

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

A video recording is available at:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2021-09-21\\_WPCAG\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/2021-09-21_WPCAG_Video.mp4)

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Karen Burnaska	<a href="#">Save the Sound</a>
Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Virginia de Lima	<a href="#">USGS CT Water Science Center</a>
Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition</a>
Sean Hayden	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
John Hudak	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>
Patrick Kearney	<a href="#">Manchester Water &amp; Sewer</a>
Fred Klein	<a href="#">CT Power and Energy Society</a>
David Knauf	<a href="#">Darien Health Department</a>
Dan Lawrence	<a href="#">Aquarion</a>
Margaret Miner	<a href="#">Rivers Alliance</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Brenda Watson	<a href="#">Operation Fuel</a>

#### Other Participants:

Lisa Fecke	Gaffney, Bennett
Corinne Fitting	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Alexandria Hibbard	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Iris Kaminski	
Dave Kuzminski (alt.)	Portland
Sonia Marino (alt.)	Guilford Health Dept.
Christine O'Neill (alt.)	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Martha Smith (alt.)	Rivers Alliance
Bruce Wittchen	<a href="#">OPM</a>

#### Members Absent:

Eric Hammerling	<a href="#">CT Forest and Park Association</a>
Joan Nichols	<a href="#">CT Farm Bureau Assoc.</a>
Jeff Pugliese	<a href="#">Middlesex Chamber of Commerce</a>
Vacancy	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>

#### 1. Call to Order

Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:33 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

#### 2. Approval of draft 8/17/2021 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [8/17/2021 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously, with Carol Haskins, John Hudak, David Knauf, and Brenda Watson abstaining because they had not attended the meeting.

### **3. Water Planning Council/Implementation Work Group Update**

Virginia de Lima said the [9/28/2021 brainstorming session](#) is listed on the wrong line of the agenda: it will focus on plan implementation/tracking, not outreach & education. She described some of the current outreach ideas and noted Iris Kaminski's work with the survey to follow up on the [rates workshop](#) coordinated by the [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) in the spring.

Virginia described plans for the brainstorming session and highlighted that people participating are encouraged to be on-time. She also mentioned that the IWG recommends that a short-term work group be formed to work on the water chief job description. She will send a request for that to the WPC. Alicea Charamut noted that the report prepared by the IWG's drought topical group is under review by the [Interagency Drought Work Group](#).

Alicea Charamut noted that the WPC must provide a report to the [Governor's Council on Climate Change](#) (GC3). There was a discussion of the upcoming comparison of provisions of the GC3 plan and [State Water Plan](#) (SWP) and Alicea pointed out that the SWP focuses more on water quantity than quality and says little about connectivity. Corinne Fitting said the GC3 is responsible for identifying what is missing and Denise Savageau said it would behoove this group to look at what overlaps with or complements the SWP in the GC3 plan. She said the GC3 plan will drive DEEP legislation and noted the complexities of the changing climate and that water from more intense storms is not captured in ground water.

Alicea Charamut offered to compare the plans and will look at the WPC priorities list and request guidance from DEEP's Office of Climate Planning. Dan Lawrence offered to add the GC3 plan to the comparison of SWP and [Water Utility Coordinating Committee](#) (WUCC) plan components he and others had prepared. Denise Savageau noted that the SWP does not address environmental justice and reiterated the importance of the plan comparison process. Alicea asked if a committee should be formed to do this. Dan Lawrence noted that there also is a [Green Plan](#) and a [Blue Plan](#) and Alicea said this effort could go down a rabbit hole. She said she will start on a spreadsheet, focusing on environmental elements, and Denise said she will focus on public health and infrastructure elements and Dan said he will focus on WUCC plan elements.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) update**

Dan Lawrence described the recent combined [Water Utility Coordinating Committee](#) (WUCC) meeting. It split into four subgroups but, because of the limited number of people participating, he believes there should be only two subgroups. He described a collaborative project with the [Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments](#) (NVCOG) to prepare guidance for developers. Mentioned a similar effort regarding interconnections and pointed out the necessity of [sale of excess water permits](#) during drought and there

was a discussion of competing concerns. Alicea said a presentation on that process would be beneficial and Dan said he will work with DPH to provide it.

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

Bruce Wittchen said [Interagency Drought Work Group](#) members and other agency staff are reviewing the previously mentioned drought topical subgroup report and are scheduling additional meetings to incorporate recommended changes into the drought plan or implantation process.

c. Nominating Committee

Carol Haskins provided an overview of the committee's review process and its recommended appointments for the coming year. She pointed out that the water-intensive industry vacancy remains unfilled and added that former member Mike Emmons considers it to be important for the [CT Nursery & Landscape Association](#) (CNLA) to be represented and offered to look for a person to replace him.

Carol mentioned that the committee is also looking for a new member to represent agriculture, noting that the current member is not attending meetings. There was a discussion of possible organizations that might assist in that effort, including [CT Resource Conservation and Development](#), the [state Dept. of Agriculture](#), and the [Working Lands Alliance](#). Carol also pointed out that alternates are not listed for all members and asked members to identify an alternate if they have not already.

Josh Cansler said he will be stepping down as co-chair as of the end of the year and that Dan Lawrence has volunteered to serve as the next co-chair. Alicea Charamut thanked Josh for his service as co-chair and Karen Burnaska also thanked Josh and thanked Carol for leading the committee.

John Hudak suggested that CNLA might fill the agriculture slot if no one else can be found and another organization might fill CNLA's role representing water-intensive industry. There was further discussion of efforts to regarding these positions, highlighting the goal of balancing in-stream and out-of-stream interests. Carol mentioned that a representative is still listed as an alternate but is unable to commit the amount of time needed to be a full member.

A motion was made and seconded to send the nominations to the WPC and the motion was passed unanimously. Bruce Wittchen noted that he had received an email identifying a new alternate for the Director of Health position and said alternates can still be named for other positions. There was a discussion of other alternate positions and Carol Haskins said the WPC does not have to appoint the alternates

d. Hydrilla update

Alicea Charamut said she can provide a Hydrilla update if she receives confirmation from [RiverCOG](#)'s Margot Burns about possible partial funding before she can provide any details.

## 5. WPCAG Work Groups

a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Karen Burnaska said they remain in contact with the clerk of the legislature's [Government Administration & Elections](#) (GAE) Committee regarding an update to the legislative land conveyance questionnaire. They will circulate that when it becomes available and schedule another meeting of this group then.

Margaret Miner described ongoing discussions about solar installations and the challenges of installing solar facilities on brownfields. She mentioned a recent announcement of funding to towns for brownfields and noted that DEEP could support development of solar facilities on brownfields, which would fit with other efforts. Fred Klein said he would like to share this information with [Solar CT](#) and there was a discussion of some of the attorneys involved with energy and brownfields.

b. Source Water Protection Work Group –

- [Source Water Protection Outline](#)

Denise Savageau mentioned that she had been out for a month and asked about progress. Alicea said she will contact those who are contributing sections and request they provide those by 9/30.

c. Solar Siting Work Group

- [Draft Solar Siting Recommendations & Work Plan](#)

There was no further discussion.

d. Other

Alicea Charamut asked Denise about resilience funding and Denise noted there are various sources. She highlighted an expected \$3 billion coming to the state and towns, which can fund source water projects, and said people are waiting for the rules. Other funds will be available for infrastructure.

## 6. New Business

There was no new business.

## 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 8. Next Meeting Date

Alicea read the schedule of upcoming meetings:

Sept. 28, 2021:	IWG Brainstorming
Oct. 5, 2021:	WPC
Oct. 12, 2021:	IWG
Oct. 19, 2021:	WPCAG

## 9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*