better collection of rain water.

14. Identify, map and resolve ongoing pollution concerns for both public and private drinking water resources.

15. Advocate for expanded reservoir capacity as they must be able to store enough drinking water for growing demand during dry periods. This means possibly making them deeper, wider or longer. Deeper is the best option as the surface area of water will remain the same and less water will be lost during evaporation.

A) WQ Assessment methods and data collection (covered by #10 above)

B) Collaboration with WPCA, Health Department, Contract Labs, and DPW (added to #1 above)

C) Nonpoint Source Pollution: Watershed drainage, Pesticides, Sediment and Erosion, etc. (I feel this goes in intro)

D) Point Source Pollution: Pipe and Toxic Site Status: Landfill, Legacy sites, etc. (I feel this also goes in intro)

E) Green Infrastructure :(Also see Land Use category) Used to cool down and clean up stormwater and drainage (now #12 above)

F) Emerging Contaminants Forever Chemicals like PFOS/PFAS (#13)

G) Enforcement mechanisms (Possibly own category) (I feel #1 covers this)

H) Education/Outreach Mechanisms (Possibly own category) (#9)

I) Funding: Ensure that important programs like the SOrm Drain Intern , WQ Monitoring Stations, etc. have adequate funding both on a short-term and long-term basis. (also above)

3. Surface Water Quantity: (Here is where we mention impact of Stormwater, Flooding and Climate change/extreme storms) (Section 3 is is very general and covered IMHO)

A) Climate Change and Extreme Weather

B) Flooding and rising sea level

C) Erosion and Sediment control: Assessment, education and enforcement

D) Green Infrastructure: Ensure that this mechanism utilized to absorb stormwater and watershed drainage

E) ETC

4. Land Use:

A) Create and Utilize zoning regulations and enforcement mechanisms to more effectively protect water quality and control water quantity (#1)

B) Assess and create additional effective Buffer areas near and along Water Quality assets such as the Shellfish beds, Rivers, Streams and entire Harbor areas. (Covered by BMPs)

C) Development and Balance: Ensure that all proposed development is sustainable through Quality and "Quantity indicators (I'm not sure what these are.)

C) Use Overlay Zones for improving Water quality and water quantity problems (I'm not familiar with "Overlay Zones")

D) Green Infrastructure: Ensure that all new Commercial and residential development include adequate green buffers in order to reduce the impact on City drainage Systems (above)

E) Tree Canopy: Assess where Heat Island Effect areas are most in need of Tree canopy and vegetative buffers in order to cool down and clean up polluted runoff (included above)

F) ETC

5. Drinking Water Quality:

A) Identify, map and resolve ongoing pollution concerns for both public and private drinking water resources. (Doesn't A here cover B and C below?)

B) Public Water Quality: PFOS, Sediment, Solvents, Algal blooms

C) Private Drinking Water Quality: Underground tanks, Septic System, Pesticides

6. Drinking Water Quantity:

A) Identify and Map Private Drinking water sources and create plan to preserve, educate and assess

B) Explore once again a Septic Pump Out Ordinance (I agree but the enforcement infrastructure would be massive)

C) Assess Well recharge areas for both sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers for future threats due to drought, overdevelopment and pollution (Do these data exist already?)

7. Whole-of-Government Approach: (Water Quality and Quantity are complex subjects requiring better collaboration with almost every part of City Government, Select state Agencies and the Federal Government. (#1)

A) Creation of a Sustainability/Resiliency Office: The City needs to better assess its overall environmental management and create a position of a qualified Sustainability Official. Their job would be to assess how environmental management can achieve both a sustainable future and a resilient future in the face of challenges like climate change.(This includes both Resiliency and Sustainability projects). (I feel one Sustainability person would be subject to politics...moreso than entities in #1)

B) Collaboration of existing and future Boards, Commissions and Departments: Ensure improvement

C) Data sharing: Identify sources and explore real-time review

D) Enforcement: Ensure effectiveness, capabilities and incentives

E) ETC

8. Education and Outreach:

A) Create and Education and Outreach Plan: Identify stakeholders and create mechanism to educate City about our role and the role they play (done)

B) Create regular webinars and events about Water Quality and Quantity with guest speakers, ETC (I say plan one and see how it goes.)

C) Ensure that those who use our Harbor and Water resources are aware how precious they are through PSA, Library talks, School Programs, etc. (done)

D) Seek grants and partners to advance our City Education and Outreach

a) Eliminate all PFAS and PFOS (I think we should refer to the class of PFAS chemicals instead of naming specific ones) from drinking water either by filtration, drilling new wells or better collection of rain water. (number 13 above)

b) Provide drinking water that does not contain sediments/dirt in it

c) Reservoirs must be able to store enough drinking water for growing population's demand during dry periods. This means possibly making them deeper, wider or longer. Deeper is the best option as the surface area of water will remain the same and less water will be lost during evaporation. Wouldn't changes like this come through the water company taxing district commissions? Should we direct the comments to them? For the city, I think we should add an enhancement of the water conservation education and outreach campaign, given the new frequency of drought. (#15)

d) Reduce growth rate of Norwalk so water supply, sewage treatment and other City services are not strained. How would this happen? Through planning and zoning? This seems so broad. Doesn't new development have to get the okay from DPH as it is? How can we make a more specific recommendation here? (in #1)

e) Where ever possible create a buffer zone between roads and buildings and water. 50+ feet or more would be ideal. The setback in Norwalk is 25' while it is 100' in Wilton. Maybe we should suggest a zoning change increasing the setback for new development and requiring a vegetated buffer of native plants. Also could we specifically recommend a plan for the waterfront in the harbor, removing infrastructure at least 5' deep where possible, and during redevelopment projects, to restore shoreline vegetation, help filter stormwater runoff, and restore fish and wildlife habitat? (attack via # 1 above?)

f) Where ever storm drains enter Norwalk's water, even if on private land, they must comply with city and state standards and permitting process. So could we ask for city funding to pay Harbor Watch/someone to test them all? That would be the first step, right? done

g) Set up a water quality monitoring station that is capable of monitoring temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity and nitrogen 24 hrs. a day and data is downloadable from a website real time by anyone. This station should be able monitor surface water (1 meter) and bottom water (1/2 meter). above

h) Hire two interns to walk, paddle, or use drone surveillance to identify and map shoreline drains in Norwalk visible during low tide. The last time this was done was 1991. (I'd keep this quiet but do it)

i) Collect water samples from storm drains that have not been previously tested and have them tested for bacteria, as well as other harmful ingredients that might be detrimental to humans and aquatic life. (can add to expand #8)

j) Continue testing the drains that have been identified as problem drains, and have the bacteria tested for whether or not is is human or other source (avian, rodents) (or maybe test for caffeine and other drugs—sounds like that is an alternative route) (can add to expand #8)

k) Eliminate all future (is this what you mean?) construction, homes and buildings in all areas designated as flood prone areas. (I'd support this...but use something softer than "eliminate"

l) Ensure adequate tree canopy in Norwalk, especially along waterways as the trees help stabilize banks and keep the water cooler, thus helping keep dissolved oxygen in the water. I think for this and many of your great suggestions, Joe, we need to recommend that city hire someone to serve as a climate resiliency coordinator. (I strongly disagree) We need a person, as many other cities have, whose mandate is to help the city increase resiliency in the face of climate change. I think new levels of neighborhood and community involvement need to happen to identify potential sites for new trees. Our current system is fine, but we need to add a new arm to it before we will see change. This idea is circulating already, so I think a recommendation would be well-timed now.