

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

February 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A telemeeting of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) was held by Zoom

An audio recording (8 MB) is available at:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/WPCAG_2021/2021-02-16_WPCAG_Audio.mp3

A video recording (109 MB) is available at:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/WPCAG_2021/2021-02-16_WPCAG_Video.mp4

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Karen Burnaska	Save the Sound
Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Virginia de Lima	USGS CT Water Science Center
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
John Hudak	South Central CT Regional Water Authority
Ingrid Jacobson (alt.)	Aquarion
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water & Sewer
Fred Klein	CT Power and Energy Society
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Jeff Pugliese	Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Tom Tyler	MDC

Other Participants:

Judy Allen	Save Our Water CT
Ally Ayotte	PURA
Jack Betkoski	PURA
Corinne Fitting	DEEP
Alexandra Hibbard	DEEP
Iris Kaminski	
George Logan	Aquarion
Sarah Ridyard	CT Water
Martha Smith (alt.)	Rivers Alliance
Bruce Wittchen	OPM

Members Absent:

Eric Hammerling	CT Forest and Park Association
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
David Knauf	Darien Health Department
Joan Nichols	CT Farm Bureau Assoc.
Brenda Watson	Operation Fuel
Vacancy	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.

1. Call to Order

Alicea Charamut asked everyone to introduce themselves, called the meeting to order at 1:34 and started the recording.

2. Approval of draft 1/19/2021 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [draft minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously, with Carol Haskins abstaining because she had not attended the meeting.

3. Water Planning Council Update

b. Implementation Work Group (IWG)

Virginia de Lima provided an update on the work of the [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) (AWE), including the [workshop](#) beginning four weeks from today. There was a discussion of outreach to town officials and councils of governments (COGs). Virginia also mentioned the AWE's work regarding stronger conservation standards for water fixtures, which she said is the subject of [HB 5802](#), a bill introduced by Rep. Mushinsky.

Virginia said the topical work groups are active again following the holidays. She mentioned that the private wells group has recommended that arsenic, radon, and uranium be included when analyzing private water supplies and be required at the time of real estate transactions. The real estate industry representative at the work group meeting said is OK with the proposal.

Virginia mentioned the group that is looking into plan implementation tracking. The group is not charged with doing the tracking but with recommending who will and how. She said the group is looking for additional expertise and noted that it is not yet an official work group. She added that it will also be necessary to track implementation by others. She mentioned that she has reached out to Kirk Westphal, now at Kleinfelder, to ask about how other states have managed implementation.

Alicea Charamut said the discussion has reminded her to assemble a list of bills relevant to this group, as she has done for previous legislative sessions. She noted that a Google document can be made available on the water website for others to enter information about their implementation efforts.

c. Other WPC/State Water Plan matters

Alicea noted that this morning's special meeting of the WPC included a discussion of [SB 467](#), An Act Concerning Soil Health. They will discuss the [draft Working Lands Work Group report](#) at their March meeting.

4. Old Business

a. [Water Utility Coordinating Committee](#) (WUCC) update

Ingrid Jacobson said the implementation group will meet for the second time tomorrow and provided an overview of the breakout groups that will meet for the first time.

- b. [Interagency Drought Work Group](#) update

Alicea Charamut noted that the state no longer is in drought but the group will continue to meet and monitor conditions.

5. WPCAG Work Groups

- a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Alicea Charamut said the group's [report](#) was provided to the WPC and there was a discussion of this morning's special meeting of the WPC. Karen Burnaska described the need for statewide watershed mapping and the flagging of projects on source water watershed lands. She mentioned that DPH's legislative proposal would require electronic submittal to DPH of land use information.

Jack Betkoski said the WPC will discuss the watershed lands report at its next meeting and noted the significance of all projects on watershed land, not just solar projects. Denise Savageau suggested inviting Chris Stone of DEEP to do a presentation regarding the storm water management challenges of solar installations.

Aaron Budris said it is important that public water supply watershed mapping be available on mapping systems such as [CT ECO](#) and not be limited to DPH's system. There was further discussion, including of one of the WUCC groups considering a local land use checklist. Fred Klein noted that another issue discussed at this morning's WPC meeting was that the [CT Siting Council](#) (CSC) is charged with balancing energy and environment. He recommended that CSC executive director Melanie Bachman be part of the WPC's conversation.

- c. Update – WPC consideration of [Source Water Protection Workgroup Proposal](#)

Denise Savageau said she is working on an outline of where the source water protection gaps are and Alicea Charamut recommended there be an update in March or April, with others getting involved in preparing a white paper at that point.

6. New Business

Karen Burnaska said World Water Day will be March 22, with this year's theme being "what water means to you". More details will be forthcoming.

7. Public Comment

There was no further public comment.

8. Next Meeting Date

Alicea read the dates of upcoming meetings:

[Financing Sustainable Water Workshop](#) – March 16 & 17, 9:00 – 12:00
WPCAG: March 16, 2021, 1:30
WPC: March 2, 2021, 1:30

IWG: March 9, 2021, 1:30

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM