

## Water Planning Council Advisory Group

### July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

A video recording is available at:  
<http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=19885>

#### Members Present by video or phone:

Karen Burnaska	<a href="#">Save the Sound</a>
Alicea Charamut	<a href="#">Fisheries Advisory Council</a>
Virginia de Lima	<a href="#">USGS CT Water Science Center</a>
David Knauf	<a href="#">CT Association of Directors of Health</a>
Dan Lawrence	<a href="#">Aquarion</a>
Margaret Miner	<a href="#">Rivers Alliance</a>
Darryl Newman	<a href="#">CT Nursery &amp; Landscape Assoc.</a>
Christine O'Neill (alt.)	<a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments</a>
Kelsey Sudol (alt.)	<a href="#">Lake Waramaug Task Force</a>
Lori Vitagliano (alt.)	<a href="#">South Central CT Regional Water Authority</a>

#### Other Participants:

Paul Aresta	<a href="#">CEQ</a>
Ally Ayotte	<a href="#">PURA</a>
Lauren Bergman	CT Water Co.
Kim Czapla	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Martin Heft	<a href="#">OPM</a>
Ali Hibbard	<a href="#">DEEP</a>
Anne Hulick	CT Clean Water Action
Iris Kaminski	
Martha Smith (alt.)	Rivers Alliance
Bruce Wittchen	<a href="#">OPM</a>

#### Members Absent:

Josh Cansler	<a href="#">Southeastern CT Water Authority</a>
Eric Hammerling	<a href="#">CT Forest and Park Association</a>
Carol Haskins	<a href="#">Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition</a>
Patrick Kearney	<a href="#">Manchester Water &amp; Sewer</a>
Fred Klein	<a href="#">CT Power and Energy Society</a>
Denise Savageau	<a href="#">CT Association of Conservation Districts</a>
Tom Tyler	<a href="#">MDC</a>
Brenda Watson	<a href="#">Operation Fuel</a>

#### Vacancies

Agriculture  
Business & Industry – Association

#### 1. Call to Order

Dan Lawrence called the meeting to order at 1:40 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 2. Approval of draft 6/21/2022 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [6/21/2022 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously, with Lori Vitagliano abstaining because she had not attended the meeting.

## 3. Discussion: [State Water Plan Update & Prioritization](#)

Dan Lawrence said the subgroup discussed at the last meeting was unable to get together so this item should be tabled until it is ready for discussion. He also asked if anyone can help Alicea Charamut with it.

## 4. Water Plan Updates

### a. Water Planning Council Update

The WPC had not met since the previous WPCAG meeting because it combined its July and August meetings into a single meeting on 7/28.

### b. Implementation Work Group Update

- Topical Sub-Work Groups
  - [Outreach & Education](#)
  - Water plan implementation/tracking
- Other IWG matters

Virginia de Lima said there currently are two sub-work groups and the Outreach & Education group, which recently held two events is considering another to mark World Water Monitoring Day. She mentioned that group is also considering website issues and is preparing for the WPC report due 1/2023.

Virginia said a new sub-work group is forming to consider needs for USGS stream flow and ground water level data. She said that sampling network analysis is challenging and said the group might consider data deficiencies relevant to the plan. She highlighted the need to consider factors beyond the geographic distribution of sampling points and mentioned that funding will be an issue. She encouraged people to volunteer and suggested looking at how other states fund their networks.

Alicea Charamut noted the lack of data for drought decisions and Virginia said she considers real-time ground water levels would be the key data needed for drought decisions. Dan Lawrence asked what is needed and Virginia said that in her time at USGS there had been a proposal to equip two wells with real-time monitoring in each county. She explained that there can be different goals when selecting well locations and said she hopes for broad representation on the data group.

### c. Structures for state water planning and implementation

- [Draft Water Chief Roles & Responsibilities](#)

There was no update.

## 5. WPCAG Work Groups

### a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Karen Burnaska mentioned the conveyance act letter discussed at previous meetings that must be approved by the WPC. She said the group is considering interconnections and permitting processes. Margaret Miner added the interconnection issue is a background item and said there are multiple permits for that and storm water.

Regarding USGS data collection, Margaret Miner said there used to be two line items for that in state budgets and she mentioned a partnership with towns. She state funding for USGS was moved to DEEP's General Fund budget and there was further discussion of how that funding is handled in DEEP's budget. Ali Hibbard said she will look into it.

### b. Source Water Protection Work Group: [Source Water Protection Outline](#)

There was no update, but Alicea Charamut said the WPC will consider the rates proposal discussed in previous meetings

### c. Solar Siting Work Group: [Draft Solar Siting Recommendations & Work Plan](#)

There was no update but it's an active topic. They are waiting on DEEP's [Sustainable, Transparent and Efficient Practices for Solar Development](#) (STEPS) process.

## 6. Old Business

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

Dan Lawrence provided an update on elections at the Western WUCC and said the WUCC Implementation group met 5/19 and will meet again 8/17. They are updating documents and he said people who are interested in this should contact him. They hope to provide clarity regarding the various processes and he noted that they are finalizing the materials they brought to this group in presentations in recent months.

### b. Interagency Drought Work Group update

Bruce Wittchen provided an update regarding the [Interagency Drought Work Group](#) (IDW), highlighting that the entire state has been placed in Drought Stage 2. Alicea Charamut said she appreciates the IDW staying on top of this and Dan Lawrence mentioned that Aquarion is experiencing high demands. He mentioned the availability of information on Aquarion's website and described the company's modeling approach.

### c. Nominating Committee

Karen Burnaska said the group met 7/12 and recommends that Steve Vitko of the Regional Water Authority (RWA) be appointed to replace John Hudak, who is retiring. Lori Vitagliano described Steve's role at RWA and said he will be an asset to the group. Dan Lawrence requested a bio that can be sent to the WPC. A motion was made and seconded to send this nomination to the WPC and the motion passed unanimously. Lori will work with Karen to get the bio to the right people.

Karen Burnaska noted that vacancies remain for the Business & Industry and the Agricultural representatives and there was a discussion of moving Darryl Newman to the agriculture slot and finding someone else to represent a water-intensive industry, which could include a golf course or brewery.

d. Hydrilla update

There was no update.

**7. New Business**

There was no new business.

**8. Public Comment**

Iris Kaminski asked if the RWA's water conservation messaging about not hosing off sidewalks could also request that people not use leaf blowers instead. She said they are trying to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers in New Haven and would like messaging to be aligned. Iris mentioned environmental and noise effects of leaf blowers and Darryl Newman requested scientific information regarding environmental impacts. Iris mentioned gasoline spills when filling leaf blowers and said she'll find something concise.

Lori Vitagliano said the RWA's press release recommends using a broom instead of water, not to use a leaf blower. She offered to work with Iris regarding messaging. Christine O'Neill said this is an important issue even if not connected to water pollution and Virginia de Lima mentioned the role of minor drips at gas stations in MTBE contamination.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

Dan Lawrence read the dates of upcoming meetings.

July 28, 2022:	WPC
August 9, 2022:	IWG
August 16, 2022:	WPCAG

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM*