

Water Planning Council Advisory Group

December 20, 2022 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/2022-12-20_WPCAG_video.mp4

Members Present by video or phone:

Aaron Budris	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Karen Burnaska	Save the Sound
Alicea Charamut	Fisheries Advisory Council
Virginia de Lima	USGS CT Water Science Center
Carol Haskins	Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
Patrick Kearney	Manchester Water & Sewer
Fred Klein	CT Power and Energy Society
Dan Lawrence	Aquarion
Sonia Marino (alt.)	CT Association of Directors of Health
Margaret Miner	Rivers Alliance
Darryl Newman	CT Nursery & Landscape Assoc.
Denise Savageau	CT Association of Conservation Districts
Tom Tyler	MDC
Steve Vitko	South Central CT Regional Water Authority

Other Participants:

Jonathan Avery	Hazardville & Jewett City Water Cos.
Ally Ayotte	PURA
Kim Czapla	DEEP
Rebecca Dahl	OPM
Rich Hanratty	CT Water Co.
Ali Hibbard	DEEP
Iris Kaminski	
Martha Smith (alt.)	Rivers Alliance
Bruce Wittchen	OPM

Members Absent:

Josh Cansler	Southeastern CT Water Authority
Eric Hammerling	CT Forest and Park Association
Sean Hayden	Lake Waramaug Task Force
Joe Violette	Waterbury Regional Chamber
Brenda Watson	Operation Fuel

Vacancies

Agriculture

1. Call to Order

Alicea Charamut called the meeting to order at 1:39 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of draft 11/15/2022 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft [11/15/2022 minutes](#) and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. 2023 Meeting Schedule (see attached)

Alicea Charamut asked if anyone sees any potential conflicts with holidays and the calendar was accepted as is.

4. Water Plan Updates

a. Annual Report Summaries

Virginia de Lima described the process underway for compiling a draft annual report for the WPC to submit to the legislature. There was a discussion of how information submitted to the work group has been compiled and how the information will be made available online. See:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/WPCAG-2022/WPCAG_summaries_for_WPC_report.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/WPCAG-2022/WPCAG-WLWG_summaries_for_WPC_report.pdf

There was further discussion of the process for compiling the report and it was noted that the time spent developing this process will allow future reports to be prepared more quickly.

Virginia de Lima also mentioned the USGS data needs work group and said its next meeting will be in January.

b. Water Planning Council Update

Alicea Charamut said the WPC approved the slate of WPCAG members whose terms begin in January and asked Bruce Wittchen to post a link to the [WPCAG procedural rules](#) that she will send him.

5. WPCAG Work Groups

a. Watershed Lands Work Group

Karen Burnaska provided an overview of the group's work regarding water resources information expected when legislators request land conveyances. She notes the interest in advancing this work but said that it cannot be done on behalf of the WPC or WPCAG. She also mentioned recent interest in the process for state agency land transfers.

Karen mentioned possible legislative initiatives for the 2023 session including training for inland wetland commission members, increased staffing at DEEP, and notifications of solar installations within public water supply watersheds. She also mentioned [DPH's upcoming declaratory ruling hearing](#) regarding the [MDC](#) and Colebrook Reservoir.

Karen noted that there will be no remote access and that the MDC has requested a change in the wording of the question being asked. Karen added that the work group will continue meeting quarterly in 2023.

Alicea Charamut said there are no reports for the other listed groups but the conservation rates work group meeting will be scheduled after January 1.

6. Old Business

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

Dan Lawrence said there have been some difficulties in scheduling WUCC meetings, but they are wrapping up the projects they presented to this group earlier this year. There was a discussion of how they will improve coordination between meetings of the regional WUCCs and of the WUCC implementation group. Dan also mentioned an [update to DEEP's draft permit for nonroutine transfers and interconnections](#), an initiative originally brought to this group in April.

c. Nominating Committee

Alicea Charamut mentioned that the WPC has appointed Joe Violette of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce and Jon Morrison of the USGS to be new members of the WPCAG. The agriculture position remains vacant and the nominating committee is considering possible candidates and a possible shift of current assignments to fill that vacancy. She also asked members to coordinate with their alternates when they are unable to attend a meeting. Alicea thanked Virginia de Lima for her contributions to this group and others also thanked her.

7. New Business

Denise Savageau described a number of federal and state funding opportunities relevant to the WPC.

8. Public Comment

Denise Savageau mentioned the upcoming [2023 Environmental Summit](#) to be held by the [CT League of Conservation Voters](#) and said the water chief proposal should be on their agenda. She also mentioned an upcoming Greenwich YWCA [presentation on climate justice in CT](#). Carol Haskins said the [Institute for American Indian Studies](#) in Washington, CT has a temporary exhibit on Water is Life.

9. Next Meeting Date

Alicea read the list of January, 2023 meetings:

January 3, 2023:	WPC
January 10, 2023:	IWG
January 17, 2023:	WPCAG

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM

2023 Meeting Dates
Water Planning Council Advisory Group

Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m:

Tuesday, January 17

Tuesday, February 21

Tuesday, March 21

Tuesday, April 18

Tuesday, May 16

Tuesday, June 20

Tuesday, July 18

Tuesday, August 15

Tuesday, September 19

Tuesday, October 17

Tuesday, November 21

Tuesday, December 19